

*Opbrengsten van het programma
Stop Kindermishandeling
van Kinderpostzegels*

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Outcome of the Kinderpostzegels Stop Child Abuse Programme

Summary of the report

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The children's charity Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland (Kinderpostzegels) has, since 2007, supported some forty projects within the Stop Child Abuse Programme (*Programma Stop Kindermishandeling*). The objective of these projects was to prevent, draw attention to, and combat child abuse. The priority was on averting child abuse through the provision of parenting support in families with a non-Western background. Kinderpostzegels became actively involved in this particular area and appointed a special consultant to assist. The Verwey-Jonker Institute conducted research for Kinderpostzegels from March through December 2011. The key question was: *What was the outcome of the Kinderpostzegels' Stop Child Abuse Programme?* This was researched through document analysis, a digital questionnaire among project leaders, group interviews with a number of project leaders and their cooperation partners, and a detailed focus group meeting.

The general conclusion is that most projects focus their attention on child abuse in general or on domestic violence involving children. In addition, a number of projects address specific themes such as sexual violence or female circumcision. The projects are placed in five different clusters in order to do justice to the differences in target group, organisation and kind of projects.

The research showed that the majority of project leaders believe that the envisaged project results have been achieved, or will be achieved in the near future. The project leaders interviewed believe that almost three quarters of the projects make a significant contribution towards combating child abuse.

Kinderpostzegels initially gave priority to parenting support in families with a non-Western background. Nevertheless, it would appear that not all the subsidised projects focus explicitly on migrants. It was, however, the case in sixteen projects; the emphasis in these projects was on parenting support in migrant families. The innovative approach as applied by Kinderpostzegels was apparent in these projects in particular. The work Kinderpostzegels did in their support of projects that concentrate on parenting support for ethnic minority families in the context of child abuse turned out to be groundbreaking.

They abandoned their customary way of working in favour of a less bureaucratic, more flexible approach. What this specifically means is that the main role played by Kinderpostzegels was in forging links and making contact. A special consultant was appointed who had direct contact with representatives of migrant groups and self-organisations, and who subsequently assisted with the project proposal. According to those involved it was clearly the particular way that Kinderpostzegels worked that determined the success of the projects. Without this support the projects would not have got off the ground. Most project leaders believed the external consultant was approachable, knowledgeable, involved and conspicuously unbureaucratic. In other words, this particular way of working would seem to be highly suited to supporting these kinds of projects and contributed significantly to their success.

A number of success factors from the individual projects emerge from the detailed interviews with a number of project leaders and project cooperation partners. The respondents give the most important success factors in their project as: the confidence in the strength of the target group, the involvement of the self-organisations, the easy contact and an open attitude. The respondents also consider it important that the collaboration between mainstream institutions and self-organisations should also focus on equality. They also pointed out a number of risk factors. For example, migrant target groups often find it difficult to ask for help, particularly in cases of domestic violence or female circumcision, which are sensitive subjects surrounded by taboo. In addition, the volunteers who act as 'bridge builders' between mainstream institutions and their own target group often feel overburdened. This was also stressed in the focus group meeting: the confidence placed in the bridge builders by those they represent is often a success factor in a project, but can, at the same time, also be a pitfall. In addition, migrant self-organisations often feel that mainstream institutions do not place them on an equal footing.

One important recommendation would be to pursue the Kinderpostzegels' innovative way of working as described above in projects that focus on parenting support in migrant families, which would appear to be decisive for the provision of effective support when devising, designing and implementing projects.

Another recommendation pertains to project agreements, particularly in the preliminary stages. It appeared that analysing project proposals and reports did not furnish sufficiently reliable, factual, or unambiguous information in order to establish how well the projects achieved the specific objective and reached the specific target group.

In order to understand these outcomes better it is advisable when drawing up a project proposal to make clear agreements on documenting and evaluating how well the projects achieved specific objectives and reached the specific target group. This makes it possible to establish clearly and unambiguously at a later stage exactly what results have been achieved, against objective information.

The following points require attention in projects that focus on migrants.

- More attention should be given to the embedding and continuity of the projects; prepare for this in the application stage. In addition, facilitate the transferability of methodology by providing supporting information and substantiation.
- Contribute to continuity among volunteers, particularly in projects where they are used as intermediaries to bridge the gap between migrant organisations / self-organisations and mainstream institutions; endeavour to prevent these volunteers being overburdened by meeting their need for a safety net.
- Optimise the information exchange between the subsidised projects in the Programme.

The Stop Child Abuse Programme was based on a brief vision paper that mainly focused on the migrant target group, whereas this was actually only one item for consideration in the programme. A more detailed programme with a more specific focus would be helpful when implementing the above recommendations. This would ensure that the Stop Child Abuse Programme would support projects in a targeted and selective manner and that the programme can be continued as optimally as possible.



Vanaf 2007 heeft Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederland een kleine veertig projecten gesteund met een focus op het voorkomen, signaleren en bestrijden van kindermishandeling. De prioriteit van het programma 'Stop Kindermishandeling' lag bij de preventie van kindermishandeling door het bieden van opvoedingsondersteuning aan gezinnen met een niet-westerse achtergrond. Het Verwey-Jonker Instituut verrichtte van maart tot december 2011 onderzoek naar de opbrengsten van het programma. De innovatieve werkwijze van Kinderpostzegels heeft volgens de respondenten het succes duidelijk bepaald, vooral bij de projecten die zich op migranten richten.

Enkele succesfactoren van deze projecten zijn: uitgaan van de kracht van de doelgroep, het betrekken van zelforganisaties, laagdrempelig contact en een open houding. Er zijn ook enkele risicofactoren. Zo is het voor migrantendoelgroepen vaak lastig om hulp te zoeken, vooral bij taboethema's als geweld en vrouwenbesnijdenis. Daarnaast voelen de vrijwilligers die worden ingezet als 'bruggenbouwers' tussen reguliere instellingen en de eigen doelgroep zich vaak overbelast.

Door haar vernieuwende werkwijze te continueren, de gelijkwaardigheid tussen reguliere en zelforganisaties in het vizier te houden en goede project- en evaluatieafspraken te maken, kan Kinderpostzegels haar projecten in de toekomst succesvol voortzetten.

