

Call for Paper Presentations

The 6th African Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect With focus on Early Childhood Development and Education

Conference Date: 4 - 6 May 2009

Venue: UNECA Conference Center, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia

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INTRODUCTION

The African Network for the Prevention of and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) is a continental organization that is committed to the protection of children against abuse, neglect and exploitation and respect of their rights in Africa. Since its establishment in 1986, ANPPCAN has played a pivotal role in advocating for the rights of children in Africa. ANPPCAN has an observer status with the African Union.

ANPPCAN through its chapters has for the past years organized a number of conferences with the aim of guiding positive policy development and improving program design on critical children's issues such as child labor, children in armed conflict, child protection, child trafficking and children and HIV/AIDS.

ANPPCAN Ethiopia, established in 1990 is one of the national chapters that is committed to the protection of children's rights in Ethiopia. ANPPCAN-Ethiopia is currently operating project offices in Addis Ababa, Girar Jarso and Moyale Woredas of Oromia Region, North Gondar and North Wollo zones of Amhara Region and Sidama zone of Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region.

ANPPCAN Ethiopia and ANPPCAN Head Office are partnering with other organizations to organize the aforementioned 6th African Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect whose theme is "Early Childhood Development and Education".

Early Childhood is the foundation for overall human development. It is a period when human beings cultivate a culture of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding. It is an important period for socialization. Early Childhood Development is also a critical period for the development of healthy and responsible citizens and therefore requires special care and attention.

Research studies have repeatedly pointed to the fact that countries that invest massively in their children's early years of growth and development reap immense social and economic returns.

According to the report of the African Union's Second Pan-African Forum on Children: Mid-term Review in Cairo Egypt 2007, the life chances of African Children is among the lowest in the world. Each year, 5 million children die from preventable and treatable diseases. However, data on most child protection issues in Africa is simply lacking.

In terms of child survival, Sub-Saharan Africa is behind the health related Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) according to UNICEF's state of the World's Children, 2008. The same report indicates that in 2006, under-five child mortality rate in Sub-Saharan Africa was 160 per 1,000 live births as

compared to only 6 for industrialized countries. In 2005, the maternal mortality rate for Sub Saharan Africa was 920 per 100,000 live births when for the industrialized countries it was only 8 per 100,000 live births as reported by UNICEF in its State of the World's Children report for 2008.

In regard to child protection, 35% of children in Sub Saharan Africa are involved in child labor and 34% get married before they reach 18 years. Only 34% births are registered while 36% still undergo female genital mutilation. Additionally, 19% of women accept domestic violence. Data on the percentage of children, who are disabled, undergo physical, psychological and sexual abuse is not yet available.

Even in Early Childhood Education the performance of Africa is far from the Millennium Development Goal on education. According to UNICEF 2008 State of the World's Children report, primary school enrollment in 2006 for Sub-Saharan Africa was 66% compared to 84% in developed countries.

A recently reported study on early childhood care and development that covered the 11 regional cities of Ethiopia by the Ministry of Education of Ethiopia in 2007 revealed that about 2.7% children of early childhood schooling age children are enrolled in preschools. Also, 20% of the kindergarten teachers do not have any form of training. Even those trained are inadequately trained. Different institutions use different preschool curricula. Preschool age children experience abuse and neglect that seriously hampers their self-worth and confidence.

On the contrary, there are traditional wisdoms such as the story-telling (the content of which promote respect, forgiveness, cooperation, monitoring temper, etc,) play, close mother-child attachment and breast feeding, etc. These wisdoms need to be considered in the intervention during early childhood programs (MoE, 2007).

This conference will, therefore, serve as a forum for children, parents, teachers, educators, administrators, child care providers, policy makers and all concerned to:

- ✓ Share experiences and evidence-based practices in early childhood care and education,
- ✓ Share information to guide positive policy and intervention program development on early childhood development and education,
- ✓ Examine challenges and opportunities for early childhood development and education practices in Africa, and
- ✓ Explore opportunities for cross-sectoral cooperation in regard to early childhood development and education.

FUNDING PARTNERS AND COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

ANPPCAN Ethiopia and ANPPCAN Regional Office are supported in organizing the conference by the following funding partners:-

- UNICEF Ethiopia
- Oak Foundation
- Save the Children Alliance in Ethiopia
- Plan Ethiopia
- Italian Development Cooperation
- Action Aid Ethiopia

As other funding organizations commit themselves to contribute resources, the list will increase

The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), ANPPCAN Chapters and Africa-wide Movement for Children are key partners in disseminating information on the conference

Other collaborating organizations including African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child/ African Union, UN bodies, Addis Ababa University, Government Ministries in Ethiopia, International and Local NGOs in Ethiopia, all serve in different technical conference committees. Since the list is long in the call for paper presentations, only members of the Conference Organizing and Scientific Committees have been mentioned.

The Conference Scientific Committee, therefore, invites interested scholars and practitioners to submit abstracts for presentation during the **Sixth African Conferences on Child Abuse and Neglect with focus on Early Childhood Development and Education**.

All proposed topics must relate to the Conference theme and to the sub-themes classified under the following components:

1. Early Childhood Survival & Care

- a) Health and nutrition (childhood diseases, health extension practices, mother-child health, infant& child mortality, good nutrition& balanced diet, breast feeding, hygiene, HIV/AIDS, etc),
- b) Culture and childhood development (traditional child rearing practices, positive parenting, community-based practices, cross-cultural studies, daycare practices),
- c) Emotional well-being in early childhood

2. Early Childhood Education

- a) Childhood education (curriculum, early childhood teacher training, early childhood programs, play and childhood education, childhood education management/leadership/supervision, indoor and outdoor facilities in early childhood establishments, access and equity in early childhood education, ICT and education),
- b) Media and child development (impact of media on child development, parents, etc.),
- c) Children's resources and child development (books, stories, riddles, games, etc)
- d) Best practices: providing opportunities for all children to reach their potential (categories: intervention–support for children with challenging behaviors; beyond literacy–curriculum for math, science, social studies, and the arts; integration models–connections across curriculum; family partnerships collaborative models; encouraging a positive attitude towards education; traditional wisdoms, etc),
- e) Collaboration: working across disciplines to benefit children and families (categories: inclusive education, special education; transitions–interactions between early childhood and elementary teachers; resource staff; community organizations as partners in education),

3. Early Childhood Protection

- a) Child protection against violence, physical and psychological abuse, sexual abuse, harmful traditional practices, reaching children who have been in violent situations, promoting other alternative childcare system, etc.
- b) Vulnerability and risks in early childhood (orphan-hood, children war-affected zones, children and poverty, children with disability, impact of global food and oil price increases, etc)

4. Child rights and development

- a) Respect for the best interest and non-discrimination of the child (in all forms of actions including adoption, divorce, appointment of guardian, alternative childcare, administrative decisions, gender, belonging to minority groups, being born out of wedlock, being infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, etc)
- b) Educating children to be socially responsible (categories: teaching children values; resolving conflicts peacefully;; discussing current events with children; making home-school safer),
- c) Children's wholesome development (play & recreation; accepting diversity; social and emotional development; environmental education).
- d) Childhood development and returns (social returns, economic returns, political returns, etc.),

- e) Issues of research in childhood development (research experiences, ethical issues, methodology, etc.),

5. Crosscutting Issues

- a) *Best or successful practices in any of the categories mentioned,*
 b) *Best interest of the child,*
 c) *Gender issues,*
 d) *Monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation*
 e) *Rights and policies in childhood development* (policy and practices, international, regional and national policies, legal issues, administrative decisions, etc.),

Selection Criteria

The number of papers accepted is determined by the size of the conference program, which is limited to the available meeting space. The Committee, therefore, seeks topics that focus on the Conference Theme. The paper's originality, its relevance and relationship to the Conference theme, and the clarity of its objectives, organization, and methods of presentation are factors to be considered for selection.

Abstract selection sub-committee of seven members of the scientific committee shall be formed with a responsibility of:

- Selecting the abstracts,
- Identifying two peer reviewers per article, and
- Recommending papers to be presented in the conference.

Criterion for Abstract Selection

Is the paper /abstract relevant to the social and cultural context of Africa?

Yes	No
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Criteria for Assessing Manuscripts /Papers

No.	Criteria	%
1.	The clarity of the research issue/report	15
2.	Relevance of the issue addressed	15
3.	Appropriateness of research methodology (innovativeness, comprehensiveness of the report, if it is not a research)	20
4.	Thoroughness of analysis of findings/report	20
5.	Adequacy of sources and references	10
6.	Overall organization of the paper	10
7.	Implications of the issues discussed	10
8.	Total	100

General guideline for paper presenters

All research papers /reports must include the following:

- a) **Abstract** – Not more than 250 words.
- b) **Rationale for addressing the problem** – provide a rationale for the study and relate it to previous findings showing the continuity of knowledge and its current relevance.
- c) **Research Objective** – State the objectives of the study or even the research questions studied.
- d) **Methodology** – describe the participants, instruments of data collection, procedures of data collection, and methods of data analysis. In case of reports, describe data sources and mechanisms of organizing the data, demonstrating its rigor.
- e) **Findings** – describe the findings of the research, desk review or report.
- f) **Analysis of findings (Discussion)** - discuss, explain, compare and conclude the findings of the study.
- g) **Implications** – Discuss the implications of the research/ report for practitioners, policy makers and researchers.

The research report should be: a maximum of 15 pages, 1.5 line space, Times New Roman, 12 font size, type written on A-4 paper (both hard and soft copy).

Major Activity Schedule

S. No.	Activities	Date	Responsible Body
1.	Scientific committee approves draft call for papers	15 July 2008	Scientific Committee
2.	Call for Papers will be prepared in poster and booklet form	11 August,2008	Secretariat
3.	Call for Papers and invitation letters dispatched	15 August,2008	Secretariat
4.	Due date for abstract submission	30 September 2008	Paper presenters
5.	Feedback on abstracts	30 October 2008	Sub-committee
6.	Paper submission due date	15 January 2009	Paper presenters
7.	Feedback on reviewed papers	15 February 2009	Paper reviewers
8.	Due date for final submission of papers	15 March 2009	Paper presenters
9.	Publication of conference book	10 April 2009	Publication Committee

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No	Name	Organization	Position
1	Mr. Kebebew Daka	General Assembly Chairperson, ANPPCAN Ethiopia	Co-Chair
2	Mr. Tedla Diressie	Management Board Chairperson, ANPPCAN Ethiopia	Co-Chair
3	Dr. Assefa Bequelle	Executive Director, Africa Child Policy Forum	Member
4	Mrs. Maekelech Gidey	UNICEF Ethiopia	Member
5	Mr. Belay Hagos	Addis Ababa University, Department of Special Needs Education	Member
6	Mr. Yacob Habte	Ministry of Education, Ethiopia	Member
7	Mr. Yitna Worku	Ministry of Women Affairs, Ethiopia	Member
8	Mrs. Cisse Mariaama	ACERWC/ African Union	Member
9	Mrs. Sara Teklemariam	Save the Children Norway	Member
10	Mr. Samuel Taddese	Plan Ethiopia	Member
11	Mrs. Legawork Assefa	Action Aid Ethiopia	Member
12	Mrs. Saba Seyoum	Christian Relief and Development Association, Ethiopia	Member
13	Mr. Daniel Tefera	Deputy Chairperson, General Assembly ANPPCAN Ethiopia	Member
14	Mr. Birara Gebru	Member, Management Board ANPPCAN Ethiopia	Member
15	Mr. Ayalew W/Semait	Executive Director, ANPPCAN Ethiopia	Co-Secretary
16	Mr. Wakuma Chimsa	Senior Program Officer, ANPPCAN Ethiopia	Co-Secretary

CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No	Name	Organization	Position
1.	Prof. Tirussew Teferra	Addis Ababa University, Dean of College of Education	Chairperson
2.	Professor Habtamu Wondimu	Addis Ababa University, Department of Psychology	Deputy Chairperson
3.	Dr. Patience Awopegba	UNESCO-IICBA	Member
4.	Mrs. Maekelech Giday	UNICEF Ethiopia	Member
5.	Mrs. Woutje Wanninge	UNICEF Ethiopia	Member
6.	Dr. Assefa Bequelle	Executive Director, Africa Child Policy Forum	Member
7.	Mr. Belay Hagos	Addis Ababa University, Department of Special Needs Education	Member
8.	Dr. Teka Zewdie	Addis Ababa University, Department of Psychology	Member
9.	Mr. Keremenz Agonafir	Private	Member
10.	Dr. Abonesh Haile Mariam	WHO Ethiopia	Member
11.	Mr. Yacob Habte	Ministry of Education, Ethiopia	Member
12.	Mr. Yitna Worku	Ministry of Women Affairs, Ethiopia	Member
13.	Mr. Demeke Gessese	Addis Ababa University, Department of Special Needs Education	Member
14.	Mrs. Meselech Assegid	Ministry of Health, Ethiopia	Member
15.	Dr. Fikir Melese	UNICEF Ethiopia	Member
16.	Mrs. Amsale Negatu	Italian Development Cooperation	Member
17.	Mr. Mellese Bedaine	Save the Children Denmark	Member
18.	Mrs. Azeb Adefresew	Africa Child Policy Forum	Member
19.	Mr. Belay Zelleke	Senior Program Officer, ANPPCAN Ethiopia	Co-Secretary
20.	Mrs. Timnit Lulu	Senior Program Officer, ANPPCAN Ethiopia	Co-Secretary

In addition to plenary sessions the conference will have 3-4 concurrent workshops .There will also be special meetings for children and young people from African countries and different regions in Ethiopia.

All potential paper presenters are requested to send their abstracts preferably by e-mail to the Conference Secretariat before the deadline to the following address:

Conference Secretariat

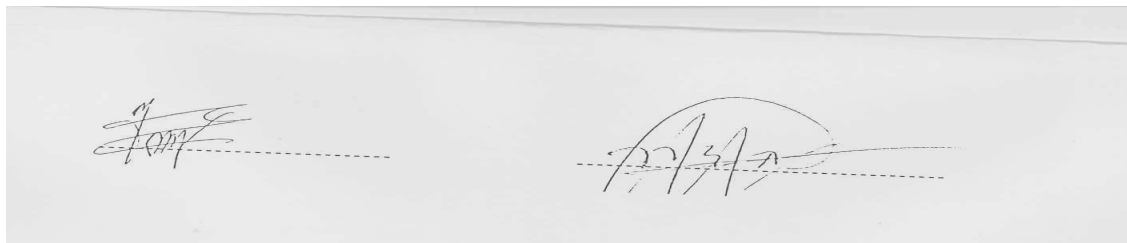
ANPPCAN-Ethiopia

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Website: www.anppcan-eth.org.et

For more information, please contact the Conference Secretariat or visit the above website



Tedla Diressie

Co-Chairperson,
Conference Organizing Committee
(Board Chairperson, ANPPCAN
Ethiopia)

Prof. Tirussew Teferra

Chairperson of the Scientific Committee
(Dean, College of Education, Addis Ababa
University)