



Children, hope, and peace, a global and local perspective

International conference on ECD

Palestinian Child Institute

An-Najah National University,

Nablus- Palestine

4-5 November, 2019

Early Childhood care and education forms a priority program area addressing the need of a high proportion of communities in the Middle East. With alarmingly distressing environmental factors affecting children in the start of life, both programming implementation and provision of high quality ECD services become both challenging and highly important.

Enrollment in ECD services in Palestine is at 58% and quality of services is questionable as the sector is vastly run by privately owned facilities with little space for regulatory, supervision and accreditation authorities.

Children in Palestine and the region live under high levels and frequency of exposure to physical and emotional violence caused by the ongoing and recent conflicts affecting many countries in the Arab world. Loss of loved ones, protection and hope affects many children living under occupation and in countries affected by armed conflict causing significant distress to their emotional and cognitive growth.

While not sufficiently explored through epidemiological research in Palestine and the region, the new wave of developmental disorders constitutes an alarming challenge in its magnitude, dynamic and impact on the child and its social surrounding.

The international conference on ECD will bring together experts from different corners of the globe to share experience, start dialogue and partnership to addressing ECD issues in Palestine and the region.

Keynote speakers will bring firsthand knowledge and wisdom from UN, academic and ECD programs and will address innovative theories and approaches to child development and growth.

Learning from the experience of international speakers representing countries living in or emerging from conflict will help exchange ideas and provoke dialogue on successful interventions responding to the needs of children under emergencies

The conference will be a remarkable opportunity to link Palestinian ECD programs with those in other areas of the world and open the way for learning and networking.

Themes:

Under the overall theme of children, war and peace, the following will be the domains addressed through the two days:

- 1- ECD, theory, neuroscience and social environment: within this domain, the conference will address the neurological, psychological and social determinants of child development.
- 2- ECD in Palestine: through addressing contextual, social and system factors affecting children in Palestine, the purpose of this domain is to highlight the current situation pertaining to ECD in the country. This domain will focus on issues of risk factors, services challenges and opportunities for improving ECD in Palestine.
- 3- Impact of war on children: within this domain, different experiences from the region and beyond will highlight the impact of conflict on mental, physical and emotional wellbeing of children.
- 4- Experience and show cases: a special focus on what works and what does not work will be discussed within this domain looking at local and global experience. A vibrant workshop style will be followed to allow for discussion and active exchange of experience.
- 5- Quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation: measuring impact, quality and processes form a key challenge that will be explored and discussed through a special domain. Different tools and experiences inform about the need for quality assurance, accreditation and standardization of ECD service provision. Different examples from the world will be presented

Audience:

The conference targets policy makers, program developers and practitioners. Students are highly encouraged to participate.

Registration:

Link to registration site will be shared through the organizing committee as of 10th September.

Language of the conference:

English with simultaneous translation to Arabic

Committees:**1- Steering committee:**

- Dr. Rima Salah, ECPC- USA
- Dr. Siobhan Fitzpatrick, INPB- NI
- Ms. Pauline welmesley, Early Years- NI
- Prof. Paul Conolly, QUB- NI
- Prof. Josh Feder, Fielding Graduate University - USA
- Prof. James Lackman, ECPC- USA
- Dr. Alejandro Acosta, Cinde- Colombia
- Dr. Kishore Shrastha, ARNEC- Nepal
- Dr. Umayyah Khammash, Juzoor for health and social development
- Dr. Waleed Khatib, MOH
- Mr. Mohamed Al-Hawwash, MOE
- Mr. Breigheeth Breigheeth, MOSD
- Mr. Mohammad Hawwash, MOE
- Dr. Yaser Bouzieh, MOH

- Dr. Buad Khaled, Al- Quds University
- Dr. Naela Fahmawi, MOE,
- Dr. Rana Jaber, MOE
- Ms. Rabiha Elyan, Director General general education (MOE)
- Ms. Majd hardan, Juzoor
- Ms. Samah Wasef Maqboul, Thurayya
- Ms. Wafa Ashour, MOE
- Mr. Nabil Sub Laban, Jerusalem Council for Development and Economic Growth (JCDEG), Arab ECD Network
- Dr. Mohamed Matar, Arab ECD Network
- Ms. Hana Abdeen, PCRFB
- Mr. Waleed Abu Samra, American Arab University, Palestine
- Dr. Maisa Alawneh, Faculty of Medicine and health sciences, Najah National University
- Mr. Mohamed Morshed, PR department, Najah national University
- Ms. Dina Qadoumi, Palestine Child Institute
- Ms. Nermeen Habaybeh, Palestine Child Institute
- Ms. Nida Amro, MOE
- Ms. Farah Darwazeh, Palestinian Child Institute

2- Organization committee:

- a. Ms. Dina Qaddoumi- Public Relation director- Palestinian Child Institute/ An-Najah Child Institute
- b. Ms. Majd Hardan- Public Relations Director, Juzoor for social and health development
- c. Mr. Bashar Daraghme, Najah Media Center
- d. Ms. Lina Freitekh, Public Relations assistant, Palestinian Child Institute

e. Mr. Mohamed Murshed, Public Relations officer- Najah National University

3- Scientific committee:

a. Ms. Farah Darwazeh, Palestinian Child Institute

b. Dr. Lina Banna, Palestinian Child Institute

c. Prof. James Lackman

d. Dr. Salwa Najjab, Juzoor