



CSO Forum

The LEGO Foundation



**CONCEPT NOTE**

# WEBINAR SERIES

## PLAYFUL PARENTING

*November 25th - December 09th 2020:  
Wednesdays 3 - 4:30 pm EAT*

[www.afecn.org](http://www.afecn.org)



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Africa Early Childhood Network

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# WEBINAR SERIES

## PLAYFUL PARENTING

### BACKGROUND

The COVID - 19 Pandemic has disrupted both the present and future of young vulnerable children, as they experience the double jeopardy - firstly by being in the early years of life and secondly, experiencing risks associated with survival which is amplified by the pandemic. Though there are pockets of resilience, COVID-19 has brought elevated risks for young children and their caregivers. It had been estimated that without drastic, contextual suppression measures, Africa would suffer one billion infections and approximately 2.4 million deaths (Calderon et al. 2020). In an effort to protect their citizens, African Governments have taken various measures to suppress the rates of infection. So far, the reported infection rates have been much lower though the full extent of the effect of COVID is yet to be documented. The effects of COVID-19 on young children vary widely. It has now become clear that although children can be infected by COVID-19, they experience milder symptoms than adults or the elderly. The indirect costs associated with the pandemic however, poses an even greater threat to children's early development, health and emotional wellbeing than the virus itself. Particularly threatened remains the child's right to play due to global lockdowns, closure of schools and other restrictions imposed by governments that have interrupted the learning of over 1.5 billion children. As a region, the full picture of the effects of the pandemic on children, families, communities and economies are still yet to be fully understood and documented.

Every child has the right to play. This right should be protected at all times. Article 12 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child calls upon States Parties to recognize, respect and promote the right of the child to engage in play. The right to play, as all other rights, is universal, inalienable and indivisible. Various measures for curbing the spread of the COVID-19 have inadvertently created environments that limit opportunities for play. The closure of ECD programmes, rising cases of domestic violence, increased incidences of stress and anxiety experienced by parents and other family members all call for concerted efforts to mitigate negative effects on child development. During times of crisis, young children depend on adults for love, protection and care. Therefore, the work that parents, teachers, community workers and child advocates do with and for children during times of crisis and beyond is critical. Speaking up for children, finding ways to support and nurture them holistically, is essential to their wellbeing today and in the long-term. As nations strive to reopen their economies, they have had to adapt new forms of influencing child development at micro, meso and macro systems levels. The right to play can be skilfully adapted in the home, ECD centres and through tailored curriculums and contextual pedagogies, as nations rebuild their ECD systems.

**The Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN) serves as a platform to champion excellence and collaboration in protecting children's rights, influence policy and practice, strengthen partnerships, and share experiences and knowledge in Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the African continent. We focus on amplifying the voice of frontline workers and to strengthening collaborative action across sectors from the national to the community level.**

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Over the past few months, AfECN has been documenting stories and regularly publishing an eight-part blog series on 'Building Back Better: Stories of hope and resilience in the face of COVID-19 Pandemic. This blog series has highlighted stories of how governments, development partners, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and communities have been responding to the ongoing pandemic in Africa. It is clear that various other partners across the region have also been documenting stories that would benefit policymakers, programme planners, practitioners and parents across the region.

## OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTCOMES

AfECN is partnering with ECD actors across the Continent to host a webinar series with the following objectives:

1. Knowledge sharing on practical implementation of Learning through Play (LtP) as an essential feature of quality in ECD provision for all children;
2. Disseminate country examples of good practices across Africa that can be embedded in ECD systems strengthening efforts

The expected outcomes are as follows:

- a) Country sharing of examples good practices on improving curriculums, parenting practices and classroom approaches;
- b) Recommendations for embedding LtP in national policies, plans and programmes
- c) Regional Call to Action on Playful Parenting endorsed.

## METHODOLOGY

The webinar series focuses on Playful Parenting. Each webinar is conducted from 3 pm - 4:30 pm EAT. Translations are available in English, Portuguese and French.

The four sessions are as follows:

- In partnership with the CSO Forum AfECN launched the Playful Parenting webinar series on 25th November 2020. The theme was '*The Child's Right to Play*'.



# WEBINAR SERIES

## PLAYFUL PARENTING

- The first-part webinar that will be held in partnership with UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) office, on 2nd December 2020 will be themed *“Building Systems to Support Learning through Play.”*
- The second-part of the series, which is themed *‘Learning through Play at Home’*, will be hosted in partnership with Lusophone-based ECD stakeholders, on 9th December 2020.

This webinar series was launched during an ECD side event organized on the sidelines of the 17th CSO Forum on the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). The CSO Forum which was established in 2009 brings together CSOs advocating for the rights and welfare of children across Africa, child rights activists and African Union (AU) representatives. The Forum was established to provide for the active involvement of Civil Society actors in supporting the role of the ACRWC Committee of Experts by ensuring the effective implementation of the Charter, at country level. The Forum meets bi-annually to make recommendations to the ACRWC Committee of Experts.

Each webinar brings together stakeholders from government, development partner organizations, CSO’s, private sector and community groups.

**The ACRWC of 1990 serves as a partnership platform for scaling best practices in ECD that are culturally and contextually relevant for Africa. The charter supports active involvement of Civil Society actors to ensure the effective implementation of the Charter at country levels: the CSO Forum, established in 2009, to bring together the child rights community in the region and African Union (AU) representatives.**



## LAUNCH OF WEBINAR SERIES ON PLAYFUL PARENTING

**Date:** 25th November, 2020 | **Time:** 3-4:30 Pm EAT | **Chair and Moderator:** Dr Lynette Okengo

Time	Session	Responsible
3:00 – 3:05	Video	The beginning of life 1
3:05 – 3:10	Welcome remarks	<b>Felistus Motimedi</b>   The Coordinator Child Rights Network of Southern Africa (CRNSA)
	Introduction to webinar series	<b>Dr. Lynette Okengo</b> Executive Director   The Africa Early Childhood Network
3:10 – 3:20	<b>Opening remarks:</b> Early Childhood Development: A rights based, sustainable development imperative	<b>Jean François Basse.</b> Regional Adviser, Child Protection   UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
3:20 – 3:30	<b>Presentation</b> Overview of children's rights and the role of states parties: A focus on the right to play	<b>Patricia Martin</b>   Director Advocacy Aid
3:30 – 3:40	States Parties reporting on progress towards achieving ACRWC. A focus on ECD	<b>Andiwo Obondo</b> Education Expert
3:40 – 3:45	Video Presentation Early Childhood Development Index: New measure of young children's developmental outcomes	
3:45 – 4:00	<b>Presentation:</b> 2020 Countdown Country Profiles on Early Childhood Development	<b>Prof. Linda Richter,</b> AfECN Board Member Distinguished Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
4:00 – 4:25	<b>Panel Session: Country Experiences</b> <b>Panel Moderator: Janet Muthoni -Ouko</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craig Ferla, Children in Crossfire Tanzania (CiC-TZ)</li> <li>Henry Kabwe, Media Network on Child Rights and Development (MNCRD), Zambia</li> </ul> Questions and answer session: <b>Stella Mbugua</b> Programme Manager - Improved Practice   The Africa Early Childhood Network	
4:25 -4:30	Closing	<b>Janet Muthoni – Ouko</b>   Programme Manager - Advocacy The Africa Early Childhood Network

## Webinar Series 1/3: Building Systems to Support Learning Through Play

Date: 2nd December, 2020 | Time: 3 - 4:30 PM EAT | Chair and Moderator: Maniza Ntekim, UNICEF ESARO

Time	Session	Responsible
3:00 - 3:05	Video	The beginning of life 2
3:05 - 3:10	<b>Welcome remarks</b> Introduction to webinar series	<b>Janet Muthoni Ouko</b>   Programme Manager - Advocacy The Africa Early Childhood Network
3:10 - 3:20	<b>Opening remarks</b> Strengthening National Systems to support LtP	<b>Maniza Ntekim</b> Regional Adviser - Early Childhood Development UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)
3:20 - 3:30	<b>Presentation:</b> Global and Regional Perspectives on LtP	<b>Sherri Le Monte</b>   International ECD Consultant Cape Town, South Africa
3:30 - 4:00	<b>Panel Session: Country Experiences</b> <b>Panel Moderator: Maniza Ntekim</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chakera McIntosh, ImagiNation Afrika - Senegal</li> <li>• Alfina Simaile Macuacaua Coordinator of the Early Childhood Development Programme (ECDP) at Wona Sanana</li> <li>• Lilly Oyare, Little Rock Inclusive ECD &amp; Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) - Kenya</li> <li>• S. Benedict Dossen, MSc G.M.H., B.S.W.   Mental Health Program Lead– Liberia   The Carter Center</li> </ul>	
4:00 - 4:25	<b>Questions and answer session</b> <b>Moderator - Stella Mbugua. Programme Manager – Improved Practice</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Judith Sabina - English</li> <li>2. Mery Antonio - Portuguese</li> <li>3. Rose Kamasara - French</li> </ol>	
4:25 - 4:30	Call to Action & Closing	<b>Janet Muthoni – Ouko</b>   Programme Manager - Advocacy The Africa Early Childhood Network



## Webinar Series 2/3: Playful, Joyful Parenting at Home

Date: 9th December, 2020 | Time: 3 - 4:30 PM EAT | Chair: Caroline Dusabe, Save the Children

Time	Session	Responsible
3:00 - 3:05	Video	ECD Video
3:05 - 3:10	<b>Welcome remarks</b> Introduction to webinar series	<b>Elizabeth Gitonga</b>   Programme Manager -National Partnerships The Africa Early Childhood Network
	Opening Remarks	<b>The LEGO Foundation</b>
3:10 - 3:20	<b>Key Note Presentation</b> Learning through play in the home setting across Africa	<b>Caroline Dusabe</b>   ECCD Sr. Specialist Save the Children
3:20 - 3:30	<b>Presentation:</b> Critical moments to strengthen playful parenting at home	<b>Mildred Obuya</b> Director and founder Early Childhood Matters (K Ltd)
3:30 - 4:00	<b>Panel Session: Country Experiences</b> <b>Panel Moderator: Katy Anis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ely Harasawa, Brasil's CFP - Brasil</li> <li>• Charles Muruka, Mothers2Mothers - Malawi and Kenya</li> <li>• Deedar Guerra, Association for the Defense &amp; Development of Society (ADDESSO) - Mozambique</li> <li>• Precededece Kapulisa, Archie Hinchcliffe Disability Intervention (AHDI) - Zambia</li> <li>• Marguerite Marlow, Senior researcher and Technical Research Lead, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.</li> </ul>	
4:00 - 4:25	<b>Questions and answer session</b> <b>Moderator - Stella Mbugua, Programme Manager - Improved Practice</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jackie Rweno - English</li> <li>2. Judith Sabina - French</li> <li>3. Mery Antonio - Portuguese</li> </ol>	
4:25 - 4:30	Call to Action & Closing	<b>Katy Anis</b>

Webinar Series 3/3: Learning through Play in the Classroom

Date:

| Time:

| Chair and Moderator:

Time	Session	Responsible
3:00 - 3:05	Video	ECD Video
3:05 - 3:10	Welcome remarks	Stella Mbugua   Programme Manager - Improved Practice The Africa Early Childhood Network
3:10 - 3:30	Opening Remarks	The LEGO Foundation Khetho Dlamini Head of Early Childhood Education Specialist   UNICEF West and Central Africa Office (WCARO)
3:30 - 4:00	Panel Session: Country Experiences Panel Moderator: Haleinta Bara Traore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janine Dodge - Association for the Right to Play (IPA) - Brasil</li> <li>• Caroline M. de Souza (Pastoral of the Child) - Brasil</li> <li>• Sellina Bwemba - Tikondane Positive Living Support Organisation (TIPOLISO) - Malawi</li> <li>• Constance Fieudessou (meaning - to soar), Mozambique</li> <li>• Luciano M. ...</li> </ul>	<p><b>Wash your hands</b></p> <p><b>Stay home</b></p> <p><b>Wear a mask if you have to leave the house</b></p> <p><b>Observe social distance</b></p>
4:00 - 4:25	Questions and Answers Moderator - Stella Mbugua, Programme Manager - Improved Practice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jackie Rweno - English</li> <li>2. Mery Antonio - Portuguese</li> <li>3. Rose Kamasara - French</li> </ol>	
4:25 - 4:30	Call to Action & Closing	Stella Mbugua   AfECN

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# WEBINAR SERIES

## PLAYFUL PARENTING

*Webinar is Trilingual: French, English & Portuguese.*

## REFERENCES

Calderon, Cesar; Kambou, Gerard; Zebaze Djiofack, Calvin; Korman, Vijdan; Kubota, Megumi; Cantu Canales, Catalina. (2020). An Analysis of Issues Shaping Africa's Economic Future. Africa's Pulse. No. 21, Spring 2020. World Bank, Washington. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33541>. Retrieved 10 November 2020.

The Lancet Series (2016). Advancing early childhood development from science to scale. An executive summary for the Lancet Series. [https://www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/documents/early-child-development-lancet-series/en/](https://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/early-child-development-lancet-series/en/) Retrieved 11 April 2020.

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