The Africa
We Want
A Better Future
now

AfECN
Africa Early Childhood Network

SUBMISSION
**DATES
EXTENDED**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The First AfECN International Conference on Early Childhood Development

16th – 19th October, 2018 Safari Park Hotel NAIROBI, KENYA

16th October: Side meetings for skills development
17th - 19th October: Main Conference

The Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN) is a registered non-profit organization, established in 2015 to serve 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 ECD on the African continent. To achieve this, five priority areas have been identified to help increase the reach and quality of programs and services aimed at building strong foundations for the developmental wellbeing of children. The priority areas are advocacy, networking, improved practice, leadership and research capacity building.

Since its establishment, AfECN has made significant strides in its growth, influence and coverage in each of the five priority areas. The network brings together organisations and individuals from civil society, academia, government, and the private sector at national and regional levels organised into working groups that are aimed at nurturing the capacity of individuals and organisations in the thematic areas.

Our vision is that all young children in Africa are safe, healthy, happy and achieving their full potential

AfECN is holding her inaugural conference with the aim of bringing together ECD public and private interest groups to disseminate evidence and share experiences aimed at enhancing and scaling best practices in Africa. This conference presents an opportunity for networking, engagement, learning, sharing and growth for all the participants.

AfECN is inviting applications for presentations along the following themes:

Presentation Themes

Applicants are requested to submit abstracts that are in line with at least one of the conceptual and/or delivery themes outlined below. The conference sub themes are framed from the WHO Nurturing Care Framework.

The key to achievement of SDGs and Agenda 2063 requires a holistic approach to supporting children, families and communities. Equally important are the modalities that support improved services and systems. Presentations will focus on nurturing care thematic areas and/or the underlying modalities and systems that improve service delivery.

A. Nurturing Care Themes

1. *Good health* – health related systems and services that support the needs of young children from conception to age 8 and the physical and mental health of their caregivers. Particular interests include integration of ECD interventions within existing health service delivery systems and maternal mental health.
2. *Good nutrition* – development, delivery and access to adequate nutritional services for young children from conception to age 8 in Africa.
3. *Early learning* – challenges, new ideas and innovation in the development and delivery of quality formal and informal early learning environments. Particular interests include children below 3 years of age and the integration of traditional systems, tools and resources.
4. *Safety and protection* – protection of young children from neglect, violence and maltreatment. Particular interests include children of refugees, and children facing conflict, effects of natural disasters or disease outbreak.
5. *Responsive caregiving* – the dynamic relationship between caregivers and young children from conception to age 8 and it's impact on child outcomes and caregiver's health and well being.

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B. Systems Strengthening Themes

1. *Policy, advocacy and communication* – efforts to align the ECD agenda at the forefront of policy development and implementation in Africa
2. *Capacity building and effective implementation* – skills building and knowledge sharing to strengthen human resources and improving practice through leveraging other interventions and addressing challenges in quality provision of services.
3 *Research, innovation and monitoring and evaluation* – knowledge exchange, skills building, dissemination of novel ideas, including effective use of resources and standardisation of indicators for regional congruence of ECD.
4. *Resource mobilisation and sustainability* – efforts aimed at supporting economic, environmental, and social sustainability of ECD systems and services
5. *Partnership and networking* – collaborative efforts to enhance ECD

Presentation Categories

Presentations will be accepted for oral and poster presentations, symposia and roundtable discussions, VIDEO DISPLAY/INTERACTIVE SESSION.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

The abstracts are expected to meet the following writing specifications:
- The abstracts should be written in English times new roman font size 12. They should be between 250-300 words highlighting the following:

    o   Introduction/background of the problem
    o   Problem statement/rationale
    o   Methods/description of intervention
    o   Results/Achievements
    o   Lessons learned
    o   Recommendations for scale up

Deadline for Abstract Submission: On/or before 14th Augt 2018
Deadline for Full Paper Submission: On/or before 3rd Sept 2018
Deadline for Submission of Posters, Videos, Power point etc: On 3rd Sept 2018

Abstracts should be submitted to AfECN via email to
conference@africaecdnetwork.org

Only abstracts submitted within the deadline will be reviewed and considered. For your full proposal to be considered, you must have paid the conference registration fee by the 30th Aug 2018.

Registration Rates

Type	Price (USD $)	Dates
Early Bird	$400	2nd Jul to 20th Aug
Regular Registration	$500	21st Aug to 15th Sept
Late Registration	$600	16th Sept to 30th Sept
AfECN Members	$300	2nd Jul to 31st Aug
Students Category I*	$100	2nd Jul to 31st Aug
Students Category II+	$200	2nd Jul to 31st Aug

*Bachelors and masters level students
+PhD students

Funding

There are limited opportunities to support conference presenters through funding for registration, travel and/or accommodation. Participants in need for support are required to submit a letter of request to conference@africaecdnetwork.org with the subject-funding request indicating the following:

o   Type of funding required
o   Reasons for financial support
o   Impact conference attendance will have on your work

Queries
Please send questions or queries to conference@africaecdnetwork.org