

**Urban Children and Youth in the MENA Region: Addressing Priorities in Education
Dubai, May 16 - 18, 2005**

**CONFERENCE AGENDA
(Revised 08.05.05 - Subject to change)**

Pre-Conference: Sunday May 15th, 2005

18:00- 20:30 Sheikh Maktoum Hall	Registration
18:00-19:00 Sheikh Maktoum Hall	Brainstorming Session by children, youth and participating mayors in preparation for their dialogue Resource Persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tarik Yousef, Georgetown University, U.S.A. • Dr. Hind Khalifa, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia • Mr. Arif Jilvar, Happy Family Center, Dubai.
19:00-20:30 Sheikh Maktoum Hall	Reception

Day One: Monday, May 16th, 2005

08:30- 09:30	Registration
09:30- 10:30 Al-Multaqua Ballroom	Opening Ceremony
10:30-11:10 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (C+D)	Opening of Exhibition: H.H. Shaikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Dubai Ruler; Minister of Finance and Industry, United Arab Emirates; Chairman, Dubai Municipality; Conference Patron accompanied by VIPs and guests.
11:10-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (A)	Plenary Session I: Cities for Children and Youth: An Overview <i>An overview of the key issues addressed by the conference as a whole - namely, an outline of the generic challenges facing children and youth and the role of municipalities in addressing these issues; the demographic transition through which the MENA region is passing and its consequences for social and educational policies and programs in the region; and specific and innovative approaches implemented by a large metropolis to address the needs of urban youth children.</i> Chair: Mr. Michal Rutkowski, Director, MENA Human Development Sector, World Bank Keynote Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. David Satterthwaite, IIED: Children and Youth, Poverty, and Urban Management • Dr. Thoraya A. Obaid, UN Under-Secretary General and UNFPA Executive Director Demographic Transition in the MENA Region and the Role of Municipal Authorities • H.E. Nidal Al-Hadid, Mayor of Amman (TBC)
13:00-14:30	Lunch

<p>14:30-16:30 Hall: Dubai A+B</p>	<p>Parallel Sessions:</p> <p>Parallel Session I: Youth Employment Issues in the MENA Region: Current Status and Future Directions <i>Discussion of the employment difficulties as one of the main challenges facing youth in the MENA region and lessons learned from international experience and case studies.</i> Chair: Ms. Setareh Razmara, Acting Social Protection Sector Manager, MENA Human Development Sector, The World Bank.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nader Kabbani and Ms. Ekta Kothari: A Situational Assessment of Youth Employment in the MENA Region. • Dr. Tarik Yousef: Discussant. • Ms. Amy Mina: Youth Employment in Jordan – The NAJAH Concept. • Ms. Soraya Salti: INJAZ al-Arab - Preparing Young People for the World of Work. • Dr. Zaki Khoury: Education and Employment Alliance.
<p>Hall: Dubai C</p>	<p>Parallel Session II: Innovative Learning Approaches <i>Innovative learning approaches will be presented including e-education, family learning, interactive libraries, and informal learning through museums and playgrounds.</i> Chair: Dr. Ali Al-Khabti, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Education, Saudi Arabia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jeremy Bendik – Keymer: School-Family Relationships – an Argument for the Parallel Process Model. • Ms. Nikki Anderson: Youth Programs Have the Power to Impact Families and Communities. • Mr. Ahmed F. Alhayajneh: The role of e-education systems in solving problems of education in the Arab region (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Dr. Hala Hammad: The Interactive Library: Concept, Curriculum, and Programs for Urban and Rural Children and Youth. • Dr. Badaruddin Mohamed et al.: Children Playground as a Tool for Early Education.
<p>Hall: Dubai D</p>	<p>Parallel Session III: Learning Environments in Urban Settings -Planning and Design I <i>Issues of planning for educational institutes in urban settings addressing questions of accessibility, adequacy and appropriateness.</i> Chair: Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Siraj, Consultant Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs, Saudi Arabia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Aarif A. Al-Subahi: Steady Urban Growth, Suitability of the Site and Performance of School Buildings, Case Study of Eib Yemen (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Prof. Ahmed K. Afifi: Development of Children and Youth Educational Institutions within a Comprehensive Urban Context as an Approach to Improving the Educational Environment (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Mr. Abdul Hafeez A. Hafazallah: Primary Schools Planning Standards in Khartoum: Towards a Progressive Upgrading Strategy. • Dr. Reinhard Goethert and Melody Tulier: Children, Participation, Global Challenges and Educational Priorities. • Mr. Juan Felipe Sanchez: Investing in Children and Youth: Towards Sustainable City Development.
<p>Hall: Dubai E+F</p>	<p>Parallel Session IV: Street Children: Reaching out and Empowering Disadvantaged Children and Youth <i>Overview of the status of and regional strategies to address children and youth issues.</i> Chair: Ms. Nancy Bakeer, Assistant Secretary General for Social Affairs, League of Arab States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sadia Mahmud-Marshall: Street Children in the MENA Region. • Ms. Nahla Abu Eissa: Implementation Strategy for the Arab Street Children Project (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Mr. Ashraf Abulhalawa et al.: Effectiveness of Informal Education in Increasing the Opportunities for Integrating School Drop-outs in their Jordanian Community (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Ms. Najwan A. M. Shamsuddin: The experience of Khartoum Council for Child Welfare in combating the phenomena of school drop-outs and street children in Khartoum State (<i>in Arabic</i>).
<p>16:30-17:00</p>	<p>Tea Break</p>

17:00-19:00 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (B)	Dialogue between Youth, Municipal and National Authorities <i>Engaging youth and senior officials in a dialogue on the issues that concern them in urban areas. Youth will moderate the session, with video-conferencing by young participants from West Bank-Gaza, Sana'a, Rabat, Cairo and Dubai.</i> Youth facilitators: Ms. Sana Abu Bakr Mr. Akram Y. Al-Aklahi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth participants from Cairo, Sanaa, West Bank-Gaza, Rabat, and Dubai.
20:00-23:00	Dinner hosted by Dubai Municipality.

Day Two: Tuesday, May 17th, 2005

09:00-10:30 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (A)	Plenary Session II: The Child Protection Initiative - Responding to Amman 2002 Declaration <i>A presentation of the Child Protection Initiative (CPI), a regional program to support and build the capacities of municipal authorities to deal more effectively with the needs of their children, particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged ones. Key partners of the CPI will express their views vis-à-vis the CPI strategic approach.</i> Chair : Dr. Tom McDermott , Director, UNICEF MENA Regional Office (TBC). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Gamal Hamid, CPI Director: Overview and Strategic Approach. Discussant: Dr. Elie Mekhael, Secretary General, Higher Childhood Council, Lebanon. Discussant: Mr. Nasir Al-Qahtani, AGFUND Director General. Discussant: H.E. Ahmed M. Al-Kahlani, Mayor of Sana'a (TBC).
10:30-11:00 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (A)	Plenary Session III: Municipal Responses <i>The objective of this session is to highlight the initiatives and programs of Dubai Municipality as an example of municipal responses to the needs of children and youth.</i> Chair: Dr. Abdul Muniem Abu-Nuwar , Director, Country Technical Services Team for Arab States-UNFPA. Dr. Hamid I. Hatal : The Efforts of Dubai Municipality in Caring for Children and Youth
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:30 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (B)	Round Table and Parallel Sessions Round Table (By Invitation Only): Exploring Relationships between National and Local Authorities with regard to Children and Youth Education in Urban Areas <i>Ministers, mayors and leaders of regional and international organizations will deliberate key themes of the conference, and reflect on the desirable division of responsibilities between national and local authorities in education and other challenges facing urban children. Key ideas will form part of the Dubai declaration.</i> Facilitator: Mr. Nicholas Krafft , Director, Human Development Network Operations, The World Bank Participants: Ministers, Mayors, World Bank, AUDI, United Nations and others.
Hall: Dubai A+B	Parallel Session V: Demographic and Youth Issues in the Arab State <i>Youth and adolescents issues in the Arab States within an overall context of population dynamics. Discussion of youth risk factors (e.g. drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, etc).</i> Chair: Dr. Thoraya A. Obaid , UN Under-Secretary General and UNFPA Executive Director. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Sameera M. Al-Tuwaijri: Youth Reproductive Health: Situation Analysis. Mr. Mohamed Alghanim: Youth in Population Policies and Strategies- a call for inclusion. Prof. Wafaa A. Aamer: Girls education: Challenges of Sustainable Development and Constraints of Gender Gaps (<i>in Arabic</i>). Ms. Joanna Vogel: Role of Mothers in Improving Productive Capacity for Impoverished Urban Children and Youth.
Hall: Dubai C	Parallel Session VI: Education for All: Relevance for Municipal Authorities <i>Discussion of the educational challenges facing the MENA region in the context of the Education for All Initiative. Special emphasis on the relevance of EFA with respect to marginalized children and the possible roles of municipal authorities.</i> Chair: Ms. Regina Bendokat , MENA Education Sector Manager, The World Bank <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Hegazi Idris: Friendly School for Street Children (Egypt) Ms. Darunee Riewpituk: Learning Centers for Adolescent Girls in South Asia. Ms. Sayeeda Rahman: Community Learning Centers (CLC) in the Arab States.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lionel Urdy: Second Chance Schools - an alternative path to completing school or integrating the labor market.
Hall: Dubai D	<p>Parallel Session VII: Young People Envisioning the Community they Want: Voices from Child-Friendly Cities in the MENA Region. <i>Introduction to the Child-Friendly Cities approach spearheaded and to showcase the regional and international experiences with its implementation.</i> Chair: H.E. Abdul Aziz Al-Husayyin, Mayor of Al-Madina Al-Munawara.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Eliana Riggio: Global perspective. • Mr. Waleed Abu Muwais (Mayor of Jenin) and Mr. Dia' N. Sabbagh (Child Mayor of Jenin): Children's Participation in the CFC Initiative in the OPT. • H.E. A. Bagherzadeh, Mayor of Bam: Rebuilding Bam, Iran as a CFC.
Dall: Dubai E+F	<p>Parallel Session VIII: Reaching Out and Empowering 'At Risk' and Disadvantaged Children and Youth <i>Exploration of the categories of 'at risk' and disadvantaged children, namely poor children, girls and disabled children. The challenges facing them in urban settings will be explored and national and local responses will be presented.</i> Chair: Ms. Viviana Mangiaterra, Children & Youth Advisor, The World Bank.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jeroen Smits and Dr. Ayşe Gündüz-Hoşgör: Education Participation of Girls in Egypt, Morocco and Turkey, 1992-2000. • Dr. Rania Roushdy et al.: Urban Poverty and Children's Schooling: A Case study of Households and Neighborhoods in Cairo, Egypt. • Dr. Ibrahim Al-Shiddi: Educational Programs for Children and Youth in Riyadh City <i>(in Arabic).</i> • Dr. Fakh Laid: The Efforts of Algeria in Caring for Disabled Children - a Field Research on the Status of Psychological Care for Mentally Disabled Children in Algeria <i>(in Arabic).</i> • Prof. Edna Mitchell: Priorities in Education in a War Torn Society – Afghanistan.
13:30-15:00	Lunch
15:00-17:00 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (A)	<p>Plenary Session IV: Progress and Challenges in Mainstreaming the Most Disadvantaged Children and Youth: Experiences from Egypt, Yemen, Jordan and West Bank & Gaza <i>Review of progress in MENA countries on policies and programs pertaining to vulnerable children and youth, and the challenges faced in mainstreaming into the national development agenda across sectors. Case from Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, West Bank & Gaza</i> Chair: H.E. Ms. Suhair Al Ali, Minister of Planning, Jordan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yemen: Dr. Hashem Awnallah, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning. • Egypt: Ambassador Hussein Al-Sadr, National Council for Childhood and Motherhood • Jordan: Senator H.E. Dr. Rowaida Al-Maaitah, National Council for Family Affairs. • West Bank and Gaza: Dr. Cairo Arafat, Director General, Ministry of Planning.
17:00-17:30	Tea Break
17:30-19:30 Hall: Dubai A+B	<p>Parallel Sessions:</p> <p>Parallel Session IX: Inclusive Education in Urban Settings - Innovative Initiatives. <i>Identify the challenges and strategies for mainstreaming disabled children and youth in urban educational programs. Approaches that strive to involve disabled children and youth, as well as the work of concerned NGOs in the design and implementation of innovative program.</i> Chair: Ms. Judith Heumann, Advisor on Disability and Development, The World Bank.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ibrahim Khries: Greater Amman experience in mainstreaming Children and Youth of special needs in various activities. • Ms. Silvana Allaqis: The Role of Disability Grassroot Organizations in mainstreaming Disabled Children and Youth: Challenges and Opportunities. • Dr. Ala'a Sabeh: Early Childhood Development for Disabled Children in the Local Community in Egypt through the Social Protection Initiative Project (SPIP). • Ms. Liza Mohammed Al-Haza'a: Mainstreaming of Disabled Children and Youth in the Child Protection Educational Approach at the Community Level from the Youth Perspective: Challenges and Opportunities.
Hall: Dubai C	<p>Parallel Session X: Towards a World Bank Education Sector Strategy for MENA <i>Presentation of the conceptual framework and early findings of a World Bank flagship report on Education Strategy in the MENA region.</i></p>

	<p>Chair: Dr. Saeed H. Almuhairei, Vice-chancellor United Arab Emirates University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Michel Welmond and Mr. Ahmed Galal, The World Bank. • Discussant: Ms. Malak Zaalouk, UNICEF MENA Regional Advisor, Education. • Discussant: Mr. Ramzi Salame-UNESCO.
Hall: Dubai D	<p>Parallel Session XI: Growing-up in Cities and Environmental Education <i>Overview of the Growing Up in Cities Project and its recent and ongoing activities within and near the MENA region, and implications for environmental education. Particular focus on the project's potential contributions in the MENA region. Ideas for developing new initiatives under the new UNESCO Chair Program at Cornell University will be explored.</i></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Hind Khalifa, King Saud University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. David Driskell: Environmental Education and Youth Participation in Community Development- The Growing Up in Cities Project. • Dr. Eyyad Al-Khalaileh: Understanding Children's Environments: the Effect of Outdoor Physical Environments on Children's Activities and Quality of Life in Al-Wihdat Palestinian Refugee Camp and Environs in Amman, Jordan. • Ms. Sudeshna Chatterjee: Growing up Among the Dead: Investigating Environmental Child Friendliness for Children in New Delhi. • Dr. Omar Amireh: Amman Children Map. • Discussant: Dr. Rula Sadik.
Hall: Dubai E+F	<p>Parallel Session XII: Child Labor and Education: Issues and Responses <i>Linkages between child labor and education in urban settings in the MENA region. Empirical evidence relating to how child labor affects both school attendance and the learning achievement of children. Discussion of how child labor considerations can be "mainstreamed" into policies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for education in urban contexts.</i></p> <p>Chair: Mr. Furio Rosati, UCW Project, (IPEC, ILO, and The World Bank)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Frank Hagemann: Eliminating child labor: what's to be done • Dr. Hasret Dikici and Dr. Ayşe Gündüz-Hoşgör: Turkey as a Case of Good Practice in Child Labor: Working Street Children • Dr. Thaira Shalan: MENA Regional Responses • Discussant: Mr. Zafiris Tzannatos, World Bank.
19:30-20:30	Tea Break
20:30-23:00 Al Multaqua Ballroom	Dinner hosted by MedChild Institute Presentation of MedChild Best Practices Awards sponsored by Fondazione Cariplo.

Day Three: Wednesday, May 18th, 2005

<p>09:00-10:30 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (A)</p>	<p>Plenary Session V: Follow up to Genoa 2004 <i>Reflections on the Children and the Mediterranean Conference held in Genoa in January 2004. Major works and tools developed by the MedChild Institute that was one of the main outcomes of the Conference will be presented.</i> Chair: H.E. Riccardo Sessa, Director General, Italian Foreign Ministry Desk for the Middle East and the Mediterranean (TBC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bruno Musso: MedChild Activities. • Prof. Edwin Morley-Fletcher: Charting the Mediterranean Child 2005 Report Highlights. • Prof. Jacques van der Gaag: Child Well Being Index. • Discussant: Dr. Ilja Gardi: Commissioner, Mediterranean Foundation for Hematology. • Comments by MENA Mayors (to be confirmed).
<p>10:30-11:00</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>11:00-13:00 Hall: Dubai A+B</p>	<p>Parallel Sessions: Parallel Session XIII: Early Childhood Education Issues and Role of Municipalities <i>Discussion and highlights of early childhood education issues for young urban residents, and the role of municipalities and urban institutions in addressing them.</i> Chair: Mr. Arun R. Joshi, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lara Adnan Hussein: Assessing Readiness of Jordanian Children to School. • Mr. Gibreen Al-Gibreen: The AGFUND Experience in Developing Early Childhood Programs in the Arab World (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Dr. Fadiyah Mohamed Hotait: The Role of Municipalities in Developing Early Childhood Education and Care: International Experiences (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Dr. Yahya H. Abu Harb: Required Teaching Qualifications for Pre-school Teachers in Light of Curriculum Development for the 21st Century (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Ms. Mouza M.A.ALKaram: Experience of Children and Girls Centers in Sharjah Emirate. (<i>in Arabic</i>).
<p>Hall: Dubai C</p>	<p>Parallel Session XIV: Participation and Empowerment: Children and Youth in Urban Areas <i>Exploration of contemporary education sector issues in the region, youth social and cultural concerns, and the relationship between families and schools.</i> Chair: Prof. Osman E.M.Nour, King Saud University, Chairman of the Conference Technical Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohamed Othman Al-Muhaisi: Youth Psychological and Educational Problems in Sudanese Universities (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Dr. Abdul Raqeeb A. Al-Buhairi: Violence in Schools: Negative Impacts and Strategies for Protection and Interventions (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Ms. Mariam M. Ali: Violence in Schools- Fieldwork Results. (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Dr. Wajeha T. Al-Aani: Youth Contemporary Cultural Concerns and their Relationship with some Variables - Views of the Students of the College of Education at Sultan Qabus University (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Yahya S.Salih: Addressing Youth Issues in the Local Community- example of Neighborhood Social Centers in Al-Madina Al-Munawara.
<p>Hall: Dubai D</p>	<p>Parallel Session XV: Learning Environments in Urban Settings: Planning and Design II <i>Continuation of session from day 2 focusing on the planning and design aspects of educational environments, with emphasis on designing classrooms to suit the needs of disabled students, and also the impacts of contemporary technological innovations on the design of schools and classrooms.</i> Chair: Dr. Obaid A. Altinaiji, Director of Planning and Surveying, Sharjah Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Barbara Worth & Mr. Scot Bini: Experience of the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI). • Dr. Nobi M. Hassan: Designing Education Environments for Children and Youth: Contemporary Systematic Formulation within the Digital Revolution (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Dr. Nihad M. Al-Mughany: Adequacy of Educational Institutions for the Needs of Disabled Children in Gaza Strip (<i>in Arabic</i>). • Dr. Ahmad Oueini & Mr. Stephen Campbell: Management and Design for the

	<p>Learning Disabled in the MENA Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Abdelfattah Ezzine: The Experience of Children Clubs in Morocco <i>(in Arabic)</i>.
Hall: Dubai E+F	<p>Parallel Session XVI: Children and Youth issues in the Mediterranean Region: Education and Health Linkages</p> <p><i>Focus on the linkages between education and health issues. Case studies of NGOs that undertake notable programs in health and education in the Mediterranean region.</i></p> <p>Chair: Mr. Francesco Biagioli, Vice President, MedChild Institute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Alberto Martini: Young people and drugs in the Urban Environment. • Mr. Henri Roux-Alezais: The Knowledge Economy and Young people in the Mediterranean. • Dr. Samir Farid: Population Growth, Education & Poverty Reduction in the Arab region. • Ms. Margaret Al-Sayer: The Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals. • Ms. Wiam Erikat: The Children Municipality Council project, City Council of Jericho in Palestine. • Mr. Rolf Widmer: Perspectives of Abandoned Children in Tunisia.
13:00-13:30	Tea Break
13:30-14:30 Sheikh Maktoum Hall (A)	<p>Closing Session (Plenary): Declaration, Discussion & Closing Speeches</p> <p><i>A draft of the conference declaration will be presented and discussed; and brief concluding speeches will be delivered by the organizing institutions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Abdullah A. Al-Nuaim, Chairman Board of Trustees, AUDI President • World Bank Director (to be confirmed) • Mr. Qasim S. Al-Banna, Director General, Dubai Municipality
14:30-16:00	Lunch
16:00-	Free time and /or evening program