

Description of the EVENT

Yale's Role in the Global Child Refugee Crisis

Rationale and Goals

Millions of children around the world are living in dire situations of conflict, violence and insecurity. This is particularly a reality for many children from Iraq and Syria and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. There is an urgent need to galvanize policies, programs and global action to support young children and families who have fallen victims of the war. In light of this need, faculty members working in the areas of conflict, family studies and early childhood across Yale University are convening a campus-wide working session with representatives from some of the world's largest development, aid and relief agencies to:

1. Discuss current initiatives and approaches to reaching and supporting young children affected by war and displacement
2. Identify priority areas of programming, support and intervention to grant young children not only their safety but also access to services and environments to allow them to thrive

Based on this discussion, the ultimate goals of the working session are to:

1. Convene a working group amongst the Yale community interested in remaining engaged in activities related to this effort
2. Generate a Plan of Action for the working group to delineate a set of concrete activities to support on-the-ground efforts

Event logistics:

Location: MacMillan Center (34 Hillhouse Avenue), Luce Hall, 1-2 PM

We will hold a 2-hour event:

Session 1 (free and open to the public from 1 – 2 PM): The first 45 minutes will consist of a panel of practitioners from local and global agencies who would be asked to address the following questions:

- 1- Describe the ways in which your agency is currently approaching its programming to address the war and displacement crisis in the Middle East and North Africa region, with emphasis on young children and families
3. What are the greatest challenges in reaching the most vulnerable children and providing safety as well as access to services and environments to protect and

- promote their healthy development? How is the agency trying to overcome these challenges?
- 2- Provide key recommendations on concrete high-impact areas where the international academic community should consider partnering with aid, development, and relief agencies to support on-the-ground efforts

The last part of the first session will welcome questions from the audience regarding panel contributions. *Attendees will be asked to provide their email for forthcoming and ongoing communications/activities, including Yale's participation in an emerging Global Early Childhood Peacebuilding Consortium.*

Panelists will include:

- **Dr. Nicholas Alipui** – UNICEF's Director of Programmes and Director and Senior Adviser on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
- **Ayla Goskel** – CEO the Mother and Child Foundation (Turkey)
- **Unni Karunakara** – Former International President of Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and Senior Fellow at the Jackson Institute
- **Katie Murphy** – Early Childhood Development Technical Advisor at International Rescue Committee
- **Christopher George** - Executive director of IRIS (refugee resettlement program in New Haven)

Session 2 (closed, by invitation only from 2 – 3 PM): A core group of faculty, staff and students will meet to draft the inputs for a Plan of Action. The aim is to outline a set of concrete activities to enable campus-wide cooperation and actions in benefit of young children victims of the current displacement and war. Those interested in participating in the working meeting can contact Dr. Angelica Ponguta (angelica.ponguta@yale.edu) to complete a short form explaining their engagement. A limited number of organizations and individuals will be invited to participate. *All applicants and event attendees will be kept engaged via forthcoming communications following the event.*

For more information contact Dr. Angelica Ponguta (angelica.ponguta@yale.edu)