

Putting children first: Identifying solutions and taking action to tackle poverty and inequality in Africa

International conference hosted by the Ethiopian Centre for Child Research, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty (CROP), The ESRC-DFID Impact Initiative at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, including African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), Save the Children, UNICEF and Young Lives

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 23-25 October 2017

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This three-day international conference aims to engage policy makers, practitioners and researchers in identifying solutions for fighting child poverty and inequality Africa, and inspiring action towards change. The conference offers a platform for bridging divides across sectors, disciplines and policy, practice and research.

The conference aims:

- to identify, debate and advocate proven solutions to end child poverty in Africa;
- to share and discuss new research on who and where poor children are, why they are poor and what tailored approaches to address their situation may look like;
- to discuss particular policy and programming challenges and how they can be addressed;
- to build links and networks between researchers, policy makers and practitioners;
- to stimulate learning on particular skills that may help to move research to action.

We would like to invite proposals on the following themes:

- 1) **“Setting the scene: Who and where are the poor children?”** This theme aims to provide insight into the plight of overlooked children, to strengthen data collection and measurement efforts to ensure that no child is overlooked in the future.
- 2) **“Child-sensitive social protection: Making social protection work for children”.** This theme aims to promote a better understanding of how social protection can be improved to help children, including links to services and the adoption of more child-oriented approaches.
- 3) **“Ensuring access to basic services for all: Reaching the poorest and most marginalised children”.** This theme aims to gain insight into how access to services can be secured for the most excluded and marginalised, including views on how to remove specific barriers and involve a social workforce and community-based mechanisms.
- 4) **“Supporting secure transitions to adulthood”.** This theme aims to explore how the ‘youth bulge’ can be considered a ‘demographic dividend’ and how young people can be supported in the transition to adulthood with regard to education, work, family and aspirations.

Proposals can consist of traditional paper presentations, but we also encourage innovative and interactive modes of engagement with research and policy in the respective themes. The conference will be conducted in English and participants will engage actively in all sessions. After the conference, participants should be willing to work on their contribution with a view to publication and further dissemination.

Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses and insurance. A limited number of travel grants are available.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: **30 April 2017**

The abstract must not exceed 500 words (one page) and must include: the title of the proposed submission, a presentation of the subject and mode of engagement, the central argument, and key references. A CV no longer than one page must also be submitted, including a list of recent publications. The abstract and CV must be submitted electronically at the University of Bergen, follow this link to do it: <http://bit.ly/2m2xjTW>

Submissions exceeding the set limits will not be considered. The Academic Selection Committee will notify accepted participants of their selection by end of May 2017 with guidelines for the format of the final submission (research paper or other format depending on proposed engagement) to be submitted by **25 September 2017**.