Children & Armed Conflict:
Risk, Resilience & Mental Health

National Academy of Sciences
Institute of Medicine
2100 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC

December 7–9, 2009

Sponsors:
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Catholic University of America, Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies
Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine
Henry Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine
West Virginia University School of Medicine

Online registration: www.hjf.org/events then search for Children & Armed Conflict.
Course Description:
This is an international and multidisciplinary conference addressing the developmental and mental health needs of children in conflict-affected settings.

The conference highlights the complex interaction between risk factors, psychopathology and mental health with resilience as an important moderator.

Traumas associated with armed conflict, deprivations, displacement, and related losses increase children’s risk of developing mental health difficulties. However, children have great potential for resilience. The international community has the responsibility to foster their strengths and help them outgrow the impact of war.

Speakers review current evidence-based data and information on psychosocial and clinical interventions to reduce the short and long-term impact of traumatic experiences. Discussions examine the role of these interventions as part of a broader protective environment for children affected by armed conflict. This includes how social supports can be mobilized to protect and care for children; the role of schools as protective and healing environments; and utilizing emergency interventions to jump start long term child protection system development.

Discussing interagency cooperation and providing a forum for researchers, clinicians and humanitarian/aid organization to explore issues of mutual interest and identify opportunities for collaboration are paramount aims of this conference.

The conference is divided into three parts: the first part includes an overview, fostering resilience and understanding psychopathology; the second part focuses on characterization and experiences with children traumatized by armed conflict, including a special section on child soldiers; the third part focuses on policy and program development, with a special focus on meeting the developmental needs of unaccompanied and separated children.

The specific goals and objectives of the conference are:
• Provide a forum for dialogue and interaction
• Consider the current evidence base for programming
• Highlight issues of concern
• Discuss and develop specific initiatives of mutual interest

Organizing Committee:
Myron L. Belfer, M.D.
Theresa Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A.
Robert A. Destro, J.D.
Siham Muntasser, M.D.
John Rosenquist, C.M.P., C.G.M.P.
John Williamson, M.S.W.

Venue and Date:
The conference convenes December 7–9, 2009 in the Auditorium of the Institute of Medicine—National Academy of Sciences at 2100 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20418.

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Supporters:
Child Soldiers Initiative
François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health/Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health
Johns Hopkins Center for Global Health
Section on Conflict Management and Resolution, World Psychiatric Association

Audience:
This conference interests a broad audience including: academics, children's advocates, human rights, and post-conflict development groups/organizations, government officials, military personnel, mental health professionals, researchers and policy makers.

Continuing Medical Education Credits (CME):
Continuing education credits are provided for physicians.

Registration:
For the website link to the registration form go to www.hjf.org/events and then search for Children & Armed Conflict. A $75.00 registration fee will be charged to cover cost of food, materials and continuing education.

Contact Persons:
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Photos Courtesy of Theresa Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A.
AGENDA

Monday December 7, 2009

OVERVIEW, RESILIENCE, AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

7:30  Breakfast
8:00–8:15  Welcome and Introduction
  Siham Muntasser, M.D.
8:10–8:30  Opening Remarks
  Ambassador David M. Robinson
8:30–9:15  An Ecological Approach to Children in Armed Conflict
  Neil Boothby, Ph.D.
9:00–9:45  Risk, Resilience and Cultural Diversity: a Transcultural Approach for Infant Mental Health in the Humanitarian Field
  Marie Rose Moro, M.D., Ph.D.
  Coffee Break
10:15–11:00  Risk Factors and Psychopathology in Children and Adolescents Affected by Armed Conflict
  Panos Vostanis, M.D.
11:00–11:45  Parental Psychopathology, Preschool Children, and Exposure to Conflict: Data from the World Trade Center Attacks and Missile Attacks in Israel
  Claude Chemtob, Ph.D.
12:00–13:00  Lunch
13:00–13:45  Helping Adolescents Affected by War, Trauma and Displacement
  Judith Cohen, M.D.
13:45–14:30  Trauma, Resilience and Recovery in Children: Lessons from the Field
  Syed Arshad Husain, M.D., FRCPsych., FRCP(C)
  Coffee Break
14:45–15:30  Children Experiences in Wars at Home and Wars Away
  Shelley M. MacDermid Wadsworth, Ph.D
15:45–16:30  Panel Discussion on Building Resilience and Violence Prevention in Children Traumatized by War, Trauma and Displacement
  Chairpersons: Suaad Moussa, M.D.
16:30–17:00  Concluding Remarks
  Eliot Sorel, M.D.
AGENDA

Tuesday December 8, 2009

CHARACTERIZATION AND EXPERIENCES WITH CHILDREN TRAUMATIZED BY ARMED CONFLICT

7:30 Breakfast

8:00–8:30 Child Soldiers: Overview and Developmental Perspective—The Sierra Leone Experience
Theresa Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A.

8:30–9:15 Survey of War Affected Youth in Northern Uganda
Jeannie Annan, Ph.D.

Coffee Break

9:30–10:15 Measuring Mental Health in Child Soldiers—The Nepal Experience
Brandon Kohrt, M.D., Ph.D.

10:15–11:00 Factors Influencing the Exile or Reintegration of Rape Survivors in Families and Communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
Nancy Glass, Ph.D.

11:00–11:45 Children's Mental Health in Afghanistan
Nahid Aziz, Psy.D.

12:00–12:45 Lunch with Movie “Returned: Child Soldiers of Nepal’s Maoist Army”
Robert Koenig & Brandon Kohrt

13:00–13:45 Subjective Well-being: Research Outcomes on Palestinian Children from the Gaza Strip
Izzeldin Abuelaish, M.D., MPH.

13:45–14:30 Meeting the Developmental Needs of the Children of Darfur
Safaa El-Kogali

Coffee Break

15:00–15:45 Links to Hope—Kyber Pass Meets Cyber Pass: Role of Informatics in Fostering the Resilience of Afghan Children
David Warner, M.D., Ph.D.

15:45–16:30 Panel Discussion on Developing Sustainable Systems of Care for Psychosocial Support and Mental Health in War Affected Areas
Chairperson: Theresa Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A.

16:30–17:00 Concluding Remarks
John Williamson, M.S.W.
AGENDA

Wednesday December 9, 2009

CHILD PROTECTION, POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

7:30  Breakfast
8:00–8:10  Welcome and Introduction
8:15–9:00  Child Protection, Psychosocial Support and Mental Health for Children in Armed Conflict—the UNICEF’s Perspective
  Amanda Melville
9:00–9:45  Meeting the Needs of Children in Armed Conflict Gender and Community Perspectives
  Michael Wessells, Ph.D.
  Coffee Break
10:00–10:45  Role of Education in Fostering Children’s Resilience in Emergencies and Conflict Situations Program Development and Policy
  Rebecca Winthrop, Ph.D.
10:45–11:30  Fostering Interagency Cooperation to Improve Interventions
  Shahul Ebrahim, M.D., Ph.D.
11:30–12:15  Fostering the Mental Health of Children of Deployed American Soldiers
  Beth Ellen Davis, M.D., M.P.H.
12:15–13:00  Lunch
13:00–13:45  Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Armed Conflict
  Ghazal Keshavarzian
13:45–14:30  Developing Comprehensive Mental Health Services for Traumatized Infants
  Charles Zeanah, M.D.
  Coffee Break
15:00–15:45  Youth Suicide, Suicide Bombers and Suicide Prevention—Policy and Programs—the Pakistani Perspective
  Murad M. Khan, M.D.
15:45–16:30  Panel Discussion on Legal and Policy Implications
  Chairperson: Robert A. Destro, J.D.
16:30–17:00  Concluding Remarks
  Lloyd Feinberg
  Adjournment

Photo Courtesy of Theresa Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A.
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Photo Courtesy of David Warner, MD, PhD
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