



International Conference on
Early Childhood Development

5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Investing in Early Childhood Development
Building Human Capital
April 7 - 8, 2026

Venue:
W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex
Allama Iqbal Open University,
Islamabad, Pakistan

DAY-1: TUESDAY - APRIL 7, 2026**OPENING CEREMONY****Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex**

08:30 am	Registration of participants
08:30 - 09:30 am	Guests to be seated
10:00 am	Arrival of the Chief Guest – Prof. Dr Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister Planning, Development & Special Initiatives
10:00 - 10:05 am	National Anthem
10:05 - 10:10 am	Recitation and Translation from the Holy Quran – Mr. Ibtisam-ur-Rehman, Arabic & Islamic Studies, Allama Iqbal Open University
10:10 - 10:15 am	Welcome Address - Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, Allam Iqbal Open University
10:15 - 10:20 am	Children’s Performance (Skit) – The Circle of Care
10:20 – 10:25 am	Opening Remarks – Mr. Nasruddin Rupani – Chairman Rupani Foundation
10:25-10:55 am	Pakistan’s journey in ECD/ECCE/ECE-Animated Video Remarks by Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr Nazeer Ahmed - Chief Nutrition, SUN Secretariate, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives- Ms. Pernille Ironside – Country Representative, UNICEF- Dr. Luo Dapeng – Country Representative, WHO- Mr. Muhammad Rafique Tahir – Director Board of Pakistan Alliance for Early Childhood
10:55 - 11:10 am	Update on the previous Conference’s Recommendations - Dr Saba Shuja, Manager ECD, UNICEF Sharing the Conference Objectives & Schedule Overview of the 5th International Conference on ECD – Ms. Khadija Khan, CEO, PAFEC
11:10 – 11:30 am	Keynote Address: Investing in Early Childhood Development – Building Human Capital Presenter: Dr Zafar Mirza – Former Federal Minister Health, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation & Coordination
11:30 am	Address by the Chief Guest
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Presentation of Mementosii. Group Photoiii. Visiting ECD Exhibitioniv. Tea Break & Networking

DAY-1 - PLENARY-1: TUESDAY - APRIL 7, 2026
Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

Session Chair: Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
Moderator: Syed Jalal ud Din Shah, Global CEO Rupani Foundation

12:00 - 1:30 pm	<p>Keynote Address: How Microfinance can support ECD Entrepreneurs at Community Level to take ECD to scale Presenter: Mr. Stephen Rasmussen – Chairman, Community & Enterprise Development Organization</p> <p>Theme 1: Economics and Sustainable Mechanisms- Innovative Approaches to ECD Finances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global economic evidence on high returns to ECD with reference to Asia’s demographic transition and human capital dividend - Case Study from Pakistan • Venture philanthropy, blended finance and catalytic capital, corporate social responsibility models and faith-based giving, family foundations and diaspora philanthropy • Linking climate justice with child development, green ECD centers and climate-adaptive infrastructure, carbon finance mechanisms for caregiving programs • Trauma Informed Care and Investing in Neurobiology • Blended Social Financing for ECD, the Combined Role of Catalytic Capital and Venture Philanthropy • Unlocking financing for young children <p>Key Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Adnan Aziz, Chief Program Officer, Global Islamic Finance Impact Program for Climate, Nature and Development, UAE (Virtual) 2. Dr. Alaptagin Khan, Neuroscientist & Instructor in Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School(In-person) 3. Ms. Katy Anis, Principal, Coalescence Advisory Service(Virtual) 4. Ms. Mina Zamand, Economist, World Bank (In-person) 5. Vikas Arora - Chief of Impact Investing & Blended Finance, AVPN Limited (Virtual) 6. Ms. Shekufeh Zonji – Early Childhood Development Action Network (Virtual) 7. Dr Shahbana Haider – Member Population, Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives(In-person)
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Lunch Break & Networking

DAY-1 - PLENARY-2: TUESDAY - APRIL 7, 2026

Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

Session Chair: Ms. Sharmeela Rassool, Deputy Country Representative, UNICEF
Co-Chair: Mr. Muzaffar Ud Din, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation
Moderator: Dr Shelina Bhamani, Associate Professor, Program Director Outreach Education & Lead ECD PREP ObGyn Aga Khan University

2:30 - 3:30 pm	<p>Keynote Address: Mr. Shinozaki Yusuke, Chief Representative, JICA Pakistan</p> <p>Theme 2: Nurturing Care Across Cultures: Innovations and Inclusive Approaches to ECD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parenting models and family-strengthening systems – Key Family Care Practices (KFCPs) & Scaling-up Parenting Programme in Pakistan• Responsive Caregiving• RDI/Rupani Foundation’s AWIP model as a regional example• Digital parenting platforms and remote learning tools• Inclusive approaches to Early Childhood Development <p>Key Speakers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr. Saba Shuja, Manager ECD, UNICEF (In-person)2. Dr. Qudsia Uzma, Programme Lead, WHO (In-person)3. Mr. Jalaluddin Hunzai, CEO, Rupani Foundation (In-person)4. Mr. Sajjad Hyder, CEO, Gbeetechive (In-person)5. Dr Zeba Rasmussen – Founder of Mehnaz Fatima Foundation (In-person)6. Dr. Naila Khalid, Health & Nutrition Advisor, Save the Children (In-person)
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Tea Break & Networking

DAY-1 - PLENARY-3: TUESDAY - APRIL 7, 2026
Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, Executive Director, Higher Education Commission
Moderator: Dr. Hana Mahmood, Chief of Global Health, International Research Force

3:45 – 5:00 pm	<p>Keynote Address: Prof. Dr. Jamal Raza, National Institute of Child Health Karachi</p> <p>Theme 3: Health, Nutrition and Safety & Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrating developmental milestones, early detection & early intervention into Pakistan’s primary health care services• Stunting prevention through adequate nutrition – it starts in the womb• Strengthening ECD through Food Security and Healthy Dietary Practices• From policy to practice: advancing child safety and protection in Pakistan• Integrating ECD into Public Health Care• Fulfilling the ECD promise for children with special needs• Safe Cities for Children to Thrive <p>Key Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mr. Anteneh Girma, Chief Nutrition, UNICEF (In-person)2. Dr. Salman Kirmani, Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, Aga Khan University (In-person)3. Dr. Fatima Rehman, Developmental Pediatrician, The Children’s Hospital Lahore (In-person)4. Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson, National Commission on the Rights of Child (In-person)5. Dr. Shahzad Khan, VC, National Health Services Academy (In-person)6. Dr. Abdul Wali Khan, Director General, State Minister of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (In-person)
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair

DAY-2 - PLENARY 1: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026
Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

Session Chair: Mr. Nadeem Mahboob, Federal Secretary of Education & Professional Training,
Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Vice Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University
Moderator: Ms. Khadija Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Alliance for Early Childhood

09:30 – 10:45 am	<p>Keynote Address: Childhood-battleground of Ideologies and Ambassador of hope Dr. Fareed Panjwani, Dean, Institute for Educational Development (IED), Aga Khan University</p> <p>Theme 4: Strengthening ECD Workforce & Regional Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic pathways through Centers of Excellence (e.g., AIU) • Credentialing, scholarships, and digital upskilling • Workforce mobility across the region • Capacity-building initiatives and cross-country learning • Regional cooperation for quality assurance in ECD • Workforce issues including social-emotional learning of ECCE teachers • Tackling OOSC, low literacy and ECCE gaps through strengthening ECD Workforce • How can health be integrated to build an effective and responsive ECD workforce for the region? <p>Key Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Sara Lajam, Programme Officer, Dubai Care (Virtual) 2. Ms. Ambreena Ahmed, Director, Teachers’ Resource Centre (TRC), Pakistan(In-person) 3. Mr. Abid Gill, Deputy Chief Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (In-person) 4. Mr. Syed Javid Gillani, Executive Director, Muslim Hands (In-person) 5. Mr. Siva Prasad – Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (Virtual) 6. Dr. Mihaela Ionesco, Programme Director, ISSA (Virtual) 7. Ms. Nikita Srivastav – Assistant Director, Health Impact, AVPN Limited (Virtual)
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair
10:45 – 11:00 am	Tea Break & Networking

DAY-2 - PLENARY 2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026

Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

Session Chair: Ms. Rabia Awan, Director General, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Moderator: Dr Shehzad Mithani, Education Policy Expert

11:00 - 12:00 pm	<p>Keynote Address: WHO Global Scale for Early Development (GSED) in ECD Measurement Presenter: MS Vanessa Cavallera, ECD, WHO Geneva</p> <p>Theme 5: Research, Measurement & Accountability Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening indicators, data systems, and tracking and data integration at early childhood level• Global measurement frameworks (MECCE, SABER-ECD)• Academic collaboration and regional research networks• Role of local government in providing data services• Multi Indicator Cluster Survey & ECD Dashboard• Development of integrated, real-time and policy-responsive data systems and tools <p>Key Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr. Saba Shuja, Manager ECD, UNICEF (In-person)2. Dr. Shahid Soroya, Director General, Pakistan Institute of Education (In-person)3. Ms. Jalila Hehldi, Co-founder, Sustainwiser (Virtual)4. Dr Tooba Saleem, Assistant Professor, Allama Iqbal Open University (In-person)5. Mr. Ghulam Muhammad Shah – ICIMOD (In-person)
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair

DAY-2 - PLENARY 3: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026
Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

Session Chair: Dr. Luo Dapeng – Country Representative, WHO or Deputy CR, WHO
Moderator: Dr. Roop Zainab, Psychiatrist & CEO, The Healing Triad

12:00 – 1:15 pm	<p>Theme 6: Caregivers' Mental Health & MH&PSS Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caring for the caregivers, global best practices• UNICEF maternal mental health frameworks• Integrating mental health into primary healthcare• Holistic mind–body–spirit models - research findings from parental support groups that we have run in Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral through peer volunteers• Rights-based & scalable MHPSS model for Pakistan <p>Key Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr. Mowadat Hussain Rana, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (In-person)2. Dr. Abdul Wahab Yousafzai, Psychiatrist, Shifa International Hospital (In-person)3. Ms. Safina Abdulloeva, Health Manager – UNICEF(In-person)4. Ms. Falak Madhani – Brain and Mind Institute (BMI), Aga Khan University (In-person)5. Dr. Asma Humayun, National Technical Advisor Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (In-person)
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair
1:15 – 2:00 pm	Lunch Break & Networking

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026

Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

Session Chair: Ms. Izza Farrakh, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank

Moderator: Dr. Seema Lasi, Assistant Professor, Aga Khan University

Rapporteur: Ms. Samina Ghafoor, ECCE Curriculum Expert

2:00 – 3:30 pm	<p>Theme 7: Early Learning Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen Home and Community Based Learning Environments by equipping parents and caregivers with structural guidance to provide early stimulation, language exposure, and nurturing interactions during conception to 3 years of age.• Design Play-Based Early Learning Spaces safe, inclusive, and stimulating environments that promote exploration, creativity, social-emotional growth, and foundational literacy and numeracy in pre-primary schools.• Ensure strong transitions and foundational skills in the early primary years by aligning curriculum, teaching practices, and assessment to build reading fluency, numeracy competence, executive functioning, and problem-solving skills.• Trained educators, engaged families, build climate-resilient child friendly infrastructure, and continuous monitoring to ensure equitable and scalable early learning access from -1 to 8 <p>Key Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr Shelina Bhamani, Associate Professor & Lead ECD, AKU(In-person)2. Ms. Erum Barki, Education Specialist, UNICEF(In-person)3. Ms. Sehar Taimoor, Education Advisor, Save the Children (In-person)4. Dr Tabassum Naz – Director, National Curriculum Council (In-person)5. Ms. Fakhira Najeeb – Chief Executive Officer, POWER99 Foundation (In-person)
	Q&A Session
	Conclusion by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos to Speakers and Chair

Roundtable on the Operationalization of the National ECD Policy Framework with Provincial Ministers and Other Government Officials Facilitated by Key ECD Experts

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026

Venue: Room 104, Academic Complex, AIOU

Session Chair: Ms. Wajiha Qamar, State Minister for Education and Professional Training

Moderator: Dr Ehtasham Anwar, Team Lead, Data and Research in Education, FCDO

PAPER PRESENTERS

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026 (Concurrent Sessions)
Venue: Room 107, Academic Complex, AIOU

Session I: Economics and Sustainable Mechanisms- Innovative Approaches to ECD Finances

Session Chair: Dr. Muhammad Ayub Buzdar
Moderator: Dr. Farkhunda Rasheed
Rapporteur: Ms. Jamila Javed

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	Paper Title and Authors
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Managing Early Childhood Education Programs in Islamabad: Challenges Faced by School Leaders in 100 Public Schools Presenter(s): Sumaira BiBi (Islamabad Model College for Girls, Islamabad) (In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Transforming Maternal and Child Health through Nutrition: Pakistan's Experience with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement Presenter(s): Hira Iftikhar, Faisalabad (Virtual)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Role of Government of Balochistan in meeting educational needs of children with disabilities in Baluchistan Presenter(s): Salma Durrani, Social Welfare and Special Education Department (Virtual)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	From Training to Transformation: A Hybrid ECCE Model for Sustainable Teacher Development in Pakistan Presenter(s): Sadaf Rabbani, Cantab Publisher (Virtual)
02:50 - 03:00 pm	Blended Social Financing for Early Childhood Development in Pakistan: The Combined Role of Catalytic Capital and Venture Philanthropy Presenter(s): Muhammad Omer Shehzad, QAU Islamabad (Virtual)

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026
Venue: Room 108 Academic Complex, AIOU

Session II: Nurturing Care Across Cultures: Innovations and Inclusive Approaches to ECD

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed
Moderator: Dr. Hina Noor
Rapporteur: Ms. Sana Qaiser

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	Paper Title and Authors
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Exploring the Role of Fathers in Childcare in Pakistani Context: Challenges, Opportunities, and Policy Implications Presenter(s): Sarwat Maqbool, AIOU (Virtual)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Building Resilient Early Childhood Education Systems: Community-Based Insights on Climate Change and Learning in Pakistan Presenter(s): Dr. Zahid Majeed, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad (In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Father Involvement in Early Child Rearing and Behavioral Outcomes in their Pre-adolescent Children Presenter(s): Hira Faiz (Lecturer, Alhamd Islamic University Islamabad (In-person))
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Identify and remove barriers—such as cultural, social, and personal—that limit fathers' involvement in raising their children Presenter(s): Ms. Musarrat Rani, Irshad Amtul Reproductive Health and Midwifery Services (In-person)
02:50 - 03:00 pm	Strengthening Inclusive Early Childhood Education through Regional Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Building, and Teacher Preparedness Presenter(s): Syeda Fatima Kazmi, The Millennium University College Pakistan (in affiliation with University of Hertfordshire, UK)); Salma Nazar Khan, The Millennium University College Pakistan (in affiliation with University of Hertfordshire, UK)) (Virtual)

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026
Venue: Room 109 Academic Complex, AIOU

Session III: Health, Nutrition and Safety & Security

Session Chair: Dr Naeem Zafar
Moderator: Dr. Zaheer Ahmed
Rapporteur: Dr. Sidra Noreen

02:00 - 02:10 pm

Opening of Session by Moderator

Paper Title and Authors

02:10 - 03:30 pm

Family Size, Parental Conflict, And Child Neglect as Predictors of Aggression
Presenter(s): Muhammad Omer Shehzad (Virtual)

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026
Venue: Room 204 Academic Complex, AIOU

Session IV: Strengthening the ECD Workforce & Regional Cooperation

Session Chair: Dr. Naveed Sultana
Moderator: Dr. Muhammad Tanveer Afzal
Rapporteur: Dr. Muhammad Arshad Qamar

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	Paper Title and Authors
02:00 - 02:10 pm	Sustainable Practices in Ece Classrooms: Capacity Building of Early Grade Teachers Presenter(s): Dr. Rukhsana Durrani, AIOU(In-person)
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Early Childhood Development in Pakistan: A human centered design approach to empower positive parenting Presenter(s): Seema Lassi, Aga Khan University; Taiba Yar Baig, Aga Khan University; Yasmeen Mehboob, Aga Khan University(In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Study on exploring the caregiver-preschoolers interface: a review of factors influencing healthy eating habits Presenter(s): Hadiqa Qaisar, HBS Medical College, Islamabad (In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Reimagining Teacher Preparation for STEAM Integration in Early Childhood Education Presenter(s): Zehra Khushal, Education; Dr Rukhsana Durrani, AIOU(In-person)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Central Asia Stunting Initiative (CASI) Program overview and Achievements Presenter(s): Sanobar Nadeem, Aga Khan Health Service (Virtual)
02:50 - 03:00 pm	Cognitive Growth or Cognitive Overload? Exploring Digital Learning and Parental Mediation in Early Childhood Education Presenter(s): Benish Saif, The Millenium Universal College; Salma Nazar Khan, The Millenium Universal College, University of Hertfordshire UK(Virtual)
03:10 - 03:20 pm	Future-Ready Beginnings: Reimagining Early Childhood Education in a Rapidly Evolving World—Evidence from Urban Karachi Presenter(s): Dr. Nuzhat Naz, College of Education, Ziauddin University, Karachi; Muhammad Nizam Uddin, M.S. Scholar, Sindh Madrasatul Islam University, Karachi (Virtual)

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026
Venue: Room 205 Academic Complex, AIOU

Session V: Early Learning Opportunities

Session Chair: Dr. Muhammad Athar Hussain
Moderator: Dr. Batool Atta
Rapporteur: Hamid Ali Nadeem

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	Paper Title and Authors
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Development Of Paragraph Writing Skills Through Communicative Tasks Among Early Graders Presenter(s): Nosheen Anjum (Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad); Dr. Muhammad Samiullah, ECE&ETED AIOU Islamabad; Aftab Ahmed, AIOU ISLAMABAD; Arshad Mehmood AIOU ISLAMABAD(In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	The Role of Early Learning Opportunities on Holistic Development in Preschool Children (Everyday Learning in a Nurturing Environment) Presenter(s): Pari Bano, Rupani Foundation (In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Fostering Fine Motor Skills of Children with Cerebral Palsy: Exercises & Therapies Presenter(s): Dr. Abdul Basit Rana, Department of Special Education (In-person)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Exploring the Efficacy of Digital Storytelling in Enhancing Language Acquisition in Early Childhood Education Presenter(s): Dr. Nuzhat Saadia Qureshi, AIOU; Hammad Ahmad, AIOU(In-person)
02:50 - 03:00 pm	Beyond the Classroom: The Impact of Outdoor Activities and Storytelling on Early Childhood Development Presenter(s): Samina Islam (Dy. DEO EE-W, Tehsil Gujar Khan Rawalpindi; Dr. Rao Nadeem Alam, former Assistant Professor, QAU Islamabad (In-person)
03:00 - 03:10 pm	Effect of Play Based Activities on development of Social Skills among Early Graders Presenter(s): Muhammad Mumtaz Khan, GCET Bagh AJK; Dr. Rahmat Ullah Bhatti, AIOU; Zeeshan Mumtaz, COMSATS Islamabad (In-person)
03:10 - 03:20 pm	Influence of Reinforcement on Performance of Primary Level Students in Subject of Science Presenter(s): Saira Khanm, University of Agriculture, IAEERD(Virtual)
03:20 - 03:30 pm	Scaffolding Higher Order Thinking Skills Through Visuals at ECE Level Presenter(s): Amir Hussain, AIOU Islamabad; Dr. Syed Nasir Hussain, AIOU Islamabad (In-person)

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026
Venue: Room 206 Academic Complex, AIU

Session VI: Research, Measurement & Accountability Systems

Session Chair: Dr. Muhammad Shahid Saroya
Moderator: Dr. Tooba Saleem
Rapporteur: Dr. Irsa Zahoor

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	Paper Title and Authors
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Causes for Disruptive Behaviors in ECE Children of Public Primary Schools: An Action Research Presenter(s): Dr. Rukhsana Durrani AIU; Mahnoor, AIU(In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Effect of Communicative Language Teaching on English Mechanics in Early Grades Presenter(s): Dr. Muhammad Sami Ullah, ECE&ETED AIU Islamabad (In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Effect Of Animated Films on Early English Vocabulary Development Presenter(s): Naeem Ahmed, Aiou Islamabad; Dr. Muhammad Sami Ullah, Ece&Eted Aiou Islamabad; Syeda Maqsoom, Alhamd University Islamabad (In-person)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Analysis of psychological well-being of children in Turbat Balochistan Presenter(s): Shereen Manzoor, Allama Iqbal open University, Islamabad (Virtual)
02:50 - 03:00 pm	Exploring the Assessment Techniques Applied at Pre-primary Level Presenter(s): Saira Khanm, University of Agriculture, IAEERD (Virtual)
03:00 - 03:10 pm	Exploring the Role of Positive Education in Early Childhood Education: A Pathway to Socio-Emotional Well-Being Presenter(s): Riffat Bano, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad (Virtual)
03:10 - 03:20 pm	A Study on the Significance of Equality and Inclusion In Early Childhood Development At The Primary Level In District Lakki Marwat Presenter(s): Dr. Irfan Khan, University of Lakki Marwat(Virtual)

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026
Venue: Room 207 Academic Complex, AIOU

Session VII: Caregivers' Mental Health & MH&PSS Integration

Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Aneela Maqsood
Moderator: Dr. Jahan Ara Shamas
Rapporteur: Dr. Aneela Alam

02:00 - 02:10 pm	Opening of Session by Moderator
	Paper Title and Authors
02:10 - 02:20 pm	Study on Systemic Review of maternal dietary patterns from pregnancy to postpartum Presenter(s): Laiba Akram, HBS Medical and Dental College, Islamabad (In-person)
02:20 - 02:30 pm	Faith-Based Parenting: Managing Stress to Enhance ECD Presenter(s): SAEED ANWAR, Riphah International University, Islamabad, Pakistan (In-person)
02:30 - 02:40 pm	Mental Health and Nursing Care: Interventions to Support Caregivers and Children Presenter(s): Ms. Musarrat Rani, Irshad Amtul Reproductive Health and Midwifery Services (In-person)
02:40 - 02:50 pm	Nutrition Knowledge of Mothers and Its Impact on Weaning Outcomes in Infants Aged 0-24 Months Presenter(s): Hira Iftikhar, Faisalabad (Virtual)
02:50 - 03:00 pm	Unlocking Play -based Teaching: Analysing the Attitude and Practices of Teachers at Early Childhood Education Level Presenter(s): Robina Altaf (AIOU); Mubeshera Tufail, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad (Virtual)

POSTER PRESENTERS

DAY-2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026

Venue: Lobby First Floor, Academic Complex, AIOU

Paper Title and Authors

Development and Piloting of a Qualitative Measure of a Home Observation Tool on Caregiver-Child Interaction and Engagement in the Context of Pakistan

Presenter(s): Taiba Baig (Agha Khan University Human Development Programme); Dr. Seema Laasi (Agha Khan University Human Development Programme); Yasmeen Mehboob (Agha Khan University Human Development Programme))

STEAM Integration and safe use of technology to enhance the learning & teaching in ECE

Presenter(s): Khet Kumar (Red Pi)

Involvement of Fathers in social development of children at Early Childhood Education in Pakistan: A phenomenological Study

Presenter(s): Uzma Mazhar, NUML; Qurat Ul Ain Hina, NUML

To Observe and Compare the Classroom Quality Indicators of Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Public and Private Schools in Gilgit Baltistan

Presenter(s): Meher Kamil, AKU

Prospects And Challenges of Early Childhood Care and Education In Azad Jammu And Kashmir

Presenter(s): Jawad Zareen Shah, Arid Agriculture University; Imran Yousuf, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University

DAY - 2: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8, 2026

CLOSING CEREMONY

Venue: Venue: W.M. Zaki Auditorium, Academic Complex

4:00 PM	Guest to be seated & arrival of the Chief Guest & Guest of Honour: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training- Ms. Wajiha Qamar, State Minister for Education and Professional Training- Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (S.I) – Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan
4:00-4:05 pm	National Anthem
4:05-4:10 pm	Recitation from Holy Quran – Prof. Dr Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi, Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies
4:10-4:25 pm	Welcome Note – Mr. Nasruddin Rupani, Chairman Rupani Foundation
4:25-4:40 pm	Reflection on the Conference – Dr. Naeem Zafar, Director PAFEC and a female participant
4:40-4:55pm	Conference Findings and Recommendations - Professor. Dr Nasir Mahmood, VC Allama Iqbal Open University Commitments by the partners
4:55 pm	Address by the Guest of Honour and Chief Guest
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Presentation of Mementosii. Group Photoiii. Tea & Departure