The Transformative Power of Responsive Parenting

Founding Forum of the Arab Network for Early Childhood

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On behalf of the Yale team:

• *Thank you* for the efforts of the ARC team to support the development of children and families living in highly vulnerable settings!

• *Thank you* for your commitment to evidence-based research and our ongoing partnership with the Yale Team

• *Thank you* for your efforts to develop comprehensive early child development programs for the Arab World

• *Thank you* for your leadership in organizing the Arab Network for Early Childhood
We Need to Work Together

To take action to make our world a better place for our children and for future generations

Multi-sectorial partnerships are needed to implement in a sustainable fashion Early Child Development Programs of proven value.
The bio-behavioral systems that underlie the development of social bonds in families and communities are ancient and deeply rooted in mammalian evolution.

Parenting provides a legacy that transcends genes.

Responsive parenting has a direct impact on brain structure and function (epigenetics, interconnectedness of brain regions), bodily health (metabolism, microbiome) and economic well-being.
Responsive Parenting occurs when parents (Mothers and Fathers and other caregivers) do their best to invest in their children and meet their emotional, cognitive, nutritional, and physical needs during gestation and the early years.
Responsive Parenting

Programs designed to help parents become more responsive can lead to Opportunities for Transformational Change:

- A better brain and a more peaceful mind
- A more healthy body
- Prevention of Violence
- A more peaceful family and community
- A more successful adult
- A positive economic impact in society
Heckman Equation

RETURNS TO A DOLLAR INVESTED

Programs targeted toward the earliest years

Preschool programs

Schooling

Job training

Heckman, 2013
Next Steps - Brazil

Yale Global Health Leadership Institute
2014 Forums for Change

Integrating Interventions for Early Childhood Development in Brazil

July 14 – 18, 2014

Universidade de São Paulo
Brasil
The Launch of the Peace Consortium was in September 2013 at the UNICEF Headquarters in New York City.
41 scientists from diverse backgrounds (basic sciences, early child development, cross-cultural psychology, interfaith dialogue, and peace building) from 15 countries: South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands, Canada, US and the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Turkey, Israel and Palestine, and Australia met in Frankfurt in October 2013. This volume was just published in November 2014.
Challenges & Opportunities

• There are so many programs – how can we work together to bring to scale a program of proven value across the Arab World?

• *How can we work together to establish a strong evidence-base including randomized clinical trials and prospective longitudinal follow-up studies??*

• Strategic partnerships with policymakers, local government officials, academic scholars, NGOs, and funding sources are needed as are public awareness campaigns – *How can our Network make this happen as soon as possible?*
"In a real sense all life is inter-related. All persons are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the inter-related structure of reality."

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 –1968)
We are All Interconnected and our World is Constantly Changing

Neural Circuits

Cosmic Dark Matter & Energy

Social Networks
Thank you