

In collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the University of Nigeria (UNN) invites papers from the Academia, policymakers, independent researchers, development practitioners, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other interested parties to a two-day conference.

**THEME: ADDRESSING CHILD POVERTY: CHILD-FRIENDLY AND EQUITY-
FOCUSED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES IN NIGERIA**

Background

Despite some improvements and changes in structure, the Nigerian economy remains characterized by high unemployment, poverty and income inequality, affecting millions of children and their families. Per the latest situation analysis (SITAN, 2017), most domestic and international estimates reveal that nearly one in four Nigerians are out of work, and poverty and inequality have failed to improve. More than three in five Nigerians continue to struggle below the poverty line. An analysis of the 2011 MICS data shows rates of multidimensional child poverty ranging from over 90 per cent, and even close to 100 per cent, in the north-east, although rates in other regions are equally high.

The social policy component of UNICEF work provides cross-cutting support at federal and state levels for social protection, research and evidence generation on child poverty, support for public investment in children, and decentralisation. To this end, UNICEF collaborates with the Academia to generate evidence that continues to inform policy dialogues, advocacy efforts, as well as programme redesign, planning and implementation.

Call for Papers

Invited papers will focus around the following subthemes:

- Social Protection.
- Poverty and Disparities.
- Public Finance for Children.
- Decentralization and Migration.

Preference will be given, however, to papers that focus on:

- Cost and Impact of inaccurate statistics of unregistered children population, particularly regarding fiscal allocation in Nigeria
- Socioeconomic implications of low uptake of service for child survivors of sexual violence.
- Financial spaces made accessible to children to improve retention, completion and transition rates in basic education.

- Economics of sanitation marketing
- Systems/structures that enhance learning achievement and improve access to non-formal education.
- Unpacking low uptake of HIV care and treatment services despite huge investments.
- Evaluation of programmes like CCT, WASH, Nutrition, Immunization.
- Strategies for reaching IDPs embedded in host communities with services like HIV, CCT, Birth registration, immunization, education etc.

Objectives

Objectives of the colloquium include:

- To generate concrete evidence to inform policy dialogues and advocacy engagements with government policymakers.
- To understand effects of political, environmental and socioeconomic factors that impact child poverty in Nigeria.

Abstracts, not exceeding 350 words (Times New Roman 12pt, double-spaced, 3cm wide) and focusing on the above issues within our focus States (Abia, Benue, Anambra, Cross River, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo) should be submitted to hod.palg@unn.edu.ng by **18 June, 2018**. Successful authors will be notified by **2 July, 2018**. Original, analytical and lucid articles, processed in clear, unambiguous and concise English language (not exceeding 20 A4-sized pages), should be submitted by **30 July, 2018**. Papers will be presented before, and jointly critiqued by, team members as scheduled below:

Venue: Princess Alexandria Auditorium, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Date: Tuesday/Wednesday, 21/22 August, 2018

Time: 9.00 A.M daily.

Successful papers, peer-reviewed, will provide the main inputs for an edited book.