
CONCEPT NOTE

Commemorating the Day of the African Child – June 16, 2025

Theme: Learning in Adversity: Breaking Barriers, Building Futures

Slogan: "No Child Left Behind in Education!"

1. Introduction

The **Day of the African Child (DAC)**, observed annually on **June 16**, is a moment to reflect on the challenges African children face while advocating for their rights, especially in education. In 2025, **Education in Crisis (EiC)** will commemorate this day in the **Nuba Mountains, Sudan**, to highlight the urgent need for inclusive, accessible, and quality education for children in crisis-affected regions. Through African Peer Review Committee (APRM), the African Union invited EiC to the 3rd High-Level Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for sustainable Development co-hosted with the government of Sierra Leone in Freetown from 7-9th May, 2025.

The Day of the African Child (DAC) was launched by the Assembly of Heads of State of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1991 to be commemorated on 16 June each year. The DAC pays tribute to the **1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa**, which resulted in the killings of students who demonstrated against the poor quality of education they received and demanding to be taught in their own language by the apartheid regime. Over the years, the Day has been an opportunity for all stakeholders and actors involved in the protection and promotion of children's rights in Africa to come together, to consolidate common goals and to tackle the obstacles that stand in the way of achieving an Africa fit for its children.

As guardian of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC/Committee) has spearheaded the commemoration of the DAC since 2002. The ACERWC is an Organ of the African Union established in accordance with articles 32 and 33 of the ACRWC mandated to promote and protect the rights and welfare of the child in Africa and monitor its implementation. Each year, the Committee identifies a relevant theme for the Day, which is further adopted by the Executive Council of the AU, organizes and coordinates activities and events to commemorate the Day at continental level.

The purpose of this concept note is to provide an overview on which EiC builds on its efforts to promote the right to education for all in Africa while aligning with ACERWC's mandate. EiC believes that the DAC provides a strategic opportunity and platform for children, local actors, policy makers, national and international organizations and other stakeholders in the region working on children's issues to stand in and for children's voices, statements and aspirations aimed to protect and promote their rights considering the theme. The DAC is called for serious introspection and commitment to addressing the many challenges facing African children not just in the Nuba Mountains region but Sudan during which the country faces the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

2. Background & Rationale

Education in Crisis (EiC) is a grassroots-driven organization working at the frontlines of education emergencies across East Africa—specifically in Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Our mission is to restore learning for children affected by conflict and displacement, with a strong emphasis on gender equality and inclusive education. EiC is committed to protecting and advancing the rights of every child, especially those whose lives and education have been disrupted by conflict, displacement, or marginalization. Our work is grounded in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and SDG 5: Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

EiC operates in some of the world's most fragile and hard-to-reach places in countries and regions where children are too often left behind—where the barriers to education are compounded by war, poverty, displacement, gender inequality, and systemic neglect. In places like Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, we focus on reaching children who are the most excluded: those out of school, affected by emergencies, or living in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

We work to remind governments, communities, and international partners of their collective commitments under the CRC and the SDGs. Through our programs, advocacy, and monitoring tools—such as the Education Crisis Response Dashboard (ECRD) and the Learning Crises Monitor (LCM)—we support the realization of every child's right to quality education, protection, and participation and education data-based decision making by different donors and policy makers in Africa.

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child reshaped global understanding of childhood—affirming that children are not passive recipients of aid, but individuals with rights that must be respected and fulfilled. The CRC is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, setting minimum standards for children's well-being and protection through its 54 articles.

At EiC, we uphold the principle that every child, everywhere—regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, or displacement status—deserves the chance to learn, thrive, and lead a dignified life. Our mission is to remove the barriers that deny children access to education and to build a future where their rights are protected, their voices are heard, and their potential is fully realized.

The CRC is guided by four fundamental principles that apply to every child.

- i. Non-discrimination (Article 2).
- ii. The best interests of the child (Article 3).
- iii. Survival, development and protection (Article 6).
- iv. Participation (Article 12).

Optional Protocols to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UN General Assembly adopted two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2000: to protect children from involvement in armed conflicts and from sexual exploitation. Since 2014, a third Optional Protocol has enabled children to report violations of their rights directly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which monitors compliance with the CRC.

For more information:

Why Commemoration

Despite global commitments, millions of children—especially girls—remain out of school due to violence, displacement, early marriage, poverty, and gender-based discrimination. In conflict zones like the Sudan, girls are disproportionately affected and often denied their right to education.

Millions of children across Africa, particularly in conflict-affected areas, face systemic barriers to education. In the **Nuba Mountains**, decades of conflict and displacement have severely disrupted schooling, leaving thousands of children without access to quality learning opportunities. EiC recognizes education as a fundamental right and a powerful tool for resilience and empowerment. This event will serve as a platform to:

- Raise awareness about the challenges facing children's education in crisis settings.
- Advocate for stronger policies and commitments to ensure **no child is left behind**.
- Mobilize stakeholders, including **local leaders, educators, community members, and international partners**, to invest in the future of African children.

3. Objectives

The **2025 Day of the African Child** event in the Nuba Mountains aims to:

- **Advocate** for the right to education for children in conflict-affected regions.
- **Highlight** the resilience of children pursuing education despite adversity.
- **Engage** local and international stakeholders in discussions on solutions for educational access and quality.
- **Empower** children and youth with a platform to share their experiences and aspirations.
- **Mobilize** support and partnerships to strengthen education interventions in crisis-affected communities.

4. Activities

To achieve these objectives, the event will feature:

- **A Public Forum & Panel Discussion** – Featuring education leaders, policymakers, and child advocates discussing the challenges and solutions for education in crisis settings.
- **Children's Voices Session** – Providing children with the opportunity to share their experiences, dreams, and messages to decision-makers (*15th June evening*).
- **Education Awareness Walk** – A march through key communities within Heiban county advocating and raising awareness for children's rights to education.
- **Interactive Learning Sessions** – Showcasing alternative education approaches such as accelerated learning, mobile classrooms, Digital e-learning and community-based education solutions.
- **Cultural & Artistic Presentations** – Drama, poetry, and music performances by children and artists to highlight their struggles and aspirations.

- **Commitment Pledge Ceremony** – Encouraging stakeholders to commit to supporting education for children in conflict areas.

5. Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness and advocacy for education in crisis-affected regions.
- Strengthened community and stakeholder commitment to education interventions.
- Enhanced engagement of children and youth in policy discussions.
- Mobilization of resources and partnerships to support educational programs in the Nuba Mountains.

6. Target Participants

The event will bring together:

- **Children & Youth** from affected communities.
- **Local Leaders & Community Representatives** supporting education initiatives.
- **Education Stakeholders** including teachers, NGOs, and local government representatives.
- **International & Local Partners** invested in child rights, humanitarian response and education.
- **Media & Advocacy Groups** to amplify the event's message.

7. Partners & Collaborators

EiC will work with local and international organizations, including local authorities and entities, civil society groups, and education-focused institutions, to ensure the success of this event.

8. Conclusion

The **2025 Day of the African Child** commemoration in the **Nuba Mountains** is a critical step in amplifying the voices of children in crisis settings and advocating for their right to education. EiC remains committed to ensuring that **no child is left behind**, and through this event, we seek to build momentum for sustained action towards **education for all, even in adversity**.

For further inquiries and partnerships, please contact:

Okwalinga David

Regional Director for Sudan and Horn of Africa

Education in Crisis (EiC)

okwalinga@eduincrisis.org | +256 788 284437 (*WhatsApp*)

The Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in 2015 apply to all countries, and to every citizen within them. The SDGs aim to ensure equity, with everyone having the same safeguards and life opportunities within every country - rich or poor - by 2030.

The achievement of all 17 SDGs would improve life for everyone, children as well as adults. However, some of the SDGs and their related targets are particularly relevant for the well-being of children.

Goal 1: No poverty

- 1.2. Halve the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty.

Goal 2: Zero hunger

- 2.1. End hunger and ensure access by all people, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.
- 2.2. End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age by 2025.

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

- 3.2. End preventable deaths of newborns and children under five.

Goal 4: Quality education

- 4.1. Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- 4.2. Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

Goal 5: Gender equality

- 5.1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls
- 5.3. Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

- 8.7. Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

16.2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

For more information:

[Sustainable Development Goals](#)



For more about EiC, Visit:

Website: www.eduincrisis.org

Email: info@eduincrisis.org

Head Office

Mlimani Street, Nearby Engosengiu Primary School,

P. O Box 11993, Sinoni Ward, Arusha,

Tanzania

Tel: +255 742 342 921/+256 759 445688.