

Regional Meeting on Measurement of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Eastern and Southern Africa

Recap Day 2

24–27 October 2023
Kigali, Rwanda



Key Messages

Objective of day 2; Review national monitoring and evaluation frameworks for ECD to facilitate peer learning and identify any area of improvement

1. Country profiles for ECD

- A critical resource for stimulating country dialogue, and informing priority action
- Data Sources were clarified, data gaps acknowledged
- BUT, underutilized! How, and what opportunities exist to further socialize and engage with key stakeholders on the profiles?

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Key messages (2)

2. Gaps and New developments

- ❑ Work is in progress (WHO & UNICEF), to address data gaps highlighted in the ECD profiles – in particular responsive caregiving
- ❑ It is important to adopt a dual approach: invest in population measurement periodically to generate data that are comparable over time and between populations and focus on program monitoring and evaluation while interventions are being rolled out.
- ❑ Made important links and connections to related work streams important for ECD – international classification of violence against children (e.g neglect), and caregiver mental health

3. Global & Regional ECD policy landscape and country examples

- ❑ Family friendly policies are good for children, families, businesses, and economy
- ❑ Implementation of ECD policies and programs requires systems, and joint multisectoral efforts
- ❑ There is a compelling case to increase investment in early childhood development starting with the youngest and the most deprived (frontloading investment , and avoid the 'too little too late' backloaded investment
- ❑ Ongoing work to see how can address the needs of vulnerable families and services not currently benefiting from critical social protection measures (e.g. informal sector, childcare in crisis contexts)

Key message

4. Country examples (Gold dust!)

- Show-cased Country's journeys and lessons learned developing integrated multisectoral ECD policies; implementation
 - Policies broadly in alignment with the NCF
 - Governance and coordination frameworks key themes; importance of coordination at a level above sectoral ministries; importance of decentralized multisectoral platforms
 - Essential packages, minimum standards, reflections on quality
 - Work in progress to shift from a historical focus of early learning only/mostly on pre-primary education
 - A variety of innovations
- M&E Frameworks, and monitoring progress in implementation of ECD policies:
 - 'coordination framework'
 - Explicit accountability e.g. national commitments to 2030; performance contracts
 - The importance of using data in monitoring interventions, e.g. through the use of a Dashboard, Scorecard, and other management tools in different sectors

Feedback from Market place

- ❑ Importance of monitoring ECD annually
- ❑ Importance of inclusiveness in ECD, e.g. Rwanda has a tool for early detection of children with disabilities as well as assistive devices
- ❑ Knowledge Hub with all tools and materials, e.g. Ethiopia
- ❑ Starting parenting program early before pregnancy, starting during the adolescent period e.g. Burundi
- ❑ Hands-on activities performed by parents and IGA, e.g. Uganda and Rwanda

Thank you

