



AfECN

Africa Early Childhood Network

Regional Learning Partners for the Global Partnership for Education's Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX)

ECD Policy Formulation & Implementation: What works and what does not work

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ECED STATUS IN THE REGION

What do we know about Early Years?

- Most rapid pace of brain development happens in first 5 years
- Investing in early years enhances educational efficiency
- Investment in early years gives the greatest rates of social returns
- Improves productivity and earnings (1.3-3.5%) in adulthood and by
- ECED is increasingly recognized as critical in laying a solid foundation in all aspects of development.
- All domains of development are interrelated & interdependent – holistic

What is the current situation?

- ECED is included as part of the SDGs
- 57.5m children of pre-primary age not enrolled in ECED
- Average gross pre-primary enrollment rate in Africa is 33%
- Share of education expenditure allocated to pre-primary education is 3.3%
- 3.4m is the number of additional teachers needed to meet universal targets of pre-primary education
- Quality of ECD in the region is varied

Progress & Opportunities

Progress

- Global push for increased commitment to early years
- Growing continental and national ECD commitments
- African Union establishes a CESA cluster on ECED.
- Growth in policy and legislation embracing and defining role of states in ECED provision (60% of states)
- Growing number of countries with multi-sectoral ECD Coordination mechanisms
- Push to allocate more funds from current average of 3.3% to 10% of education expenditure
- Strategic organization of stakeholders e.g. CESA ECED CLUSTER, regional network (AfECN) and country ECED networks.

Opportunities

- Commitment of the African Union and the platforms to strengthen high level advocacy e.g. Committee of 10 Heads of States and Governments..., Ministerial conferences and Heads of States Summits.
- Global and regional advocacy moments e.g. TICAD, JEF
- Global funding mechanisms such as through the GPE.
- Growing global action developing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to help countries achieve SDGs
- Growing global interest in nurturing care framework (250m children below 5 risk sub optimal development)



The intervention:

CESA ECED CLUSTER formed to rally stakeholders and to help accelerate progress of ECED in Africa

CHAIR: -AUC Human Resource Science & Technology (HRST)

CO-CHAIR: Mauritius which is the convenor of ADEA ICQN - ECED

CONVENOR: Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN)

- A Technical committee
- 4 working groups each chaired by a member state and a convenor (partner agency)

What works and what does not work

What we know works

- Policy – process determines implementation
- Policy development needs to be accompanied with appropriate legislative support.

Programming Design & Implementation

- Programme design & implementation – *holistic* = better outcomes;
- Informed by empirical evidence about what works & what does not work
- Universality vs. targeted approach – important to ensure that services are universal + targeted

Coordination and multi-sectoral approach

- A multi-sectoral approach bringing all partners to the table is likely to be successful
- This collaboration needs to bring together the government, private sector and the non-state actors

Capacity Building

- Continuous support + mentoring and coaching of the personnel; training alone is not sufficient.
- They do not exist in vacuum hence working + strengthening community engagement & involvement of parenting training.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Formation

- Launch of the ECED CLUSTER-Sept 2018.
- Formation of working groups -4 Thematic groups in line with the cluster objectives.
- Formation of the Technical Committee (Chairs and Convenors of the Working Groups).
- ToRs for the Working Groups and the Technical Committee have been developed and shared.
- Action Plan for the Technical Committee developed and approved

Advocacy

- Regional sensitization of the CESA ECED Cluster High level Advocacy
- 1st International Conference on Early Childhood 2018 Nairobi
- Importance of early years-1st Extraordinary Summit for the Committee of 10 Heads of States and Government
- 67th Health Ministers Conference –Integration of responsive care giving
- Global sensitization of AUC's commitment to early years.e.g.16th Japan Education Forum for SDGs.
- TICAD side event that achieved commitment from partners to allocate 10% of their budgets to ECD.
- Engagement with AU Ministerial meetings and AU Heads of States and Governments' Summit