



ECD in the Global Goals 2015 – 2030

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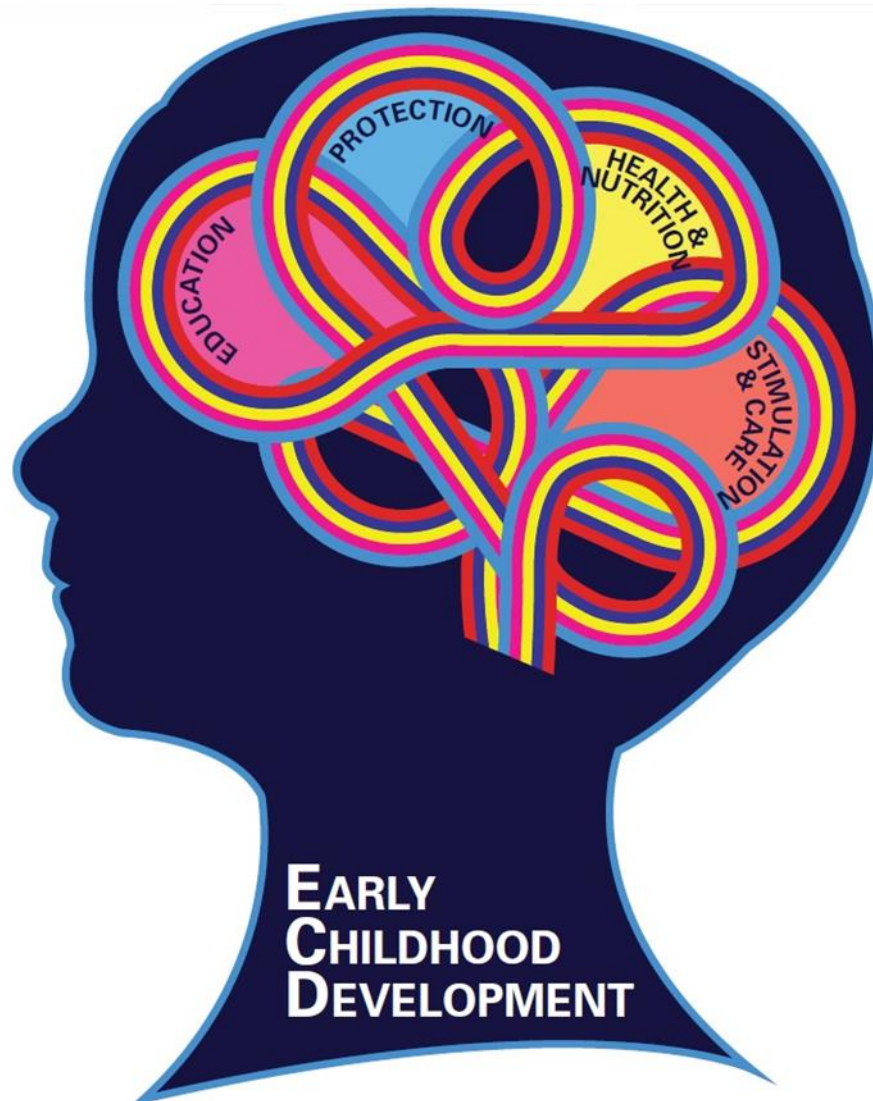
IT IS A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The science and evidence of ECD interventions is coming of age to inform implementation at scale

ECD is recognized for the 1st time as part of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

A ECD Global Partnership is Emerging

Science of ECD has Come of Age



In the words of the UN Secretary-General



“The Sustainable Development Goals recognize that early childhood development can help drive the transformation we hope to achieve over the next 15 years”

On 22 September, 2015 at the UNGA side event “Meeting of the Minds”

SDGs are meant to work together

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ECD as the foundation for the SDGs



Goal 1 - Eradicate Poverty

ECD has been documented to be one of the most cost-effective strategies for poverty alleviation.

Early in life, when the brain has the maximum capacity to develop in the fullness of its complexity children learn the skills that will help them flourish in a 21st century economy.



Goal 2 - End hunger and improve nutrition

Children who receive early stimulation with nutrition supplements have better outcomes than children who only receive nutrition supplements, thereby amplifying the impact of nutrition.

Furthermore, ECD interventions, buffer the negative effect of stress thereby improving absorption of nutritional intake.



Goal 3 - Ensure Healthy Lives

ECD interventions, early in life set a trajectory for good life long health, lower cardiovascular, non-communicable disease and well-being.

With ECD not only do children survive, they thrive.



Goal 4 - Ensure Life Learning

Learning begins at birth and ECD interventions have proved to be the foundation for later learning, academic success and productivity.

A study on increasing pre-school enrolment in 73 countries found higher future wages of \$6 – \$17 per dollar invested, indicating potential long-term benefits ranging from \$11 to \$34 billion.



Goal 5 - Achieve Gender Equality

The nexus between early childhood and women's economic empowerment is clear.

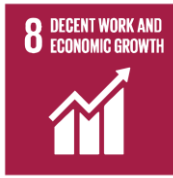
Greater investment in quality, affordable child-care is linked with greater opportunities for women, economic advancement and empowerment



Goal 6 –Ensure Water and Sanitation

A physical environment where a child can live, grow and interact, includes also water, sanitation and hygiene in the family, community and learning environments.

Protecting young children from diarrheal infections through improved water and sanitation services and care-givers can significantly contribute in their physical growth and mental health.



Goal 8 - Promote decent work for all

Adequate child-care is a critical element of the decent work agenda and investments in professionalization of the early childhood workforce contribute to full and productive employment, especially for women.



Goal 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries

Inequality often begins, at birth, or even before birth. ECD is the powerful equalizer because it is that window of opportunity that can close the inequality gap.

Disadvantaged children who receive ECD services earn up to 25% more, as adults, compared to their peers who did not receive these services and almost catch up in earning to their non-disadvantaged peers.



Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Characteristics of ECD spaces embody safe, sustainability and biophilic features, thereby providing the entry point for cities and human settlements.



Goal 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption

ECD programmes set in place patterns of consumption, attitudes towards conservation and behavioral practices that will preserve the environment. What children learn early lasts a lifetime.



Goal 16 Promote peaceful societies

The neurobiology of early childhood has the potential to reduce violence and promote peace.

ECD interventions demonstrate lower rates of violence in the home and greater social cohesion in communities.



Goal 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation

Measurement of early childhood development, at global, regional and national levels can serve as a powerful tool to revitalize global partnerships.

UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) offers an index of items that allows us to measure outcomes for early childhood. This index has been implemented in over 50 countries and has provided population level data that is suitable to measure target 4.2 of the SDGs.

Concluding Thoughts

Let us affirm our commitment to Agenda 2030
by giving every child a fair chance to life from
the start

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