

<p>Challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unsustainability of ECCD programs. 2. Difficulties in implementation of ECCD at national and local levels. 3. Health challenges, including malnutrition and immunization. 4. Lack focus on inclusive Early Education or special needs. 5. Challenges related to spending on ECCD. 	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Philippines Country Profile: Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)</p> </div>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Photo credit: Dr. Joyce Ferro Orillosa, Philippines</p>	<p>General information about ECCD in the Philippines^{i ii iii}</p> <p>In 2000, the Philippines' Republic Act No. 8980 called for a comprehensive ECCD policy and national system. The focus on ECCD has been advanced since then with the enactment of the Republic Act No. 10410 (or the Early Years Act of 2013) to recognize ages 0-8 as crucial developmental stages. The 0-4 age group is under the responsibility of the ECCD Council and the 5-8 age group is under the purview of the Department of Education.</p> <p>The national ECCE system is a comprehensive follow-up plan on policy expectations which covers health, nutrition, early education and social protection for children from birth to age 4.</p> <p>In 2008, the Early Learning Development Standards were developed by the ECCE. It forms the basis for the National Early Learning Framework and the National Early Learning Curriculum Learning Resource Packages.</p>
<p>Priorities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessibility to ECCD program. 2. Focus on health, including nutrition, immunization, and feeding. 3. Increase spending in ECCD. 	<p>Key policy</p> <p>Kindergarten Education Law Act no. 10157 Early Years Act of 2013 no. 10410 ECCD Republic Act no. 8980</p> <p>Ministry in charge</p>

The ECCD council under Office of the President oversees the implementation of national ECD system.

Basic education is under the purview of the Department of Education; Protection of the social welfare of rights of Filipinos and social development promotion is under the responsibility of the Department of Social Welfare and Development; Provision of basic public health services is under the responsibility of Department of Health; and the policy-making and coordinating body for nutrition is managed by the UNION of Local Authorities of Philippine National Nutrition Council.

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🌐 www.arnec.net/country-pages/

Key data: A life cycle approach for ECCD

Demographics

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Total population (thousands)	103,320.22	World Bank Open Data (2016 ^v)
Rural population (%)	56	UNICEF SWOC (2016 ^v)
Under-5 population (thousands)	11,530	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Population below the global poverty line of US \$ 1.90/day (%)	13	ARNEC Regional ECD Data Portal (2012 ^v)
Population growth rate (annual %)	2	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

Noteworthy practices^{viii}

1. Community-based approach to reduce malnutrition
(by Save the Children)
Noteworthy aspects: Positive Deviance/Hearth (PD/Hearth) approach addresses malnutrition of children under two years old holistically in a 12-day nutrition program involving mothers. Program strengthens family practices in childcare, hygiene, feeding practices, health-seeking behavior and food security.
Achievements: This approach has successfully rehabilitated malnourished children by engaging communities to improve the nutrition and health of young children.
2. Healthy Start home-visiting program
(by Consuelo Foundation)
Noteworthy aspects: Partnership with the ECCD Council, Local Government Units, and local NGOs to provide support

Total fertility rate (births per women)	2.9	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
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Prenatal

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Annual number of births (thousands)	2,386	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Birth registration (%)	90	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	220	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

Birth to 5 years

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	22	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Exclusive breastfeeding under-6 months (%)	34	ARNEC Regional ECD Data Portal (2008)
Under-5 stunting prevalence (moderate and severe) (%)	33	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	27	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
DTP3 national immunization coverage (%)	86	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

to pregnant women and families with newborns in highly diverse settings through intensive, community-based, home-visiting program.

Achievements: Benefitted 444 families across 14 sites in the Philippines and resulted in positive parenting behaviors and decreased environmental risks.

3. **Early childhood teacher education program (ECTEP)**

Noteworthy aspects: Initiative of the ECCD Council in the systematic professionalization of the ECCD service providers through 6 weeks of intensive training classes. Successful completion of 6 course of study will result in acquisition of 18 academic units as requisites for the Certificate Program on Early Childhood Education (ECE).

Achievements: Between 2014-2015, 214 teachers across cities and municipalities in the Philippines benefitted from the program with increased capacities in appropriate teaching strategies.

Violent discipline (Children aged 1-14 exposed to violent disciplinary methods during the last month) (%)	N/A	N/A
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School readiness

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Early Childhood Development Index or ECDI (%)	N/A	N/A
Father's support for learning (%)	N/A	N/A
Availability of children's books (%)	N/A	N/A
Gross enrollment ratio or GER in pre-primary (%)	54.42	UIS (2009 ^{vii})
Gender parity index of GER; F/M (%)	1.04	UIS (2009)
Children entering Grade 1 with ECD experience (%)	88.82	UIS (2013)
Gender parity index of children with ECD experience; F/M (%)	1.01	UIS (2013)
Grade 1 repetition rate (%)	5.97	UIS (2008)

Testimonies

"I support the goals of the United Nations Commission on the 'Rights of Children', particularly on early child development. My administration puts utmost importance to the welfare of children and protecting them from poverty, ignorance and lack of opportunities by providing more budget for education." – His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, 15th President of the Philippines

"Quality early childhood education has been shown to improve the scholastic abilities and school readiness of young children, thereby preventing school dropouts. EYA (Early Years Act) is essential to the long-term success of our educational reforms. I urge everyone to support this measure. Education is an investment for our future." – Edgardo Javier Angara, 16th President of the Senate of the Philippines

“Investing in early childhood is also investing for the future of the Philippines. Providing the means for zero (0) to eight (8) years old children to have equal access to basic Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Services and continually improving the quality of its delivery with efficiency could eventually lead to its sustainability.” – Dr. Teresita Inciong, Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of the Early Childhood Care and Development Council

ⁱ ARNEC. [Asia Pacific Regional ECD data portal: Enabling environments](#).

ⁱⁱ UNESCO. (2017). [ECCE country profiles](#).

ⁱⁱⁱ UNESCO. (2016). [New Horizons: A review of early childhood care and education in Asia and the Pacific](#)

^{iv} World Bank Group. (2016). [World Bank Open Data](#). (Accessed 16 January 2018)

^v UNICEF. (2016). [The State of the World's Children 2017 Statistical Table](#).

^{vi} ARNEC. [Asia Pacific Regional ECD data portal](#). (Accessed 16 January 2018).

^{vii} UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). (2018). [Education dataset](#). (Accessed 16 January 2018).

^{viii} SEAMEO INNOTECH. [Regional consultation forum on early learning frameworks, policies and programmes: A completion report](#)