



Early Childhood Care and Development



Challenges

- Lack of capacity to operationalize and implement recently approved comprehensive ECCD policy.
- Lack of systematic planning to ensure provisions for children with special needs.
- Lack of investment in ECCD, especially in ensuring minimum quality of programs.

Priorities

- Provision for a year of free pre-primary schooling for all children age 5-6.
- Operationalize ECCD policy with multi sectoral costed implementation plan
- Establish a strong GO-NGO-private sector collaboration to implement ECCD policy and universalize the services.
- Ensuring quality of services and engagement of parents, families and communities.
- Encourage establishment of community-based ECCE centers by NGOs.
- Blending holistic approach to education-focused ECCE programs to enhance holistic development of children.

Noteworthy practices

Cascade model to serve hard-to-reach communities (Implemented by Early Childhood Development Support Program-Bangladesh or ECDSP-B)

- Two-layered implementation structure comprise of a network or organizations to collaboratively replicate locally-developed ECCD models. Participatory model to maximize learning among organizations at all levels.
- Achievements: Hard-to-reach communities are served. Implementation capacity is enhanced through strengthening of a network of local NGOs.

Integrated ECCD for children and families (Implemented by Dhaka Ahsania Mission)

- Incorporation of holistic ECCD programming through partnership with multiple organizations.
- Achievements: Benefitting children and families in an impoverished region of Bangladesh.

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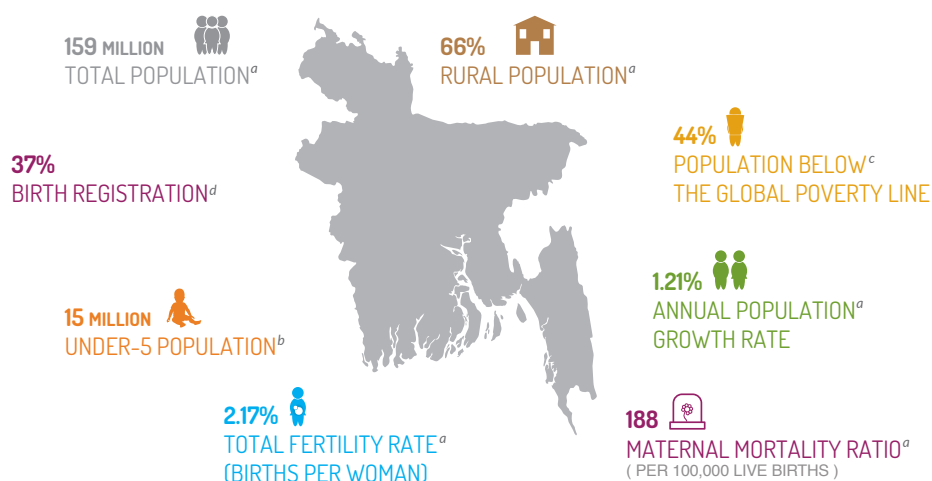
General information about ECCD in Bangladesh¹

Beginning in 1991, ECCD was referenced within policy documents including the National Plans of Action for Education for All (NPA-I and II).The Comprehensive Policy ECCD which was approved by the government in 2013 more prominently recognizes ECCD's role in benefiting children's development regardless of their backgrounds.

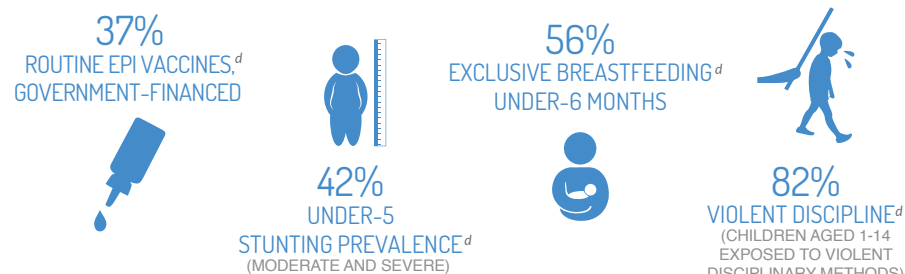
The term ECCD is generally used in Bangladesh to denote day care services, early learning centers and preprimary education for children between 3 and 5 years of age. The importance of school preparedness is demonstrated through the government's integration of one-year pre-primary education for children age 5+ within the primary education system (specified in the National Education Policy 2010) and reiterated in the National Children Policy 2011.Preprimary providers include center-based school-readiness focused preschools and more play-based centered community- and home-based programs such as daycares and playgroups.

Bangladesh has made steady and significant progress in reducing its rates of under-five and maternal mortality even though more investments in maternal and child health can result in greater progress.But mostly these are considered as health services and there is a significant gap of recognition and ownership of ECCD among the health professionals.

DEMOGRAPHICS² AND PRENATAL



BIRTH TO 5 YEARS



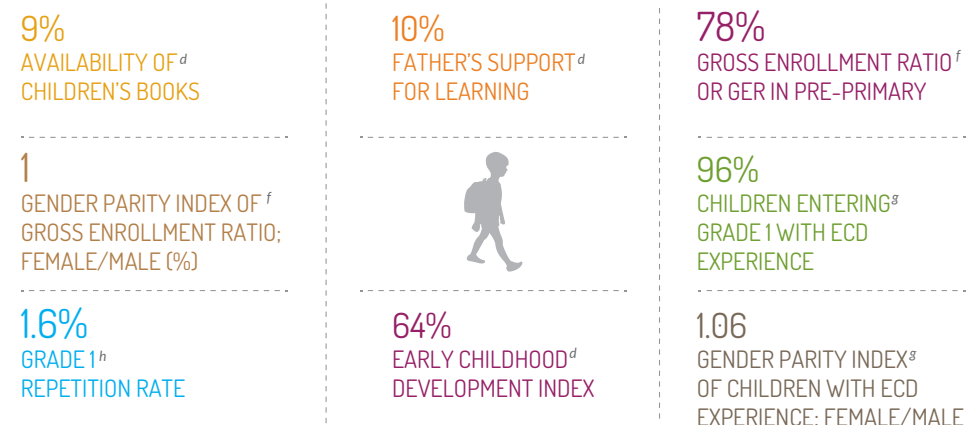
38 INFANT MORTALITY RATE (DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)

48 UNDER-5 MORTALITY RATE (DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)

Sources (year)

- ^a World Bank (2014)
- ^b UN Population Division (2015³)
- ^c World bank (2010)
- ^d MICS (2012-2013⁴)
- ^e UN IGME (2015⁵)
- ^f UIS (2013)
- ³ UIS (2005)
- ^h UIS (2009)

SCHOOL READINESS



Key policies

ECCD national policy approved in 2013.

- Comprehensive Policy on ECCD (in Bangla)
- ECCD policy operation and implementation plan 2016 (draft)
- National Children Policy 2011
- National Plan of Action EFA (NPA-II) 2003-2015
- 7th five year plan
- National Education Policy 2010
- Operational Framework for Pre-primary Education
- Early Learning Development Standards (validation is under process)

Ministries in charge

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education leads on pre-primary education. Other key ministries involved in ECCD include the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Social Welfare.

References

- ¹ Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh. (2013). Country report on Early Childhood Care & Education in Bangladesh.
- ² World Bank. (2015). World Bank Open Data (Accessed May 3, 2016).
- ³ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision, DVD Edition (Accessed May 3, 2016).
- ⁴ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and UNICEF. (2015). Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2012-2013, ProgotirPathey: Final Report. Dhaka, Bangladesh: Bangladesh BBS and UNICEF.
- ⁵ United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME). (2015). Level & trends in child mortality: Report 2015 (pp. 23). New York: UNICEF.
- ⁶ UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). (2016). Education dataset (Accessed May 3, 2016).

Disclaimer: Numbers have been rounded except for fertility and population growth rate. Data is as of May 2016.