



ARNEC
Asia-Pacific Regional Network
for Early Childhood

#ARNECwebinars

ARNEC holds webinars to connect the ECD community in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond on early childhood development

Accelerating ECD Outcomes through Strengthened Governance Mechanisms

24 March 2022, 4:00-5:30 Singapore time

ARNEC, AfECN lead knowledge exchange on governance, multisectoral coordination for early childhood development...

Recognising the role of multisectoral coordination for early childhood development (ECD), ARNEC and the African Early Childhood Network (AfECN) embarked on a research of institutional and governance arrangements in the Asia-Pacific and African regions to learn what works in producing ECD outcomes.

The landscape analyses in both regions is part of the grant from the Bainum Foundation to scope governance models and multisectoral approaches and to identify enabling and hindering factors affecting ECD in diverse country contexts.

[Knowledge Exchange Event]

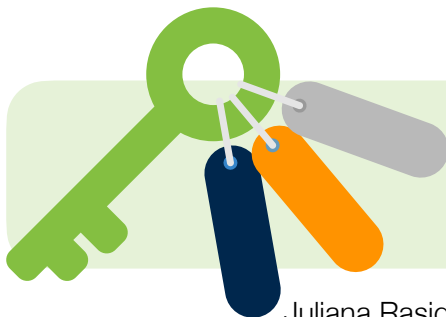
Accelerating Early Childhood Development Outcomes through Strengthened Governance Mechanisms
Experiences from Asia-Pacific and Africa Regions



The ARNEC webinar on 24 March 2022 showcased the findings and insights from the Asia-Pacific region. The said webinar provided an opportunity for cross-regional learning following the Africa-focused webinar held earlier on 8 December 2021. The knowledge exchange between the two regional networks supports

ARNEC's advocacy for strengthening multisectoral approaches for ECD.

There were 111 webinar participants: 60% from South and Southeast Asia, followed by 23% from Africa. The other participants were from other regions, including other subregions of Asia.



...whilst experts, practitioners share insights, experience on diverse governance models for ECD in the Asia-Pacific regions



Juliana Rasid, senior researcher at Soristic, presented the results of the landscape analysis of multisectoral coordination mechanisms for ECD in the Asia-Pacific region.

Citing the diversity of country contexts, Juliana highlighted the governance and coordination models and practices, as well as opportunities for improvement along (1)

ECD policies and strategic plans; (2) coordination mechanisms; (3) planning and implementation; (4) financing; and (5) monitoring and evaluation.

Despite the legal and institutional arrangements that support ECD in countries in the region, there are challenges affecting multisectoral coordination, such as continuity of political support and lack of common

National Coordination mechanisms for multisectoral ECD

Coordinating Mechanisms	
Countries	Network/Mechanisms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh Cambodia Indonesia Malaysia Philippines Bhutan Nepal Pacific Islands Pakistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) NC-ECCD HI – ECD Taskforce & National Coalition for HI-ECD National Association for Early Childhood Care and Education Early Childhood Care and Development Council Ministry of Education (MOE) Alliance of ECD Nepal Pacific regional council for Early Childhood Development (PRCAECD) Early Childhood Development Network (ECDN)

- Coordinating mechanisms can be government initiated, civil society led or there can exist both government and civil society networks in parallel.
- Form an important role in building collaborations, stronger partnerships and linkages at different levels.

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understanding of ‘multisectoral approach’ to ECD. The need for better linkages among national and subnational levels of government for ECD planning and implementation, including the involvement of communities, was also cited as an opportunity for improvement in the region.

Evidence from community-level information systems covering young children and their families also needs to be improved as an integral component of monitoring and evaluation.

In addition, increased investment for young children and building capacities for ECD governance and results delivery require support in the region.

What has worked for improving ECD policy and investments in specific countries is having coordinating mechanisms that consist of high-level ministers with influence. In others, the space for civil society engagement for ECD has been broadened to ensure better government-civil society partnerships for ECD.

Leading ministries for multisectoral ECD

- Choice of lead ministry would be contextually specific to each country
- Some would choose line ministries that typically work on issues relating to child development (MoE, MoH)
- Choosing a non-sectoral lead agency to avoid “turf wars”.
- Development of intersectoral ECD taskforce or agency.
 - Bhutan - choice of MoE as its worked closely with UNICEF to promoted ECD
 - Nepal - NPC for smoother coordination of holistic ECD agenda
 - Philippines – council attached to Department of Education

Lead Agencies	
Countries	Lead Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangladesh Cambodia India Indonesia Malaysia Mongolia Myanmar Philippines Bhutan Nepal Pacific Islands Pakistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) NC-ECCD, sitting at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Ministry of Women and Child Development Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Culture Ministry of Woman, Family and Community Development (MWFCD) Ministry of Education, Culture and Science Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) Early Childhood Care and Development Council Ministry of Education (MOE) National Planning Commission Different ministries, Ministry of Education (MOE) in Tiribauz Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform

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Moreover, the governance models for ECD from Indonesia and the Pacific Islands were also presented.

Syifa Andina, one of the founders of the National Coalition on ECCD in Indonesia and Education Program Manager at Plan International Australia, walked through the institutional evolution of the country’s governance for ECD in Indonesia since 2009 and the partnership between government and civil society to promote ECD objectives at the national and local government levels.



On the other hand, Khristian Joy Millan-Maler, Early Childhood Specialist at UNICEF Pacific, shared the convening of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development (PRC4ECD) anchored on a shared vision for young children in the 9-point Pasifika Call to Action endorsed by the 15 Pacific Island countries.



The presentations of Juliana, Syifa, and Joy are available in the ARNEC website.

National Coalition on HI ECD

- Established 2009**
- 2012** Steering Committee ARNEC conference of Indonesia
- Organizational Capacity Building 2016**
- 2019-2020** Involved in the Development of National Action Plan on HI ECD
- 2022** Support the National Government in Dissemination of the National Action Plan on HI ECD

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ECD advances in the Pacific: Regional

- 2017**
 - 15 Pacific Island countries endorsed the 9-point **Pasifika Call to Action on ECD**
- 2018**
 - Pacific Leaders called for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to ECD
- 2019**
 - 15 Pacific Island countries re-committed to providing a regional, collaborative approach in ECD to ensure that *No Child is Left Behind*
 - Established the **Pacific Regional Council for ECD (PRC4ECD)** as a regional mechanism for coordinated political leadership to drive action and investments on ECD





Views from Africa broaden cross-regional learning, knowledge exchange on governance practices for ECD

Pearl Peters, Head of the Early Childhood Care and Development, Department of Children, Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, mulled on the challenges Ghana faced owing to the fragmented service delivery for young children as a result of siloed mandates of different ministries and agencies.

This she shared after reflecting on the similar challenges in various

countries in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly the need for better multisectoral coordination to advance ECD outcomes.

In the case of Ghana, Pearl pointed out addressing the need for integrated multisectoral ECD policy and programs by keeping early childhood development under the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Protection.

She also cited administrative coordination mechanisms for ECD through multisectoral committees at the central, regional, and district levels.

Furthermore, these mechanisms make room for civil society engagement in recognition of the vital role NGOs play in advancing the ECD agenda, especially at the community level.



Dr. George Evans Owino
Program Manager, AfECN



Over the years, ARNEC and AfECN have promoted cross-regional learning and sharing and this webinar is part of the joint initiative. I hope the ideas and insights in the webinar lead to better ECD outcomes in the Asia-Pacific and Africa Regions.

Moving forward

Webinar insights and action points

1

Regardless of institutional attachment, multisectoral approaches to ECD thrive in coordination mechanisms supported by high level ministers with influence

2

Policy and legal support to integrated ECD essential, including the space for civil society/NGO involvement

3

In addition to multisectoral coordination, inter-governmental coordination is also necessary for ECD at the central, regional, and district/local levels

4

Investing in building institutional capacity for multisectoral ECD, including the need for community-level information on young children, is also important



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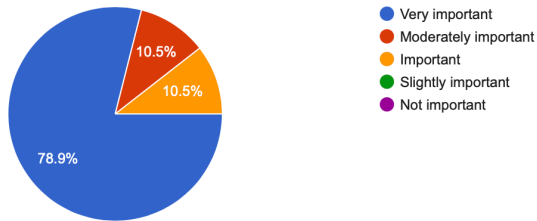


secretariat@arnec.net

Participants very satisfied over webinar; 111 participants: 60% from South and SE Asia; 23%, Africa; 17%, others

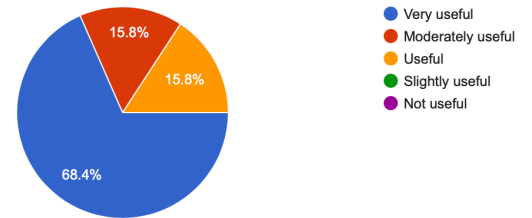
Relevance of the webinar topic

19 responses



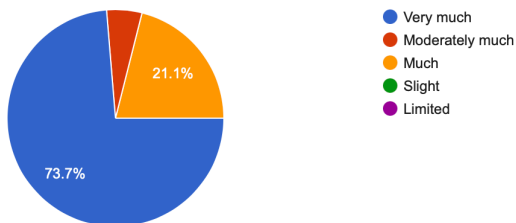
Usefulness of the webinar topic

19 responses



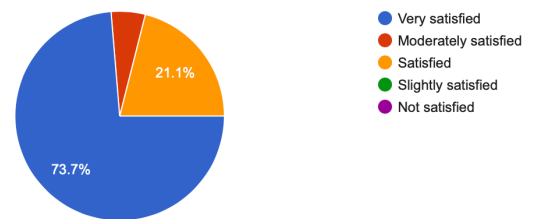
Learning from the webinar/forum

19 responses



Overall satisfaction

19 responses



We speak

Feedback and insights from the webinar participants



Very comprehensive and very informative. Thank you!

Very well organised and coordinated. Very nice presenters.

A very good initiative.

Still governments are needed to increase resources and collaborate for ECD programs

Insightful and inspiring.

It enlighten on what is happening in the Asia-Pacific region, especially about multisectoral ECD

Looking forward to for another webinar to share and learn diverse experiences.



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