



ARNEC
Asia-Pacific Regional Network
for Early Childhood



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The cover photo is of the canvas that was unveiled on the last day of ARNEC's 2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD. The canvas contained handprints of all 476 participants attending the three-day Conference. Below is the joint message from ARNEC and the ECCD Council of the Philippines, read at the unveiling, emphasising the significance of the handprints as a symbol of everyone's presence and commitment to advancing equitable and inclusive early childhood development for all young children in the Asia-Pacific region.

For the past three days, we have been trying to fill up the canvas wall with handprints. You will notice that there is close to no blank space found on the canvas. With over 450 participants, we have managed to fill this canvas.

A handprint is a mark left on a surface—but, more importantly, it also signifies our presence. Our commitment. Our shared purpose.

A symbol of collective effort towards advancing an equitable and inclusive early childhood development for all young children in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world. Yours and mine. Ours.

Each handprint on this canvass represents a personal commitment as much as a collective voice. With our handprints, we signify roles and actions we need to take so that all young children—regardless of background, ability, or circumstance—can access adequate, timely, equitable, inclusive, and quality early childhood development services.

Let this wall of handprints be a visual reminder that our work does not end here. It begins with transformations and outcomes we would like to see and work for in our communities; government systems, policies, and investments; and in the lives of young children and families.

Their future begins now.



Photo: Bangladesh ECD Network

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About ARNEC

ARNEC is a network that advances the agenda on and investment in Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the Asia-Pacific region.

Established in 2008, ARNEC's vision is to ensure that all young children in Asia-Pacific realise optimal wellbeing and development. It works with partners and members in promoting holistic and inclusive ECD.

ARNEC provides a platform for diverse stakeholders such as government and non-governmental organisations, foundations, academia, development partners, and ECD practitioners to share and learn from each other's policies, research, and programme practices.

Our Vision

All young children aged 0-8 years in the Asia-Pacific region realise optimal well-being and development.

Our Mission

ARNEC shares knowledge and advocates for children's rights and inclusive and holistic ECD.

Message from the Leadership

Dear ARNEC Members, Partners, and Fellow ECD Champions,

ARNEC is pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report. This year marks the conclusion of our five-year strategy (2020–2025).

In 2025, much of our focus was on consolidating this journey. We developed nine knowledge products that explore key early childhood development (ECD) issues in depth, drawing on our efforts, learnings, and project results. The launch of some of these reports and tools stands among our proudest achievements.

But 2025 came with its own unprecedented challenges. Right at the start of the year, global funding froze, especially for the ECD sector. As a result, priorities had to shift, organisations were restructured, and many cut workforce. In countries still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19 and ongoing climate and health crises, we saw ECD being pushed further down in the global and national agendas.

But ARNEC continued to push forward, with resilience and resolve, at country-level, regionally, and even globally. We knew young children needed us now, more than ever before.

In 2025, we joined forces with global campaigns while continuing to support national and local governments in strengthening holistic and inclusive ECD services. We pushed for child rights at global platforms such as the UN COP 30 while working closely with youth advocates to document and elevate stories of impact from the grassroots. At a time when larger entities were withdrawing internationally, ARNEC brought together more than 470 participants from 32 countries to our regional conference to rethink the critical role local governments can play in advancing ECD in an uncertain world.

In 2026, ARNEC is embarking on a new five-year strategy, highlights of which are featured in this report. The new strategy builds on our past strengths, refines our approaches, and positions us to respond to emerging priorities, while helping us remain anchored in our core goal: that all young children in the Asia-Pacific region realise optimal well-being and development. We call on our partners and fellow ECD champions to continue standing with us as we forge the next path forward.

Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer
Chair, Board of Directors

Evelyn D. Santiago
Executive Director



Photo: Tanoto Foundation

2025: Year at a Glance

- Implemented 10 grants across priority areas.
- Convened a successful Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Manila, with 476 participants from 32 countries.
- Advanced key advocacy priorities: ECD and Climate Change, Responsive Caregiving and Parenting, and the ECD Workforce with a focus on Social and Emotional Learning.
- Produced research and knowledge products to inform policy and practice.
- Deepened engagement with country partners, including national ECD networks and institutional members, through their active involvement in research and advocacy.
- Welcomed six new institutional members, increasing the total to 38.
- Expanded digital reach, with LinkedIn followers increasing by 64% and Facebook followers surpassing 4,300.

**ARNEC
generated
more than
S\$1M in
revenue**



Photo: Save the Children/Sara Dang

ARNEC in 2025: Evidence, Action, and Impact at the Country-Level



Under the 2020-2025 Five-Year Strategy, ARNEC had four strategic outcomes supported by four advocacy priorities. In 2025, much of what ARNEC focused on was bringing its five-year-long efforts to a successful conclusion.

Priority 1

Responsive Caregiving and Parenting

ARNEC supports governments and partners to enhance the competencies of parents, caregivers, and frontline ECD workers.

With support from UBS Optimus Foundation, ARNEC engaged with country-level partners – Indonesia’s National Coalition of Holistic Integrative Early Childhood Development (HI ECD Coalition) and Early Childhood Care and Development Council of the Philippines – under the MORECare4YoungChildren project to generate evidence and lessons to influence system-level change in existing parenting and responsive caregiving programmes in both countries.

In 2025, the project helped generate baseline evidence to improve the BKB EMAS Module for pregnant women and parents to address stunting among children in Indonesia, and the Infant-Toddler Early Development Program as part of the National Early Learning Curriculum for implementation in local government units in the Philippines.



Through this project, ARNEC presented how evidence was generated and utilised in Indonesia and the Philippines to design and implement context-appropriate solutions that promote parenting and responsive caregiving in pilot urban and rural local government units. This included fostering the willingness, readiness, and competencies of the local ECD workforce and sub-national and local government partners.

Reaching communities in Depok City and Timor Tengah Utara (TTU) Regency District in Indonesia and Cainta and Batan in the Philippines, the project:

- Supported close to 700 children in the age group of 0-3 years and more than 800 parents.
- Trained 235 Child Development Workers and professionals in parenting and caregiving support, public speaking and communication skills, and delivery of enhanced government-supported parenting modules.
- Distributed learning resources to support the implementation of the National Early Learning Curriculum in the Philippines.

These gains were amplified at ARNEC's 2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference and during the launch of the Asia-Pacific ECCE Factsheet at the UNESCO KIX EMAP forum. The final project impact report with results will be published in the 2026 Annual Report.



Photo: MC4YC programme activities in action. (Top) HI ECD Coalition. (Bottom) ECCD Council



PROMOTING FATHERHOOD AND MALE ENGAGEMENT IN NURTURING YOUNG CHILDREN

In addition, with support from the Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund (ECRN) under the M-Nurturing project, ARNEC and Plan International worked with HI ECD Coalition and ECCD Council to promote men's engagement in caregiving through the same national programmes in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Under this project, ARNEC, along with partners in the region, also co-created a knowledge product called **"Promoting Fatherhood and Male Engagement in Nurturing Young Children Guidebook."** This contains good practices and important entry points for FME shared by Plan International, Mobile Creches, Sesame Workshop India, and MaPa Organization Inc. Explore the guidebook here: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/c023b8c738.html>

Priority 2

Clean, Safe, and Secure Environments for ECD

ARNEC works to raise awareness on how climate change risks young lives, and advocates for ECD as a cost-effective, comprehensive, and enduring tool to achieve climate resilience and sustainable development.

In 2025, through ARNEC's regional leadership and collaboration with country-level partners, significant progress was achieved in advancing policy dialogue and embedding ECD within national and subnational climate frameworks across South and Southeast Asia. These efforts strengthened multi-sectoral engagement, supported policy alignment, and promoted the integration of child-centered and resilience-focused approaches in climate action.

In particular, in 2025:

- In Bangladesh, ARNEC and Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) formed a Multi-Sectoral Working Group, which has developed a Climate-ECD Policy Note. This note is being used as a key reference document for national advocacy, media reporting, and to inform the work of the Working Group. Additionally, country partners are training journalists, medical students, academics, and CSOs to advance awareness and reporting on impacts of climate change on children. In one such training for medical students, organised by ARNEC and BEN, participants shared that they now plan to pursue this area in their further studies.



- In Bhutan, ARNEC's partner CARE Bhutan and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development jointly undertook systemic capacity building through a nationwide sensitisation and advocacy initiative, reaching more than 1,250 ECCD stakeholders. For the first time, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) now include children and other vulnerable groups, with an emerging focus on integrating climate-responsive ECD measures. Additionally, climate resilience has been successfully integrated into the 13th Five-Year Plan (national economic development plan).
- In Indonesia, ECO RISE Campaign, a collaboration between ARNEC and HI ECD Coalition, helped embed environmental practices such as tree planting and sustainable waste management into preschool activities. In South East Tumba and South Timor, for example, 20 PAUD centres adopted waste segregation, recycling, gardening, and nature-based learning. At higher levels, ECD-Climate Factsheets, developed by ARNEC, were translated into local languages and used by local actors to strengthen integration of ECD into national climate action.



Photo: PAFEC

A Call to Action: Lead Poisoning and Early Childhood Development

Lead (Pb) is a highly poisonous heavy metal that is particularly harmful to young children. Lead exposure affects one in every three children globally, with the majority residing in low- and middle-income countries. Learn more about the devastating impacts of lead on children's health, and what we can do about it.

Impacts of Lead Poisoning

Despite clear evidence of harm, lead is still widely used due to its desirable chemical and physical properties. The sources of lead exposure include, but are not limited to, contaminated soil, and consumer products such as paint, metallic cookware, ceramics, cosmetics, toys, spices and food. Lead can also be released from industrial activities like used lead acid battery (ULAB) recycling, coal-fired power plants, artisanal gold mining, and aviation/motor sports (that still use leaded gasoline). In low- and middle-income countries, informal or backyard battery breaking, lead smelting, e-waste recycling, and junkshop operations also result in lead exposure.

It is estimated that one-third or over 800 million children around the world have unsafe blood lead levels.¹ The map below illustrates average blood lead levels among children by country. The darker the color, the greater the level of exposure.

Infographic source: Vital Strategies and ARNEC

Children's Average Blood Lead Levels by Country (ug/dL)

Source: PAHE 2019. Lead exposure and health data is also visualized on www.lead-pollution.org

¹ Rees, N., Fuller, R., UNICEF & Pure Earth (Organization). (2020). The toxic truth: children's exposure to lead pollution undermines a generation of future potential (2nd edition). UNICEF: Pure Earth. <https://www.unicef.org/reports/toxic-truth-childrens-exposure-to-lead-pollution-2020>

In March 2025, ARNEC and Vital Strategies, a US-based public health organisation, released the jointly developed factsheet **“A Call to Action: Lead Poisoning and ECD.”** The launch webinar revealed how this toxic metal is silently poisoning young bodies and the environment, and its devastating impacts on young children. The factsheet is the third in a series of four developed to examine major climate hazards and how they affect children. Read the factsheet here: <https://arnec.net/sites/default/files/2025-03/Lead%20Factsheet%20FINAL%202.pdf>

On International Earth Day on April 22, ARNEC officially launched the **“ECD and Climate Change Knowledge Hub.”** This dedicated webpage has been designed to access ARNEC's multi-diverse work on ECD and Climate Change and to further explore the interlinkages through reports, presentations, infographics, and knowledge products. Explore the Hub here: <https://www.climate.arnec.net/>

- In Pakistan, ARNEC's partner Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) conducted a survey of 374 caregivers in two 2022 flood-affected areas – Thatta (a rural coastal district) and Sindabad (an urban slum in Karachi-East). Using a mixed-methods approach guided by the Nurturing Care Framework, the study captured the lived experiences and evolving needs of children aged 0-6 years and their families. Utilising evidence from the study, ITA developed a blueprint for integrating ECD within national climate adaptation and disaster response frameworks, which has been presented at various national level consultations involving government stakeholders and civil society organisations.



**Early Childhood Development
and Climate Change:**

From Risk to Resilience

A Toolkit for Communication and Advocacy

Later in December, ARNEC launched **"From Risk to Resilience: A Communications and Advocacy Toolkit."** This practical resource contains tools, facts, case studies, reports, key messages, and presentations among other resources to help advocate for and integrate child-centered climate-resilient strategies into ECD work. It aims to support diverse stakeholders in addressing the impacts of climate change on young children, and can be used to brief decision-makers, to start conversations within communities, to design climate-smart ECD programmes, and to mobilise stakeholders.

Priority 3

Strengthening ECD Workforce through SEL

ARNEC has been a strong advocate of improving the well-being of the ECD workforce, with special focus on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL).

In 2025, ARNEC published results of a ECCE workforce mapping exercise that it conducted in six countries. Based on the findings, ARNEC developed two evidence-based policy briefs that highlight: (1) the need to provide teachers with more professional development opportunities; and (2) to enhance their SEL competencies.

Using the APETT-SEL Handbook developed by UNESCO-Bangkok and ARNEC, SEL trainings were held in selected countries. These efforts strengthened the capacity of ECCE educators, teacher trainers, and institutions to promote teacher well-being, integrate SEL into early childhood education systems, and build a more resilient ECCE workforce. This work was carried out under the ECD Workforce Initiative supported by ECRN Fund.

ARNEC supported SEL capacity-building in Cambodia, Fiji, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Vietnam through context-specific approaches, including Training of Trainers, technical support, and institutional integration of SEL into teacher education.



Photo: A five-day Training of Trainers workshop was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia that brought together 30 participants from key national ECE institutions, the Phnom Penh Teacher Education College, and the Teacher Training Department. It was facilitated by an ARNEC master trainer and UNESCO Bangkok.

Across the five countries, these efforts reached more than 350 participants, including master trainers, teacher educators, ECCE educators, and institutional leaders. This growing pool of SEL-oriented practitioners is helping translate APETT-SEL from training into system-level integration.

- In Fiji, teachers demonstrate improved stress management and stronger peer support, aligning with workforce well-being priorities.
- Cambodia has integrated SEL into bachelor's degree programmes. ARNEC and UNESCO Bangkok will further coordinate to establish a cascading model for district-level SEL training, while localising and institutionalising the handbook as a national reference.
- The Philippine Normal University (PNU) has embedded SEL in their pre-service teacher training, ensuring that more than 250 pre-service and in-service ECE teachers enter the workforce with enhanced SEL competencies each year.
- Sri Lanka has included SEL competencies into its new ECCE curriculum framework.
- In Malaysia, the ECCE Council engaged multiple stakeholders to develop a country-level plan for integration, introduced national capacity-building workshops, and established a framework for long-term SEL implementation.
- In Bangladesh, collaboration with government agencies led to the formal recognition of SEL, including in humanitarian education settings and teacher training programmes.



In Vietnam, 74% of trained educators report increased confidence and emotional regulation. The **Vietnamese version of the APETT-SEL Handbook** (cover on the left) and its 10 modules was also introduced, marking a significant milestone in integrating SEL into Vietnam's ECCE system.



Photo: (top right) Dr. April, ARNEC SEL master trainers from the Philippine Normal University, conduct a SEL workshop during ARNEC's 2025 Regional Conference. (Bottom) Teachers in Fiji take part in SEL training led by ARNEC and UNESCO Bangkok, with support from the Ministry of Education and local partner organisations.

Priority 4

Multi-Sectoral Approaches to ECD

ARNEC supports national ECD networks across the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration, action, and advocacy for ECD.

During 2023 and 2024, ARNEC in collaboration with Network Impact, implemented a structured capacity-building programme for eight national ECD networks. Focused on network effectiveness, health, and sustainability, the programme supported networks to embed reflective practice, continuous assessment, and adaptive leadership.

In 2025, the national ECD networks continued applying the reflections and learnings from the capacity-building sessions. Networks used learnings related to engagement tracking, collective advocacy, collaborative planning, and sustainability to strengthen their contribution to national ECD agendas.



Photo: Tanoto Foundation

As a result, national networks are making progress toward being better positioned to:

- Coordinate civil society and government stakeholders around shared ECD priorities.
- Support the implementation of national ECD action plans through collective effort.
- Amplify a unified ECD voice in policy dialogue and public discourse.
- Promote cross-sector collaboration grounded in evidence and shared learning.



BUILDING STRONG NATIONAL ECD NETWORKS

A Holistic Framework for Multi-Sectoral Coordination in ECD



In 2025, ARNEC developed a guidance document entitled “Building Strong National ECD Networks.” The document provides a holistic framework to support countries in establishing and strengthening national ECD networks as platforms for multi-sectoral coordination across health, education, social protection, child protection, and other relevant sectors.

Informed by a self-assessment exercise involving seven national ECD networks in the Asia-Pacific region, the framework consolidates regional learning on network purpose, governance, value propositions, knowledge sharing, advocacy, and sustainability. It reinforces the role of national ECD networks in promoting shared vision, coordinated action, evidence-based advocacy, and collaboration with government-led ECD mechanisms.

The final version of the guidance document will be released in 2026.



ARNEC in 2025: A Regional Convening Power



One of ARNEC's major strengths as a regional network includes promoting cross-country learning and sharing of resources and good practices.

In 2025, ARNEC held its annual regional conference on ECD along with webinars, training, and workshops as part of our network mechanism to increase our reach and to build capacity of our members.

2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD

ARNEC, in partnership with the ECCD Council of the Philippines as the host, organised the highly successful 2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD which brought together representatives from governments, academia, development sector, ECD organisations, and research groups from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond to delve into key themes, issues, and challenges facing the sector.

The 2025 Conference explored the reasons why access to inclusive and equitable ECD services continues to pose challenges for numerous vulnerable young children, particularly those with disabilities or living in remote areas, and the critical role that local governments can play in bridging the gaps.

More than 476 participants from 32 countries attended the 2025 Regional Conference, which also featured 20 plenary speakers, 13 panel discussions, and 31 paper presentations.



Photo: Evelyn Santiago, Executive Director, ARNEC, with representatives from UNESCO Bangkok; Department of Education, Philippines; UNICEF EAPRO; and ECCD Council of the Philippines.

All the learnings, photos, videos, presentations, and key takeaways were published in the Conference Summary report. Read the report here: <https://arnek.net/arnek-resources/summary-report-2025-asia-pacific-regional-conference-eccd>

Participant Reflections

What Pakistan can learn about ECD from the global south - Inspirations from the ARNEC Conference 2025 - by ITA Pakistan. Read the blog here: <https://itacec.org/what-pakistan-can-learn-about-eccd-from-the-global-south-inspirations-from-the-arnek-conference-2025/>

Why inclusion must begin in the early years - by Vibhu Sharma, Theirworld. Read the blog here: <https://actforearlyyears.org/media/vibhu-sharma-why-inclusion-must-begin-in-the-earliest-years/>



Engaging youth in the region for ECD and Climate Change

ARNEC
Asia-Pacific Regional Network
for Early Childhood

ARNEC at COP30
Nov 20-21, 2025
Belém, Brazil

Clean, Safe, and Secure Environments for Early Childhood Development

As climate change intensifies the frequency and severity of climate-related disasters, young children are increasingly facing challenges that are beyond their control or understanding. Due to their unique physiological and developmental characteristics, young children bear the impacts of climate change and large-scale environmental degradation, affecting their brain development and cognitive abilities, and leaving lifelong impacts on their physical and mental health. In the Asia-Pacific—the world's most disaster-prone region—young children are exposed to greater risks.

In 2019, the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) was among the first in the region—and globally—to articulate how climate change is risking young lives. ARNEC continues to raise awareness of the interlinkages between Early Childhood Development and Climate Change, and advocate for ECD as a cost-effective, comprehensive, and enduring pathway to achieve climate resilience and sustainable development.

ARNEC's Framework for Action:

- Advocacy and awareness-raising:** Advocate for stronger ECD focus in climate change policies, financing, and programs.
- Research and evidence:** Generate, consolidate, and disseminate evidence, especially at the country level, on how young children are affected by climate change.
- Collaboration and partnerships:** Forge partnerships and collaborate with different stakeholders for an integrated approach to ECD and climate resilience.
- Capacity building:** Work with countries in raising awareness and building capacity on the intersection of ECD and climate change.

How climate change is impacting young children:

- Extreme weather effects:** Floods, droughts, and heatwaves disrupt all components of nurturing care for young children.
- Health and nutrition risks:** Rising temperatures and pollution increase the vulnerability of young children to disease, respiratory illness, and malnutrition.
- Psychosocial stress:** Disasters and displacement can severely affect children's emotional security and mental health.
- Disrupted learning and care:** Climate-related emergencies often interrupt early learning programs, limiting developmental opportunities for young children.

We also engaged youth in regional advocacy and capacity-building initiatives and promoted youth voices in climate and ECD dialogues. In 2025, we mobilised and trained seven youth advocates from seven countries, who then went into their communities to capture how young children are hurting from a changing climate. They co-created a short film, which was screened at multiple forums including the UN COP 30 in Belém, Brazil.

View the film here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy_ZP4B-WqM&t=70s

Also, read ARNEC's COP30 Handout here: <https://tinyurl.com/e9cuywmz>

Building Capacity on ECD and Climate Change

In 2025, ARNEC trained more than 500 stakeholders on the issue of ECD and Climate Change. This was achieved through regional- and country-level workshops.

For example, in partnership with UNICEF-EAPRO, ARNEC conducted a three-part, virtual learning workshop for UNICEF staff from South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific regions to equip them with knowledge, tools, and strategies to integrate climate resilience into ECD programming as well as advocate for ECD integration into climate actions/programming/financing.

Similarly, ECD and Climate 101 workshops were organised in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal to help countries understand the impact of climate change on young children and develop comprehensive action plans for achieving climate resilience while integrating ECD. Post workshops, ARNEC is also assisting with the implementation.



Photo: ARNEC-supported training and workshops were organised across multiple countries.



Photo: Plan International Myanmar

ARNEC in 2025: Expanding Global Footprints



At the global level, ARNEC pursued several strategic partnerships in support of its advocacy priorities.

Collaboration with Oxford University

ARNEC joined The Children and Climate Initiative, a global research collaboration led by the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford. The Initiative focuses on deepening understanding of how climate change affects early childhood development and creating strategies to support children impacted by the climate crisis. ARNEC brings its regional expertise to this global team and is helping connect the Initiative to the frontline communities we work with. Together, the Initiative is developing and advocating for policies that safeguard the well-being of young children.

Support Theirworld's global campaign



In 2025, ARNEC also joined TheirWorld's Act for Early Years Campaign. As a member of the Campaign's High-Level Advisory Group, we continued to promote the global campaign through our communications channels, including highlighting it through a government dialogue at ARNEC's 2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference. Senior government officials from Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka along with representatives from civil society organisations and development partners such as UNESCO and UNICEF had convened for the dialogue on early childhood programmes and outcomes responsive to young children, their families, and communities.

Join CEI to host an online training institute

ARNEC also joined Childhood Education International (CEI) to host the online training institute called "Building Business Champions." It was launched to train child development leaders and others in building country-based networks of business champions for child development. The online institute, held in May 2025, included virtual sessions with experts and guest speakers. Participants were provided access to resource materials and learnt from examples of successful partnerships, as well as received individualised support and feedback. ARNEC supported several of its members in attending the virtual training.



Photo: ARNEC took part in the UN COP30, speaking at five different events that covered a range of topics such as children's health, access to clean water, youth engagement, and impact of climate change on young children.

Pushing for Child Rights at UN COP 30

In November 2025, ARNEC's Climate and Youth Advisor Srihari Govind took part in the UN COP 30, speaking at five different events that covered a range of topics – children's health, access to clean water, youth engagement, and impact of climate change on young children. Srihari highlighted the disproportionate vulnerability of young children in the context of climate change and the fragility of health systems in climate-impacted communities. He also presented ARNEC's key asks for developing child-sensitive adaptation plans, strengthening resilient childcare and community systems, and increasing investment in early childhood services as adaptation infrastructure.

Additionally, the Belém Health Action Plan was also released at COP30. After months of efforts by The Children and Climate Initiative, of which ARNEC is a part of, and Omnia el Omrani, an alumna of Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government, children have been identified as a uniquely threatened demographic in the Plan. Health ministries around the world will now need to ensure that health adaptation plans include children. The Children and Climate Initiative is an active partner of the Plan.



ARNEC in 2025: Financial Overview

ARNEC increased its revenue in 2025, reaching more than S\$1 million arising from grants, contracts, and conference fees. This enabled ARNEC to support the development of various ECD tools and resources in support of its advocacy priorities.

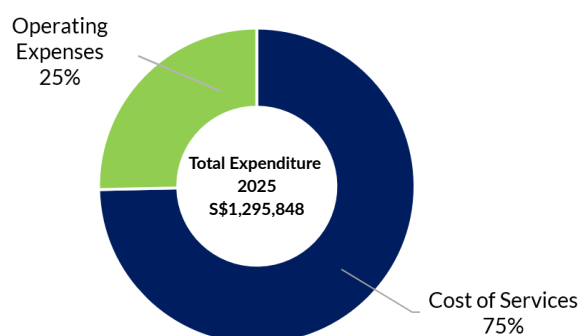
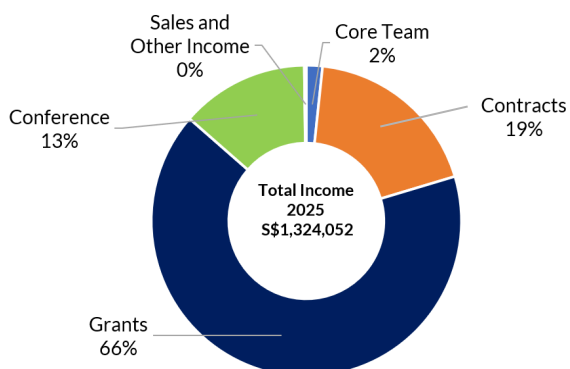
Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood Limited
Unaudited Financial Statement for The Financial Year Ended 31st December 2025
(with Comparative Audited Figures for the Financial Year Ended 31st December 2024)
Expressed in Singapore Dollars

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS	2025	2024
Assets		
Fixed Assets	36,132	6,574
Trade Receivables	55,000	0
Contract Assets	0	23,132
Other Receivables	81,032	68,463
Cash and Cash Equivalents	760,586	706,657
Total assets	932,750	804,826
Equity & Liabilities		
Revenue Reserve	331,842	303,638
Contract Liabilities	483,854	424,268
Other current and non-current liabilities	117,054	76,920
Total equity and liabilities	932,750	804,826

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	2025	2024
Core Team	22,230	30,342
Contracts	247,655	180,812
Grants	874,317	605,077
Conference	177,023	146,289
Sales and Other Income	2,827	1,825
Total Income	1,324,052	964,345
Cost of Services	967,472	674,537
Operating Expenses	328,376	284,128
Total Expenditure	1,295,848	958,665
Profit for the year, representing total comprehensive income for the year	28,204	5,680

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation

The 2025 figures have not been audited and are subject to change.



Annexes

Key Publications

- **2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD (Summary Report)** – <https://arnec.net/index.php/arnec-reesources/summary-report-2025-asia-pacific-regional-conference-ecd>
- **Promoting Fatherhood and Male Engagement in Nurturing Young Children Guidebook** – <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/c023b8c738.html>
- **From Risk to Resilience: ECD & Climate Communication and Advocacy Toolkit** – <https://arnec.net/arnec-reesources/risk-resilience-communications-and-advocacy-toolkit>
- **Mapping of Global and Regional Resources on ECD in Emergencies** – <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LvHKcTt30ewNzI-DFvKNq9t27I725z8C/edit?rtf=true&tab=t.0>
- **Factsheets on Leading Climate Hazards and their impacts on young children** – <https://www.climate.arnec.net/new-page-3>
- **Climate Change through the eyes of young children: Youth Perspective (Youth Video)** – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy_ZP4B-WqM&t=70s

Key Events

- **2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD**
 - Highlights – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtMcX-5vTSo>
 - All speakers – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELlr9ukUg6E&list=PL3QOwHmTC_UBZlaaVmSRw32ok2aOtOTvd
- **[Webinar] Lead Poisoning and its Devastating Impacts on Early Childhood Development** – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wo5BbBfMNzc>



Photo: Local leaders, parents, caregivers, and children interact at this ECCD center in Depok city, Indonesia, where ARNEC helped implement the MORECare4YoungChildren project.



We are grateful for the support of the following institutions whose financial contributions enabled us to implement our priority initiatives:

Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund
Bainum Family Foundation
Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford
UBS Optimus Foundation
Theirworld
Tanoto Foundation
UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
UNESCO Bangkok Regional Office
Early Opportunities
The Two Lilies Fund

Acknowledgments

Board of Directors

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- Dr. Clifford Meyers
- Dr. Christine Chen
- Dr. Teresita Inciong
- Dr. Venita Kaul

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- Sara Dang, Chair
- Mahmuda Akhter
- Siddhant Sachdeva
- Widodo Suhartoyo
- Eddy Henry
- Fritiana Herarti
- Joy Sampang
- Mariani Binti Md Nor

Core Team

- Tanoto Foundation
- Save the Children

National ECD Networks

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- Bhutan ECD Network
- Network on Early Childhood Care & Development (Cambodia)
- ECCD Council of the Philippines
- Pakistan Alliance for Early Childhood
- Mongolia National ECD Network
- Alliance for Early Childhood Development Nepal
- National Coalition of Holistic Integrative ECD (Indonesia)

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