

Early Childhood Development in
Emergencies (ECDiE) Coordinator
Learning Cohort Initiative

ECDiE Coordinator Profiles



Purpose of this Document

This document includes profiles describing the roles and responsibilities of the coordinators participating in the ECDiE Coordinator Learning Cohort initiative facilitated by Sesame Workshop and the University of Virginia's Humanitarian Collaborative (UVA). These profiles are intended to offer examples of the different roles that ECDiE coordinators can play at the country or crisis level.

About the ECDiE Coordinator Learning Cohort

Sesame Workshop and UVA are partnering to better understand success factors and challenges in the coordination of multi-sectoral early childhood development (ECD) – including health, nutrition, protection, early learning, and responsive caregiving – particularly in areas affected by conflict and crisis. We know coordination of ECD in emergencies (ECDiE) is a unique challenge, but we also know that coordinators around the world are doing great work that others can learn from. That's why we launched an ECDiE Coordinator Learning Cohort.

The cohort initially launched in October 2021 and brought together individuals supporting ECDiE coordination in Bangladesh, Colombia, Jordan, and Lebanon to discuss challenges, successes, and lessons learned in their work. In October 2022, the cohort expanded to include ECDiE coordinators working in six countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Jordan, Syria, Uganda, and Ukraine.

Cohort Objectives

- Create a small cohort of ECDiE coordinators working at the country or crisis level to exchange learnings in a small community of practice.
- Better understand the different roles that ECDiE coordinators can play at the country or crisis level.
- Gather lessons learned from the coordinators' work to share with key humanitarian stakeholders and inform similar work in other contexts.
- Generate learnings on why and how humanitarian actors, donors, and host governments should invest in deploying ECDiE coordinators in other contexts.

Background

This cohort initiative is intended to advance the advocacy objectives of the Play to Learn program (PTL), a collaboration between Sesame Workshop, the LEGO Foundation, BRAC, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and NYU Global TIES for Children. The overarching advocacy goal of PTL is to see local, national, and international humanitarian stakeholders prioritize and invest in high-quality ECD programs that utilize learning through play approaches in crisis and conflict response. We know multi-sectoral coordination at the crisis or country level is essential to the provision of comprehensive ECD services, and it is a key prerequisite to promote increased prioritization of and investment in ECD in humanitarian response. As such, it is critical to the success of PTL's advocacy goal to promote improved ECD coordination in crisis settings.



HUMANITARIAN
COLLABORATIVE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



ECDiE Coordinator Profile Bangladesh

Coordinator Role

Co-chair of the ECD Working Group in Cox's Bazar (CXB), Bangladesh

Key Duties and/or Objectives

- Co-lead strategic priorities of the ECD Working Group (ECDWG) and contribute to the education sector's strategic response plan and activities.
- Co-lead workshops and meetings implemented by the ECDWG.
- Work cooperatively with other sector partners to ensure an optimal and strategic use of available resources, and share information on organizational resources.
- Collect ECD resources as well as organise and maintain the ECDWG shared drive with all relevant documents and references, including maintenance of the ECDWG mailing list.
- Drive the agenda of the ECDWG by leading WG meetings and identifying member volunteers to lead on individual tasks.
- Serve as secretariat to the ECDWG.
- Lead in facilitating information sharing across sectors about ECD issues and initiatives.
- Coordinate with other stakeholders and platforms within the education sector through regular attendance at the Education Sector Working Group co-chairs meeting.
- Advocate for the inclusion of ECD in the needs assessment overview and response plans.

Description of Coordination Mechanism

Structure of the ECDWG

- The ECDWG sits under the education sector. Engagement and coordination with other relevant sectors are essential, including the child protection sub-sector (CPSS), nutrition, health and communicating with communities (CwC).
- Working with camp populations and host communities is required, in close liaison, consultation and communication with the relevant Government of Bangladesh and local government authorities, with the ECDWG providing strategy support.
- The ECDWG is guided and managed by the Education Sector Mechanism, the Strategic Advisory Group for Education and the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG).
- The terms of reference, standard operating procedure, annual activity plan, voting, membership, any major decisions, and products/deliverables need concurrence of the education sector, including the Strategic Advisory Group.

ECDWG Leadership

- Two organizations from the education sector membership, elected by the ECDWG members, lead the ECDWG as co-chairs, rotating on an annual basis, with one co-chair representing international NGOs and the other representing Bangladeshi NGOs registered with the Government's NGO Affairs Bureau.
- The current ECDWG co-chairs are BRAC and Plan International Bangladesh.

ECDWG Membership

- Membership and participation in the ECDWG is on an organizational basis, so each organization holds 1 vote.
- Representatives from international, national, and local NGOs, UN agencies and government who have a programmatic presence and staff for the Rohingya response in CXB are members of the ECDWG.
- Members of the ECDWG are organizationally nominated staff members of organizations working on ECD. Members must be committed to provide time and energy, including in any of its sub-sectors, for the Rohingya response in Cox's Bazar, both in refugee camps and host community.
- Members represent the different sectors related to ECD, including education, child protection, nutrition, health and other relevant and interested sectors.

Coordinator Background

- Over 21 years' experience in project management and advocacy networking, including 11 years in humanitarian responses in multiple regions of Bangladesh.
- Experienced in strategic leadership, donor reporting, safeguarding, gender equality and inclusion, capacity building, the nexus of humanitarian-development-peace programming, design of monitoring and evaluation, curriculum design, and quantitative and qualitative research.
- Current and prior experience in implementing high value projects and providing technical leadership for multi-million-dollar projects.
- Education technical advisor expertise is in curriculum development, education program design, training packages for ECD "Teachers in Crisis Contexts" aligned with INEE minimum standards.
- Award-winning educator through contribution to development of a model of Inclusive Education in Bangladesh in collaboration with Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) Bangladesh.

Coordinator Name

Abdur Rahman Khan



I am passionate about Early Childhood Development because it is the foundation of life-long learning."

The LEGO Foundation
Source of Funding

ECDiE Coordinator Profile

Colombia

Coordinator Role

Co-lead of the ECDiE Working Group in Colombia

- Co-lead the annual ECDiE Working Group (WG) planning process.
- Co-lead workshops and meetings implemented by the WG.
- Represent the WG in the Education in Emergencies Cluster/sector's periodic meetings and government meetings.
- Represent the WG in the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration (or GIFMM in its Spanish acronym) Needs Assessment Technical Team and participate in the analysis of data and reports.
- Advocate for the inclusion of ECDiE in the needs assessment overview and response plans.

Key Duties and/or Objectives

- In Colombia, Sesame Workshop and UNICEF co-lead the inter-sectoral ECD in Emergencies Working Group (ECDiE WG) which was created in February 2021 under the Education in Emergencies Cluster, which is part of the Interagency Group for Mixed Migration (or GIFMM in its Spanish acronym) lead by UNHCR and IOM.
- The cluster also coordinates the response and advocates on children's issues with the broader Colombian Humanitarian Team (EHP) led by UNOCHA, which addresses armed conflict, natural disasters, COVID-19 and other sanitary emergencies in the country.
- The ECDiE Working Group engages the education, health, food security and nutrition, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) sectors/clusters and child protection sub-sector/cluster. It also engages representatives from the Colombian government as an implementing partner.
- Objectives of the ECD WG:
 - » Strengthen the capacity of public agencies and humanitarian organization to improve access and quality of ECD services;
 - » Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems to improve evidence-based decision-making process and;
 - » Advocate for the importance of providing comprehensive services for young children in emergencies and the inclusion of ECD into the Humanitarian Planning Cycle and Government Development Plans at the national and local level.

Description of Coordination Mechanism

Coordinator Background

- Working with Sesame Workshop as ECD in Emergencies (ECDiE) Advocacy Advisor and co-leading, with UNICEF, the ECDiE Working Group in Colombia.
- Founder of Bases Sólidas and a Senior Fellow of RISE Institute with 18 years' experience in planning, implementation, and evaluation of public policies and programmes for children and adolescents, with an emphasis on the early childhood sector.
- Conducted advisory services in supporting countries, including the government of St Kitts and Nevis, Belize, Guatemala, and the Pacific Island Countries (currently), to support the design of ECD policies and programmes and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- Consultant for the World Bank to support the State of Palestine in designing a Public-Private Partnership for the expansion of kindergarten services in Palestine and the ECD M&E system. Contributed to evaluation projects, including the evaluation of the Colombian ECD Policy 'From Zero to Forever' and the formative evaluation of UNICEF Ethiopia Country Program 2016-2020.
- Previously, Deputy Director of Early Childhood at the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare, serving as the technical liaison with the Intersectoral Commission for ECD Policy "From Zero to Forever". Previously worked for the Colombian Ministry of National Education leading design and implementation of the early childhood education policy.
- Holds a master's degree in policy studies with an emphasis in ECD policies from the University of Sydney, Australia and a Diploma Certificate in International Cooperation and Development Project Management from the Externado University and bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Los Andes in Colombia.

Coordinator Name

Carlos del Castillo

“ I am passionate about the challenge of building a systemic and intersectoral vision that understands the importance of having ECD programmes and services that are integrated and sensitive to the needs of young children and encourage creativity and exploration as fundamental means to ensure their continuous learning and comprehensive development.”

 SESAME WORKSHOP

Affiliation

The LEGO Foundation
Source of Funding

ECDiE Coordinator Profile

Jordan

Coordinator Role

Head of Childhood Unit at the National Council for Family Affairs
Coordinator of the National Early Childhood Development (NECD) team at Jordan, chairing the NECD Sub-working Committees (Kindergartens and Nurseries, Media, Research)
Member of the Executive Committee of the Arab Network for Early Childhood Development (ANECD)

Key Duties and/or Objectives

As the NECD team coordinator:

- Prepare agendas of NECD meetings in coordination with the chairman.
- Provide members with the necessary documents (guidelines, policy papers, standards, national policies, legislation) for coordination meetings.
- Guide the team to develop national policy analysis papers.
- Review the record of proceedings and decisions of the team meeting. Follow up on the team decisions and plans.
- Coordinate with relevant bodies.
- Document best practices and learning.
- Chair the sub working groups from the NECD.

Description of Coordination Mechanism

- The NECD team was developed in 2018 to ensure networking and coordination between all parties working in early childhood in Jordan to ensure unification, synergy and integration of efforts, as well as to gain support for ECD issues, and to achieve the best investment of resources and time in achieving goals within a common national vision.
- The team includes representatives from almost 40 national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions. The team meets once a month on the last Tuesday.
- Three subcommittees have been developed so far: Kindergarten and nurseries, scientific, and the media.
- The team's mission is as follows:
 - » Support the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) in overseeing the implementation of national policies on ECD and the commitment of partner institutions to be as reference in the preparation of their institutional plans.
 - » Address and monitor ECD indicators and prepare an annual report that reflects the situation of early childhood.
 - » Follow up the implementation and activation of decisions related to ECD policies, strategies, frameworks and legislation by the relevant institutions.
 - » Mapping ECD programs and activities carried out by institutions, identifying and studying national priorities in the field of ECDiE, as well as discussing challenges and opportunities for improvement with the objective of providing the best services possible.
 - » Provide technical support to national ECD projects.
 - » Contribute to developing national project proposals based on early childhood priorities and secure funding and national partnerships.
 - » Monitor and advocate the recommendations of national, Arab and regional early childhood conferences.
 - » Advocate for ECD issues at national, regional and international levels.

Coordinator Background

- Nineteen years' experience in the field of family policy analysis and policy-oriented studies, in addition to experience in the field of child protection. Worked on developing many national policies and studies (family strategy, senior citizen's strategy, child labor framework and procedure manuals, Family SITAN, Refugee families' SITAN).
- Supervised development of the National Developmental Standards for children under five, the Activities Manual for Caregivers, the ECD data base and the ECD SITAN national report.
- Member of several national committees on nurseries, kindergartens, ECD national policy, child labor and child marriage.
- Master's degree in science and a candidate for a second master's degree in educational sciences, majoring in learning and development.

Coordinator Name

Mai K. Sultan



As a working mama for four children, who needs a support system to ensure their wellbeing outside the house in their early years, I was very keen to be part of the process of decision making on behalf of the young children to make better opportunities, and I'm delighted with my position."



المجلس الوطني لشؤون الأسرة
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS

Affiliation

Multilateral partners
Source of Funding

ECDiE Coordinator Profile Syria

Coordinator Role

ECD Partnership and Scaling Manager
Co-chair of the ECD Syrian Network in North Syria

Key Duties and/ or Objectives

- Manage relations with ECDiE partner agencies, provide them with support, including mapping, meeting management, relationship management, assessment capacity development.
- Facilitate the development of adaptable and scalable ECD models and packages, including proposal and budget management, engagement with grants partners, cross-function coordination, information management, advocacy support.
- Document and disseminate relevant learnings through ongoing research on ECD programming in Syria, collection and analysis of data, ensuring learnings are fed into further project development and implementation and coordinate development of advocacy plans.
- Oversee programme coordination and staff management, including development of strategic partnerships.

Description of Coordination Mechanism

- Established a network of local partners from different programming areas (education, protection, and health sectors) to support the collective impact for ECD in the Syrian context.
- Provided technical trainings and workshops to the members to make sure there is a solid collective understanding of ECD and the available resources to support programming, advocacy and policy issues related to ECD.
- Provided support on the establishment of the network including working on having a structure, developing and garnering agreement around a theory of change, undertaking stakeholder and social network analyses to better understand the existing power relations and stakeholder dynamics that can support ECD.
- Joined the education and protection clusters to influence their priorities and funding.

Coordinator Background

- Background includes moving from business development to grant management and then partnerships.
- Key priorities: analytical thinking, problem solving and providing solutions to the obstacles hindering the impact of the program implementation (scaling, advocacy and sustainability).
- No prior ECD-specific experience, learning about ECD when joining this program, but experienced in creating strategic goals and milestones to integrate ECD with a focus on having scaling pathways and advocacy plans

Coordinator Name

Mohammad Abu Ghosh



Moving from intervention to prevention, the human brain is developed at the age of 0-5 and the wellbeing of children is every caregiver's main worry and in the humanitarian context they don't know how to achieve it."



Affiliation

MacArthur
Foundation

Source of Funding

ECDiE Coordinator Profile Uganda

Coordinator Role

Co-chair National ECD Technical Working Group,
Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda

Key Duties and/ or Objectives

- Convene quarterly National ECD Technical Committee Meetings. This is a national level coordination structure established by the National Integrated ECD policy to oversee implementation of all ECD related interventions in Uganda.
- Develop National ECD Situational Analysis Report.
- Elevate ECD issues in national planning and development objectives.
- Develop key service delivery standards and tools for integrated ECD.
- Build and strengthen capacities of state and non-state stakeholders on integrated ECD including development of requisite tools.
- Monitor and evaluate ECD programmes and projects by state and non-state actors

Description of Coordination Mechanism

- The National ECD Technical Committee is a high-level governance, accountability, management and advocacy mechanism for ECD in Uganda. It is the national level coordinating entity bringing onboard key line ministries, development partners, private sector, and CSOs to jointly plan and define the ECD landscape in Uganda.
- The Committee provides guidance to national level planning authorities and local district governments to identify, plan and budget for high-impact ECD interventions and programs.
- The Committee influences sector planning by identifying targeted interventions for most at-risk communities and households.
- It approves multi-sectoral ECD plans to be funded by development partners under off-budget priorities.
- It is housed under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.
- The Committee meets quarterly to receive reports and submissions from key Ministries of Health, Education, Water and Environment and Local Government.
- It also provides technical guidance to partners implementing ECD projects in Uganda.

Coordinator Background

Current: Senior Probation and Welfare Officer at Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

Past: ECD Programme Officer-National ECD Secretariat-Uganda

Profession: Social Worker

Qualifications: M.A Development Studies (Uganda Martyrs University) Honors Degree-Social Work and Social Administration (MUK), Cert. Child Protection (MUK)

Technical Working Groups: ECCE TWG, Nurturing Care Framework TWG

Membership: Uganda Red Cross Society

Technical support to: CLAC ECD-Plan Int. Uganda, Nurturing Care in Humanitarian Settings-Save the Children, Play Labs-BRAC, ECDiE-UNICEF, Improving the Wellbeing of Boys and Girls in Uganda-Aga Khan.

Materials developed: Boost for the Youngest Toolkit (0-3yrs), National ECD Service Delivery Framework, National IEC Communication and Advocacy Strategy, National ECD Caregivers Training Manual.

Campaigns undertaken: Best Start in Life Campaign- UNICEF, Campaign to Promote and Protect the Wellbeing of Children in Uganda.

Coordinator Name

Rogers Golooba

“Uganda is among the countries with the highest population growth rate in the world. It also has the highest child refugee population in the world. It’s through ECD that we can guarantee sustainable development for Uganda, a peaceful and more equitable future for all children in Uganda.”



Affiliation



unicef

Save the Children
Source of Funding

ECDiE Coordinator Profile

Ukraine

Coordinator Role

Ukraine Education Cluster Early Childhood Development Working Group Co-Lead

- Set up bi-weekly coordination meetings with ECD Working Group members.
- Share minutes of meetings with ECD Working Group members.
- Active coordination with national education cluster for feedback on working group during main cluster meetings.
- Provide platforms for information sharing on key ECD resources (organization profiles, assessment, activity implementation and 5W reporting).
- Provide training opportunities as prioritized by the ECD Working Group members.
- Link the working group members to funding opportunities based on identified priorities.

Key Duties and/or Objectives

Description of Coordination Mechanism

The Ukraine ECD Working Group is part of the national education cluster and particularly seeks to ensure timely coordination to:

- Facilitate an effective response to the ECD needs of the education sector in line with the Ukraine Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MESU) policy and sector guidelines.
- Enhance the knowledge and evidence of ECD needs, priorities and activities among education actors in Ukraine.
- Provide strategic direction and linkages to key regional and global networks that promote technical adherence to ECD standards of best practice and global inter-agency recommendations.
- Identify and facilitate inter-agency capacity building priorities and initiatives among members of the ECD working group.

Coordinator Background

- Dedicated professional with 19 years of work experience in humanitarian contexts in Africa (East, Central and Horn of Africa), Asia, Middle East and Eastern Europe in the education sector in close coordination with the humanitarian infrastructure and cross sectoral partnerships involving communities, government, private agencies, local and international agencies. Strong technical skills in Education (formal and non-formal) and Education in Emergencies including Early Childhood Development.
- Experience in integrated programming with child protection; mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), conflict mitigation; governance; adolescent programming; women's participation; livelihood programming; nutrition; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
- Served with World Vision International, Oxfam IBIS, CARE International and Aga Khan Foundation (East Africa).
- Familiarity with multi-country, multi-year, multi-sector and consortia fundraising mechanisms with diverse donors.
- Two master's degrees: MA in Educational Planning, Economics and International Development from Institute of Education, University of London and Msc. in International Development (Conflict, Security and Development) from University of Birmingham.
- Broad range of related training courses completed.

Coordinator Name

Salome (Sally) Ndemi Mullei

“ I am passionate about Early Childhood Development since it ensures holistic child development for children of ages 0-6 through the five indivisible components of the nurturing care framework: good health, adequate nutrition, safe and security, responsive caregiving and opportunities for learning.”