

From Fragmented Fields to a Unity of Effort for Early Childhood Development:

The SDGs and multisectoral ECD monitoring and evaluation systems

Healthy early childhood development (ECD) is key to a more positive future, as recognized through the inclusion of dedicated targets and indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at measuring progress among young children and their families.

The recent proliferation of new tools and indicators to measure ECD has prompted the need to take stock and unpack the measurement landscape to effectively inform the development or strengthening of multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems. Now is the time to unite the fragmented sectors that make up the field of ECD to support the establishment of comprehensive national multisectoral data systems for policies and programmes that will, in turn, improve the status of children and families.

Goal

Inform and support data specialists and ECD leaders to identify their needs and build capacity to plan the development of national multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and policy and programme planning systems that consider and use SDG, regional and national indicators. In addition, to promote the identification of opportunities to establish regional networks to support countries and help them share experiences and lessons learned.

Objectives

- Build interest in, and commitment to, establishing and strengthening national multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems

- Explain key processes and elements of national multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems
- Take stock of and unpack the ECD measurement landscape
- Encourage countries to improve the quality of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) instruments, integrated databases, and data use to help achieve SDGs related to ECD, inform regional and country target setting, and, ultimately, improve ECD programmes
- Highlight the importance of linking and utilizing data to inform programmes
- Identify regions and countries interested in receiving more in-depth training workshops and/or technical assistance to establish or improve their existing national multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.

Audience

The webinar series is targeted at the country and regional level, to a primary audience of data specialists, ECD policy planners, and practitioners working on M&E, programme evaluation, and policy development and implementation at the national level in the field of ECD. It is anticipated that UN and other international agencies (particularly those working at the regional and country level on ECD programming and M&E) and members of ECD regional networks will also find the webinar series informative and useful.

Webinar	Dates and time	Topics	Panelists
1. What to measure and monitor? Defining ECD data needs and available data sources and systems	14 September 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) REGISTER HERE	Introduction to the webinar series: Goals and objectives Overview of ECD data needs and how to match these needs with available data sources, measures and systems; uses, differences, strengths and limitations of different data types, such as population-level data, regional data, national child tracking data, and individual child-level data	Claudia Cappa, UNICEF Emily Vargas-Barón, RISE Institute
2. Population-level data and measurement of ECD: Global monitoring and reporting within the SDGs and collecting data through household surveys	12 October 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., EDT REGISTER HERE	SDG monitoring and reporting (roles and responsibilities, requirements for global monitoring and reporting, etc.); monitoring ECD within the SDG measurement framework; collecting data on ECD through household surveys	Claudia Cappa, UNICEF Nicole Petrowski, UNICEF
3. Overview of national multisectoral ECD monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems	30 November 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., EDT REGISTER HERE	Overview of the general components of ECD multisectoral M&E systems, including interagency agreements; official policy/regulatory documents to establish these systems; selection of SDG, regional and national-level indicators; creation of multisectoral databases; and linking data reports to participatory ECD policy planning and annual budget and programme planning and reporting	Carlos del Castillo, RISE Institute Emily Vargas-Barón, RISE Institute Kristel Diehl, RISE Institute

All webinars will offer simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, French and Spanish. Additional dates and topics for 2023 will be announced at a later stage.