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.

For more information, contact: advocacy@sesame.org
Abdur Rahman Khan

Coordinator Name

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

- 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.

- 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.

Coordination Background

Bangladesh

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

Affiliation

The LEGO Foundation

Source of Funding
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.”
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.”
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.”

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
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.”
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.”