

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

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Quick Tips and Good Practice:  
Strengthening monitoring and  
evaluation of ECD services





# Strengthening monitoring and evaluation of ECD services

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Coordinated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) efforts are essential to evidence-based decision-making and improving outcomes for children and families. These efforts can include joined-up data collection, analysis, and information sharing among stakeholders to promote a holistic understanding of the impact and efficacy of ECD interventions. Coordinated M&E efforts can also enable timely identification of gaps, successes, and areas for improvement. In addition, effective M&E enhances accountability and transparency, as multiple actors collaborate to ensure that ECD initiatives are delivering desired outcomes and maximizing the well-being and development of young children in crisis contexts.

## QUICK TIPS AND GOOD PRACTICE:

- ✔ **Establish a systematic approach to M&E through the development of a joined-up system or framework across implementers and services.** In Bangladesh, for example, the ECD Working Group developed a [monitoring and evaluation framework](#) that supports local-level implementation by focusing on indicators around parental knowledge of ECD, competency of facilitators/staff, results from capacity development training, and quality of learning outputs for children. This framework may be replicable/adaptable in other contexts.
- ✔ **Leverage emerging M&E data to inform future-focused decision-making and prioritization.** For example, in Uganda, the government's coordination team, working closely with UNICEF, identified that large-scale M&E focused mapping efforts can be helpful in supporting intervention and advocacy work, provide better data on the delivery of ECD services, and facilitate learnings to understand how stakeholder intervention can be shifted to include geographic areas that are not typically prioritized. This included development of an advocacy strategy for introducing ECD prioritization in the West Nile region's refugee population response where it had previously been absent.
- ✔ **Collect and analyze data in age-disaggregated formats, especially breaking down the under-18 population in recognition of their distinct needs.** For example, the ECDiE Working Group in Colombia succeeded in incorporating questions focusing on children ages 0 to 5 into the needs assessment questionnaire to inform the HRP in Colombia. As a further step, in data collection and use discussions, it is critical to advocate for greater visibility for young children (ages 0 to 8) and a developmental or life-cycle (rather than sector-based) approach to information gathering.