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

Quick Tips and Good Practice: Supporting implementation of integrated ECD services



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The multi-sectoral nature of ECD requires coordination and integrated services to meet the holistic needs of young children and their caregivers. Coordinated and integrated efforts maximize efficiency, minimize duplication, and address gaps in ECD provision, ultimately promoting optimal development outcomes for children in emergencies. Investment in integrated ECD programming is cost-effective and has a multiplier effect, generating returns across sectors, including improved education, health, and economic outcomes. In addition, integrated ECD programming can stretch limited resources further by providing enabling progress on issues such as gender equity, mental health, and livelihoods, in addition to direct returns for children and their families. A holistic, multi-sectoral approach to ECD nurtures resilience, empowers caregivers, and builds a foundation for children to thrive amid adversity.

QUICK TIPS AND GOOD PRACTICE:

- Create opportunities for connection and collaboration among the diverse range of practitioners that are involved in the provision of ECDiE services. Ideally this takes the form of events and meetings, combined with access to online services and tools aimed to enhance coordination. For example, the ECDiE Working Group in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh routinely provides space and time for its Education Sector partners to share programmatic successes (and failures) through convening regular seminars and discussions. These discussions enable partners to learn from and build upon each other's work.
- Identify opportunities to promote collaboration between sectors related to ECD and any services reaching young children and families. For example, in Cox's Bazar, BRAC is operating Humanitarian Play Labs (HPLs) under the child protection sector, which also promotes playful learning and psychosocial support. In addition, with support from the ECDiE Working Group in Cox's Bazar, the child protection subsector has established an ECD center, and the nutrition sub-sector has included an "ECD corner" at its counseling centers and works with the ECD sub-sector on the provision of materials for the corner.