

Country-Level Activities

Afghanistan

Assessing National ECD Needs and Services

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–17

GRANT: \$150,000

Afghanistan's unmet needs are severe and access to early childhood development (ECD) services is severely limited. ELP funds are supporting a ground-up review of existing ECD services and needs and the publication of a SABER-ECD country report. These findings are being used to draft a National ECD Strategy and costed implementation plan. Working with partners, the WBG team is using ELP funds to design and pilot a tool to assess early learning, which the government will be able to use to evaluate individual ECD centers for quality and performance as it expands its coverage of early learning.

Bangladesh

Income-Support-Linked ECD and Child Nutrition for Rural Mothers

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015 – 17

GRANT: \$125,000

This project builds on Bangladesh's Income Support Program for the Poorest (ISPP), designed to reach mothers and young children in the poorest rural areas, by linking parent training sessions with the distribution of cash transfers. ELP funds are supporting the design and testing of materials that address nutrition and health as well as the nurturing of cognitive, social, and language skills. ELP funds are also being used to evaluate the interventions' effectiveness, monitor the quality of services, and measure mothers' retention and application of what they learn. These activities will inform program expansion.

Burkina Faso (1)

Promoting ECD through a Cash Transfer Program

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–17

GRANT: \$100,000

This project will integrate early childhood into the government's cash-transfer program for poor families, which covers a large swath of the population. The ELP is supporting the design, piloting, and evaluation of several methods for promoting ECD and good nutrition, including communitywide social and behavior change communications, small-group training for mothers, and home visits. ELP funding will also help strengthen the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity's capacity to manage the newly augmented program.

Burkina Faso (2)

Improving Preschool Quality through Interactive Audio Instruction

PROJECT PERIOD: 2016 – 19

GRANT: \$128,050

This project will provide preschools in rural areas with access to low-cost, high-quality curriculum and teacher training by introducing an innovative technology: interactive audio instruction. This technology is highly affordable and mobile, and can be powered in remote areas by modest solar charging arrangements, so it lends itself to scaling up access to quality ECD. The ELP support has two elements: supervising the design and testing of the ECD curriculum over a four-year period, and assisting with a process evaluation to track the project's progress and measure its effectiveness.

Ethiopia

Scaling Up and Sustaining Quality School-Based Preschool

PROJECT PERIOD: 2016 – 17

GRANT: \$150,000

In Ethiopia, there are many early childhood education services, but the government needs to identify a package of interventions that will be cost-effective, scalable, sustainable, and tailored to the country and culture. The ELP is supporting the government's work in accomplishing this by funding analyses of need and program effectiveness. Findings from these studies will be applied by the government as it determines how best to expand access to ECE at the national level, with a focus on reaching disadvantaged children.

India

Strengthening Early Grade Learning in India

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–17

GRANT: \$250,000

In India, the government is currently considering ways to expand access to early childhood education (ECE) and early childhood development (ECD). With ELP support, the project team is reviewing existing ECD interventions and practices, sharing in-country and international best practices, and developing implementation plans, early learning standards, and student assessments for grades 1 and 2 to be conducted through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the largest basic education project in the world. ELP support is also aiding in the development of learner-friendly teaching-learning materials, and piloting of packages for school-readiness.

Kenya (1)

Evaluating Parenting Training and Home-based Reading Readiness

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015 – 16

GRANT: \$79,500

In Kenya, where many children do not speak one of the “official” languages and books in local languages are hard to come by, an intervention called EMERGE Reading is distributing age- and culturally appropriate books as well as parent training to improve school readiness among children ages two to six. To assess the impact of EMERGE, an evaluation is being conducted by Innovations for Poverty Action. The ELP is funding this evaluation, as well as supporting the development of content for caregiver training and developing and refining local-language children’s books.

Kenya (2)

Feasibility of Scaling Up an Affordable Private Preschool Model

PROJECT PERIOD: 2016–18

GRANT: \$42,000

To determine whether private-sector innovation can deliver high-quality preschool for poor Kenyans, the ELP supported a feasibility study to determine whether a full-scale evaluation of the Bridge International Academies can be undertaken. The Bridge model provides low-cost private pre-primary education. The feasibility study will rely on piloting and monitoring take-up as well as the validity of assessment instruments.

Lesotho

Evaluating Three ECD Service Models

PROJECT PERIOD: 2016-18

GRANT: \$111,000

In Lesotho, three types of early childhood development (ECD) services are prevalent: center-based, home-based, and primary-school based. This project’s goal is to assist the government and other stakeholders with an empirical analysis of the effectiveness of each of these models, ultimately so it can determine which should be scaled. To that end, the ELP will support a diagnostic review of the three service models, carry out a financial simulation of ECD services for the country’s Education Sector Plan, and help with early learning and reading assessments.

Liberia

Training Young Women in ECD Job Skills

PROJECT PERIOD: 2016 – 17

GRANT: \$135,000

This project is part of a larger effort to address poverty and unemployment among young Liberians by working in partnership with the Bank’s Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (EPAG) project. In this work, the ELP is supporting the development of a pilot to train young women for professional opportunities as preschool teachers. The project is creating curriculum for an early childhood development (ECD) job skills pilot, based on existing curricula and EPAG training materials. The ELP team is providing oversight for the pilot and evaluating impact and will publish a report synthesizing the lessons learned.

Madagascar

Promoting Integrated Child Nutrition and Development

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–16

GRANT: \$90,000

In Madagascar, the government is tackling chronic malnutrition and gaps in child development with a community-based pilot in which different types of interventions are being used to simultaneously address these different needs. The ELP is supporting evaluations of the pilot’s impact and cost-effectiveness; findings from these evaluations will inform the development and implementation of the government’s National ECD Strategy. The supported work will yield a SABER-ECD assessment, a diagnostic survey, and an operational manual and guidelines, all of which will be scaled up through future projects with World Bank finance. A process evaluation will also be conducted and published.

Malawi

Evaluating Whether Community ECD Training Affects School Readiness

PROJECT PERIOD: 2016

GRANT: \$25,000

This work consists of a workshop to present the findings of an evaluation conducted recently with World Bank support to assess the impact of community-based ECD interventions on school readiness and early learning. The evaluation covered four of Malawi’s 28 districts. The workshop will also share international evidence of best practices.

Mali

Assessing National ECD Needs and Services

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–17

GRANT: \$204,000

The conflict in northern Mali has resulted in a large displaced population, with many refugee families now living in the southern region. The Ministry of Education’s early childhood development (ECD) interventions seek to address the needs of these vulnerable families, particularly in Bamako, Segou, and Sikasso. This ELP-supported project is building up the government’s general capacity for ECD planning and implementation, including research to find out what are the most effective ways to integrate ECD into its ongoing Education for All Emergency Project. This includes a baseline study in the intervention areas, a review of the costs of ECD interventions in vulnerable environments, and developing ECD activities for finance in an upcoming larger project.

Mauritania

Reaching Parents and Young Children through Cash Transfers to Promote ECD

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–18

GRANT: \$220,000

In Mauritania, the government’s safety net program of cash transfers is being supplemented by the inclusion of early learning activities to improve caregivers’ knowledge of early childhood development (ECD) and to promote better parenting practices. ELP funding is supporting the design and testing of early learning activities and materials adapted to the Mauritanian context, as well as new delivery platforms (including visual and audio), and the piloting of interventions among poor households. The work also includes impact studies, advocacy for early learning, and the drafting of an implementation plan for national scale-up.

Mozambique

Integrating ECD into Rural Maternal and Child Nutrition Interventions

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–17

GRANT: \$220,000

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in Mozambique are integrating early childhood development (ECD) into their education and maternal and child nutrition programs targeting rural communities. The ELP is supporting a multi-sectoral evaluation of the impact of these efforts as well as a complementary process evaluation. Support is also enabling field supervision of the interventions as well as assistance to the government in the form of South-South knowledge exchanges (involving counterparts in Brazil).

Niger

Scaling Up ECD Training for Parents Linked to Cash Transfers

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–17

GRANT: \$170,000

Recently, the government in Niger incorporated parenting education into its cash transfer program, known as the Niger Safety Nets Project, in selected communities. A previous ELP grant financed the development of materials to incorporate Early Childhood Development (ECD) content into the program. The current ELP-supported project is scaling up the approach across the country to reach an estimated 2 million disadvantaged people. It includes conducting a quality assessment study during the scale-up, studying and reporting on the factors that promote ECD in rural Niger and lead to behavior change, and revising the government's technical guide for parenting training based on the results of the implementation study.

Nigeria

Assessing National ECD Needs and Services and Scaling Access to ECD through School-Based Grants

PROJECT PERIOD: 2016-18

GRANT: \$146,700

In five northern states, Nigeria's Partnership for Education Project, supported by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), is incorporating early childhood care and education activities into its package of services. An initial ELP grant was used to design ECD activities for the project, including \$8 million in school grants for pre-primary activities. The current ELP grant is supporting the design of a tool to assess the quality of non-formal ECD services, as well as a strategic framework that the government can use to expand and scale-up ECD activities in the future.

Rwanda

Scaling Up Income-Support-Linked ECD Training for Parents

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015–18

GRANT: \$150,000

In Rwanda, to improve ECD among extremely poor families, a pilot known as the Family Strengthening Intervention for Early Childhood Development is embedding a home-visiting program for ECD and parenting into the national income-support program. With the ELP's support, research is being done to determine the feasibility and cost of scaling up the program using the government's system of community-based child protection workers.

Sri Lanka

Assessing National ECD Needs and Services

PROJECT PERIOD: 2015 – 17

GRANT: \$100,000

The ELP is supporting work to strengthen the knowledge base and strategic planning underpinning the government's newly launched Early Childhood Development Project, which provides \$50 million in funding for early learning and ECD, with a focus on vulnerable populations. The supported research is analyzing the challenges that hard-to-reach populations face in accessing ECD services, designing a national strategic plan for the ECD sector and an implementation plan, aiding in the design of teacher training, and developing assessment tools.

Tanzania

Strengthening the National Early Childhood Education System

PROJECT PERIOD: 2016-2018

GRANT: \$220,000

To strengthen the National Early Childhood Education System, the ELP is supporting a national survey of the pre-primary teacher workforce, a national study of early learning outcomes and the quality of the learning environment. It is also supporting a cost analysis of early learning resource requirements and the development of a costed ECE implementation plan. ELP funds are also supporting the country's multi-stakeholder ECD working group.