

# The youngest are most at-risk: Early childhood development in complex crises



Photo Credit: [Adrien Taylor on Unsplash](#)

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CENTER FOR DISASTER PHILANTHROPY



# Regine A. Webster

Vice President  
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## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

### **Submit questions.**

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Live captioning is available now via Zoom. Click on Closed Caption/Live Transcript to access it.

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# Land Acknowledgment

“Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth.”

<https://usdac.us/nativeland>

CDP’s Land Acknowledgment is inspired by Dawn Knickerbocker, Native Americans in Philanthropy.

## GOALS

### At the end of the webinar, funders will:

1. Have an increased understanding of the issues affecting children in crisis.
2. Identify ways to support early childhood development amid violence, conflict, displacement and poverty.
3. Learn more about current needs and issues from case studies.



Photo Credit: [Yannis H. on Unsplash](#)

# Children in Complex Crises

[Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies](#)

- Early childhood development (ECD) is a critical period of development from birth to eight years.

[First Things First](#)

- Approximately 90% of the brain's growth occurs within the first five years of life.
- A lack of access to early learning experiences can negatively impact a child's long-term success.

[Black et al.](#)

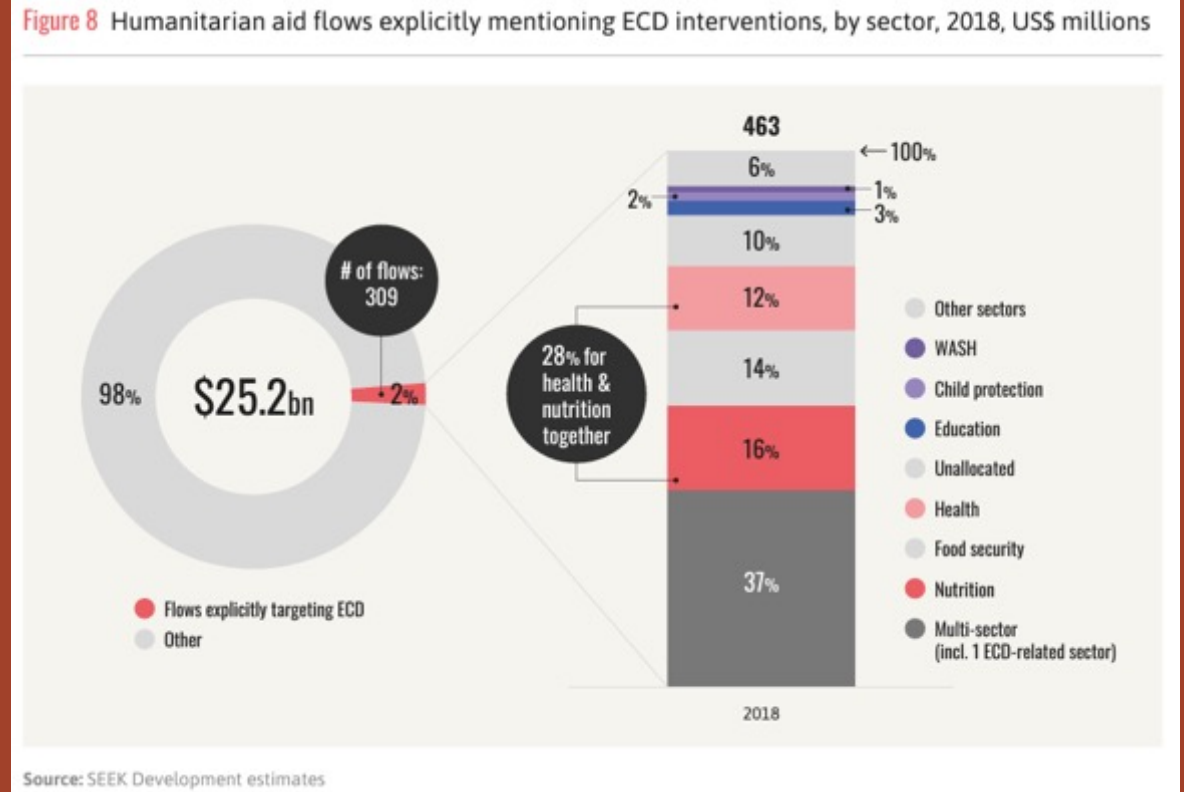
- 87 million children under the age of seven have spent their entire lives in conflict zones.

[Save the Children](#)

- One in six children, 452 million children globally, were living in a conflict zone in 2020.

# The Gap and Philanthropy's Opportunity

- Humanitarian aid targeting ECD was \$463 million in 2018, only 2% of the total.
- Philanthropy has played a growing role in funding ECD in complex crises and there is more to be done.



Source: [Moving Minds Alliance](#)



# Speakers

Thank you to our guests for joining us today.

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**Hannah Green**

Mental Health and  
Psychosocial Support  
Technical Advisor

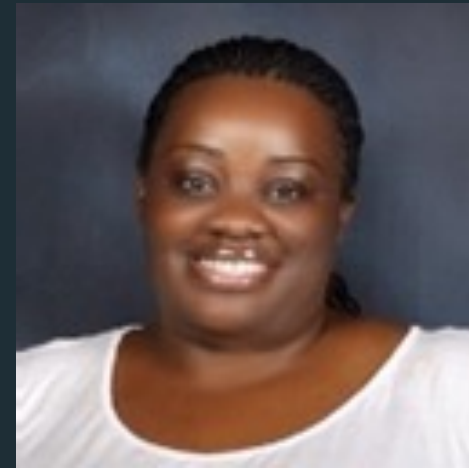
Save the Children



**Dr. Ghassan Issa**

General Coordinator  
Arab Network for Early  
Childhood and Arab Resource  
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**Lydia Mubiru**

Early Childhood Development  
Specialist

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# Hannah Green

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support  
Technical Advisor

Save the Children



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# THE YOUNGEST ARE MOST AT-RISK:

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN







## What are the key issues affecting children in Afghanistan?

- Education
- Stunting and Malnutrition
- Economic Crisis
- Child Protection (exploitation including child labor and forced marriage)



## What are the promising practices?

- Building Brains
- Exploring our Emotions
- Preschools (5-7 years old)
- ECCD centers (4-6 years old)
- Local NGOs



# What should funders know about ECD in complex humanitarian emergencies?

- The first years of a child's life is the foundation for health and development. **Yet millions of children miss out of this. Why is this?**
- The cost of not investing in children's early outcomes is huge.
- Attendance in ECCD is correlated with **significantly stronger skills** in all developmental areas.
- There is currently **no national ECCD curriculum** in Afghanistan.
- Many of the best placed actors on ECD are **local organizations** but they find it hard to access donor funds.



# Dr. Ghassan Issa

General Coordinator

Arab Network for Early Childhood and  
Arab Resource Collective



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## I. The key issues affecting the youngest refugee children in the Arab world:

### 1.ECCD Determinants:

Poverty, Violence, Political instability, Inequity, Environmental erosion, Gender discrimination

### 2.ECCD in Complex Humanitarian Crises:

A global issue, Interconnected, Ongoing, multi-dimensional, different phases, “Double standards”

### 3.ECCD in Arab Countries into the crisis:

**Yemen:** 8 years, **Syria:** 11 years, **Lebanon:** 3 years,  
**Palestine:** 74 years, **Iraq:** 19 years

**Different phases and levels of crisis.**



## II. ECCD research in crisis settings:



### **A Pilot Intervention to Promote Positive Parenting in Refugees from Syria in Lebanon and Jordan , 2020:**

Improving aspects of parenting practices and disciplines and the parents' wellbeing.

### **Parents and Caregivers of young children in six Arab countries:**

#### **The repercussions and challenges of the pandemic, 2021:**

1. Nutrition, 2. Health care, 3. Screen time and distant learning, 4. Mental Health of children, 5. Children with disabilities, 6. Mental health of caregivers, 7. Parenting challenges, 8. Accesses to Education services, 9. Parents and caregivers standard of living, 10. Prevention of COVID19, 11. Families support during the pandemic.

### **Comparing different delivery modalities of a multi-sectoral responsive caregiving program to Syrian refugees and underprivileged host communities in Lebanon and Jordan, 2022:**

Comparison between 3 different methods: Face-to-face by master trainers, Face-to-Face by Sanad parents, and Online modality. Each method succeeded in improving some but different aspects of parenting practices and disciplines.



### **III. Funders supporting ECD in complex humanitarian emergencies:**

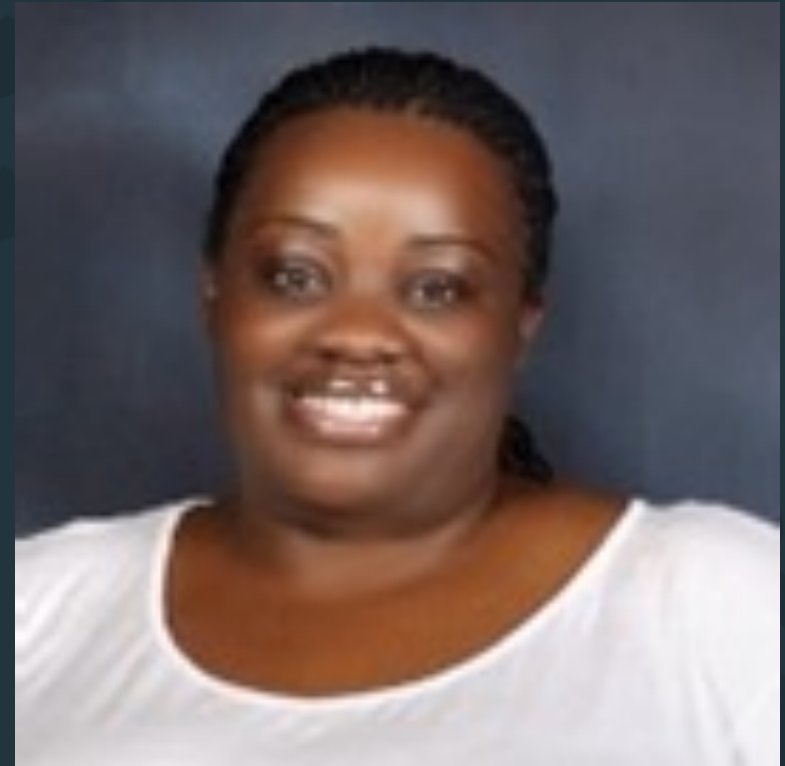
- **Contextualization and preparedness,**
- **Community base Vs thematic,**
- **Long term (scaling) Vs limited project**
- **Regional and national networks/work groups**
- **Funder's consortia,**
- **Research**





# Lydia Mubiru

Early Childhood Development Specialist



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**Nurturing Care and Playful  
Parenting**

**+**

**Two generational approach  
to Early Childhood**



Coordinated action to address the needs of the youngest children

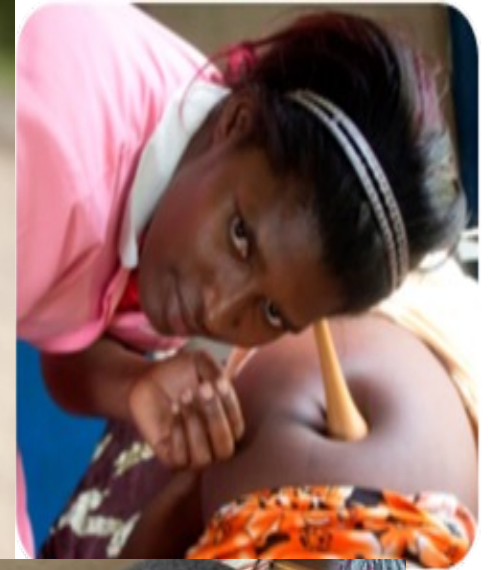
Humanitarian Response Plans integrate child care as a critical need

An integrated approach to improve child development outcomes with  
entry points beyond protection & models to test

Consider the nature of crisis

Identify opportunities with the greatest leverage for the youngest and most vulnerable refugee children

Communities have a stake in the solution





# Q&A

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## **NEXT STEPS AND ACTIONS**

- 1. Invest in coordinated action and join existing collaboratives.**
- 2. Advocate for systems change.**
- 3. Support local organizations working on ECD.**
- 4. Take action, even if it is a small step.**

Photo Credit: [Yannis H. on Unsplash](#)

# Expert Resources



## Disaster Philanthropy Playbook



## Website

- Blogs, Issue Insights, Disaster Profiles, Weekly Disaster Updates



## Webinars



## Special Reports

- Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy
- COVID-19 and Philanthropy
- U.S. Household Disaster Giving Report



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**disasterphilanthropy.org**



## OUR NEXT WEBINAR

### **Climate refugees: Supporting receiving communities**

July 14, 2 p.m. ET/1 p.m. CT

[disasterphilanthropy.org/events](https://disasterphilanthropy.org/events)

*U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class  
Sean Galbreath*

# Thank You

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