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

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CENTER FOR DISASTER PHILANTHROPY
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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.

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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
Thank you to our guests for joining us today.

#CDP4Recovery

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Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Advisor
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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:

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
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
Submit questions using the Q & A box at the bottom of your screen.

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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.
Expert Resources

Disaster Philanthropy Playbook

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

Webinars

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- Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy
- COVID-19 and Philanthropy
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July 14, 2 p.m. ET/1 p.m. CT

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Thank You

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