

## POSSIBILITIES FOR VISITS

### Department of Social Development

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Appreciation for assistance to:

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The following is an indication of good examples of early childhood development programmes. It is not an exclusive list.

COUNTRY	ECD INTERVENTION	SHORT DESCRIPTION	RELEVANCE
Philippines	Government ECD programme at Local Municipality level	The initiative includes a wide range of health, nutrition, early education, and social services programs. ECD initiative of the Philippine government using longitudinal data collected over three years on a cohort of 6,693 children age 0-4 years at baseline in two "treatment" regions and a "control" region that did not receive the intervention. The impact was estimated by using "intent-to-treat" difference-in-difference propensity score matching estimators to control for a variety of observed characteristics measured at the municipality, barangay, household, and child level and unobserved fixed characteristics, with differential impacts by age of children and duration of exposure to the program. There has been a significant improvement in the cognitive, social, motor and language development and in short-term nutritional status of children who reside in ECD program areas compared to those in non-program areas, particularly for those under age four at the end of the evaluation period. The proportions of children below age four with worms and diarrhea also have been lowered significantly in program compared to non-program areas, but there are effects in the opposite direction for older children so the overall impact on these two indicators is mixed.	This programme is government driven and has close relevance to the <i>National Integrated Plan for Early Childhood Development of South Africa</i> . It also links to the intent of the aforementioned and the Children's Bill to assign early childhood development services to local municipalities.

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Uganda	<i>Uganda Nutrition and Early Child Development</i>	The <i>Uganda Nutrition and Early Child Development</i> (NECD) program, called the CHILD program, possibly the largest ECD initiative in East Africa. The intervention program was designed to enhance the capacity of families and communities to foster the learning and development of children under 6 years of age (preschool or at age of school entry) through enhancing growth and development. Specifically, communities were helped to organize services for children under 6 years through growth monitoring and promotion activities, strengthening the capacity of families and communities through sensitization, education and skills training on early childhood development, nutrition and health, enhancing access to child health services through six-monthly Child Health Days, and to providing support to communities through community grants for nutrition, savings groups, income generation, and early child development centers.	This programme is Government driven and resonates well with South African initiatives in ECD, including parenting programmes.
Chile	Chile Growths with You and others	Since the restoration of democracy and economic development achieved by 1990, the country has made consistent efforts to expand ECCE coverage from birth through focalisation and with participation of parents and communities and to improve the quality of service provided. Early childhood education policies since 2001 are briefly: 1) the expansion of coverage, ensuring equity for the most vulnerable sectors and the integrity of educational offer; 2) improvement of education quality, strengthening the entire system (through both formal and non-formal means) and taking the Curricular Bases as the integrating framework to work with children, families, communities and early childhood educators; 3) strengthening the management system through the modernisation of administrative procedures. A new policy known as Chile Crece Contigo ('Chile Grows with You'), was launched by President Michelle Bachelet, is the first of its kind in Latin America This aims to offer every child and family access to services such as education, early stimulation and biosocial development, as well as maternity and child health care.	High level political commitment. Link with <i>National Integrated Plan for Early Childhood Development</i> and Children's Bill provisions Came highly recommended by experts in the field.
Nicaragua	Comprehensive Childcare Program in	The Comprehensive Childcare Program in Nicaragua	Link to South Africa <i>National Integrated</i>

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	Nicaragua (PAININ)	<p>(hereafter referred as PAININ, its Spanish acronym) was developed in 1996 with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), PAININ introduced an innovative and comprehensive ECD model in Nicaragua that consolidated services previously provided separately (e.g., preschool education; weighing and referral/counter-referrals to the health care system) and integrated them with new services (e.g., early childhood education). PAININ delivered these services through nongovernmental organizations strongly rooted in their respective communities and targeted them to children under the age of six in the poorest 35 municipalities in the country. PAININ has since evolved into an integrated ECD program reaching 66 municipalities, including six on the Atlantic Coast where the population is largely Miskito. To date, more than 90% of children aged 0-3 receiving some form of ECD do so through service providers contracted through PAININ and coverage of PAININ preschools, although geographically concentrated in the poorest and more remote areas, reach 13% of the 3-5 age group nationally.</p> <p>PAININ largely meets criteria associated with effective ECD programs. It provides services directly to children and parents, targets disadvantaged and young children, and integrates early stimulation with nutrition supplements and health referrals. In addition, PAININ offers insight into how integrated ECD programs can be structured and implemented within a context of severe poverty and resource restrictions, thus providing concrete evidence that being poor is no excuse for poor service delivery</p>	<p><i>Plan for Early Childhood Development.</i>  Link to Local Municipalities.  Access poor children to early childhood development services.</p>
Cuba	Educa a Tu Hijo ( educate Your Child)	<p>Since 1959, Cuba has incrementally built a national system of day-care centres and early childhood and pre-school education programmes that today reaches 98.3 per cent of the children in the 0-6 age group. In 1992, Cuba, with support from UNICEF, created Educa a Tu Hijo (Educate Your Child) as a national programme of community-based services for young children and their families. Depending on over 14,000 promoters and more than 60,000</p>	<p>Government driven programme.  Resonates well with the <i>National Integrated Plan for Early Childhood Development</i> and the provisions of the Children's Bill.  Involvement of NGO's.  Access to most children.</p>

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		<p>volunteers, the programme reaches 600,000+ children in this age group, including 440,000+ young girls, and their families. Cuba has developed its approach to early childhood care through both traditional and participatory research, the latter method further engaging families and communities in the responsibilities of early childhood. The Cuban system has had measurable success in increasing the developmental and educational achievements of Cuba's children. A 1998 comparative study of third- and fourth-graders in 11 Latin American countries, for example, found that Cuban children scored significantly higher in third-grade mathematics and third- and fourth-grade Spanish than their counterparts (see Figure 9). <i>ECD programmes start before birth, at pregnancy.</i> In each neighborhood, pregnant women receive a special allocation of milk and staple foods, and parenting programs are available for mothers and families. As soon as children are born and until they enter primary school, they benefit from an array of childcare and ECD services. All services are intergenerational — for example, a literacy program for parents is linked with development strategies for their children. Local ownership by parents and families across the community gives staying power to ECD interventions, which are broad, comprising childcare, health, nutrition, education, and stimulation, and involve many different local, regional, and national institutions to assure their financial, management, and implementation support. One effective strategy to support ECD programs locally is to obtain matching funds and in-kind contributions from parents, the community, and local or regional organizations, such as foundations and NGOs.</p>	
United Kingdom	SureStart Programme	<p>SureStart is a UK Government driven and was set up in 1999; with a remit to bring together early education, childcare, health and family support for the benefit of young children (under the age of 4) living in disadvantaged areas and their parents. It is an area-based initiative with the aim of improving the health and well-being of families and children from before birth to four, so children are ready to flourish when they go to school. Originating in the Treasury, with the aim of "giving children the best possible start in life" through</p>	<p>Government driven programme Integrated and link with <i>National Integrated Plan for Early Childhood Development</i>. Includes parenting programmes and other community based initiatives as well as ECD centres. Link with Local municipalities.</p>

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		Improvement of childcare, early education, health and family support, with an emphasis on outreach and community development the programme was originally intended to support families from pregnancy until children were four years old but the brand was extended to cover an undefined responsibility up to age fourteen, or sixteen for those with disabilities	Link with provisions of the Children's Bill
Jordan	Better Parenting Programme	The Better Parenting Project as developed in Jordan sought to address the needs of parents of very young children for basic information and support in their tasks of child-rearing, specifically in the areas of health, nutrition and social-emotional development. The programme integrated Social Development, Health and Education and brings parents and community into the child care arena.	Government driven programme under the lead of Department of Social Development Links with <i>National Integrated Plan for Early Childhood Development</i> and the Children's Bill Link with Parenting programme. Strong foundation in partnership. Focus on access.
Albania	Promoting social cohesion and conflict prevention and improving ECD in Northern Albania	The ECD Project in northern Albania constitutes joint efforts of UNICEF, WB, CCF Albania and Albanian government to address critical needs of children in the districts of Kukes, Tropoje, Has and Diber. The needs assessment carried out by CCF during 2002, evidenced critical living conditions of families, especially the impact that these living conditions have on children's development. The project "Promoting social cohesion and conflict prevention and improving ECD in Northern Albania" has intervened in the ECD system in north and northeast to address the children's needs for care and education during childhood. In the project area, the normal development of children is highly affected by poverty. During the past three years, the government and civil society have given increasing attention to early childhood care and development (ECCD). In 2000, there was no training for pre-school educators, nor were there standards for teaching 3- to 6-year-olds. By 2003 an Interministerial Task Force had been established to adopt integrated responses to early childhood needs.	Link with <i>National Integrated Plan for Early Childhood Development</i> Focus on access in poor areas