

The Launch of National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP) 2021/2022 – 2025/2026

The launch of National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development 2021/2022 – 2025/2026 ([source: NMECDP launching report, Dec. 2021](#))

TECDEN as Co-chair to then Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) on the National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Program (NMECDP) taskforce facilitated non-state actors to participate in the development and launching of National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP) in December 13, 2021.



Tanzania launched its first “National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme “(NMECDP 2021/22-2025/26) on December 13, 2021. It is believed that Tanzania is the first country in Eastern and Central Africa to launch such a multi-sectoral ECD Program and the Second in Africa after South Africa. This is a real great achievement for Tanzania.

Speech from Guest of Honor Hon Minister Dr. Dorothy Gwajima on behalf of the Her Excellency Hon Samia Suluhu Hassan – President of the United Republic of Tanzania shared her speech as

guest of honor for the launching of the program. She started her speech by congratulating the MOHCDGEC, key sector Ministries and ECD partners for developing this program of its kind. In her speech, the guest of honor explained the meaning of the concept of ECD, Challenges, and progress in all 5 domains of nurturing care in Tanzania. She reminded all technical officers in all sector Ministries, regional secretariat officers, council officials, and all implementing partners that this program is developed to tackle challenges identified in the provision of ECD services hence, therefore “implementation of this program should be a priority of every one of us”



Hon: Minister Dr. Dorothy Gwajima on behalf of the Her Excellence Hon Samia Suluhu Hassan – President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

**Stakeholder's comments on Tanzania launch of National Multisectoral ECD programme
2021/2022 – 2025/2026 (source: NMECDP launching report, Dec 2021)**

Nurturing Care
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Tanzania has become the first country in Eastern / Central Africa to launch a national multisectoral ECD programme. Building on the nurturing care framework, it will run from 2022-26 & address challenges that affect children 0—8 years.
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6:20 AM · Feb 21, 2022 · Twitter Web App

UNICEF

UNICEF Tanzania Country Representative **Shalini Bahuguna** shared her remarks during the launch. In her remarks, she congratulated the government of Tanzania for embracing ECD as a foundation for human capital development. She shared the importance of ECD and shared evidence from research that indicated that for every US\$1 spent on ECD interventions there is a higher return estimated at up to US\$17. In addition, she indicated that evidence shows that investments in early childhood education for vulnerable children yield an estimated return of 7 to 16 percent annually. The development of this National Multi-sectoral ECD Programme testifies commitments of Tanzanian Government higher-level leadership in advancing the national ECD agenda. She committed that UNICEF will continue to support the Government of Tanzania to provide quality education, health, nutrition, protection, responsive care and early learning services to all children. These are cornerstones for the attainment of children desired growth and development milestones. She had the following **Key asks for the government of Tanzania and partners**




1. Implementation , Implementation , Implementation

- Ask for the implementation of the ECD Interventions as per the program documents including the use of ECD dash board, Link with NMIAP III and Familia bora Taifa imara agenda.
- She insisted that resource are always finite but many ECD interventions can be done without cash like care for young children, breast feeding , use of locally available play materials among others. This should be priorities to families and communities at large.
- Insisted that involvement of men in child care has great impact to our young children development
- Accountability (MDA, ECD Partners, parents/caregivers, family and community).

"Kwa kila mtoto Malezi, Makuzi , na Mendeleo ya Awali ya Mtoto" (MMMAM)

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO country representative **Dr. Tigest Mengestu** also shared her remarks, in her remarks she congratulate Tanzania for this major milestone for the future of young children. She insisted that WHO has been pushing the children agenda in Tanzania for 15 years now though the uptake for mortality rate and stunting has been slow. However, the improvement for children survival has been improving which calls for focus in child development, "leave no child behind in access of ECD services" She insisted that children are our future we need to nurture them. She pointed that NMECDP is the implementation of the Nurturing care framework that is developed by WHO, UNICEF and WB. WHO Committed to support ECD and has specific indicator on ECD that is the "Proportional of children under 5 who are developmentally on track."



"If we change the beginning of the story, we change the whole story"

She had the following **Key asks for the government of Tanzania and partners**

- Seek all ECD stakeholders and leaders to use the program document to advocate for ECD agenda in the country.
- Male involvement : Male involvement is critical in nurturing children

Greetings Remarks from Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Maniza Ntekim – Senior Program Officer, Early Childhood Development East and southern Africa on behalf of Conrad N. Hilton Foundation congratulated Tanzania for the great achievement of developing a program, which aim to support development of Tanzania young children. Her remarks was shared virtually. She pointed out that Hilton Foundation has been supporting ECD interventions in Tanzania for about 10 years now and will continue to collaborate with the government of Tanzania to support implementation of NMECDP.



Greetings Remarks from Tanzania ECD Network (TECDEN)

TECDEN Board Chair **Mohamed Nkonde** congratulate the government of Tanzania through Ministry of Health Community Development Gender Elderly and children in collaboration with other key ECD Ministries for Development of the NMECDP. He further assured the government that TECDEN will continue to coordinate its members (Non-state actors) in the implementation of the program and to support the children of Tanzania to reach their full potential.



Children were part of the launch as participants, co MC and performer






Josephine Ferla NMECDP Lead Consultant during orientation Regional secretariat and journalist on National Multisectoral ECD programme

NATIONAL MULTISECTORAL ECD PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION TAKES OFF

NM-ECDP Taskforce members represented by Elizabeth Glesar Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Health Organization (WHO) and Children in Crossfire (CiC) conducted orientation meetings with Regional officers and Journalists on the NM-ECDP. The regional team from all key ECD sectors (Regional medical officers, Education officers, Social Welfare Officers, Nutrition officers and Community Development officers) from all 26 regional (130 officers) and journalists from 26 regions were oriented on NM-ECDP.

The orientation aimed at creating awareness to the regional team on NM-ECDP, Ensuring the regional team sees the importance of linking ECD intervention in the councils and regional budgets and supporting the team to understand that it is their role to ensure that the program is well known at the local level and support them to develop annual implementation plans. This orientation was officiated by the acting Permanent Secretary MoHCDGEC Mwajuma Magwiza.

Hon: MWANAID ALI KHAMIS Deputy Minister of Ministry of Health Community Development Gender Elderly and Children by then during Journalist orientation of the NMECDP. She pointed out that Tanzania is among those Low Middle Income Countries where 43% of children are at risk of not achieving their full potential for growth and development given critical risk factors including malnutrition, poverty, food insecurity, family stress, low-quality resources, and child neglect and abuse. Limited interaction between the youngest children and their caregivers is compounded by a lack of comprehensive parenting initiatives.

She further insisted on the importance of investing in ECD and its returns as per research evidence, which indicated that “for every US\$1 spent on ECD interventions there is a higher return estimated at up to US\$17 and that investment in early childhood education for vulnerable children yields an estimated return of 7 to 16 percent annually.



Hon: MWANAID ALI KHAMIS Deputy Minister of the former Ministry of Health, Community Development Gender, Eldely and Children during Journalist orientation of the NM-ECDP and Mtoto Kwanza Project.

Rationalize National ECD Advisory group

The National ECD Taskforce met on 1st -2nd March 2022 for its repurpose to support implementation of the NMECDP, thus became National ECD Advisory Group

The success of the development and launching of the National Multisectoral EDC Development Programme 2021/2022 – 2025/2026 guided and implemented by the National ECD Taskforce which was formed in 2018 comprising of Government counterparts, representatives from various agencies, development partners, CSOs and other implementing partners co-chaired by MoHCDGEC and TECDEN.



The process of development of the NM-ECDP was initiated by the Government of Tanzania and the ECD Taskforce as the main key action agreed upon during the National ECD Stakeholder Forum held in 2018. The development of the NM-ECDP has been participatory and consultative involving a wide range of stakeholders using multiple methodologies. It has been led by a team of consultants working collaboratively with all key ECD Ministries across the government together with the National ECD Taskforce to ensure that the development of the program is owned by the government and wider ECD stakeholder community for its effective implementation and sustainability.



The ECD taskforce meeting held on 1st to 2nd March, 2022 repurposed the National Taskforce into National ECD Advisory Group to fit in supporting the implementation of the NM-ECDP. The meeting also revitalized the NM-ECDP Secretariat which involved members from both government and non-state actors. The formation of the Technical Working Group was taking shape including the development of a draft Term of Reference.

KICKSTART OF MTOTO KWANZA PROJECT IS TAKING SHAPE

The Mtoto kwanza Project team; Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN), Children in Crossfire (CiC), and Union Press of Tanzania Clubs (UTPC) held an introduction meeting with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSGs) on 3rd March 2022.



Notwithstanding, on 5th March 2022 the project was officially introduced to President's Office Regional Administrative and Local Government (PORALG).

The Mtoto Kwanza project (2021/2022-2023/2024) will be implemented across 26 regions of Tanzania Mainland as catalytic investment into National Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NMEDP) 2021/2022 - 2025/2026.

The Mtoto Kwanza project under the support of Hilton Conrad Foundation will catalyse the coordination of NM-ECDP at the National and Sub National level; building the capacity of the

ECD workforce and actors to support the implementation of NM-ECDP; advocate for ECD so that the public understands the importance of ECD and support its financing to promote its implementation. Furthermore, the project aimed to create demand for Early Childhood Development from the community.