

Early Childhood Development in Emergencies

Education Diplomacy Guidance on Multisectoral Coordination

Education Diplomacy,

developed by Childhood Education International, is an innovative approach to solving complex education challenges using diplomatic skills and collective action.

It promotes collaboration and collective action across sectors and stakeholders.

This Guidance addresses multisectoral coordination for Early Childhood Development in Emergencies (ECDiE), using Education Diplomacy concepts and practices to provide practical guidance to ECDiE practitioners.

Overview

Stakeholder coordination is an essential but underprioritized component of work in Early Childhood Development in Emergencies (ECDiE). Being able to effectively coordinate across stakeholders in multiple sectors and at multiple levels facilitates a more effective, holistic, and targeted response, ensuring that the needs of young children are prioritized and addressed during emergency situations. The benefits of stakeholder coordination include:

- Supporting a comprehensive and holistic approach to the development of young children
- Improving decision making through a collaborative, inclusive approach
- Increasing efficiencies by ensuring optimal resource utilization and avoiding duplication, overlap, and gaps in the provision of services
- Achieving greater effectiveness through realizing synergies and pooling resources in under-resourced contexts
- Facilitating knowledge generation, sharing, and learning
- Harmonizing approaches, standards, and guidelines
- Improving program design, implementation, response quality, and coverage through partnerships and collaboration
- Enhancing accountability and transparency
- Amplifying voices and strengthening advocacy and influence.

Despite the potential benefits of working together across sectors and levels, such multisectoral coordination in ECDiE is consistently identified as a persistent gap in practice. Working multisectorally can be challenging, particularly when providing programming and services to young children in humanitarian contexts. Stakeholders located in different sectors operate with individual priorities, mandates, and approaches, and the essential elements of working together, such as communication or data sharing, are significantly more difficult in emergency contexts. In such contexts, integrated responses can be more complex and time-consuming because resources are limited, challenges abound, and time is of the essence.

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This CE International Guidance on ECDiE focuses on the mechanics of collaborative work across stakeholders. The logistics – the nuts and bolts of the processes and practices used by stakeholders when working together – receive too little attention, and can often contribute to sub-optimal, discontinued, or failed attempts at multisectoral coordination in the field. For example, it is not enough to simply gather people; we must think through how they will be convened and how they will effectively collaborate when coming from different backgrounds, perspectives, and priorities.

In this Guidance, we present a practical framework of five key steps to follow when undertaking ECDiE multisectoral coordination. It is intended as a resource for use by practitioners at any level. We invite practitioners to adapt and/or build on the framework in their conceptual and applied work.

ECDiE Multisectoral Coordination Framework

Key Steps:

1. Stakeholder Identification
2. Stakeholder Convening
3. Common Visioning
4. Shared Planning
5. Joint Implementation

