

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

# Early Childhood Development Hub

## About the Education Practice

Oxford Policy Management (OPM) provides rigorous analysis and practical technical assistance, grounded in our commitment to improving education for the most hard-to-reach and marginalized groups. Our expertise is rooted in a long-track record of success in research, policy development, and capacity-building – starting from our inception within the University of Oxford. With our global network of offices and associates, we combine world-class expertise with an investment in deep, contextual knowledge.

## Thematic area profile

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) hub, as part of our Education Practice, focuses on **holistic development** of young children, particularly in the **0-8 years age group**. Our work in ECD takes a cross-sectoral approach as issues in ECD belong to multiple domains and sub-sectors. Examples of thematic focus areas of the hub include **early education, health, nutrition, and WASH**. From an education perspective, our work focuses on enabling a **smooth transition for young children** as they progress from daycare/preschool or other early childhood facilities into the formal schooling system. Evidence indicates that young children in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) may be enrolled in, and attend, a range of early childhood institutions, and a significant proportion enter the formal schooling system even before they are meant to. In order to reach all young children, the hub also focuses on this transition.

## What we offer

**The ECD hub passionately believes that providing equal opportunity to young children can alter their further education and life path. We strive to work with our partners who share the same vision in building a strong foundation for young children to thrive.**

The ECD hub provides a range of services to governments, multilateral organizations and foundations. These include being a:

- **Strategy Development Partner**

We assist clients to formulate their ECD portfolio strategy and investment decisions.

- **Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Partner**

We work with organizations to learn about what's working well and what can be improved in their programs or the programs they invest in. We play the role of a critical friend with a keen emphasis on learning to ensure that our findings are useful and can feed back into programmatic decisions.

- **Research and Systems Diagnostics Partner**

We undertake research projects of varying scale and scope in order to dig into country specific contexts and unpack answers to pressing ECD issues. For example, conducting research on what it takes to scale effective and quality ECD services.

## Our work

We have undertaken diverse ECD projects with a range of clients. A few examples are listed below:

- **THRIVE (FCDO – Bangladesh, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania-ongoing)**. We are leading a multi-country research and policy program which aims to build understanding of ECD service delivery models, at scale, and how they can transform to significantly improve childhood health, nutrition, education and wellbeing outcomes in low- and middle-income countries.
- **Global Early Childhood Development (GECD) Programme (Porticus Foundation-ongoing)**. An evaluation and learning partnership to build collaboration and peer learning among ECD partners with the aim to catalyze systems-change within the ECD sector. We are conducting an evaluation to provide input on lessons learned in order to successfully guide Porticus' journey in the ECD space.
- **Early Childhood Development and Nutrition (International Food Policy Research Institute and World Bank – India-completed)**. We assessed the impact of an expanded service delivery model on ECD and nutrition using Integrated Child Development Programme channels.
- **Quality of early learning systems (FCDO, World Bank, Ministry of Liberia-completed)**. We led the evaluation of early learning opportunities and outcomes to identify potential policy reform.
- **Public-private partnerships and preschool enrollment (UNICEF–Serbia-completed)**. We led the study on public-private partnership models for preschools in Serbia with an analysis of the feasibility, strengths, and weaknesses of various models.



Our mission is to improve lives through sustainable policy change.

**For more information,**

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