



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Sustainable  
Development  
Goals



# Why Measure Early Learning ?



Education International  
Internationale de l'Éducation  
Internacional de la Educación

**Pedi Anawi**

*Regional Coordinator, Early Childhood Education  
Education International Regional Office for Africa*

# Introduction

- ▶ *Each one of us takes the same journey from birth to consciousness - but none of us recalls it. This early stage of life is crucial; and Sigmund Freud famously obsessed over it, as do millions of parents, teachers and caregivers every day.*

# Question

- ▶ *What goes on cognitively during the time from birth to consciousness, and what can parents - and other adults - do to further promote infant well-being?*

# Our Understanding of Early Learning

- ▶ Early learning not the same as daycare or babysitting.
- ▶ Early learning is much more than daycare and babysitting.

# Early Learning: a Human Right

- ▶ All children have the right to education (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- ▶ Defended by EI within the framework of its global action campaign for accessible, free quality public education for all as an integral part of this right.

# Benefits of Early Learning

- ▶ Foundation for children's socio-emotional development.
- ▶ Pre-primary programs aim to prepare young children to get off to a strong start in their school readiness.

# Benefits of Early Learning

- ▶ Enables parents, especially women, to be gainfully-employed;
- ▶ Improve education systems
- ▶ Strengthen the relationship between educational achievement, nutrition, learning capacity and good health; social protection and school attendance;

# Conditions for Quality Early Learning

- ▶ Adequate curricula
- ▶ Policy development and implementation
- ▶ Partnership with education systems
- ▶ Accessibility



# Conditions for Quality Early Learning

- ▶ Public funding and investment
- ▶ Quality improvement and assurance
- ▶ Public recognition of education of ECE personnel
- ▶ Working conditions for the personnel that meet ILO standards
- ▶ Monitoring and data collection
- ▶ Research in the field

# Why Measure Early Learning?

*Measuring early learning helps:*

- ▶ ensure universal access
- ▶ ensure adequacy, relevance and effective implementation of policy
- ▶ ensure adequacy of funding and investment
- ▶ conduct data-oriented policy advocacy
- ▶ mainstream Early Learning

# Why Measure Early Learning?

- ▶ guide policy making processes and other stakeholders' efforts
- ▶ assess curricula and content suitability, especially in multicultural contexts
- ▶ ensure suitability of teaching and learning materials and infrastructure to socioeconomic contexts

# Why Measure Early Learning?

- ▶ ensure adequacy of personnel training, qualification, and conditions of work
- ▶ strengthen knowledge of the range of approaches adopted
- ▶ promote gender equity.

# Conclusion

- ▶ The overall purpose of evaluating early learning is to help teachers, administrators, policy makers, planners, and other stakeholders make appropriate decisions about how to best teach children.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**Sustainable  
Development  
Goals**



# Thank you for your attention!

## Questions and Comments