



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

IECD Seychelles is proud to be recognised as a UNESCO Global Category II Centre for Early Childhood Care and Education



Institute of Early Childhood Development



## CEO's Statement

2019 has been a momentous year for the Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Seychelles as a whole. In keeping with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we are proud to be contributing towards ensuring high quality early childhood care and education for all girls and boys in Seychelles, in the region and at an international level.

I wish to acknowledge the instrumental role of the government in establishing and implementing key enablers for success in ECCE: Legal, policy, financial, institutional, programmatic, monitoring and evaluation. These best practice pillars have helped to build a resilient ECCE system and for which, we have been recognised as a Global Category II Centre for ECCE under the auspices of UNESCO. Without the government's continued commitment towards prioritising high quality early childhood care and education, and the relentless efforts of the sectors in ECCE, none of our achievements would have been possible.

I also wish to highlight the essential role and continued collaboration of parents, childcare service providers, professionals in ECCE and external partners. In our quest to fulfill our functions as a coordinating and advisory entity, strong emphasis is continuously placed on an interdisciplinary, consultative and inclusive approach. Hence, their invaluable contributions in terms of their first hand knowledge and experience benefits the ECCE sector as a whole.

Reflecting on our accomplishments in 2019 and the preceding years, I foresee new opportunities emerging for furthering children's wellbeing and development. Inevitably alongside progress, new challenges are bound to surface. As a strong team, I believe we have the experience and capacity to take on every new challenge that comes our way.

**Mrs. Shirley Choppy**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Institute of Early Childhood Development**

# Key Achievements



## International

### UNESCO Global Category II Centre

On November 15 2019, the 40th session of the UNESCO General Assembly unanimously approved that IECD Seychelles be granted a UNESCO Global Category II Centre for Early Childhood Care and Education. This means that through the work of IECD, Seychelles will now be contributing to the development of global dialogue on and philosophy of ECCE.

This global recognition is over and above the recognition of the IECD as the International Bureau of Education (IBE-UNESCO) Best Practice Hub for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), and represents an institutionally elevated recognition.



As a Global Category II Centre, the Institute will be expected to deliver both academic and operational leadership globally. This is inclusive of capacity building for UNESCO member states in the advancement of ECCD.

# Key Achievements



## International Biennial Conference

### Big Data for Small children

In February 2019, IECD hosted the second International Biennial Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education in collaboration with High Level ECCE Policy Committee and under the technical guidance of IBE UNESCO. This conference saw the participation of approximately two hundred national and sixty international delegates from the United States of America, Asia and Nordic Countries, from the General Education and Quality Assessment Framework partner countries.

The theme of the conference was 'Big Data for Small Children'. Under this theme, the presentations and the discussions explored the legal, financial and institutional structures and processes in conjunction with the monitoring and evaluation of Health, Nutrition, Education as well as Social Protection. National progress and initiatives in this regard were discussed, experiences were shared by partner countries, global best practices were presented and discussed and examples of Global Big Data systems were shared.

The resulting compilation of learnings about the management of data will be advantageously directed into the development and progression of ECCE.



# Key Achievements

## National Action Plan for ECCE

In July 2019, the Institute hosted the launch of the National Action Plan (NAP) for ECCE (2019-2020). This plan has 18 projects, to be carried out by 5 sectors (Health, Education, Social Affairs, Local Government and IECD) over the course of 2019 and 2020.

This plan was validated earlier in the year through rigorous interdisciplinary workshops and consultations led by IECD. In addition to implementing its own projects, IECD also fulfilled its role as the coordinating and advisory body for ECCE in the following ways:



45% of the National Action Plan 2019-2020 was completed in 2019



Surveillance visits carried out by the IECD Surveillance Team



Monthly meetings of the National Coordinating Committee on ECCE conducted at IECD, chaired by the CEO of IECD



Presentations made to High Level ECCE Policy Committee chaired by the Designed Minister on the status of the various ECCE sectoral projects, key challenges and recommendations for improvement



Workshops and forums conducted for sectoral teams



Evaluation carried out for the first year of the implementation of the NAP and report published

# Key Achievements



## New Research in ECCE

During the year 2019, IECD completed three new research studies in ECCE. This included the Assessment of Quality of Day Care Services, an assessment of Early Learning Readiness of Children attending Childminding Services and a Survey exploring the level of understanding about ECCE issues among different partners in ECCE and the different sections of the population.

## National ECCE Forums

In addition, two national level ECCE forums were conducted by IECD in the year 2019. The first forum, held in July 2019 featured a presentation of and discussion on the results from the Assessment of the quality of Day Care Services by International ECCE Consultant, Dr. Geraldine Teo-Zuzarte as well as a presentation and discussion led by local Education Expert and Consultant Dr. Andre Leste on the Perspectives of Parents and Day Care Operators. In the second National ECCE Forum, Dr. Leste presented and discussed the results from the study evaluating the implementation of the National Standards for Childminding Services.



Dr. Geraldine Teo- Zuzarte  
SEED Institute Singapore



Dr. Andre Leste  
Education Consultant, Seychelles

# Key Achievements

## Regulator for Childminding Services

IECD is mandated through the IECD Act (2014), to regulate Childminding Services in Seychelles. In order to pursue this mandate, the Regulatory Affairs team carry out inspection visits to ensure compliance with National Childminding Standards and Guidelines, grant registration as well as pre-registration and Sensitization trainings for prospective for Childminders.

The figures below provide key statistics with regards to the Institute's work as a Regulator.



# 85

percent of all registered Childminders are complying with the National Standards for Childminding Services

# 42

percent of all Childminders practicing in Seychelles are registered with IECD

# 21

non registered Childminders attended IECD trainings

# 114

inspection visits were conducted at registered and non registered Childminding establishments

# Key Achievements

## Transition to Regulation of Day Care Services

In 2019, a new Unit was set up at IECD for Centre-based services (Day Care) under the current Regulatory Affairs Section. As part of a transition and implementation plan, the Unit has been undertaking preparatory works to allow the gradual migration and regulation of the Day Care services from Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) to IECD.



A Steering Committee, with membership from MEHRD, IECD and Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education (SITE) was set up to oversee and coordinate the activities during the transition process.



Quarterly meetings of the committee were conducted at IECD, chaired by CEO IECD, whereby updates were shared on the areas of responsibilities of each of the partners.



Work was carried out on developing a formal training programme for Day Care Childminding Personnel as a joint partnership between the IECD and SITE. A structure has been finalised



The Unit formed part of the Technical Working Group leading the review of existing standards and the development of new standards for Day Care services

# Key Achievements

## Advocacy



In November 2019, on the occasion of Universal Children's Day, IECD launched a series of billboards with messages about parenting, nutrition and other early childhood related issues. The objective was to raise awareness about early childhood development related issues among all partners concerned and the public in general. These billboards were installed in strategic locations on Mahe and Praslin.

Between October and December 2019, IECD conducted a media campaign through television and newspaper to promote the field of Early Childhood as a career path. This campaign formed part of the National Theme of "Valoriz Kiltir Travay Dir", and looked to explore its relevance in the context of ECCE in Seychelles. This campaign also forms part of IECD's overall commitment to developing a strong ECCE workforce in Seychelles.



In July 2019, IECD launched a new initiative called the Early Years Factsheet Series to provide an accessible snapshot of some of ECCE research. Early Year Factsheets were published for four research studies in 2019. This included the Assessment of Quality of Day Care Service provision, the Parent and Day care Operator Survey, the study on Early Learning Environment in Creche and the study evaluating the implementation of National Standards for Childminding Services.



# Key Achievements

## Policy Development

One of IECD's projects in the National Action Plan (2019-2020) is to develop standards for provision of Centre Based Childminding (Day Care) Services. IECD has followed an interdisciplinary, evidence based, expert-led process for the development of Draft National Standards for Day Care Service Provision. The Draft National Standards will be put through rigorous consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. In 2019, the following steps were completed in this project :



Completion of the Assessment of Quality of Day Care Service Provision



Formation of a multidisciplinary Technical Working Group with experts from a range of different fields



Review Clinics with senior officials of each sector/organization to solidify the first draft

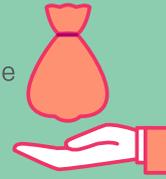
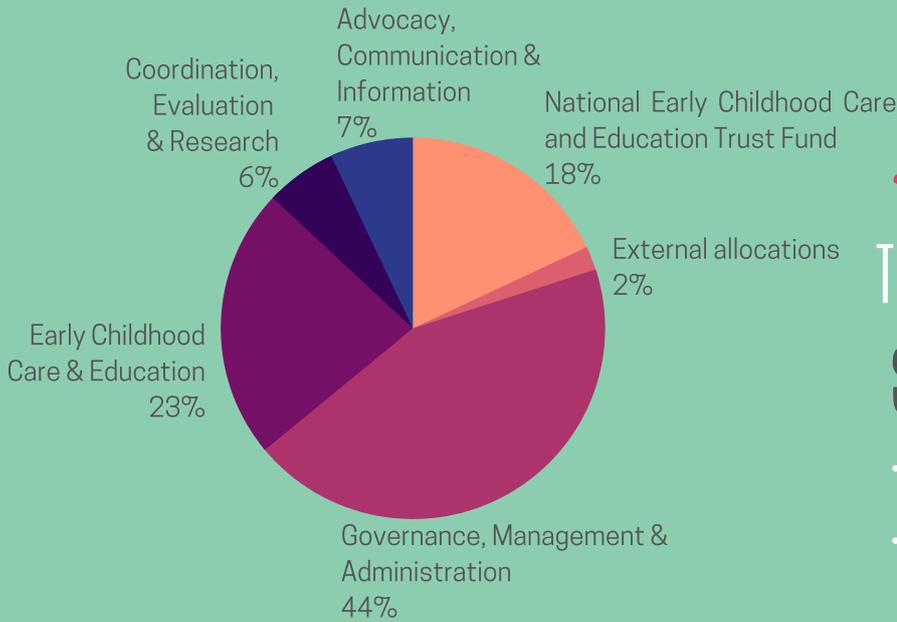


Multiple meetings and discussions, including working groups and skype meeting with international consultant to formulate a first draft



Sensitisation and Consultation session with Day Care Operators including presentation of draft standards and collection of feedback

# Finance & Human Resources



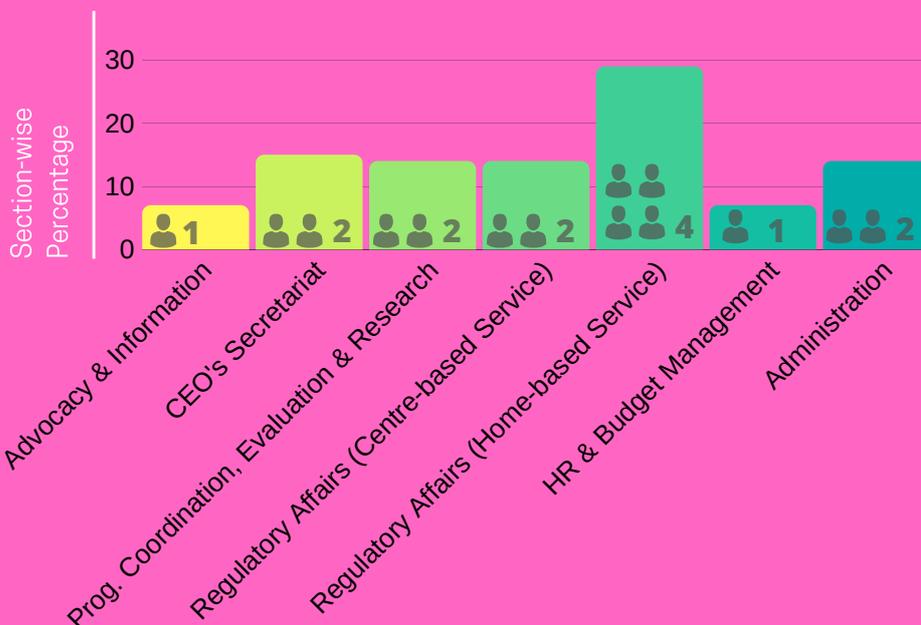
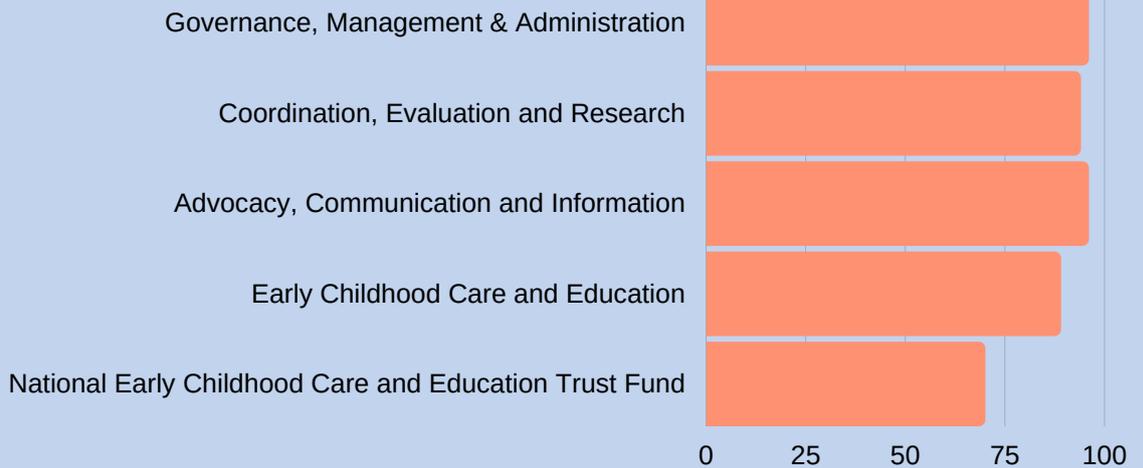
Total Allocated Budget  
SCR 9,178,057.23

- Government of Seychelles initiated a budget cut of 6%
- IECD received CSR donations from 8 donors

Percentage expenditure of allocated budget



## Programme expenditure



## Staffing at the Institute





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④ IECD SEYCHELLES