

**2nd Edition of the Regional Workshop
on “Progress and Way Forward on Tashkent Declaration and
Commitments to Action for Transforming Early Childhood Care and
Education (ECCE)”**

With the participation of Countries from Northern & Western Africa and the Arab States.

Date: 18th to 21st November 2025

Venue: Mahe, Seychelles

Main organizer:

The Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD), Seychelles
Category 2 Institutes under the Auspices of UNESCO

Partners:

Government of Seychelles
UNESCO Secretariat
Relevant UNESCO Regional Offices

Concept Note

Background

The Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD), a Category 2 Institute for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) under the Auspices of UNESCO, recognizes the crucial role of ECCE in shaping the future of the world. The 'Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action for Transforming ECCE' provides the blueprint for a comprehensive framework for advancing ECCE, ensuring equitable access, and fostering the holistic development of young children in alignment with the targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Following the Tashkent+1: Celebrating Progress and Reaffirming Commitments to ECCE, an event organized by UNESCO in November 2023, and also the second-year celebration in November 2024 after Tashkent, the need for reaffirmed actions to ensure progress towards achieving the commitments towards attaining SDG.4.2 was made clear as the realization of these goals remains a global challenge.

In the African and Arab States, challenges for ECCE include low access and enrollment, particularly for vulnerable children in countries suffering from multi-faceted crises, a shortage of qualified ECCE workforce, and lack of research on the benefits of ECCE for young children and society.

To support the realization of this objective, especially against the aforementioned challenges, the IECD as a designated UNESCO Category 2 Institute for ECCE is organizing its second three-day workshop, this time around, for the benefit of the Arab, North & West Africa Regions. The workshop aims to review progress and chart future strategies for fulfilling these commitments with a focus on knowledge management, capacity building, and monitoring and impact evaluation.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Regional Workshop is to evaluate the implementation status of the 'Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action', among other local achievements and issues, across participating countries. It also aims at providing opportunities for increased collaboration placing a significant emphasis on the multi-sectoral approach to implementing early childhood services to holistically support young children's development, leveraging diverse expertise and resources for better outcomes. It is also an occasion for knowledge sharing of success stories, best practices, and challenges faced during the execution of ECCE initiatives. It will provide a platform for exploring strategies and collaborative initiatives to propel the region forward in achieving its ECCE goals with the support of IECD as a Category 2 Institute for ECCE.

Expected Outcomes

1. A comprehensive understanding of the progress and challenges in implementing the 'Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action' within participating countries.
2. Identification of critical areas for technical assistance and support to advance ECCE initiatives.
3. Development of regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing mechanisms for effective ECCE implementation.

Participants

Senior Government Officials and ECCE experts from the Education, Social and Health Sector of the below 33 participating countries involved in strategic and policy planning, and implementation of ECCE provisions, programmes and services in these important Ministries.

These targeted countries are as follows: Algeria, Bahrain, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

It is to be noted that 16 countries from the Eastern and Southern Africa participated in

the inaugural Regional Workshop held in June 2024. The workshop was a great success and the necessary follow up actions are being undertaken to advance this agenda on the continent. For more information, please visit the IECD's official website – www.iecd.gov.sc

Funding

The Institute is adopting a cost sharing approach for the smooth delivery of the three-day workshop. Therefore, countries/organisations will be responsible for covering the expenses related to the flight and accommodation of the nominated participants. IECD will undertake the costs associated with all the technical aspects, local transportation, and meals throughout the duration of the entire workshop.

Methodology

The workshop will employ a combination of plenary sessions, panel discussions, working groups, and interactive sessions to facilitate comprehensive discussions, sharing of experiences, and knowledge exchange.

The workshop will be delivered in two modes: firstly, IECD will host a preparatory online session with the participants who have confirmed their participation. This will feed into the programme of the main in-person workshop. The virtual session will target the 33 countries, including representatives from the UNESCO Secretariat and relevant Regional Offices. The in-person event will be held in Seychelles to further consolidate the preparatory session for comprehensive discussions, planning, and exchanges among visits.

Countries will be required to make a 5-minute presentation (either a PowerPoint Presentation or a brief video) on the successes and challenges in the implementation of the Tashkent Declaration and their countries respective national strategic or policy frameworks for ECCE.

It is anticipated that the event will also entail a high-level forum amongst the senior officers and/or head of delegation from the participating countries on the importance of financing ECCE, its vital role towards achieving SDG 4.2 by 2030, and the critical issues faced due to underfunding and disparities in access and service provision.

Logistics

Detailed logistical arrangements including a list of proposed accommodation, local transportation and an information note with important details will be coordinated and shared with participants, following their confirmation, by the Institute of Early Childhood Development, UNESCO Category 2 Institute.

Conclusion

The Regional Workshop for countries from North & West Africa and the Arab States on Progress and Way Forward for the Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action aims to create a collaborative platform to propel the communities towards achieving its ECCE goals through technical assistance and support of IECD as a UNESCO Category 2 Institute for ECCE. By fostering multi sectoral collaboration, dialogue, sharing experiences, and strategizing collectively, the workshop endeavors to contribute significantly to the development and further enhancement of early childhood care and education in these countries on the African continent and beyond.