



Making Early Childhood Development Real: Stories from Grassroots to Government Action

AN NGO SIDE EVENT TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S 2025 ANNUAL DAY ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.

**12 March, 13:00-14:00 Early Childhood Development and Human Rights
Room XXV, United Nations Geneva,
Hybrid Webex**

Background

Early childhood is crucial for safeguarding children's rights to ensure their survival, development, and well-being. As rights-holders, children are entitled to the care and support needed to reach their potential, as outlined in the UNCRC and General Comment 7. Their interactions with caregivers, communities, and environments shape their development with lasting effects.

States must uphold children's rights in all contexts, whether in stable or crisis situations, rural or urban settings. Failing to protect these rights leads to preventable child mortality, poor health, educational setbacks, and long-term exclusion. Institutions, particularly during early childhood, deprive children of stable caregivers and nurturing care, leading to delays, attachment disorders, and disadvantages in education and mental health. In line with SDG 4, which calls for inclusive education, we urge member states to reform child-care systems, moving away from institutions, including those run by non-state actors, and ensuring every child grows up in a loving family and learns in a supportive environment.

Investing in early childhood development ensures children grow in safe, nurturing environments. Supporting families with quality services—healthcare, nutrition, responsive caregiving, and social protection—helps prevent separation. A multisectoral, rights-based approach is essential for breaking cycles of poverty, empowering children, and eliminating the causes of family separation. High-quality, accessible community-based ECD services are key to supporting vulnerable children and keeping families together.

Webex <https://tinyurl.com/ECD-Child-Rights>

Number: 2742 125 5977

Password: 9pfRRfAzg33

Join by video system Dial 27421255977@ungeneva-vc.webex.com



Agenda

Opening Remarks - UN General Assembly Rights of the Child 2025 resolution - Early childhood development

Facilitator - Pamela Dale, **UNICEF Social Policy Regional Advisor**

The role of play in the life of a child

“Stories from the Ground” - Grassroots Testimonies

- V, a child from Moldova who has run consultations with young children with disabilities in Early Childhood Intervention centres and Inclusive Kindergartens in Floresti, rural Moldova, **Lumos Moldova**
- Mr Emmanuel Sherwin, **Hope and Homes for Children Coordinator of the Child Rights Connect Taskforce on Inclusive Social Protection**
- A parent who has experience of ECD programming, **Jordan River Foundation & Family for Everychild**
- Amina Shishany, Jordan Early Childhood Development Programming, **Plan International**
- Tricia Young, Director, Prioritising Early Childhood Development in Emergencies, **Moving Minds Alliance,**
- Louise Thivant, Executive Director, Child participation in the early years. **Child and Youth Friendly Governance Project**

Catalyzing financing for the early years

- Pamela Dale, **UNICEF Social Policy Regional Advisor**
- Dominic Richardson Executive Director, **Learning for Well-being**

Closing remarks: Child from Syria, 9.5 years old. Advocates for children affected by war and were forcibly displaced.

Contacts:

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FOR CHILDREN** 

**LEARNING FOR
WELL-BEING
FOUNDATION** 



**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL
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الحركة العالمية للدفاع عن الأطفال** 
THE WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

