

Every Pikinini Matters

Early Childhood Development (ECD) Newsletter

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Honiara, Solomon Islands

Message from the ECD National Steering Committee



On behalf of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) National Steering Committee, I am delighted to present the first edition of the ECD newsletter for 2025.

This edition proudly highlights our multisectoral efforts and collaborations in advancing ECD, showcasing the significant progress we have made in strengthening its implementation.

Our primary focus remains ensuring that the ECD policy is effectively translated into actionable strategies through sectoral adoption and integration. The three-year action plan serves as a critical framework to deliver programs, services, and interventions that will benefit our youngest children.

Since the development of the multisectoral ECD Policy and Action Plan, the ECD landscape in our country has evolved considerably. Our unwavering commitment and passion to create meaningful change and impact in the lives of futures of our young children remain steadfast. Through collective action, we have fostered stronger collaborations with our stakeholders and partners, driving progress to even greater heights.

The ECD National Steering Committee, with the invaluable support of the ECD Technical Working Group, will continue to champion ECD initiatives and turn ambitious plans into tangible realities. However, achieving these goals requires a “whole-of-country” and a “whole-of-sector” approach. We strongly encourage all stakeholders to unite and move forward together to create resilient, healthy, educated and empowered future generations for our nation.

Dr. Franco Rodie

Permanent Secretary

ECD National Steering Committee Chair

Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development
(MEHRD)

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Dialogue Consultation on Measuring ECD

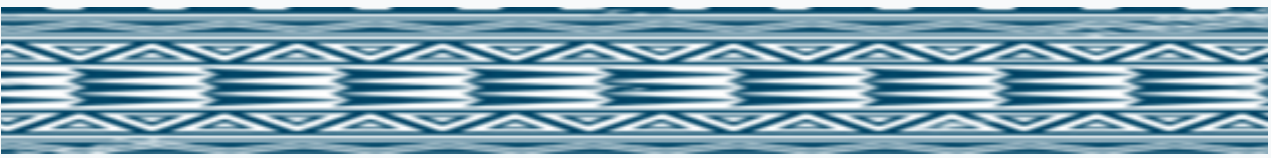


Recognizing the importance of determining ECD performance, the national ECD Technical Working Group through the leadership of the Ministry of Education, a consultation dialogue was held on 04 February 2025. At least 15 relevant ECD key stakeholders comprised of monitoring experts and technical officers from the ECD sector partners gathered to discuss and agree on establishing a system of monitoring results for young children in the country using a standardized monitoring tool for use by ECD sector ministries.

The consultation dialogue aimed at designing a standard monitoring tool tailored for effective reporting of ECD policy and program implementation; exploring opportunities to implement adaptive management practices to continuously improve the ECD monitoring process and outcomes using the agreed standard ECD monitoring tool and strengthening collaboration in sustaining and scaling up ECD monitoring and reporting practices.

Dr. Franco Rodie, Permanent Secretary of MEHRD and Chairman of the ECD National Steering Committee reiterated not to be ambitious in designing monitoring system and that monitoring must be simple, measurable and attainable with the available resources and must be carried out by planning strategically.

The consultation identified key actions and recommendations in carrying out next steps in establishing ECD monitoring and reporting practices by all ECD sectors, and these were: designing a standard monitoring tool; ensure monitoring tool is adaptable to all sector reporting ECD results; include assessment of program effectiveness, conduct pre-testing of the monitoring tool to ensure context-based and adaptable; conduct capacity-building of users, and explore use of online monitoring.



Setting up of an ECE Model Center in Guadalcanal Province



Guadalcanal Province, in partnership with its education provider, is preparing to implement ECE Model Centers designed to offer nurturing and stimulating environments for children aged 3 to 4 years. The scoping of ECE centers within the province is scheduled for April this year to lay the foundation for this initiative.

'ECE Model Centers must be specialized facilities that provide nurturing and stimulating environments for young children in the province, promoting holistic development through structured and play-based learning approaches. Systematic mapping will help identify gaps, address complex challenges, and provide evidence-based insights to strengthen ECE centers through informed decision-making and increased investments in early learning, in collaboration with the Provincial Government and the education provider,' explained by Gloria Votua, ECD Provincial Manager.

The Guadalcanal Provincial Government has developed a Provincial Action Plan for ECD (2023–2026) as a guiding framework for multisectoral delivery of ECD programs and services, partnerships, resource mobilization, and allocations within the province. The interventions outlined in this plan align closely with the Guadalcanal Provincial Government's broader objectives and high-impact priorities to improve child development indicators, consistent with the multisectoral National ECD Policy. The establishment of ECE Model Centers represents Guadalcanal Province's ongoing commitment—together with the Provincial Education Provider—to ensure that young children, especially those aged 3 to 4 years, have access to quality, inclusive early learning opportunities that equip them with essential skills and competencies for the future.

Key Message:

"Coordinated support is key to making sure parents and caregivers have the necessary knowledge, skills and support needed to provide nurturing care for young children"

MEHRD completes ECD case study on Early Childhood Education Centers



A simple case study to examine the implementation of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in selected Early Childhood Education (ECE) Centres in the Solomon Islands, with particular focus on understanding the extent to which ECE Centres provide enabling and supportive learning environments that promote early childhood development was carried out by the Ministry of Education.

Conducted in 10 ECE Centres, the ECD case study comprised 5 Centres in Guadalcanal Province and 5 Centres in Honiara. The study aimed to assess the effectiveness of ECE Centers in

implementing the national ECD policy and programs, which is crucial for the holistic development of children aged 3-4 years old. Specifically, the study sought to identify the extent of practices, challenges, and areas for improvement in providing high-quality and responsive early childhood education in the Solomon Islands.

Findings from this will contribute to the development of evidence-based policies, investment case to improve ECE funding and resources, and interventions enhancing the learning outcomes, participation, and overall well-being of children 3-4 years old in the Solomon Islands. Additionally, the study will provide valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and stakeholders involved or with key interest in early childhood education, to make informed decisions and planning to support the development of 3-4-year-old children during their most formative years.

Participating ECE Centres in this study were all government-subsidized centers with respondents consisted exclusively of ECE teachers and supervisors. Once the ECD case study report is finalized, it will be submitted to the ECD National Committee for approval. Key actions will then be considered to ensure effective support for ECE Centers, guided by the recommendations outlined in the report

Key Message:

"Government, communities, and partners must work with through the country's health system to:

- Ensure that all pregnant women have timely access to high quality and respectful care, before, during, and after child birth*
- Ensure continuing access for all children to high quality essential primary healthcare and nutrition"*



ECD Technical Working Group gathers to strengthen support to ECD

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) hosted the regular ECD Technical Working Group on 24 March 2025 at MEHRD conference room. Director Jullian Fenny Lilo, Director of MEHRD Schools Services Division chaired the meeting participated by other TWG members Dr. Nemias Bainivalu, Deputy Secretary-Health Improvement of MHMS, Robert Kaua, Deputy Secretary, Provincial Governance, MPGIS, and Loretta Ta'ake Whitney, Director Children's Division and MEHRD ECD Technical Advisor, Mr. Edward Dawatan.

The meeting presented highlighted key updates on several ECD accomplishments from the 4th quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025. The meeting also looked at the ECD Case Study findings presented by the ECD Technical Advisor recommended for approval of the ECD National ECD Committee and sharing to relevant ECD stakeholders to inform planning relevant to their areas to enable strengthening ECE sub-sectors which was the focus of the study.




During the meeting, it was agreed to advance preparations for the Solomon Islands' participation in the high-level ministerial meeting in Samoa this coming May. The initial steps included responding to the regional ECD survey, where the Solomon Islands is among the participating countries.

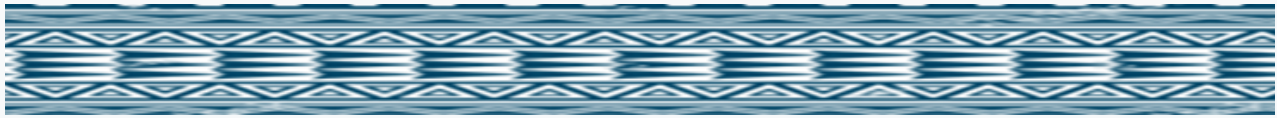
“We are committed to strengthening the ECD agenda in the country through shared responsibility and multisectoral efforts, that is why we the ECD Technical Working Group continues to foster this collaboration to create change and impact young children” Director Julianne quoted.

The TWG has agreed to convene an ECD National Steering Committee meeting in the coming days to further deliberate on the next steps for ECD and to prepare for the country's participation in the Forum in Samoa. The ECD National Steering Committee includes the Permanent Secretaries from key sector ministries such as MEHRD, MHMS, MWYCFA, MAL, MPGIS, MNPDC, and MoFT

Key Message:

"Support ECD Policy and action plan implementation by adapting national ECD priorities and integrating into Annual Operation Plan"





Solomon Islands participating in the Pacific Regional ECD Survey

The Solomon Islands is actively participating in the Pacific Regional ECD Survey as one of the 15 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) that endorsed the Pasifika Call to Action on Early Childhood Development. The survey covers 15 PICTs that endorsed the strategic actions, including: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

The purpose of this survey is to provide a status update on ECD in Solomon Islands according to the 10 strategic actions and five cross-cutting themes: (1) culture and identity; (2) equity; (3) access; (4) emergency preparedness and response; and (5) challenges, good practices and opportunities. The previous survey was conducted in 2022 and the current survey tracks progress on key indicators from 2023 through 2025.

The information from this survey will be utilized to prepare 15 country profiles on the status of ECD in 2025, as well as a report that summarized key findings for each strategic action for the Pacific Region. The country profiles and report can be used for continued advocacy, programme planning and improvement to strengthen policies, systems and services that support young children's holistic development.

Under the leadership of the Solomon Islands ECD Technical Working Group, coordination with the relevant ECD sector ministries is underway to ensure comprehensive information is provided for the survey. This effort aims to accurately capture the country's ongoing sector-level and multisector initiatives in Early Childhood Development (ECD), reflecting the actual delivery of programs, services, and interventions for young children



Meet your community ECD Champion

“Passionate, dedicated and deeply committed to children” – these qualities define our community ECD Champion in the person of Anna Manakiki, ECE Supervisor at Nguvia ECE in Guadalcanal Province.

Anna has been transforming the lives of 3-4-year-old children for the past 12 years. Her unwavering dedication to teaching and supervising the ECE Center stand as a true testament to her passion and commitment.

For more information about ECD or to submit content for the ECD newsletter, please contact the ECD Technical Working Group:

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