

ECDAN STRATEGY

2024-2028

AT A GLANCE



ECDAN is a global network that catalyzes collective action with and for young children and their caregivers. We were established in 2016 by leaders of UNICEF, the World Bank Group, and 80 other partners to achieve better early childhood development (ECD) outcomes for children from conception to age 8. Since ECDAN's inception, we have built a network of more than 300 partner organizations, 4,400 individual members across 167 countries, and 10,000 LinkedIn followers. In 2020, we launched our first strategy (2020-2023) with four clearly articulated strategic objectives. In refreshing our strategy for the coming five years, we used a consultative, participatory, and inclusive process. The resulting strategy is designed to take ECDAN to the next level of its evolution.

Updated Strategy

We reassessed the landscape and considered what is most needed as well as how the network can work most effectively to drive the agenda for young children. Reflection on the context highlighted that progress in ECD will require greater connectivity of actors—including dynamic coalitions and alliances—that demonstrate how best evidence and implementation expertise can be applied. It will require public demand and political will for increased investment and better, more inclusive services, supported by a fresh, cohesive narrative and associated advocacy push for ECD. It is these elements that form the building blocks of ECDAN's refreshed strategy.

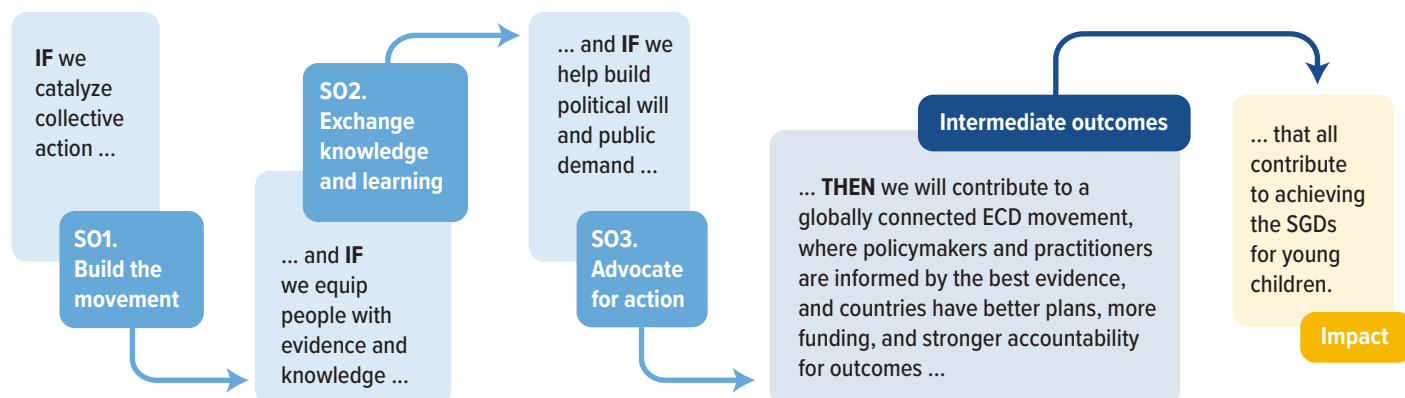
Impact

The impact that ECDAN's strategy aims to contribute to is tied to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We selected targets that relate to child well-being and cover all aspects of nurturing care named in our vision statement.



Theory of Change

ECDAN's theory of change is mapped on to the overall strategic framework and shows the sequencing and interconnectedness of the strategic objectives. It also shows how these objectives contribute to the intermediate outcomes that will ultimately lead to the desired impact.



Strategic Shifts

The new strategy period will see a number of strategic shifts for ECDAN:

- » **FRAMING:** Stronger and cohesive narrative for ECD; a clearer focus on the most vulnerable.
- » **FUNCTIONS:** Clearer delineation of three mutually supportive functions, as expressed in our strategic objectives; a commitment to uplifting local voices in the global space.
- » **GOVERNANCE:** Review of our sustainability and governance, and a commitment to act accordingly.
- » **PRIORITY ISSUES:** Priority focus on financing for ECD, parenting in humanitarian settings, childcare, climate change and environmental degradation, disability inclusion, and systems strengthening.
- » **RESOURCING:** Ambition to raise multiyear flexible funding to a level of at least US\$5 million per year.

Strategic Framework

To respond to what we learned implementing our first strategy and respond to the current context, we have developed a strategic framework that depicts both what the network aims to achieve as well as how this will be done.

VISION	A world where every young child is well-nourished, healthy, happy, learning, and safe.		
IMPACT	No child is left behind and the SDGs related to improved child well-being are achieved. [1.1, 2.2, 3.2, 4.2, 16.2]		
MISSION	Catalyze collective action with and for young children and their caregivers by connecting and aligning partners, sharing knowledge and good practice, and advocating for better policies, more resources, and accountability for results.		
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	S01. Build a movement: Catalyze collective action with diverse partners for shared ECD goals.	S02. Exchange knowledge and learning: Connect partners to generate and use knowledge and evidence to improve policies and practice.	S03. Advocate for action: Build political will and public demand for better policies, more resources, quality implementation, and greater accountability for results.
INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES	1. Increased collective action to prioritize young children's issues across global, regional, and national levels.	2. Policy makers and ECD practitioners share and apply evidence and lessons learned to strengthen policies and plans.	3. ODA and domestic financing for young children increased. 4. Countries with multisectoral ECD policies/ plans increased.
OUTPUTS	1.1. Increased and improved collaboration between ECDAN partners and global partnerships, regional, and thematic networks. 1.2. Collective action taken to respond to emerging issues.	2.1. Learning opportunities increased and effective (e.g., webinars, events, learning hubs, and the online community). 2.2. Knowledge products produced, curated on ECD Knowledge Gateway, and used. 2.3. Early career ECD professionals' capacity strengthened.	3.1. Advocacy campaigns launched and expanded. 3.2. Increased access to advocacy resources and capacity-strengthening opportunities to connect global, regional, and national efforts. 3.3. Increased visibility of advocacy messages and stories across communication channels brings more attention to ECD goals.
ENABLERS	Adequate financial resources Highly skilled Secretariat Effective governance Engaged partners Dynamic communications		

Principles



Human and child rights



Anti-racist and non-discrimination



Collaboration and leverage



Equity and inclusion



Localization



Transparency and accountability



Gender equality



Respect



Innovation

Way Forward

This strategy marks an important moment for the network, whereby we expect ECDAN to have even greater impact through collective action. It also comes at a moment when the state of the world for children is in the balance. At this point of time of polycrisis when conflict, displacement, natural disasters, and inequalities are on the rise, our goals cannot be achieved with business as usual. The challenges are beyond what each one of us can tackle alone. It is the time to be bold, innovate, and collaborate.

Join the Movement

Whether you are a government leader or a childcare provider, a global partnership or a grassroots organization, we invite you to join the movement by centering the needs of young children and their caregivers. There are many ways to get involved.

- Sign up for news alerts including learning events, resources, calls to action, and more: bit.ly/ecdan-signup.
- Visit our resource hubs and make use of the latest research, developments, and guidance: ecdand.org/resources/.
- Become an official ECDAN partner and commit to collaborating with others to advance shared goals: ecdand.org/become-a-partner/.
- Develop and share expertise through interactions with other professionals working for and with young children in ECDAN's online community: connect.ecdan.org.
- Uplift key messages by sharing or tailoring posts on social media to raise the profile of young children's needs.



ECDAN

Early Childhood Development Action Network

455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20001

Email: info@ecdand.org • Website: www.ecdan.org



**VIEW FULL
STRATEGY REPORT**



bit.ly/4bffnw5