



ECDAN's 10 Years of Impact



80 partners in 2016

364 partners in 2026

The Network is Born

The Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) was established in 2016 by leaders of UNICEF, the World Bank Group, and 80 other partners to build a movement and catalyze collective action to improve outcomes for young children from conception to age eight. We want every child to realize their full potential.

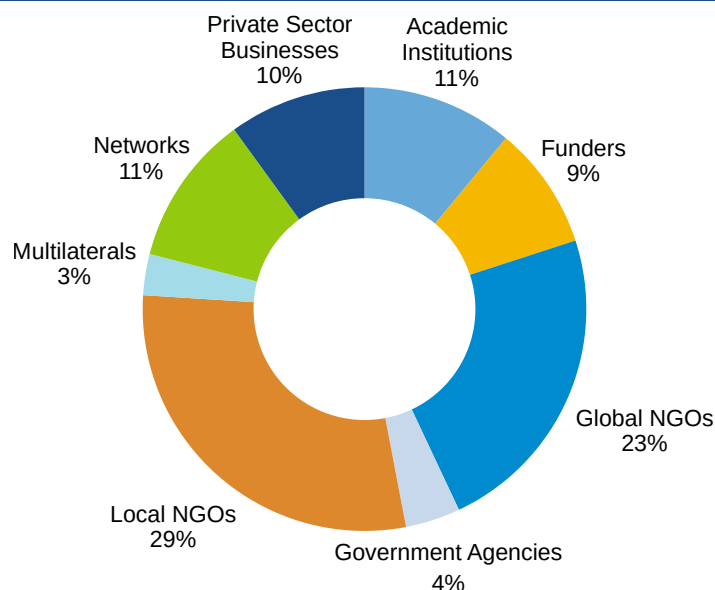
One decade later, with over 360 partners, we are the only global network focused exclusively on the holistic needs of young children and their caregivers.

Our Mission

We 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.

Since our inception, we have focused on **building a movement**, **learning together**, and **advocating for action**.

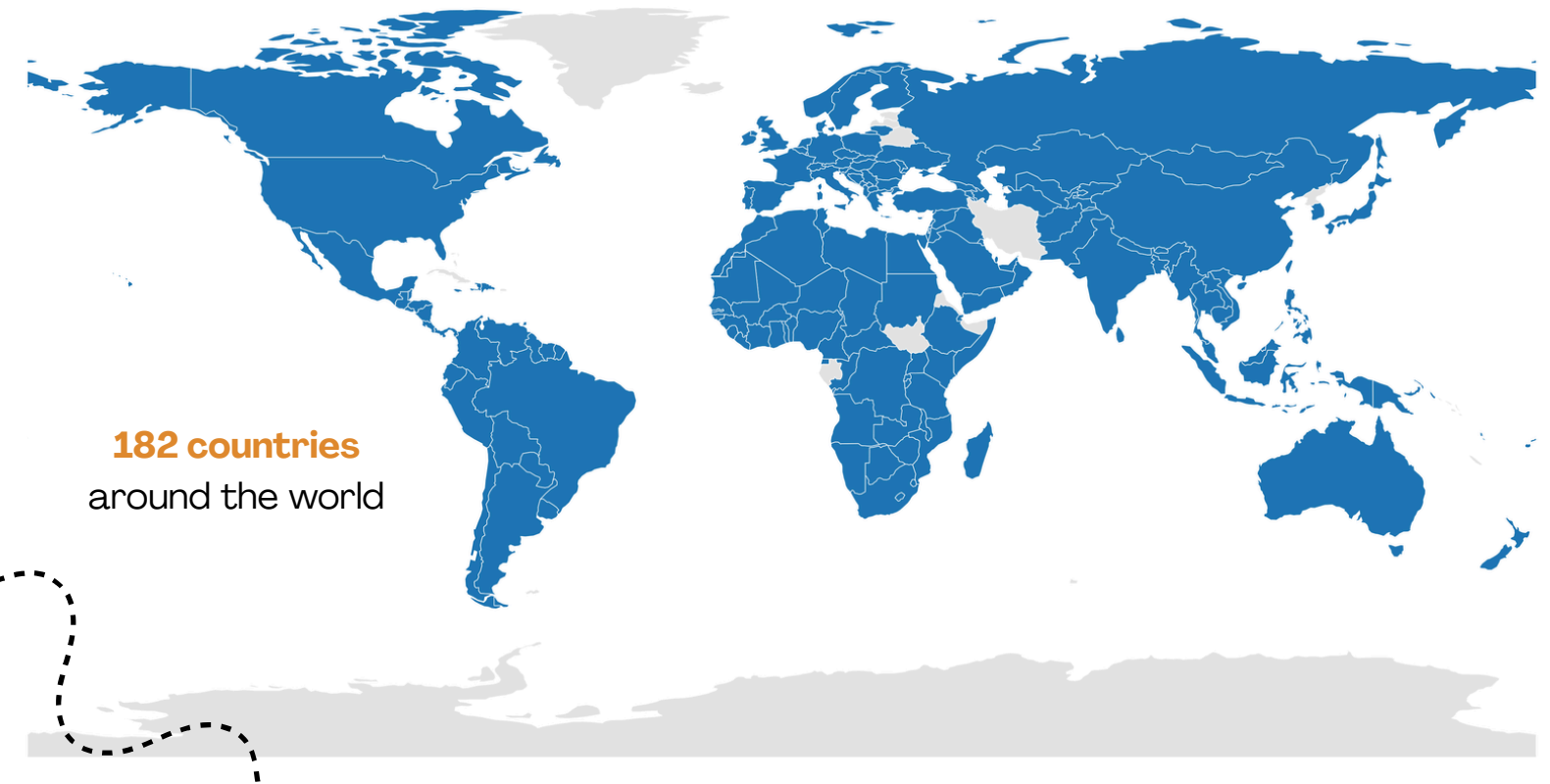
Who We Are



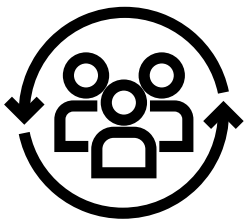
Our strength lies in the diversity of our partners. With multilateral agencies, global partnerships focused on different themes, local civil society organizations, and everything in between, ECDAN welcomes everyone working toward our vision of a world where every young child is well nourished, healthy, happy, learning, and safe.

The variety of expertise and experience that our partners bring to the table facilitates meaningful peer learning, resource sharing, and collective action at the global, regional, country, and local levels.

Our Global Reach: Where Our Members Live



Network Engagement Achievements



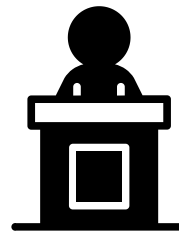
17 collaborative groups
with **135 organizations**
participating



17 funders
provided sustaining
support



65,170 followers
across social media and
email platforms



**55 global and regional
convenings**
where ECD was
elevated



**111 virtual learning
events**
reached over
73,000 registrants



34 Knowledge Fellows
from **23 countries**
completed the program



17 calls to action
mobilized network
members



68 global goods
created to inform
advocacy, investments,
and implementation

The Network in Action

2016

Lancet article *Advancing ECD: From Science to Scale* published.

ECDAN launched at the World Bank Spring Meetings.

2017

Seven Task Forces with members from the ECD community set up ECDAN and an Interim Executive Group formed for governance.

2018

Nurturing Care Framework developed and disseminated.

Countdown 2030 country ECD profiles published.

G20 Initiative for ECD launched.

2019

ECD Knowledge Gateway launched.

Knowledge Fellows program initiated.

2020

ECD Guidelines launched.

ECDAN's 1st strategy 2020-2023 approved and ELC formed for governance.

2021

Global Partnership Strategy launched.

Childcare4All campaign and the Global Initiative to Support Parents launched.

2022

Tashkent Declaration prioritizing early childhood education adopted by 147 member states.

The World Bank launched the Invest in Childcare Initiative with more than \$100 million in funding.

The Systems Thinking for ECD and NurtureFirst Collaboratives launched.

Network response to COVID-19 catalyzed.

2023

Nurturing Care Framework 5-year reflection report published.

COP28's outcome document recognized the disproportionate impact of climate change on young children.

2024

Lancet series *ECD and the Next 1000 Days* published.

1st Global Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children.

ECDAN's 2nd strategy 2024-2028 approved.

ECDAN's systems thinking master class received 12,000 registrations.

2025

G20 leaders' declaration recognized ECD as central to sustainable development.

ECDAN launched phase two of the Childcare4All campaign with the CARE Initiative and dissemination the Childcare Systems Map.

2026

The 1st Global Caregiver Forum framed universal parenting support as a policy priority.

The Global Technical Financing Forum elevated solutions to increasing and improving financing for the early years.

2nd Ending Violence Against Children Conference tracked progress towards pledges.



Photo credits: UNICEF/UNI972489/Andrianatenaina (above), Special Olympics International (below)



Thematic Priorities in Our First Decade

1

Responding to crises such as COVID-19, conflict, climate shocks, natural disasters, and other emerging needs by sharing resources and expertise across the network.

2

Elevating childcare as a global priority by launching the Childcare4All campaign and mobilizing demand for public financing.

3

Increasing the visibility of young children within climate action planning processes and forming alliances with partners in the climate justice movement.

4

Launching the Global Initiative to Support Parents, a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at accelerating investments and innovations to scale up universal parenting support.

5

Promoting a systems approach to ECD and developing collaborative tools like the Childcare Systems Map to guide service delivery and policy development.

6

Bridging movements at the country level to build political will and public demand for childcare through the CARE Initiative.

7

Advancing efforts to increase and improve financing for young children through the 2026 Financing Forum and co-creation of the Financing Toolbox for the Early Years.

8

Supporting the Act for Early Years campaign to prepare the first ever International Finance Summit for Early Childhood in 2027.

9

Compiling 197 ECD country profiles aligned to the Nurturing Care Framework to track key data across countries and support global monitoring and policy action.

10

Strengthening the field by supporting early-career professionals with mentorship and networking opportunities through the Knowledge Fellows program.

Member Voices on the Value of the Network



My active engagement with ECDAN has significantly strengthened my capacity in systems transformation and strategic planning for ECD...I have deepened my expertise in analyzing complex ECD systems and designing reform pathways grounded in evidence and international best practice.

-Member in the United Arab Emirates

The biggest impact of our participation in ECDAN has been improvement in the quality of early learning experiences we provide, particularly through the use of evidence-based, play-centered strategies that enhance children's engagement, development, and well-being.

-Member in Sierra Leone



Through ECDAN we are better connected with regional and global actors, which has improved the quality of our program design and advocacy.

-Member in Bangladesh

Participation in ECDAN has strengthened our organization's knowledge, capacity, and global connections in early childhood development. It provided access to valuable resources, webinars, and best practices that improved our program planning and advocacy efforts.

-Member in Pakistan

Engagement with ECDAN has shifted our organization's core identity from being a traditional service provider to becoming a system's catalyst. Through this evolution, our organization now drives the agenda for inclusive education and development, moving beyond basic service provision to influence the broader ecosystem of support for young children and their caregivers.

-Member in the United Kingdom



ECDAN is the glue, the consciousness, and the catalytic force for the field...It has been a game changer in bringing the voices of all these stakeholders together and converging on a common narrative of ECD for economic, social, and sustainable development as a whole.

-Borhene Chakroun, ECDAN ELC Co-Chair

SO1. Build a Movement



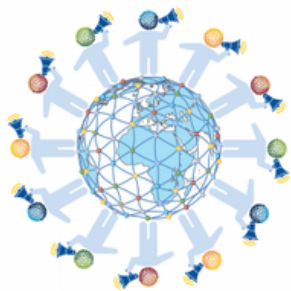
- Build upon momentum from the Global Technical Financing Forum and **prepare for the International Finance Summit for Early Childhood in 2027**. This includes finalizing the **Financing Toolbox for the Early Years**, testing it in countries, and deepening knowledge and skills around increasing and improving financing for the young children.
- Prepare for the **post-2030 agenda** to ensure young children are prioritized.
- Continue to promote a **systems approach** to ECD.
- Forge partnerships around the **impact of AI and technology** on young children and their caregivers.
- Strengthen collaboration with actors across movements and sectors including **climate justice, humanitarian response, early trauma, disability inclusion, and child rights**.

SO2. Exchange Knowledge and Learning

- Continue to plan and deliver engaging **virtual learning events** that feature a range of stakeholders at global, national, and local levels.
- Increase **cross-country learning** and connections on a range of topics including application of the Financing Toolbox for the Early Years.
- Disseminate the **latest resources and tools**.
- Convene partners to **co-create** and use resources, tools, and guidance documents.
- Continue the **Knowledge Fellows** program.



SO3. Advocate for Action



- Nurture the **Childcare Advocacy, Research, and Engagement (CARE) Initiative's community of practice** and document lessons learned.
- **Strengthen the capacity of local advocates** to engage in budgeting processes, climate action planning, and other key policy processes affecting young children.
- Advance preparation for the **UN Climate Conference (COP)** each year and elevate the needs of young children.
- Mobilize public demand and civil society engagement through **calls to action** and equip them with **advocacy tools**.

THANK
YOU

Everything ECDAN is able to achieve is made possible through the generous support of donors and the invaluable in-kind contributions of partner organizations. Dedicating staff time, expertise, and resources strengthens our collective efforts.

THANK YOU for staying engaged and championing holistic services for young children and their caregivers around the world.

Let's see what we can accomplish in our next decade!