Greetings, ECDtf members and friends,

This Message # 21 alerts you to recent activities and developments of interest, upcoming events, and new resources. Our new strategic plan is now in action. Formal and informal gatherings and presentations by ECDtf folks are expected in October in Atlanta at the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families and in Sveti Martin na Muri at the 4th Croatia Symposium on Early Childhood Intervention, then in December in Istanbul at the International Developmental Pediatrics Congress. We hope you will join us at one or several of these meet-ups; details below. We welcome your comments and contributions as we move forward.

**Featured resources:**


- [http://dgsjournal.org/current-issue](http://dgsjournal.org/current-issue)


Kudos and appreciation for including access to ECD as a vital element of Inclusive Education SDG’s p.13; disappointment and frustration that despite this progress, ECD is not mentioned in the report’s “Key Messages” (p.3) and the important World Bank Stepping Up ECD report appears only in a footnote and without full citation at the close of the report.
SEEKING COMMENTATOR:

If you would be interested in composing a “Task Force Talk” commentary on the Dark Side of Resilience as it manifests in ECD initiatives, please contact donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu. Examples of current discussion include: http://psycritiquesblog.apa.org/2015/05/is-there-a-dark-side-of-resilience.html

Topics (detailed below):

1. ECDtf and GPcwd updates
2. Calls for Proposals
   - ICEVI 2016 – due August 31, 2015
   - ACEI Global Summit on Childhood – due September 28, 2015
3. Upcoming meetings
   - September 2-4  International Society for Child Indicators, Capetown, SA
   - September 7-9  International Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health, Geneva, SW
   - October 1-3    4th Croatian Symposium on Early Intervention, Sveti Martin na Muri
   - October 1-2    Ready-nation Global Summit on Early Childhood Investment, NY
   - October 1-2    http://youngchildexpo.com/spokane-conference  Spokane WA USA
   - October 4-8    6th Africa Forum, Kampala, Uganda
   - October 7-9    CEC/DEC International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs, Atlanta, GA USA
   - Oct 15-16     Institute for Child Success  Greenville, SC, USA
   - October 21-23  OAICD, Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusivity; Toronto, Canada
   - November 1-2   Ruderman Incusion Institute, Boston, MA USA
   - November 6-7   HICN Workshop, Understanding the Role of Institutions During and After Violent Conflict Toronto, Canada
   - December 2-5   International Developmental Pediatrics Congress  Istanbul, Turkey
   - March 31-Apr 3 ACEI Global Summit on Childhood,  San Jose, Costa Rica
   - June 8-10/16   ISEI, Children’s Rights & Early Intervention, Stockholm, Sweden
   - August, 2016  International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) and the World Blind Union (WBU), Orlando, FL USA

4. Professional Development Webinars & Resources
5. Time out for humor
6. Job Postings
7. New resources
1. ECDtf & GPCwd updates

a) Our appreciation to ECDtf member Lilia Jelamschi who represented us at the June conference, as she reports here: On Thursday, 11 June 2015, the GPCwd and UNICEF organized a side event during the EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. The discussion during the side event focused on the importance of strengthening collaboration for children with disabilities. Four Task Forces of the GPCwd - Child Protection, Early Childhood Development, Leadership and Mentoring and Physical Activities and Sport presented their achievements to enhance the rights of Children with disabilities, share opportunities for engagement and announce key plans for the future in light of the Post-2015 agenda.

Speakers were Ms. Rosangela Berman Bieler, Chief of the Disability Section at UNICEF; Nora Ellen Groce, Leonard Cheshire Chair Director, Leonard Cheshire Disability & Inclusive Development Centre; Nolan Quigley (Lumos Foundation) representing the GPCwd TF on Child Protection; Lilia Jelamschi (UNICEF, ECD Section) representing ECDtf, the GPCwd TF on Early Childhood Development; Regina Snowden (Partners for Youth with Disabilities) representing GPCwd TF on Leadership and Mentoring; Amy Rauworth (Lakeshore Foundation) representing GPCwd TF on Physical Activity and Sport; as well as representatives from IDA, IDDC and Youth Council

The main focus of the discussion was around building partnerships and strengthening collaboration in support of children with disabilities. The need for capacity building on the regional and national level as well as better coordination of activities on the ground were also highlighted as important topics covered during the presentations. The statements from the floor (Elizabeth Lockwood, IDDC Leveraging partnerships for children with disabilities in the context of DRR and Humanitarian Action and Abia Akram, Chair, Youth Council of the Global Partnership on Children) as well as the comments from participants confirmed the need of focusing on the early childhood, including in the humanitarian context. Below are the highlights of the presentation on the behalf of the ECDtf:

I. The Disability and ECD task force, one of the GPCwd task forces, convenes UN, academia and other organizations around the world in raising issues facing young children with disabilities and their families. The presentation of behalf of the ECD task force highlighted emerging evidence on Disability and ECD – and need for STRATEGIC INVESTMENT and SUSTAINED ADVOCACY.

- The decrease in child mortality and increase in child survival, is resulting in more children with disabilities – particularly in middle-income countries and is double that in high income countries.
- It is our obligation to support, enable, and ensure these children thrive.
The issue is that the existing inclusive ECD care and support ongoing for these children does not match the growing need.

II. Given the increasingly wider range of initiatives in the disability field, a wealth of information is emerging for use by cooperation agencies and partners. The on-going challenge is to transform this information/emerging evidence into appropriate and sustainable strategies and programmes, and to move forward with proven participatory approaches. ONE important example of such work – from Latin America – a region that is at the forefront in tackling the early childhood disability – and where UNICEF LACRO developed a Programme Guidance that will inform programmatic action in the similar contexts around the globe. This work has a special significance, considering the cited Lancet evidence on the dynamics of disability in middle income countries. This Programme Guidance Note provides background information and inputs to assist programming and advocacy work on the multiple topics of Inclusive Early Childhood Development and Disabilities. The initial design for these guidelines prioritizes support for UNICEF country staff working in the Latin American and Caribbean context, recognizing that suggestions and recommendation included in this document are also appropriate for many situations outside the LAC region and for all key partners.

III. Way forward for the ECDtf in 2015 and beyond: The ECDtf formulated its Strategic priorities for 2015-2020 included the policy advocacy, knowledge development and capacity building – among others (see the slides below for description of all 8 strategic priorities). In particular, the focus of 2015 activities is determined by the need to map and build upon lessons learned from past and present experiences targeting the design and implementation of inclusive ECD and disability actions, and to document and evaluate emerging strategies and programmes. To this end, in 2015, the ECDtf will undertake a global mapping of ECD & Disability initiative in countries around the world - in an effort to inform the programming in this field - and allow for a better coordination of activities on the ground.
Taking into consideration the many partners at this event, it was a great opportunity to announce new guidelines on IECD that were developed by LACRO -- as well as to share the plans for new mapping of good practices globally. -- LJ

b) Our appreciation to ECDtf member Andy Shih for sharing this report of the July IYGC Forum held in Addis Ababa in July, part of a prestigious and influential ECD initiative increasingly interested in inclusion of children with disabilities:

Since 2013, the USA National Academy of Medicine’s Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally (IYCG) has held a series of public workshops around the world to engage caregivers, professionals and policymakers on exploring challenges, opportunities and innovations in early childhood development research, practice and policy. The latest installment of IYCG workshop, “Supporting Family and Community Investments for Young Children Globally” took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 26-30, 2015.

The workshop was co-chaired by forum members Drs. Amina Abubakar of KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Labs and Gary Darmstadt of Stanford University and co-organized by Ethiopian Academy of Sciences. In a departure from previous workshops, the organizers accommodated two thematic tracks, one focusing on the science and economics of family and community investment in children and their caregivers, including coordination across multiple sectors, and the other exploring the impact of acute systems disruption by natural and manmade disasters as well as outbreaks (i.e. Ebola).

Alex Coutinho, Institute for Child Wellness in Africa’s Ambassador, Accordia Global Health kicked things off on the first day with personal as well as professional reflections on the importance of caregivers and community in optimizing developmental outcomes. It was followed by a session on financing models, including a presentation from Bill Guyton of World Cocoa Foundation about support from the corporate social responsibility community, and innovative grassroots models, like the School Readiness Initiative in Ethiopia that is preparing disadvantaged children for success in education.

In another departure from previous forums, the NAM forum team collected video testimonies from the field, including Ethiopia, Rwanda and Haiti, that give community stakeholders an opportunity to share their perspectives on investing in young children, such as cultural differences and tough financial decisions for families with many needs. Similarly, forum organizers gave the so-called “young influencers,” or early career researchers and social entrepreneurs from the region an opportunity to share their work and benefit from exchanges with community, professional and government leaders at the forum.
Most of the presentations and discussions on the theme of acute systems disruption revolved around the consequences of the recent Ebola outbreak in East Africa. Taha Taha from Johns Hopkins and Janna Cooper of the Carter Center got all the participants on the same page with an overview of epidemiology and country-level and regional responses from governments, civil societies and UN agencies like WHO. A recurring theme was the importance of unfettered access to local and national level data in planning and coordinating responses as well as preparedness. Breakout sessions that explore unique as well as crosscutting lessons from human-induced disasters, natural disasters and outbreaks reiterated the importance of national inventory of capacity, infrastructure and resources, multi-sectorial preparedness and response coordination, including NGOs, and family and local community preparedness.

While we did not hear more explicit discussions about children with disabilities in the broader context of this forum, our own Don Wertlieb and Vibha Krishnamurthy were able to bring some attention to the topic in a special issue of Early Childhood Matters from the Barnard Van Leer Foundation, launched at the Forum http://www.bernardvanleer.org/English/Home/News/2015/New-issue-of-Early-Childhood-Matters-surveys-the-early-childhood-field.html. In a brief but powerful essay, Don and Vibha challenged the unjust and scientifically problematic exclusion of children and families affected by disabilities from ECD research and policy-making and proposed solutions that will ultimately benefit all young children globally. --AS

c) Several other formal and informal gatherings of ECDtf are in the works:

A meet-up of ECDtf folks is anticipated at the October 1-3 4th Croatia Symposium on Early Intervention http://depts.washington.edu/isei/Croatia-4th_Symposium-1st_ANNOUNCEMENT.pdf Please contact donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu if you are planning to attend.

Hollie Hix-Small will convene an ECDtf session at the DEC International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs in Atlanta October 7-9. ECDtf colleagues Paddy Favazza, Camille Smith, and Deb Ziegler are among those planning to attend. Please contact hollie.hixsmall@gmail.com for logistics and to confirm your attendance.

Several ECDtf members are planning to attend the Developmental Pediatrics Congress in Istanbul December 2-5, so we anticipate a formal or informal gathering to discuss ECDtf business and recruit new members from among the attendees. If you anticipate being in Istanbul then, please let Paul Lynch p.lynch@bham.ac.uk and donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu know so you can be included in the planning and proceedings.

Similarly, if you are planning to present or attend the ACEI World Summit on Children in Costa Rica March 31-April 3 http://www.acei.org/programs-events/global-summit-on-childhood/page-3.html and would be willing to organize an ECDtf session or working meeting, please contact donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu

d) It is a pleasure to welcome three new members to ECDtf: Ann Turnbull is an international leader and innovator who pioneered parent & professional partnerships on behalf of young children with disabilities and now assists us in this crucial strategic enterprise. Her colleague Professor Bekir Fatih Meral, is based in Turkey, and will join us at the Istanbul Conference to advance this work. And third, please welcome Rocio Gomez Botero, ECD policy specialist from Bogota, Colombia, now stationed in the US at the RISE Institute where her communications and policy advocacy skills will advance ECDtf initiatives.
e) Global Education Diplomacy update from ACEI:

http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e0701429c88113c3e86539b9d&id=689ade9a35&e=548dc10fb8

f) Greetings from the GPcwd Secretariat:

We would like to share with you some advocacy materials prepared for two key events: the Oslo Summit on Education for Development http://www.osloeducationsummit.no/ (Oslo, 6-7 July 2015); and for the UNICEF Assistive Products for Children with Disabilities (APCD) Forum http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_82298.html (Copenhagen, 6-7 July 2015). We would like to encourage you to use any social media channels to support the advocacy efforts for children with disabilities.

Oslo Summit on Education for Development http://www.osloeducationsummit.no/

For the Oslo Summit, UNICEF is advocating for inclusive education and ALL children having the right to go to school. Please use the following materials on inclusive education for social media -- Hashtags: GPE: #fundeducation Conference: #EduSummitOslo UNICEF Children with Disabilities: #thisability

Infographics available from GPcwd:

Infographic 1 Text: The Global Goal of inclusive and equitable education for all children cannot be achieved without children with disabilities. It has been estimated that 1 in 3 out of school children have a disability Tweets: The Global Goal of INCLUSIVE & EQUITABLE EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN cannot be achieved without children with disabilities #thisability ; 1 in 3 out of school children have a disability #thisability

Infographic 2 Text: Invest in Inclusive Education pays. In Nepal, Bangladesh, India and Cambodia returns to investment in the education of children with disabilities are up to 3x higher than that of children without disabilities Tweets: Invest in #Inclusive #Education pays #thisability ; In South Asia returns to investment on #education of children with disabilities are up to 3x higher than that of children w/t disabilities Source: Lamichhane, K. (2015). Disability, Education and Employment

Infographic 3 Text: To achieve inclusive quality education we need: - Accessibility to schools, including in emergency contexts - Investment in teachers training - Learning materials available in accessible formats - Assistive technology - Data on children with disabilities Tweets: For inclusive quality education we need: School access, teachers training, #assistech, data, accessible books


UNICEF Assistive Products for Children with Disabilities (APCD) Forum

http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_82298.html

The new UNICEF/WHO discussion paper “Assistive Technology for Children with Disabilities: Creating Opportunities for Education, Inclusion and Participation”, will be launched on Monday in Copenhagen. An electronic version of the paper along with easy-to-read, ePub, DAISY and
accessible html formats will be available on the UNICEF Disability website under the section resources.  http://www.unicef.org/disabilities/index_71769.html

For the UNICEF Assistive Product forum, UNICEF is advocating for ALL children with disabilities to have the assistive technologies they need. Please use the following related materials for social media:

**Infographic AT Text:** Assistive Technology helps children to become more mobile, communicate more effectively, see and hear better and participate more fully in learning activities. In most developing countries, only 5-15% of assistive devices needs are met #thisability  
**Tweets:** Assistive Technology helps children become mobile, communicate more effectively, see, hear better & participate fully in learning #thisability  
assistivetech helps children become mobile, communicate, see, hear better & participate fully in learning activities #thisability  
In most developing countries only 5-15% of assistive devices needs are met #thisability

Thanks for your support in disseminating this important messages

g) New websites launched by ECDtf affiliates:  
http://www.maits.org.uk  
http://www.onetoughjob.org

2. **Calls for Proposals**

Call for Papers by submitting an Abstract for consideration, no later than August 31st 2015. The theme of the ICEVI Day is “Education for All Children with Visual Impairment: Beyond 2015”. The programme for the ICEVI Day program will include dedicated time for parent and family presentations and workshops. The ICEVI Day Call for Papers includes guidelines for abstract submission, types of presentations accepted, and a list of potential presentation topics relating to education for children and youth with visual impairment. http://icevi.org

ACEI Global Summit on Childhood – due September 28, 2015  

Households in Conflict Conference – due September 4, 2015  

3. **Upcoming meetings**

- **August 2015**  
DISES International Roundtable  
Jerusalem & Bethlehem  
https://www.facebook.com/DISES.CEC

- **September 2-4**  
International Society for Child Indicators, Capetown, SA  
From welfare to well-being: Child indicators in research, policy & practice.  

- **September 7-9**  
International Society for Social Pediatrics and Child Health, Geneva, SW  
http://issop2015.org
October 1-2  Readynation Global Summit on Early Childhood Investment, NY  
http://www.readynation.org/event/2015summit

October 1-2  http://youngchildexpo.com/spokane-conference  Spokane WA USA

October 1-3  4th Croatian Symposium on Early Intervention , Sveti Martin na Muri  

October 4-8  6th Africa Forum, Kampala, Uganda  
http://www.perkins.org/international/africa/africa-forum

October 7-9  31st Annual DEC International Conference on Young Children with  
Special Needs and their Families.  Atlanta, GA USA  
http://www.dec-sped.org/Conference

Oct 15-16  Institute for Child Success  Greenville, SC, USA  

Oct. 21-23  Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusivity: The Journey Continues  
https://oaicd.ca

November 1-2  Ruderman Inclusion Institute, Boston, MA USA  

Nov 6-7  HICN Workshop Understanding the Role of Institutions During and After  
Violent Conflict.  Toronto, CA

December 2-5  International Developmental Pediatrics Congress  Istanbul, Turkey  
The 1st IDP Congress will be in Istanbul, Turkey, organized by the Developmental Pediatrics Association (Gelişimsel Pediatri Derneği) in Turkey and Ankara University. The theme for the 1st IDP Congress is “ADD-ECD: Addressing Disability and Difficulties in Early Childhood Development.”.  http://www.idpcongress.org

Plains pending for meeting for ECDtf side-event.

March 31-April 3  ACEI Global Summit on Childhood, San Jose, Costa Rica  
http://www.acei.org/programs-events/summit.html

June 8-10/16  ISEI, Children’s Rights & Early Intervention, Stockholm, Sweden  
http://depts.washington.edu/isei/2016conf.html
August, 2016  International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) and the World Blind Union (WBU) will be jointly holding their General Assemblies at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida, USA, from 18th to 25th August 2016. The overall theme for the General Assemblies is “Human rights and the CRPD: What lies ahead” http://icevi.org

4. Professional Development Webinars & Resources

http://www.includingme.net/courses.shtml

http://www.inclusivechildcare.org/learning-self-study.cfm

http://www.inclusivechildcare.org/SelfStudy/sslss/classDetails.cfm?crsid=168

5. Job postings

Pact seeks a Senior Advisor- Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning (MERL) for a five-year USAID-funded program that will provide HIV prevention services and care services for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) at the community level. The program will focus on the adoption of positive sexual and healthcare-seeking behaviors and social norms among priority groups at risk for transmission. The MERL Advisor will provide overall leadership and oversight for project monitoring, evaluation and learning. S/he will lead the monitoring of data collection, collation, storage, analysis, and reporting ensuring that data is audit worthy and incorporated into program reports for submission to USAID. Under his/her guidance, the project will utilize monitoring data to maximize program impact. This position is contingent upon funding.

Required QUALIFICATIONS: Master’s degree in public health, demography, sociology, biostatistics, psychology or a related field. Terminal degree preferred. At least ten (10) years of experience in monitoring, evaluating and research related to public health programs, with at least 3 years of experience with USAID or PEPFAR HIV-related programming. Demonstrated experience in HIV/AIDS program target setting and reporting for at least three (3) years. Excellent verbal, written, interpersonal and presentation skills. Demonstrated experience and familiarity with research methodologies, qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, sampling techniques and establishing M&E systems in developing countries. Proficiency with database management software and on-line search tools required. Working experience in Malawi; Malawi national preferred.TO APPLY for this position, please visit our website at www.pactworld.org. Requisition Number 15-0034. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. We are also an equal opportunity employer of individuals with disabilities and protected veterans.

7. New resources

(these have come to our attention since our last communiqué; please feel free to contribute and share other resources with a “reply-all” to this ECDtf Message, pending our establishment of our ECDtf Collaboration and Resource Sharing Platform. Please consider elaborating upon or critiquing one of these resources as a contribution to our new feature, TASK FORCE TALK)

http://mtbt.fpg.unc.edu

http://asdtoddler.fpg.unc.edu/learning-modules

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002291/229188e.pdf


http://www.researchconnections.org/childcare/resources?publisher=Early+Childhood+Technical+Assistance+Center

http://www.researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/29908


http://www.researchconnections.org/childcare/resources/30046/pdf


http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/newsletter/summer%2015.pdf

http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/15/05/path-resilience

http://www.cdc.gov/chinav/index.html

http://www.grantcraft.org/assets/content/resources/south_african_social_investors_final.pdf

http://www.grantcraft.org/blog/borrowing-is-the-new-innovation


https://www.k4health.org/topics/integrating-FP-MNCH-services?utm_source=The%20Knowledge%20for%20Health%20%26%20MNCH%20Campaign%202016%20Email&utm_campaign=2016-K4Health_Newsletter_June_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_71dffe8fd-924b2fb51-27308197


http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4A1y230eseYVnJRS3pHYW5NODg/view?pli=1
http://dsq-sds.org/issue/view/144
http://www.kidsmentalhealthinfo.com
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBXgZMI_zqfQkUlrdWYcvu6HfaNPU8PS
http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2015/06/100-years-gap-global-education-winthrop-mcginney why the silence on ECD & disability matters??
https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/infographics
http://www.osloeducationsummit.no/program.cfm
https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/Byrne%20and%200%27Toole_O.pdf
http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@adv/documents/downloadable/ucm_473791.pdf
http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/05/schools-behavior-discipline-collaborative-proactive-solutions-ross-greene
http://autismnavigator.com