

Workshop Title: Early Childhood Care and Education

Convener's name: Johanna Freund, Vivamos

Main issues, questions discussed:

- UNICEF: Policy Brief in Africa showed very low investment in Early Learning compared to other continents (when it is the continent with most learning poverty)
- How to measure quality of early learning at a global level?
- Roger Federer Foundation has projects on school readiness, struggling to find evidence of impact
- UNICEF: programs for children aged 0 – 3 is mainly based on nutrition
- “Nurturing Care” (WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO) concept is basic approach, not many of the present organisation use it
- Community-based solution, families as primary caregivers in contrast to a perceived push to institutionalizing early care outside of families
- UNICEF is switching research to quality
- Missing value of ECCE, hard to convince politicians of its impact, much underfunded
- Lancet 2011/2012 did a piece on financial impact on ECCE
- Gates Foundation would not extend foundational learning to the early years, it is changing slowly
- Importance of care for pregnant women (especially nutrition) and of breastfeeding
- “Learning by play” compared to standardized tests to enter primary school
- Observation that a link often made by policy makers is the attendance of young children in institutions with women empowerment and earning perspectives for mothers
- SALT / STRENGTH / Constellation Approach as participatory approach (stimulate, appreciate, listen, learn, transfer, transform)

Conclusions:

- Different models, you have to listen to people, context-specific (broad issue is the same, but specifics, practicability is different)
- Quality is important, it is not just about babysitting
- Complicated to make a point for early learning