Do for Children
INCLUSIVE EARLY YEARS

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Around the world, countries have made commitments like the SDGs, UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and UN Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC), all these have a direct bearing to ECDE.

In Malawi, over 52% of children under the age of 5 are at risk of not fulfilling their full developmental potential due to risks of poverty, poor nutrition, and a lack of access to basic services and early enriching opportunities.

The situation has worsened due to Covid-19 and tropical cyclones that have ravaged the country.
Inclusive Early Childhood Development & Education:

Do for Children is part of the Leave No One Behind Coalition along with CARE, Plan, and the National Planning Commission.

Do for Children conducted a qualitative study titled "Collaborative Approach for Sustainable ECDE in Malawi, Filling the gap"

The goal was to establish level of stakeholder involvement in ECDE and propagate under-utilized synergies amongst stakeholders in advancing ECDE in Malawi.

Methodology: The study adopted the Community Score Card approach.

Community Score Card is a participatory tool used for assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation of services.

Geographical Location:
Mangochi, Lilongwe, and Mzimba, (one in each region)

Questions governing study:
How are stakeholders involved?
Government, Caregivers, Youths, Men, Women (Including the displaced), Donors, CSOs, ECD Networks,
PHASE I: PLANNING AND PREPARATION

PHASE II: Conducting the Score Card with the Community

PHASE III: Conducting the Score Card with Service Providers

PHASE IV: Interface Meeting and Action Planning

PHASE V: Action Plan Implementation and M&E
Inclusive ECDE Dialogues have provided interface platforms for Parties and other stakeholders to identify gaps, exchange views and ideas across the subsidiary bodies.

These dialogues have also facilitated cocreated climate change solutions as well as use the same data as evidence for advocacy at national, regional and global conversations.
With technical support from CARE & a UK based consultant called Kwantu, we have over time digitized our Social Accountability work across our programs and this is our key innovative contribution to government (Data management, analysis, advocacy)
Community Score Card Findings

Beyond learning, Children need conducive learning environments where they can thrive.

Despite poor learning environments, parents and caregivers are still enthusiastic to support ECDE initiatives.

Success & opportunities:
- Community level enthusiasm to support ECDE programming
- Availability of ECDE policies and guidelines
- Existing ECD networks feeding into Malawi ECD Coalition for learning and advocacy
- Organizations like UNICEF, Save the Children, Word Bank, GIZ, LEGO Foundation are available to offer technical assistance, including development and review of ECDE tool.
Community Score Card Findings

Challenges:

- Limited ECDE adaptations and support systems for special needs learners including those with disabilities, displaced and refugees.
- Low donor commitment and state political will to actively support ECD as an integrated approach across sectors – UNICEF is doing a good job (integrated & disability inclusive) 7 donors, collectively spent only about 3.7% of the ODA (Official Development Assistance)
- Social & cultural barriers inhibiting parental care, especially fatherhood beyond provision of financial and material resources for ECDE
- Poor ECDE infrastructure, inadequate learning materials and food rations
- Limited ECDE skills, largely, the system in Malawi hinges on community volunteers that have no ECDE training – No effective technical intermediary system to connect national and community ECD centers.
Recommendations

- Develop a country framework for donor investments through a coherent, inclusive, multi-sectoral ECD strategy within relevant sectors.
- More efforts towards gender transformative community engagement to facilitate dismantling of social barriers to ECDE including male engagement.
- Support development of ECD cadres through long-term investments.
- Infrastructure development, learning materials and nutritional services.
Thank You
Gracias
شكرا لكم
Merci
धन्यवाद

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