



Dear Members,

This month, we look at what Coalition partners are doing to advance the transformation of early childhood education, from reaching the most vulnerable children to supporting their teachers and educators. We also look back at the actions of the Global Education Coalition in 2022.

Partner message



Dear partners,

The long awaited 2022 edition of the [World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education](#) is now behind us. But our learnings, as well as the connections we've built together in Tashkent, remain with us as we look forward to 2023.

With 43% of children under the age of 5 at risk of not reaching their full development potential globally, building strong international connections and facilitating cooperation between civil society and the corporate world is key.

Multistakeholder initiatives like the Global Education Coalition are essential to support the next generation in accessing education and tackling the challenges our society faces, and in reaching the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goal for a high-quality

education.

At Babilou Family, as early education experts, our role must also go beyond ensuring access to education and pedagogical continuity. We also need to focus on setting a new standard for early education through innovation, by harnessing the latest findings in neuroscience, which show that a child's brain develops from 35 to 85% between birth and five years of age. In other words, the first 1,000 days of a child's life shape the course of their entire lives - and is therefore much more important than we had previously imagined.

As such, building synergies with specialists to craft new educational methods in day-care centers and at home is an essential step towards fighting inequality from birth and providing children with a sustainable and high-quality education. Educators in day-care centers are at the heart of this process. We need to keep investing in them, in their training, and to keep promoting diversity. In the coming years, the world will need around 9 million new early childhood educators and it's our responsibility to increase the value of this profession, to bring new trainers so more young people to get into the early education.

This last point is key. It is important to value our own languages in a multicultural environment and we need to encourage early educators to speak in their mothertongue. Language and sound improve children's brain development and it is proven that early exposure to languages in an organic setting enables cognition in later years.

The World Conference in Tashkent, as well as the first Congress on Neuroscience and Early Childhood organized by UNESCO and the Babilou Family Foundation last September, provided us with the optimal spaces to lay the groundwork for what's to come. And we'll keep working together, along with Coalition members, early education professionals, and families to ensure a bright future for the early education sector.

All the best,

Xavier Ouvrard, Chairman of the Babilou Family Foundation and CEO of Babilou Family



The Global Education Coalition at the WCECCE

Multistakeholder partnerships for ECCE transformation

Members of the Coalition gathered in Uzbekistan last month to advance the preschool agenda during UNESCO's World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). On the final day, the 147 countries represented adopted the Tashkent Declaration, a commitment to reaffirming the right of every young child to inclusive, quality, and equitable early childhood care and education. Turning this declaration into action requires a deep collaboration between all stakeholders, state and non-state. Non-state actors play a particularly prevalent role in ECCE provision, accounting for 38 per cent of pre-primary enrolment globally in 2020.

Dubai Cares, Plan International, BRAC, Michel Lafon Éducation, GPE, ILO, OECD, World Bank, INEE, and Boite à Livres were among the Coalition members in attendance at the many sessions and side events.

Promoting gender equality from the early years

At the Conference, the following Coalition members, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), Sesame Workshop, UNICEF, WVOB and UNESCO joined forces with government representatives of Fiji, Germany and the Republic of Liberia, as well as the non-governmental organization Pratham in India to call for action to consider gender equality from the early years.

During a session on advancing gender equality in and through ECCE training, speakers shared best practices for ensuring more gender equal representation in the sector, and highlighted the need for continuous professional development opportunities for educators to advance gender equality from the early years.

“Early childhood care and education (ECCE) teachers and educators can play a pivotal

role in challenging and changing harmful gender stereotypes and creating more equal schooling and career opportunities for all children”, said Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Director of the Division for Education 2030 at UNESCO, who moderated the session.



Member Updates

Tools for home learning

In 2020, in response to the global pandemic, Curious Learning pursued direct-to-parents campaigns, which enabled parents to use smartphones as learning tools at home via accessible and engaging digital learning content in over 50 languages. Continuing from these learnings allowed for a rapid crisis response to the Ukrainian closure of schools this year. Within just 100 days, Feed the Monster was downloaded by 100,000 users.

The efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the overall approach has been validated by a [World Bank DIME study in Northern Nigeria](#). Targeting some of the most vulnerable learners, results reported 0.46-0.63 standard deviations increase in literacy/numeracy for 6–9-year-olds, making it one of the few educational interventions that ranks highly for learning impacts, cost-effectiveness, and scalability.

Disability-inclusive early childhood development in emergencies

With the support of the Early Childhood Development Working Group, the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) has produced a new policy brief on [“Opportunities and Challenges for Disability-Inclusive Early Childhood Development in Emergencies”](#). The purpose of the brief is to advocate for and highlight the benefits of disability-inclusive early childhood development in emergencies (ECDiE). It recognizes the importance of early intervention in childhood development and explores the barriers due to which young children with disabilities remain underserved in humanitarian settings.

The brief highlights tools, frameworks, and promising practices to support disability-inclusive ECDiE and offers recommendations for governments, donors, and programmers to bridge the gaps in the programming and delivery of ECDiE.

A look back at 2022



March 2022 marked two years since the Global Education Coalition was established. On the occasion, [UNESCO hosted the annual meeting of the Coalition](#), bringing together more than 150 partner organizations to exchange ideas and identify potential collaborations. In support of the gathering, a brochure entitled [Transforming Education through Innovation -- The Global Education Coalition Leading in Action](#) was published.

The same month, members of the Coalition [pledged to support Ukraine's efforts](#) to provide on-line learning and psycho-social counselling to students and teachers in the country amidst the ongoing conflict. Twenty-five Coalition members offered support, among them Google which, through a cooperation with UNESO and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, are supplying [50,000 computers for teachers](#) and providing them with training in digital tools.

In May, Africa Day 2022 brought the Coalition together once again, this time to reflect on its contributions to strengthen the continent's education systems following COVID-19. UNESCO published a brochure - [Transforming education in Africa through innovation](#) - highlighting just some of the innovative projects being rolled out across the continent, such as [Imaginecole's "Créathon" challenge](#) which is building the capacity of teaching professionals in Francophone countries.

June saw key stakeholders and leaders in education gather for the Transforming Education Pre-Summit at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Throughout the three-day event, Coalition members highlighted [how the private sector can contribute to the transformation of education](#) through content creation, technology for learning, and partnerships with governments and schools. At the Transforming Education Summit just a few months later, members continued these conversations and addressed key questions on [how the Coalition can scale up its impact beyond the COVID-19](#) recovery. A [Compendium of Transformational Innovation](#) was also launched during the Summit, spotlighting more than 35 initiatives implemented through the coordination of Coalition members and other key stakeholders.

Read more [here](#) on what the Coalition has been working on in 2022, including how member organizations are [delivering skills training in Peru](#) and [supporting the professional development of teachers globally](#).

Get in touch

We want to know what projects you are most proud of from the last year and what you are excited to work on in 2023 to support the transformation of education. Please complete this [short survey](#) to let us know more.

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Contact us:

globalEDcoalition@unesco.org

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