

Country profile prepared for the
Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2007
Strong Foundations: Early Childhood Care and Education

Kuwait

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programmes

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KUWAIT

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) programs

A. GENERAL INFORMATION, STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

Starting age of compulsory education (if applicable):

According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) the compulsory education age range is 6-13 years.

1. ISCED 0 PROGRAMS (USUALLY, PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION)

(ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education)

1.1. National definition of ISCED 0 programs:

Kindergarten education

1.2. Normative age group(s) covered by ISCED 0 programs:

4-5 years of age

1.3. ISCED 0 programs: statistics and indicators *(If available, please kindly provide the most recent figures)*

1.3.1. Enrolment:

	Percentage	Year
Gross enrolment ratio	76.9	2004/05
Net enrolment ratio	59.9	2004/05
Percentage of children entering primary education with previous preschool experience	87.7	2004/05

Source: Ministry of Education, February 2006.

1.3.2. Enrolment ratio by age group (percentage, also including the first years of primary education when applicable):

Less than 3 years of age	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7
0.0	34.0	75.8 0.0(*)	31.4 31.9(*)	0.0 90.1(**)	0.0 91.8(**)

Source: Ministry of Education, February 2006.

(*) Enrolled in primary education

(**) Primary education enrolment ratio

1.3.3. Teachers (2004/05):

Total number of teachers	Of whom female (%)	Percentage of trained teachers (all)	Percentage of trained teachers (males)	Percentage of trained teachers (females)
5,145	100	76.1		76.1

Source: Ministry of Education, February 2006.

1.3.4. Funding:

	Percentage
Public current expenditure per pupil as percentage of the Gross National Product per capita	22.76 (2004)

Source: UIS.

1.3.5. Main source(s) of financing: Not available

2. OTHER ECCE PROGRAMS

(Generally preceding ISCED 0 programs)

2.1. National definition of other ECCE programs:

Not available

2.2. Normative age group(s) covered by other ECCE programs:

Not available

2.3. Estimate number of children covered by other ECCE programs:

Not available

B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING ECCE PROGRAMS (INCLUDING ISCED 0)

3.1. Legislation concerning ECCE:

Not available

3.2. Official body/bodies in charge of supervision or coordination:

The Ministry of Education (MOE)

3.3. Other entities involved in the provision (e.g. municipalities, local governments) and main types of providers (e.g. public, private, mixed, community-based, etc.):

Pre-school education (kindergarten) is not compulsory but is provided free to Kuwaiti citizens. The entry age is usually 4 years and its duration is two years. The kindergarten is not integrated in the educational ladder.

For expatriate children between 2 and 4 years there are a large number of private nursery schools. The better (and more expensive) ones are registered with the private education department of the MOE. Fees for those with a good size and range of facilities are about 75 KD a month per child. Expatriates often organize informal playgroups for their children. Many schools for foreign children offer a kindergarten stage (for the age group 4-6) as well.

3.4. Type of personnel involved:

Not available

3.5. Type of staff training (requirements):

Two institutes train teachers: the Faculty of Basic Education, which offers academic, cultural and pedagogical training; and the Faculty of Education, at the University of

Kuwait. Both institutes offer a four-year programme (eight semesters) leading to a bachelor's degree.

The Faculty of Basic Education trains primary school teachers, female teachers for kindergartens, and other technical staff. The training programme of the Faculty of Basic Education is divided into three areas:

- cultural training, comprising 48 credit hours - 38%;
- academic training, comprising 40 credit hours - 32%;
- vocational training, comprising 38 credit hours - 30%.

The Faculty of Education, University of Kuwait, offers three programmes for training kindergarten teachers, one programme for primary school teachers, another for training male and female teachers of intermediate and secondary schools, and two diploma-level programmes: diploma of pedagogical training; and diploma of pedagogical guidance.

3.6. Recent national policies and reforms:

Not available

3.7. Efforts targeted at vulnerable or disadvantaged children:

Not available

3.8. Special projects/programmes aiming at expanding or improving ECCE:

Not available

3.9. Information concerning the curriculum (if applicable) or the contents of ECCE programs

3.9.1. Objectives and aims:

Kindergartens strive to provide the appropriate conditions for the development of the child physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually and socially, in accordance with the child's abilities and needs. Kindergartens aim to develop children's capacities for interaction and communication, encourage them to discover their environment, and provide them with social and moral guidance in a safe environment.

3.9.2. Learning areas and teaching-learning methods:

Not available

3.9.3. Average number of hours per week and average amount of weeks per year:

Not available

3.10. Any other relevant and pertinent information

Not available

C. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REGARDING ECCE (TO BE COMPILED IN COLLABORATION WITH UNICEF OFFICES WHERE POSSIBLE)

Information is not available

4.1. Parenting programmes are usually addressed to parents and families of children less than 6 years of age. Please provide information about any parenting programmes in your country according to the table below:

Type of programme	Yes or No (note for each programme)	Please estimate the number of beneficiaries (if possible)
Parenting education through early learning centres and child care centres		
As component of health and nutrition programmes, such as information about child development included in health and nutrition visits		
Parent groups that meet to discuss issues of their young children, including health, nutritional status, and development		
As component of adolescent, livelihood or literacy programmes		
Media broadcast, such as <i>Sesame Street</i> , with media for and with children		
Other (please specify)		

Are any of these programmes targeted specifically toward the vulnerable, poor, disadvantaged or excluded? If so, which ones? (Please provide/attach any additional and relevant information if available).

4.2. Is there a national-level system for monitoring children's development or school readiness prior to entering primary school?

4.3. Is there a policy on early childhood (ECCE, ECD, etc.) that has been accepted? If not, is there one under development?

[Statistical information revised by the Ministry of Education, February 2006.]