Sierra Leone

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programmes

Compiled by:
UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)
Geneva, (Switzerland)

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SIERRA LEONE

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) programs

A. GENERAL INFORMATION, STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

Starting age of compulsory education (if applicable):

Children enter primary education at age 6. Education is tuition free but not yet compulsory.

1. ISCED 0 PROGRAMS (USUALLY, PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION)
(ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education)

1.1. National definition of ISCED 0 programs:

Nursery education

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

3-5 years of age

1.3. ISCED 0 programs: statistics and indicators (source: UIS)

1.3.1. Enrolment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross enrolment ratio</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2000/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net enrolment ratio</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>2000/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of children entering primary education with previous preschool experience</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.3.2. Enrolment ratio by age group (percentage, also including the first years of primary education when applicable):

Not available

A survey on enrolment is currently going on but results won’t be out before January 2006.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than 3 years of age</th>
<th>Age 3</th>
<th>Age 4</th>
<th>Age 5</th>
<th>Age 6</th>
<th>Age 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3.3. Teachers, 2000/01:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of teachers</th>
<th>Of whom female (%)</th>
<th>Percentage of trained teachers (all)</th>
<th>Percentage of trained teachers (males)</th>
<th>Percentage of trained teachers (females)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3.4. Funding: Not available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public current expenditure per pupil as percentage of the Gross National Product per capita</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3.5. Main source(s) of financing:

Nursery education is not run by government but by private individuals or groups and parents bear the costs.

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:

Ministry of Education through the Nursery School Association

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.):

Private sector, Missions and individuals

3.4. Type of personnel involved:

Nursery aides and largely untrained and unqualified teachers

3.5. Type of staff training (requirements):

Not available

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

Part of the information being collected through the survey

3.9.1. Objectives and aims:

Not available

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

A radio station has been established at the ministry, hopefully when it starts producing programmes, pre-school children will also be catered for.
C. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REGARDING ECCE (TO BE COMPILED IN COLLABORATION WITH UNICEF OFFICES WHERE POSSIBLE)

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:

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

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).

No

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

No
4.3. Is there a policy on early childhood (ECCE, ECD, etc.) that has been accepted? If not, is there one under development?

The Ministry of Education has asked UNICEF to assist them in developing a policy in 2006.

[Information revised and additional data provided by UNICEF, December 2005.]