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Country profile prepared for the
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Strong Foundations: Early Childhood Care and Education

Turkey

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programmes

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TURKEY

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) programs

A. GENERAL INFORMATION, STATISTICS AND INDICATORS

Starting age of compulsory education (if applicable):

The compulsory education age is 6-14 years.

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

(ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education)

1.1. National definition of ISCED 0 programs:

Pre-school 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

1.3.1. Enrolment:

	Percentage	Year
Gross enrolment ratio	16.1	2004/05
Net enrolment ratio	10.7	2004/05
Percentage of children entering primary education with previous preschool experience	25.2	2004/05

Source: Ministry of Education.

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
	2.4	5.1	23.4		

1.3.3. Teachers:

Total number of teachers	Of whom female (%)	Percentage of trained teachers (all)	Percentage of trained teachers (males)	Percentage of trained teachers (females)
22,030	94.6	100	100	100

Note: 9,854 contract status trainers, who are not necessarily teachers, are not included in the above figures.

1.3.4. Funding: Not available

	Percentage
Public current expenditure per pupil as percentage of the Gross National Product per capita	...

Note: An average of US\$145 per child per year.

1.3.5. Main source(s) of financing:

Central Government Revenues, Local Government Revenues, Foundations, Associations, Firms, Household Funds, International Resources (EU, UNICEF, World Bank, MATRA etc.), donors, other resources.

2. OTHER ECCE PROGRAMS

(Generally preceding ISCED 0 programs)

2.1. National definition of other ECCE programs:

Center and community based parenting education programs serving parents of 0-6 age group children, crèches for 0-36 months-olds, kindergartens for 36-72 months, 'practical' nursery classes for 36-72 months-olds, preschool classes in primary

schools for 60-72 months, primary health care workers providing support for psychosocial and cognitive development of 0-6 children who enter the health system

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

0-72 months, 0-36 months, 36-72 months, 60-72 months

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

The total number of children covered by all ECCE programs is 434,771 for the school year 2004/05.

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

3.1. Legislation concerning ECCE:

In Turkey preschool education is optional and includes the education of children in the 3-5 years of age group. Preschool education is given in kindergartens, preparatory classrooms, application classrooms, day nurseries, nursery schools, day-care homes, and child care homes by various ministries and institutions, and by the Ministry of National Education most of all. The children can benefit from these institutions for a full day or a half day.

The General Directorate for Pre-School Education was established in 1992 according to per law no. 3797 on "The Organization and Duties of the Ministry of National Education". The Directorate plans, programs, executes, monitors and controls education and training services targeted at teachers and students.

The Primary Education Law no. 222 and Basic Law of National Education no. 1739, include the following: General and specific goals of the Turkish National Education System, Basic principles, General structure of the education system, every type of institutions and organizations at every level, the teaching profession, school buildings, education tools and equipment, duties and responsibilities related to education and teaching.

Recently, a generic provision issued at the official gazette on 8.06.2004 with the number 25486 has been made available.

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

Pre-primary education for which the Ministry of National Education is responsible is provided in *Ana Okulları* (kindergartens) for 36-72 months children, and in *Ana Sınıfları* (nursery classes) for 60-72 months children or *Uygulamalı Anasınıfı* ('practical' nursery classes) for 36-72 months children. 'Practical' nursery classes are so called because they were originally established within vocational schools, and students at vocational schools for young women do their practical training in them.

Responsibility for other institutions, such as day nurseries, nursery schools and child care institutions, is shared by various ministries and institutions in the educational or care sector, established in accordance with Ministry of National Education legislation and regulations. Aside from a parental contribution to expenditure on meals and cleaning materials, all public pre-primary institutions are free of charge, regardless of the type of setting or the year concerned.

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.):

Institutions offering pre-school education programmes include crèches (age group 0-36 months), kindergartens (age group 36-72 months) and pre-school classes (age group 61-72 months). In primary schools where infrastructure is suitable, pre-school classes are established in order to encourage and facilitate the participation of 5-6-year-olds, at least during one year before compulsory education.

3.4. Type of personnel involved:

Teachers (graduates of four-year higher education in child development or preschool education), contract status trainers (preferably with same background if not vocational high school graduates in child development). Additionally, civil servant, driver, doctor, cook, attendant, guard, technician can be involved at pre-primary schools.

3.5. Type of staff training (requirements):

All teachers are required to possess higher education degrees (graduate degrees) regardless of the education level at which they teach.

3.6. Recent national policies and reforms:

The Eighth Five-year Development Plan aimed to increase pre-school education to 25% by 2005, yet the target has not been achieved. MoNE is undertaking several activities such as employing 12,000 temporary staff in 2005, building additional classes and facilities. The Basic Education Project (BEP) implemented with World Bank loans and the Support to Basic Education Project (SBEP) implemented with EU funds to support BEP includes measures to support and to increase pre-school education. As part of these efforts and with UNICEF assistance, MoNE will revise pre-school curricula and develop national standards in the next five years.

3.7. Efforts targeted at vulnerable or disadvantaged children:

The 18 modules-parenting education program 'My Family–Family and Child Training Program' (FACT) for parents of children aged 0-6 implemented by different ministries and NGOs under the coordination of Ministry of National Education

(MoNE), is carried out in 12 provinces and their districts and concentrates on at risk children living and working in streets.

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

Pre-school Education and Non Formal Early Childhood Program are components of the World Bank-supported Basic Education Program Second Phase. Its main aim is to develop preschool education to improve children's performance in basic education. Priority is given to parents and children in provinces with low schooling and high migration rates. The formal part includes facilities construction and furnishing, provision of educational materials and pre-school teacher training.

The EU-Turkey Support to Basic Education Programme implemented by the MoNE includes: Analysis of previous and current policies and strategies, capacity building of the Ministry in management, planning and technical issues, curriculum development in schools, training of professionals in the education sectors, social marketing, information and education campaigns, conferences, seminars and workshops. Pre-school education is also a component of this project.

The Government of Turkey and UNICEF's 2006-2010 Country Programme is currently under development. The Early Childhood Care and Development target is mostly to increase pre-school's quality, quantity, and inform children's mothers about the importance of pre-school education.

The Mobile Pre-School project aims to reach the children who can not take pre-school education with support of some national counterparts. It started in 2004 with some national counterparts. There is the intention to continue and spread this project country wide.

Matra Project by the MoNE, General Directorate of Pre-School Education, "Wide spreading and Improving Quality of Pre-School Education" aims at ensuring that children aged 3-6, particularly in most migrated and vulnerable areas, have access to and complete formal or community based pre-school education by increasing its quality and thus increasing enrollment ratio and attaining harmonization of the education system with the education standards and system of European Union countries. Project activities are currently under development

The MoNE General Directorate of Pre-School Education organizes "Summer Schools" for children who can not benefit from pre-school education, in coordination with Mother and Child Education Foundation. The Directorate has also started "Nutrition Campaign" in ten provinces where the enrolment rate is at the lowest level.

The MoNE, in co-operation with UNICEF and with the support of Gazi University Faculty of Vocational Training, has been working since 1993 to expand pre-school participation through the Mother and Child Education Programme. Since 2003, the programme has been transformed into the Mother and Child Education Programme focused on families with children aged 0 to 6. The project is currently implemented in 59 provinces.

The Mother-Child Education Programme (ACEV) administered by MoNE since 1993-1994 aims to supporting the multi-dimensional development of the children aged 5 and 6 through mothers.

The Instructor Mother ("baby sister") Training Programme provided through public Training Centers, trains qualified baby sisters who can care for the children of working mothers.

The Project on Family Health Training has been continuing to inform teachers of Public Training Centers in 41 provinces in Eastern and South Eastern Anatolia about mother and child health and other health issues.

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

3.9.1. Objectives and aims:

The pre-school education programme has been prepared to support the mental, emotional, social and psycho-motor development of children aged 0-72 months. This programme takes into account the developmental needs of three age groups: 0-36 months (day nurseries), 36-60 months (kindergartens), and 60-72 months (pre-school classes). The programme is as flexible as possible to allow various modalities of implementation; it also includes activities that families can carry out at home. Programmes offered in day-nurseries aim at contributing to the physical and moral development of the children.

3.9.2. Learning areas and teaching-learning methods:

Programmes offered in kindergartens do not include subject teaching. However, they include Turkish language practice, preparation for reading and writing, environment and hygiene, drama, etc., so as to provide a sound base for further education.

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

30 weekly hours for pre-school classrooms

42 weekly hours for independent pre- schools

Average number of weeks per year: 36 weeks, or at least 180 working days

The school year for pre-primary schools starts every third weekend of September and continues until the third week of June.

3.10. Any other relevant and pertinent information

[Main Sources: EURYDICE Website, <http://www.eurydice.org/> (Last updated: 2005.)
National Report on the Development of Education, 2004.]

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:

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	Yes	Not available
As component of health and nutrition programmes, such as information about child development included in health and nutrition visits	Yes	Not available
Parent groups that meet to discuss issues of their young children, including health, nutritional status, and development	Yes	Not available
As component of adolescent, livelihood or literacy programmes	Yes	Not available
Media broadcast, such as <i>Sesame Street</i> , with media for and with children	Yes	Not available
Other (please specify)	Another media program for children and their parents 'Play with Me'	Not available

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).

Yes, the 18 modules-parenting education program 'My Family-Family and Child Training Program' (FACT) for parents of children aged 0-6 implemented by different ministries and NGOs under the coordination of Ministry of National Education is

focusing on at risk for children living and working in streets (12 provinces and their districts.)

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?

Not yet. There is an ECD Advocacy and Communication Strategy developed multisectorally with the support of UNICEF. The government needs to develop a policy on the basis of this strategy.

[Information revised and additional data provided by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, December 2005.]