

<p><b>Challenges</b></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brunei Country Profile: Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)</b></p>
<p><b>Photo</b></p>	<p><b>General information about ECCD in Brunei<sup>i ii</sup></b></p> <p>Brunei Darussalam has one of the highest per capita income in Asia and low under-5 mortality rate. The <i>Wawasan Brunei 2035</i> aims to make Brunei more prominent for its highly educated, skilled citizens and sustained economy.</p> <p>Within the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education 2007-2017, early childhood care and education (ECCE) is prioritize with expanded focus on public and private provisions to support children aged 3-6 years through the creation of an ECCE unit in June 2010.</p> <p>Health services and governmental preschool education programs have been established in both urban and rural settings to expand reach to all children. Advances have been made in the development of legislative, regulatory frameworks and guidelines for quality assurances, including the ECCE Framework.</p>
<p><b>Priorities</b></p>	<p><b>Key policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Brunei Darussalam's Long-Term Development Plan (2007-2012)</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Ministry in charge</b></p>

ECCE unit led by Ministry of Education (MOE) with Ministry of Health (MOH) of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MoCYS) for coordinated and holistic provision of care and education for all young children.

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**Key data: A life cycle approach for ECCD**

**Demographics**

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Total population (thousands)	423.20	World Bank Open Data (2016 <sup>iii</sup> )
Rural population (%)	22	UNICEF SWOC (2016 <sup>iv</sup> )
Under-5 population (thousands)	34	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Population below the global poverty line of US \$ 1.90/day (%)	N/A	N/A
Population growth rate (annual %)	1.9	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Total fertility rate (births per women)	1.9	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

**Prenatal**

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Annual number of births (thousands)	7	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

**Noteworthy practices<sup>vi</sup>**

1. Capacity building of early childhood teachers  
*Noteworthy aspects:* ECCE unit established delivered the first nationwide Professional Development Capacity Program for Preschool Teachers.  
*Achievements:* Strengthened teaching quality of 204 government preschool teachers and 499 private preschool teachers, facilitators and mentors across four districts; this established network of professionals further increase sustainability in the implementation of enhanced teaching and learning techniques.
2. Curriculum development for 3-4 year olds  
*Noteworthy aspects:* Nationwide University Brunei Darussalam project to collect data on Brunein priorities for young children involving various levels of community members.  
*Achievements:* ECCE curriculum framework covering 5 developmental domains implemented in January 2009 based on MOE’s curriculum guidelines of the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century National Education System (SPN21).

Birth registration (%)	N/A	N/A
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	N/A	N/A

### **Birth to 5 years**

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	9	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Exclusive breastfeeding under-6 months (%)	N/A	N/A
Under-5 stunting prevalence (moderate and severe) (%)	20	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	10	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
DTP3 national immunization coverage (%)	99	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Violent discipline (Children aged 1-14 exposed to violent disciplinary methods during the last month) (%)	N/A	N/A

### **School readiness**

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
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Early Childhood Development Index or ECDI (%)	N/A	N/A		
Father's support for learning (%)	N/A	N/A		
Availability of children's books (%)	N/A	N/A		
Gross enrollment ratio or GER in pre-primary (%)	72	UIS (2015 <sup>v</sup> )		
Gender parity index of GER; F/M (%)	1.02	UIS (2015)		
Children entering Grade 1 with ECD experience (%)	99.37	UIS (2005)		
Gender parity index of children with ECD experience; F/M (%)	1.01	UIS (2005)		
Grade 1 repetition rate (%)	0.11	UIS (2014)		

#### Testimonies

*"Children are our precious assets and they have the right to high quality care, education and development. Holistic and balanced development of a child can only be achieved through the high commitment and integration of various efforts of numerous stakeholders." - Pg Hajah Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Kamaluddin, Director-General of Education, Brunei, June 2014*

*"Our young children carry the future of our nation on their shoulders. Hence, we should ensure that they have access to a high standard of education." - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, wife of the Crown Prince of Brunei*

<sup>i</sup> UNESCO. (2015). [Education for All 2015 National Review Report: Brunei Darussalam](#)

<sup>ii</sup> UNESCO. (2016). [New Horizons: A review of early childhood care and education in Asia and the Pacific](#)

<sup>iii</sup> The World Bank Group. (2017). [World Bank Open Data](#) (Accessed 12 January 2018).

<sup>iv</sup> UNICEF. (2016). [The State of the World's Children 2017 Statistical Table](#).

<sup>v</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). (2018). [Education dataset](#). (Accessed 12 January 2018).

<sup>vi</sup> SEAMEO INNOTECH. [Regional consultation forum on early learning frameworks, policies and programmes: A completion report](#)