



2022 annual report

For the ARNEC Board of Directors from the Secretariat: year 2022 in retrospect

The year 2022 was a period of pandemic transition. The Asia-Pacific region adjusted to COVID-19 becoming endemic. Everyone seems to have accepted living with the corona virus, rather than escaping from it.

The year witnessed the softening of quarantine measures, opening up the economy, lifting school closure, resuming early childhood services and others that require face-to-face interaction, and people adapting to the new normal.

For ARNEC, the post-pandemic transition meant keeping our commitment to advance the well-being of young children in the region, especially the most vulnerable from the effects of the pandemic due to limited ECD services and declining investments for young children.

ARNEC continued promoting our key advocacy priorities, particularly to policy- and decision-makers and other stakeholders in the region. Harnessing the potential of responsive caregiving and playful parenting to support nurturing care for young children has become more timely, not only to build positive interactions between the child and the

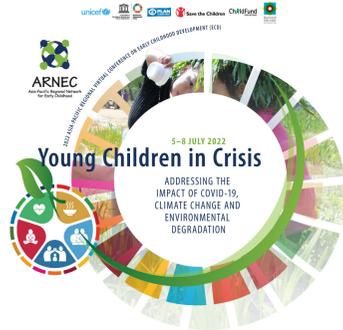
caregiver, but also to uphold their well-being to address toxic stress and mental health.

Advancing multisectoral approaches to ECD, especially through the work of our national ECD networks and partners at the country level, has become more relevant at a time when ECD investments need to be holistic, inclusive, and, most importantly, adequate to address pandemic impacts and SDG reversals.

Promoting clean, safe, and secure environments for young children and their families we have advocated at COP and other opportunities at the global, regional, and country levels to build awareness on the inter-linkages among ECD, climate change, and environmental degradation, and the primacy of ECD investment as one of the pathways for the SDGs and human development.

This annual report tells a story of ARNEC's own transition in 2022, signifying what we did differently or better to advance the ECD agenda in the region.

What we did differently or better in 2022



First virtual Asia-Pacific Regional ECD Conference held

With the theme *Young Children in Crisis*, the 3-day conference gathered experts, ministers and policy makers, and ECD partners in the region and beyond to discuss the impact of COVID-19, climate change, and environmental degradation on young children in July 2022.

Link to the full documentation report here: <https://ar nec.net/resources/ar nec-resources/full-conference-documentation-report-young-children-crisis-addressing>.



12 learning-focused webinars in 2022

On average, ARNEC held one webinar a month in 2022. WHO and other partners sought out ARNEC for the Asia convening webinars of the Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP). UNICEF EAPRO co-led with ARNEC the Policy Makers' Course on the Nurturing Care Framework. UNICEF ROSA collaborated with ARNEC to launch the formative assessment package for ECE. UNESCO Bangkok worked with ARNEC also to launch the Social and Emotional Learning Handbook for ECE. ECDAN and other regional networks co-led with ARNEC several learning forums.

See inside pages for the details and links to the webinar resources: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oUbyyiOfzBU2wUvM_FlRtEbP9yAd89Lv/view?usp=sharing.



Key ECD knowledge products co-created with partners

ARNEC completed the scoping study on the state of ECD and climate change in the region with emphasis on putting young children at the heart of climate actions and environmental protection. Link to the study here: <https://ar nec.net/resources/ar nec-resources/most-vulnerable-most-valuable-scoping-study-put-young-children-heart>.

ARNEC also produced case studies, integration report, and policy brief from the range of good ECD practices and innovations in the context of COVID-19 (link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YGWJe-3Olr6OG52YkvPwOHYRe_Nt0Y1b/view?usp=sharing).

We maximised support of key stakeholders for ARNEC's advocacy priorities in the region and beyond



On responsive caregiving and playful parenting

With the Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP) under the coalition of WHO, UNICEF, ECDAN, PLLH, and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, ARNEC was able to promote responsive caregiving and playful parenting, especially in the context of COVID-19, and amplify P2P gains to the region, a commitment of ARNEC to Save the Children and The LEGO Foundation.



On multisectoral approaches to ECD

ARNEC led the the consultations for the Asia report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference (APREMC-II) in Bangkok on 5-7 June 2022 covering (1) inclusion, quality, and wellbeing; (2) ECCE workforce; (3) resilience and innovations; and (4) financing, policy, and governance. This output later evolved to a regional report for the World Conference on ECCE held in Tashkent in November 2022.



On clean, safe, and secure environments to support ECD

In addition to awareness-raising and education on the interlinkages among ECD, climate change, and environmental degradation, ARNEC completed a scoping study, the first study of its kind in the region, the findings and recommendations of which have provided entry points to incorporate the needs and rights of young children into our climate change and environmental actions.

Webinars to support ARNEC's advocacy for responsive caregiving and playful parenting



Asia Webinars Series on Supporting Parents and Caregivers

Webinar 1 (2 hours):

Evidence, mapping and country case studies

Thursday 24 November at
1:30 pm Delhi / 4 pm Manila /
7 pm Sydney

Webinar 2 (3 hours):

Working groups on specific topics

Tuesday 6 December at
12:30 pm Delhi / 3 pm Manila /
6 pm Sydney



The Global Initiative to Support Parents, comprised of World Health Organization, UNICEF, Parenting for Lifelong Health, the Early Childhood Development Action Network, the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, with support from USAID is cordially inviting you to attend two convenings on Supporting Parents and Caregivers. The objectives are to convene participants from the 48 countries in the Asian region, to:

- Present the rationale for parenting support as a key approach to improve the wellbeing of children
- Develop a common understanding of evidence-based interventions and delivery models
- Examine regional work in progress and gaps in interventions
- Examine the role of different sectors, namely, health, education and child protection
- Promote learning and sharing among countries to enhance support for parents and caregivers
- Increase visibility on the need to act and generate widespread commitment for action and
- Identify potential next steps countries can take to strengthen parenting/caregiver support

[Register here in advance for this webinar](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

ARNEC sought to convene GISP webinars in the region

ARNEC was sought by the GISP to convene a webinar series to support parents and caregivers in the region. This was a follow-through activity after the Asia Convening in Delhi in October 2022 and part of the iterative process of the GISP to generate evidence and inputs in preparation for the Global Convening in 2023.

Earlier ARNEC also issued a call for evidence-based parenting programs in the region for the GISP webinars. In addition to eight recommended programs from ARNEC, we received 43 submissions from the region.

GISP selected eight programs for the webinar series based on the quality of evidence in support of parenting and caregiving.

Among those selected was the Prescription to Play (P2P) Project implemented by the Save the Children Country Office and the Ministry of Health in Bhutan with the assistance of The LEGO Foundation. Another was Plan International's Father's Cafe in Bangladesh. Both programs were also presented at the virtual Asia-Pacific Regional ECD Conference in July 2022.

ARNEC fosters multisectoral collaboration in Bhutan, playful parenting supported



Prescription to Play



The Prescription to Play is implemented by Save the Children International Bhutan Country Office in partnership with the Ministry of Health with the support of The LEGO Foundation.

P2P recognises the importance of playful interactions and the role of parenting/caregiving in shaping young brains and helping young children reach their developmental potential.

Transformation areas:

- Health system level
- Community level
- Household level
- Regional level



P2P given spotlight in Asia convening, GISP webinars

In the Asia Convening in New Delhi in October 2022, ARNEC shared strategies to influence national policy to support parents using cases from the region. In the same presentation, P2P evidence was also shared focusing on systems-level change in the health sector, as well as behavioural change at the household and district levels as a result of promoting playful parenting. P2P was also among the evidence-based parenting programs selected and presented at the GISP regional webinar series.



BUILDING BRAINS



Caregivers of children from birth to three years promote health, nutrition, child development and protection services.

ARNEC supports 'Building Brains' professional development

ARNEC facilitated professional development for ARNEC members to build the knowledge and skills necessary to design and deliver 0-3 programming using the Building Brains approach for early learning and responsive care for children. ARNEC partnered with Save the Children to deliver this Silver Building Brains Course with participants selected from national ECD networks and ARNEC institutional members.



ARNEC, UNICEF launch formative assessment package for learning recovery

Presenting the Formative Assessment Package (FAP) for Early Childhood Education (ECE), ARNEC and UNICEF ROSA co-facilitated the launch the FAP that could help inform appropriate teaching strategies in schools and at home to reinforce the learning journey of children post-pandemic.

The FAP provides a set of assessment tools and teaching strategies for preschools and schools, as well as for homes to guide parents and caregivers.



ARNEC, other regional networks, ECDAN join forces for ECD, climate resilience

For the first time, ECD networks at the regional and global levels came together to hold a webinar series on early childhood development and climate change.

ECDAN, AfCEN, ANECD, ARNEC, and ISSA amplified the need to work together and reach out to champions and partners at different levels to make ECD part of global and national climate action during the first global webinar series on 1 September 2022.



ARNEC, ISSA stress the importance of early childhood workforce in webinar

Recognising the role of the early childhood workforce in improving the quality of early childhood development (ECD) services and outcomes for young children, ARNEC and the International Step by Step Association (ISSA) facilitated a webinar on 25 May 2022.

The webinar had a theme on strengthening the early childhood workforce in the Asia-Pacific region highlighting the need for proper recognition and support for professionalisation, competency development, and investment.



ARNEC, AfECN lead knowledge exchange on governance, multisectoral coordination for early childhood development

Focusing on the role of multisectoral coordination for ECD, ARNEC and the African Early Childhood Network (AfECN) embarked on a research of institutional and governance arrangements in the Asia-Pacific and African regions to learn what works in producing ECD outcomes.

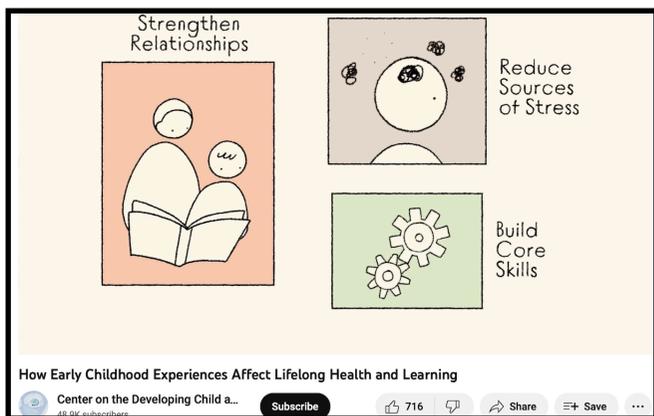
The landscape analyses in both regions presented governance models and multisectoral approaches and identified enabling and hindering factors affecting ECD in diverse country contexts.



ARNEC, UOW share scoping study on young children, climate change

Young children are the most profoundly affected by climate change and environmental degradation and COVID-19; yet they are least represented in policies and programs designed to respond to adverse impacts and plans for future consequences.

This was one of the key findings of the ARNEC scoping study prepared in collaboration with the University of Wollongong (UOW) to put young children at the heart of climate actions and environmental protection. The pioneering study was pursued under the auspices of ARNEC in partnership with UNICEF EAPRO and Save the Children International and with the support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF).



ARNEC, HCDC stress 'science of adversity and resilience' among young children

Focusing on insights from the science of adversity and resilience that could help families, communities, and public systems support healthy development for young children, ARNEC and the Harvard Center on the Developing Child (HCDC) in cooperation with the Regional Networks convened a joint webinar.



ARNEC, regional networks webinar: climate-ECD nexus, early childhood investment building blocks for adaptation, resilience

Another joint webinar between ARNEC and other regional ECD networks was held on on 30 May 2022 demystifying climate science and its relationship with early childhood development or ECD.

The webinar provided a space for environmental experts and ECD stakeholders to come together to explore ways to make ECD visible in climate and environmental actions at the global and country levels.



Climate science, links to early childhood development addressed in ARNEC webinar

Following the initial webinar on putting young children in the center of climate change and environmental actions in February 2022 (link here: <https://arnek.net/resource?id=307>), another webinar was held on on 30 May 2022 demystifying climate science and its relationship with early childhood development or ECD.

Investing in early childhood through quality and targeted programming is an entry point to making all children benefit from nurturing care so that they are healthy, well-nourished, safe, and constantly learning, all of which are essential to keeping them more adaptable and resilient to climate change risks.

In case you missed the ARNEC webinars last year



Please find the webinar-specific links to the recordings, presentation slides and other resources, and documentation reports here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oUbyyiOfzBU2wUvM_FlrtEbP9yAd89Lv/view?usp=sharing.

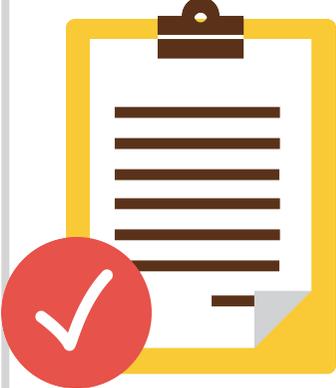
ARNEC is also pleased to have co-created with key partners landmark ECD knowledge products in 2022



Asia-Pacific Early Childhood Care and Education: Teacher Training Handbook for Social and Emotional Learning (APETT-SEL)

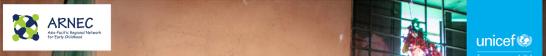
Prepared by ARNEC and UNESCO Bangkok, the APETT-SEL and its modules have been released to the public.

Link: <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/asia-pacific-early-childhood-care-education-teacher-training-handbook-social-emotional-learning-sel>



ARNEC co-designed co-delivered the NCF Course for Policy Makers with UNICEF EAPRO and the Aga Khan University.

ARNEC also moderated a deep dive session on the multisectoral ECD approaches and governance models in the region.



8 September 2022

From Learning Loss to Learning Recovery amongst Young Children:
The Launch of the Formative Assessment Package for ECE

ARNEC and UNICEF ROSA completed the Early Childhood Education Formative Assessment Package (FAP) for release in 2023. The FAP was also presented in the World Conference on ECCE in Tashkent in November 2022.

ARNEC secured grants to support programs, operations in 2022

BvLF: Euro 100k to support our advocacy on addressing the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on young children. Grant is for one year.

1

Early Childhood Regional Network Fund (ECRN Fund): US\$ 500,000 for two years. This is an unrestricted funding to support core operations of ARNEC but needs to demonstrate how the funding is advancing our strategy.

2



ARNEC secured grants to support programs, operations in 2022

Porticus: US\$ 16,000 to support staff time and national engagement with the work that we are doing with HCDC (together with other regional ECD networks) on translating the science of ECD into the ECD advocacy work of our partners in the countries (Nepal, India, Philippines).

3

Harnessing Global Data to Advance Young Children's Learning and Development/GCRF grant: GBP 35,000 to build global research capacity in ECD-ECE to increase the use of data for international decision-making, action and monitoring. This project is a unique collaboration between multi-disciplinary experts, UN agencies, implementers, early child development and education (ECD-ECE) regional networks and stakeholder teams.

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Please get in touch with us at
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ARNEC is thankful to partners who shared with us the photos for the front and back covers of the 2022 Annual Report.

ARNEC

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