

Support to the regional agenda on Early Childhood Development measurement (D2431)

Description:

The lack of globally comparable indicators of Early Childhood Development (ECD) for very young children (i.e., children younger than 5 years of age) is hampering the informed design and targeting of much needed interventions and policies that promote ECD. To address this historical deficit in the discipline, an international and multidisciplinary team of experts, led by WHO, is working to develop an open-access package, **the Global Scales for Early Development (GSED), that provides a standardized method for measuring the development of children up to 36 months of age at population and programmatic level globally (i.e., worldwide)**. The package includes several measurement tools (instruments), such as the GSED-Short Form, the GSED-Long Form, the GSED-Psychosocial Form and the GSED-Household Form (GSED-HH). The GSED-HH is the shortest form, it covers the 0-2 years age-range and it has been specifically designed, in coordination with UNICEF, for inclusion in multipurpose household surveys —such as UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)— alongside the Early Childhood Development Index 2030 (ECDI2030), developed by UNICEF and which covers the 3-5 years age-range. The package also includes a metric that is age and context free, the DScore, which will allow the development of a global child developmental curve, analogous to the existing WHO growth curves (height and weight). **This will allow constructing indicators that quantify the proportion of children who are developmentally on- and off-track (the equivalent of a stunting rate, for example), which, in turn, will contribute to SDG 4.2.** The IDB has been supporting these initiatives since their early days and is a very important actor in ECD outcomes measurement. In fact, this work agenda achieved the Second Prize to Knowledge Excellence 2023, in the Global Knowledge category. Furthermore, this work is of critical operational relevance as it will allow to complete/update CPDs with relevant ECD outcome data that will inform the adequate targeting and design of ECD interventions and policies.

The overall objective of this proposal is to support the implementation and dissemination of GSED in the LAC region and the harmonization with UNICEF's ECDI2030 so as to have a DScore for the entire 0-5 years age-range therefore continuing to contribute to such ongoing global efforts and ensuring the IDB remains an important actor in the field. It will also support other national and regional measurement efforts.

Specific objectives are:

1. Implement the GSED-HH in UNICEF's MICS or other nationally representative surveys to test it in Spanish-speaking countries in the region. Analyze the data and draw implications for the use of these instruments in large scale nationally representative surveys. Candidate countries are Argentina and Ecuador.
2. Contribute to efforts to disseminate the GSED in LAC, promote its use, and generate and/or process data from the LAC region that can be contributed to other efforts outside of the region (for example, data from an ongoing effort, led by Universidad Católica de Chile and the GSED-Team in Chile, on approximately 400 children for the development of ECD norms and standards).
3. Support the construction of national norms for language development (a proxy for overall development) for children 0-5 using Ecuador's ENSANUT 2018-19 and the ENDI rounds 2022-23 and 2023-24.
4. Systematize the efforts to date on population level indicators of ECD for children 0-5 years regionally and globally; and promote the use of comparable indicators of ECD in LAC.

Activities may include (i) primary data collection (data generation); (ii) data processing and/or analysis, including the application of the GSED metric methodology (DScore) and other techniques to construct population-level indicators and norms; (iii) conducting a literature review on measurement; and (iv) report writing and dissemination activities in various formats (policy briefs, flyers, webinars, presentational events).

Submitted by:

Marta Rubio Codina

Submitted on:

11/29/2023

Status:

Submitted

Category:

Research and Dissemination

Tags:

ecd gsed measurement global tools

Linked Ideas:

Whiteboard:

Team Leader Name

Marta Rubio Codina

Alternate Team Leader Name

Florencia Lopez Boo

Has the proposal been discussed and authorized by the responsible sector or country department/division, as applicable?

Yes

Team Leader Responsible Department

SCL

Are there specific countries that will directly benefit from your proposal?

Yes

Mark the specific countries that will be directly benefited from your proposal?

Argentina

Chile

Ecuador

Mexico

Where applicable, describe how the proposal aligns with the respective country strategy (for each country selected)**Does the proposal align to one or more sector frameworks?**

Yes, the proposal aligns with at least one sector framework

Identify and describe how the proposal aligns to the sector framework(s)

The TC is aligned with Line of Action 1 of the 2019 ECD SFD and Line of Action 2 of the 2023 ECD SFD, recently approved, by contributing to address a historical deficit in the area of ECD which is the lack of regular population level indicators on child development. Further, it will support ongoing national, regional and international initiatives that seek to incorporate ECD measurement into nationally representative surveys. It will strive to have countries in LAC collect ECD outcome data in a comparable fashion to facilitate comparisons.

Select the regional challenges and cross-cutting issues to which the proposal aligns to

Social Inclusion and Equality

Productivity and Innovation

Institutional Capacity and Rule of Law

Gender Equality

Diversity

Justify the alignment to each selection above

Social Inclusion and Equality. Quantifying ECD gaps among population subgroups —ideally, in a comparable manner across countries— is a critical first step to increase the visibility of the huge disparities between children growing up in more and less vulnerable environments, and to reducing such inequalities.

Productivity and innovation. By providing data that can help define strategies to close developmental deficits (ECD gaps). Improving ECD outcomes has the potential to have long-lasting individual and societal returns through increased educational attainment and labor market outcomes (**productivity**).

By contributing to ongoing efforts to develop a 'developmental' curve analogous to height and weight ('growth') curves (**innovation**).

Gender Equality. By quantifying ECD levels by gender in a comparable manner that allows for unbiased comparisons as the GSED is a 'context-free' instrument.

Diversity. By quantifying ECD levels by indigenous groups in a comparable manner that allows for unbiased comparisons as the GSED is a 'context-free' instrument.

Institutional capacity and rule of law. By offering countries in the region alternatives and strategies to measure ECD outcomes using open-access and cost-efficient tools, and increasing country capacity on their use.

What is the estimated funding that you need in order to implement this proposal?

225000

Select the expected outputs of this proposal

Events (other than policy dialogues)

Knowledge Products

Are outputs strictly Knowledge Products?

No, the output is not strictly a Knowledge Product

Describe the motivation and main question(s) this TC intends to answer.

Describe the methodological approach to be used and the type of data (when applicable) which will be used

Please specify the type(s) of Knowledge Product (s) this TC encompasses:

Magazines and Learning Materials

Databases & Datasets

Technical and Policy Notes

Please provide a brief description of the output(s) selected above (The number of units planned, and the estimated cost). If you selected others, please specify.

1. Reports describing the efforts supported and technical notes, working/academic papers with results, alongside learning materials that explain them in layman's terms. Potentially, datasets on ECD outcomes collected using GSED. (\$100,000)
2. One or more regional workshops on measurement and/or one regional GSED 'launch'. (\$70,000)
3. Language norms for Ecuador to identify on- and off-track children. (\$30,000)
4. Brochure/policy brief that systematizes efforts to date on population level indicators of ECD for children 0-5 years regionally and globally. (\$25,000)

Outcomes: If the outputs are delivered successfully, what is the change expected (in capacity, knowledge, behavior, etc.)

1. Developing norms and a child development curve that allows the world to identify the number of children developing on- and off-track, in a comparable fashion worldwide.
2. Increase ECD data generating capacity in the region and advocate for the institutionalization of ECD outcome measurement with appropriate, valid and feasible strategies.
3. Ensure that ECD outcomes can be measured with quality as part of multipurpose nationally-representative surveys in Spanish-speaking countries.
4. Remain a leading player/partner in the ECD measurement agenda, alongside WHO, UNICEF and other multilateral organizations.

(1) Attachments

DScore - GSED.png

0 Comments