



# **48th SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION(UNESCO)**

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**COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES  
IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: THE  
MAURITIAN EXPERIENCE**



# A Presentation

by

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# Mauritius 2008 Basic Facts

- **Small island state in the Indian Ocean**
- **Former British colony, gained independence in 1968**
- **Multi-ethnic, multi-cultural Population of 1.2 million**
- **Narrow resource base with natural resources**
- **From a sugar based, mono-crop economy to a diversified, multi-pillar economic structure: Tourism, Textile, Financial Services, ICT, Sea Food Hub etc**
- **Per Capita Income at US \$ 7000**



## **The ECCE Sector**

**LONG HISTORY OF ECCE CARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (1979)**

**LATER CONSOLIDATED BY DECLARATIONS AT JOMTIEN (1990) AND DAKAR(2000)**

**AND NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED IN LINE WITH THE CONVENTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD(Art 18,27,28 and 29 1999)**



## The ECCE Sector : Core Data

ECCEA Pre-Schools.....181

Private Pre-Schools.....839

- Total enrolment in 1,020 pre-schools : 31,590
- Educators (ECCEA) : 433
- Educators (Private) : 1,933



## The ECCE Sector

**1984.....setting up of the Pre-School Trust Fund(PSTF) to promote and provide pre-school education and service**  
**FUNCTIONS**

- Registration of schools
- Supervision of Educational activities
- Teacher Education and Training
- Implementation of the “three earlies.....screening,intervention and referral programme”
- Provide support services like Documentation Centre,Play and Toy Library



## The ECCE Sector

- Educational Reform Plans and Policies – the last 20 years
- ECCE/D has had an important place in the different reform plans and policy development



## The ECCE Sector

### **Master Plan for Education (1990)**

### **National Children's Policy (2003) and Plan of Action (2004-2015) focusing on :**

- Creating a Republic fit for children
- Achieving the Millennium Goals with the young child figuring as an important element in reaching the goals.
- The promotion of inclusion and integration as approaches based on intersector collaboration.

### **THE PRE-SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN OF 2003**



## The ECCE Sector

- THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT PROGRAM(2005/2010 & PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT (JULY 2005))

### Focus

- Provide a "world class quality education" for all and "No Child Left Behind" commitment
- Combat exclusion, promote inclusion
- Ensure inter-sector collaboration.



## The ECCE Sector

**2008.....Replacement of the Pre-School Trust Fund(PSTF) by the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority**

### **Additional FUNCTIONS**

- Strengthening of inter-sectoral service delivery**
- Parental education and empowerment**
- Pastoral care, Counselling and Community involvement**
- Preparing the ground for the Centre of Excellence for the region**



## The ECCE Sector

**The ECCEA Board is represented by all sectors namely:**

- Care and welfare department/ institution
- Health and nutrition department/ institution
- Education and protection department/ institution that serves the Child
- Parents,
- Managers of the federated private pre-school units,
- NGO's and community based organizations.



## The ECCE Sector

**Technical committees set up within the ECCEA Framework to :**

- Develop and implement pedagogical program
- Develop safety and security norms
- Ensure a smooth transition from home to school through Parents empowerment programs,
- Develop and sustain the "bridging the gap initiative" which provides the smooth passage of children from home, pre-school to primary sector.



## The ECCE Sector

- A new institutional framework -the **Early Childhood Care and Education Authority** to manage and regulate the sector set up
- Implementation of "integrated programs" that presently serves nearly 90 per cent of children of pre-school, and "prepare the child for school and the school for the child" (ADEA, Libreville Gabon, March 2006).



## The ECCE Sector

- Development and implementation Eradication of Absolute Program to support the inclusion of 5000 children not attending pre-school and marginalized populations with the present Government setting provisions for some 7000 families living in absolute poverty (EAP Project 5000, 2008).



## The ECCE Sector

Policy Dialogue EFA Global Report "**Strong Foundations: ECCE**" 2007

- Mauritius convened several workshops including an international meeting early 2007



## The ECCE Sector

### **Participants endorsed :**

- An integrated programming processes with more focus on policy development
- Strategic planning and close monitoring of services for the Young Child
- Starting early with parental empowerment program with comprehensive services to ensure overall development of the young child and preparedness for learning and educational achievement at end of Primary schooling.
- Implementation of a poverty alleviation strategy with active support and participation from partners in development.



## The ECCE Sector

### **Capacity Building:**

**The Mauritius Initiative sets out an accelerated training program for :**

- Management Cadres involved in implementation of ECD programme and quality assurance
- All ECCD Educators up to certificate level by the Mauritius Institute of Education with option to diploma level
- Cadres involved in the development of supportive material for training and services to the young child (0 to 8 years) and their parents and families.



## The ECCE Sector

**Expected Outcome of the capacity Building programme and other support services:**

- Better monitoring and evaluation
- Development of key indicators for the sector
- Development and promotion of innovative approaches - non-formal and formal - within an Action research framework
- Contribution to informed policy dialogue and development in favor of the Young Child.



## The ECCE Sector

Mauritius :as a "Center of Excellence"

*Purpose: to help nearly thirty countries in sub-Saharan Africa through offer of services in:*

- areas of training
- research
- documentation
- innovative approaches
- Sharing of best practices of the work of well established institutions in the sector of Child development, education, protection.



## The ECCE Sector

### North-South/South-South collaborative program

The Mauritius Initiative relies on a **North-South/South-South collaborative program** that will :

- accelerate the training of cadres
- reinforce its approach to inclusive education
- set up research and better ways of documenting best practices for advocacy and informed policy dialogue in the sector of Young Child Development, Education and Protection.



## **The ECCE Sector**

**The ECCE sector concerns our children....our future**

**Let us invest in them ...generously**