

11 November 2021 KIX EAP Webinar: Tools for Transformation Advancing Early Learning through the ECE Accelerator Toolkit

Speakers and moderators' biographical notes



Speaker: Ghazala M. Syed is the BELDS KIX Project Coordinator at UNICEF Headquarters in New York. In her current role, Ghazala coordinates and provides technical support to the five countries in implementing the KIX BELDS project. These countries include Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Lesotho. Within ECE, Ghazala focuses on equity and access and gender-mainstreaming in ECE. She started her career as an educator and has worked with the UN system, the World Bank and various NGOs. Ghazala has a Master's of Arts in International Educational Development from Columbia University, a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Waterloo, and a Bachelor of Education from Lakehead University, focusing on International Development. Her leadership roles in the field have equipped her with the ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, work under pressure and advocate for inclusive education.



Speaker: Joa Keis is an Early Childhood Education Specialist within UNICEF headquarters global Early Childhood Education Team. Within his current role, Joa is responsible for supporting the development and implementation of UNICEF ECE programs globally as well as for managing, monitoring, and reporting on progress of UNICEF's global ECE initiatives. Prior to his current role, Joa spent 9 years as an education professional working with NGOs and UNICEF in various country contexts in East Asia, Haiti and West and Central Africa, with a technical focus on ECE, Inclusive Education and Education in Emergencies. Within his various field-based experiences, Joa has consistently worked with all relevant national stakeholders to strengthen access to quality and equitable early learning opportunities in both humanitarian and development contexts and successfully supported the mainstreaming of ECE into education sector plans. Joa holds a Master's of Arts in International Educational Development from Columbia University.



Speaker: Dr. Chinargul Dzhumagulova is an Early Childhood Development Officer in UNICEF Kyrgyzstan office. She has thirty-two years of experience in the areas of Child protection, Early Childhood Development and Basic Education program development, Management, Monitoring and evaluation. She holds a PhD in Education since 2009. She has worked as Central Asia Regional Inclusive Education Advisor (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan), Save the Children UK from 1998-2009. She has developed and field-tested training materials for teachers and other staff, leading to the publication of a practical manual and guide for teachers and others. As an Education Advisor/manager, she liaises and works with relevant Ministry of Education departments, Teacher Training institutes, NGOs, donors and Academic Institutions, in order to advocate for policy changes in child protection and education sectors concerning the protection right of the children, textbooks and changing in curriculum and practice them at all levels. She has worked as a manager of Youth programme at UNDP. She has participated in developing Education Strategy 2021-2040, lead ECD sector



Speaker: Jamshed Kurbonov is an Education Officer at UNICEF at Tajikistan office. He is responsible for ensuring overall efficiency and effectiveness of the early childhood education programme management, delivery and accomplishment through effective planning, monitoring and evaluation, and partnership initiatives, including strengthening the capacity of education authorities and stakeholders to implement programmes that facilitate provision of accessible, inclusive and quality ECE services. Mr. Kurbonov has a master's degree in the field of Social Enterprise Administration from Columbia University School of Social Work in the city of New York. He provides technical expertise to national and international education stakeholders to strengthen national policy, legislation and advocates for adoption of clear regulatory framework enabling provision of affordable and quality early learning opportunities for marginalized children



Speaker: Melody Martin is the Assistant Director of Pre-primary and Primary Education in the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education in Sierra Leone. She is one of the members of Community of Practice for the KIX BELDS project. Ms. Martin is the first officer to occupy this office since the establishment of the Early Childhood Development Unit in 2020. She has been serving as Administrative Assistant to both national and International Consultants who were hired to develop the national ECCE policy documents inscribed in the Education Sector Plan of 2014. She was among the first Master Trainers trained on ECCE pedagogy in the implementation of the Global partnership for Education (GPE) fund managed by the World Bank. 2014 – 2018. Since then, she has been organizing trainings, Mentoring and Coaching sessions, Monitoring and supervising Early Childhood centres – both community and formal based in Sierra Leone. On behalf of MBSSE, she provides Ministerial Leadership in collaborating/implementing ECCE/ECE/ECD inter-sectoral activities across Line Ministries – Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs, Ministry of Health, Local Councils, Development Partners and other stakeholders.



Speaker: Massey Tucker is an Education Officer at UNICEF in Sierra Leone’s Country Office. Massey possesses 9 years of progressive experience in education in emergencies, early learning, and girls’ education. A creative and innovative thinker with effective programme management and goal setting abilities combined with superior leadership, team building, interpersonal communication, and presentation skills. Massey currently provides professional technical, operational, and administrative assistance throughout the programming process for early childhood education programmes