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Institute  
Under the auspices  
of UNESCO



Institute of Early Childhood  
Development (Seychelles)







## INTRODUCTION

The Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD) is the main government funded entity for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in Seychelles. Since its establishment in 2013, IECD has made significant contributions to the development of national policies and standards as well as conducted research aimed at improvement in early childhood education, care and services.

## MANDATE

- national coordination of Early Childhood Development
- providing leadership and policy guidance
- setting strategic direction
- regulating child care services and assuring quality in formal early childhood education setting
- undertaking research
- advocating for and promoting ECCE
- overseeing financial support for registered childcare services





**VISION**

**MISSION**

**MOTTO**

**VISION**

Seychellois children  
enjoying quality  
Early Childhood Care  
and Education (ECCE)

**MOTTO**

A Winning Start for All

**MISSION**

Provide leadership  
in ECCE and  
improve quality and  
accessibility for all  
children

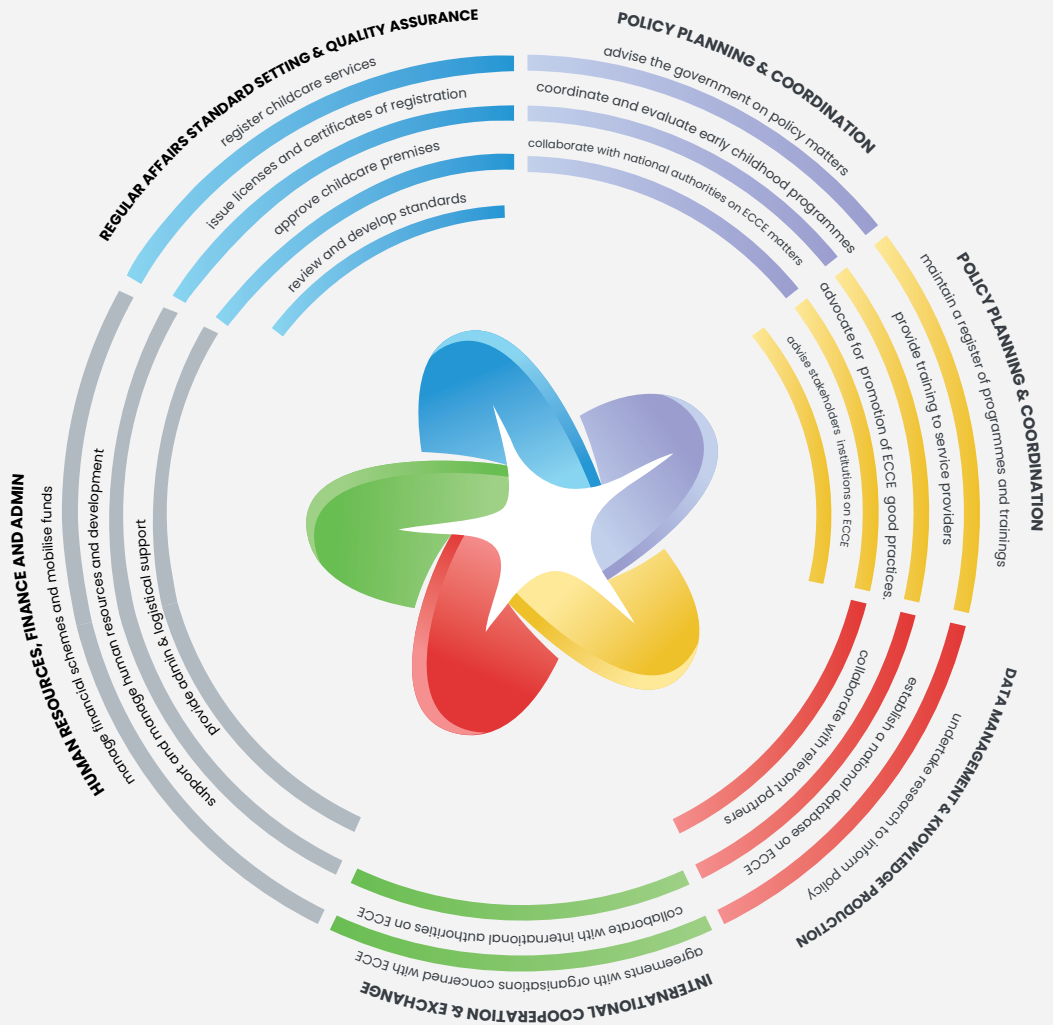




# ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



## ROLES AND FUNCTIONS





# MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2013- 2022



ECCE in Seychelles, under the leadership and strategic direction of IECD, has seen major and rapid changes in the last ten years. The journey from IECD as a simple ECCE Centre to gain the status of a best practice hub and to be designated as a Category 2 Centre for ECCE under the auspices of UNESCO, has been characterised by some major achievements:

## 2013

- Launch of First National Action Plan for ECCE (2013-2014) to accelerate implementation of ECCE initiatives
- National Childminding Study establishing baseline data and the status of Childminding Services
- Conduct of the 'Systems Approach for Better Education Results-Early Childhood Development (SABER-ECD)' survey by World Bank in collaboration with IECD and ECCE Sectors
- Hosting of Second National Biennial ECCE Conference under the Theme: "From Policy to Action"

Policy Goals	Status
<b>1. Establishing an Enabling Environment</b> Laws to promote the health and well-being of young children and pregnant women are generally strong in Seychelles, but areas for improvement remain. The government of Seychelles has a multi-sectoral early childhood development plan for the country, though the plan focuses mainly on education.	Established ●●●○
<b>2. Implementing Widely</b> There is wide scope and coverage of early childhood development services in Seychelles. Access to health and education services is generally high and equitable, although more data are needed to assess this fully.	Established ●●●○
<b>3. Monitoring and Assuring Quality</b> The government of Seychelles could expand the types of administrative and survey data collected to monitor early childhood development. Standards for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) teacher qualifications, service delivery, and facilities are established, with the exception of child-minding services. Teacher qualification standards are not always enforced.	Established ●●●○

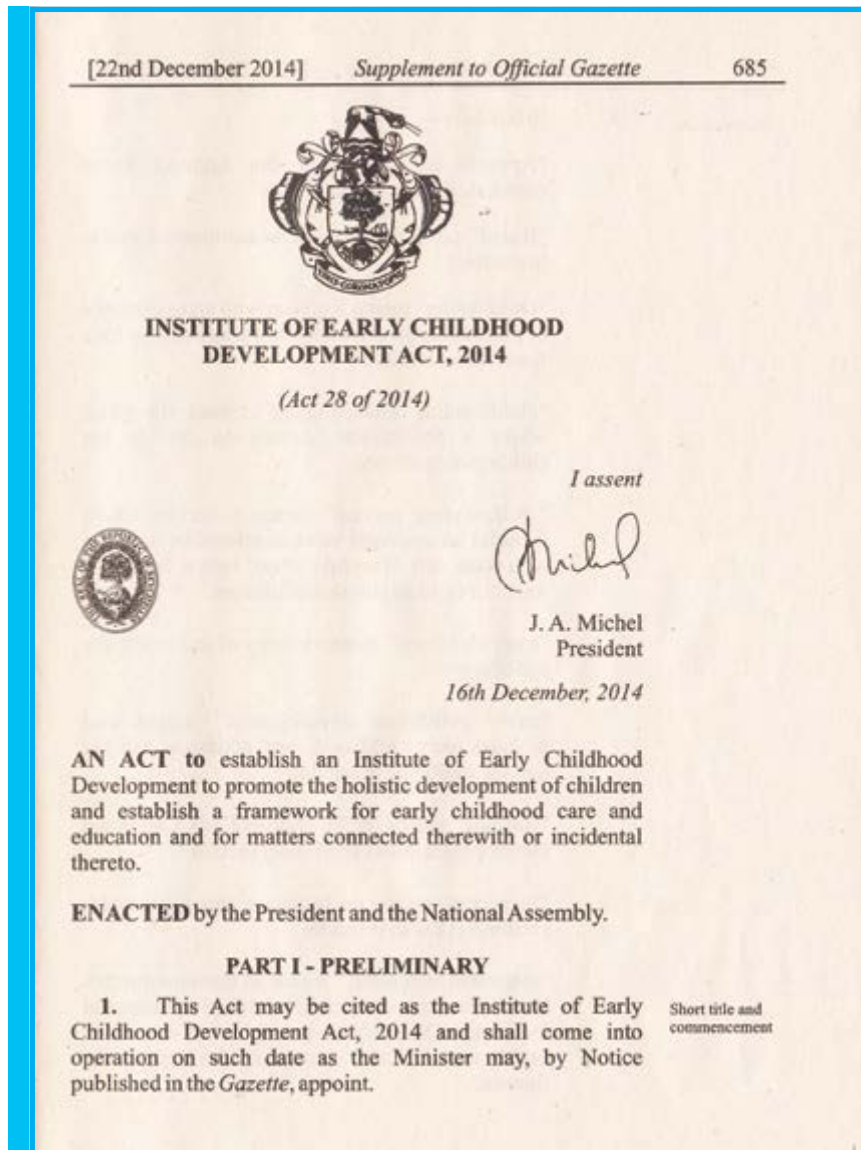
Systems Approach for Better Education Results

THE WORLD BANK



# 2014

- Enactment of IECD Law (2014) and establishment of IECD as a legal institution under parent Ministry of Education
- Hosting of 'Seychelles Childminding Conference: Sharing Results of National Study with Partners and Stakeholders'



# 2015

- Conduct of First Advocacy Survey to study change in the knowledge and understanding of ECCE issues as a result of enhanced advocacy, strategies and campaigns, in the professional and general population
- Hosting of Third National Biennial Conference on ECCE under the theme “National Action Plan 2013 – 2014: Sharing Progress”
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Parastatal, Private Organization and Companies and ECE Sectors in support of Early Childhood Development





# 2016

- Introduction of the Data Management Project in ECCE in the Health Sector in collaboration with World Bank
- Promulgation of IECD National Standards on Childminding Regulations (2016)
- Development of Pre-Registration & Sensitization Training Programme for Prospective Childminders
- Introduction of Financial Assistance Programme for Childminders and their assistants
- Participation in UNESCO-IBE mission to Yaoundé, Cameroon in the context of provision of technical assistance activity in the area of ECCE







## 2017

- Hosting of First International Biennial Conference on ECCE in collaboration with IBE- UNESCO and National High Level ECCE Policy Committee under the theme: "Building Resilient Early Childhood Care and Education Systems- Lessons of Experience"
- Designation of IECD as a Best Practice Hub for ECCE by IBE- UNESCO
- Contribution as co-author of article entitled 'Pointers from Seychelles: From humble beginnings to a Best Practice Hub' published in the UNESCO-IBE "In Focus Magazine"
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Seychelles IECD and UNESCO-International Bureau of Education on the Best Practice Hub for ECCE







BEST  
PRACTICE  
COUNTRIES



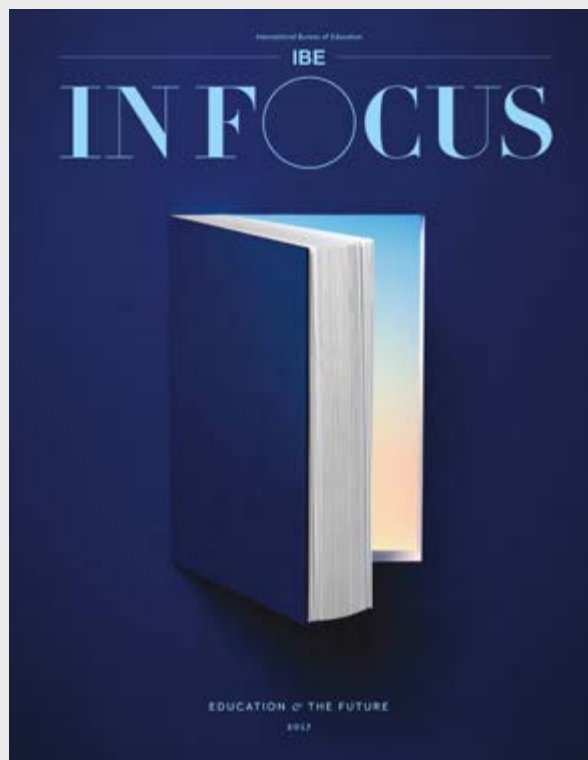
POINTERS  
from

# Seychelles

From humble  
beginnings to a  
Best Practice  
Hub

by  
Hazelzy Menden  
Shirley Chappo

Did you know that Seychelles, an archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, is among the world leaders in early childhood and care education (ECCE)? Formally recognized by the IBE as a Best Practice Hub, Seychelles is committed to ensuring holistic development of children, starting even before they are born. How and why has Seychelles made ECCE a priority?





# 2018

- Conduct of National Study to Monitor the Implementation of the National Standards for Childminding Services
- Assessment of Early Learning Environment in all Crèches of State Schools to develop quality standards in collaboration with Ministry of Education
- Participation and contribution in the first technical meeting of Continental Education for Africa (CESA 16–25) in collaboration with AUC and Africa Early Childhood Network
- Contribution to the draft Early Childhood Care and Education System Prototype developed by UNESCO-IBE







## 2019

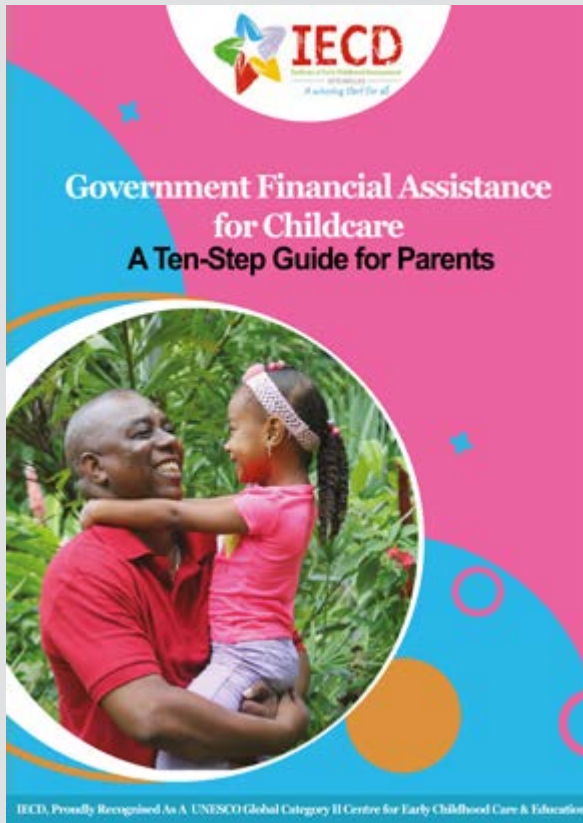
- Adoption of the resolution on the establishment of IECD as a Category 2 Centre under the Auspices of UNESCO at the 40<sup>th</sup> Session UNESCO General Conference
- Co-convening of Second International Biennial Conference on ECCE with IBE-UNESCO and National High Level ECCE Policy Committee entitled “Big Data for Small Children: Monitoring Early Childhood Development”.
- Assessment of the Provision of Services in Day Care Centres to develop quality standards in collaboration with SEED Institute, Singapore
- Hosting of National ECCE Forum: Evaluating the Implementation of the National Standards for Childminding Services





- Development and Administration of 1<sup>st</sup> Assessment of Early Learning Readiness in Home-based Childminding Service
- Participation in Special Panel on ECCE, organized by UNESCO-IBE, at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference in San Francisco, United States of America, titled 'Building resilient and sustainable ECCE systems'





## 2020

- Development, in collaboration with the Seychelles Qualifications Authority (SQA), of an Accredited Certificate Level Training Programme in 'Child Care and Development' led by the Seychelles Institute of Teacher Education (SITE)
- Introduction of a revised Financial Assistance Scheme for Parents with children in registered Child Care Services in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance
- Hosting of Webinar on Early Learning with the participation of international partners
- Implementation of the Revised Advocacy and Communications Strategy

## 2021

- Endorsement of Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Seychelles to establish IECD as a Category 2 Centre for ECCE, under the auspices of UNESCO
- Development and implementation of the National Assessment of Early Learning Readiness for Crèche (Preschool) Education
- Development of Framework on National Standards for Centre-Based Child Care Services.







- Launch of Advocacy Award in ECCE for Professionals in main ECCE Sectors
- Conduct of Main Study of the Data Management Project in ECCE in the Education Sector
- Development of the Early Learning Programme for Home-based Child Care Services and training of all registered Childminders in the use of the programme.
- Contribution of UNESCO Category 2 Centres in Education on UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4)





## 2022

- Undertake Pre-Pilot Study of the Data Management Project in ECCE in the Social Affairs Sector
- Graduation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cohort of Registered Childminders with a recognized certificate in 'Child Care and Development' as per the Seychelles National Qualifications Framework



- Formulation of the Revised Seychelles Framework on ECCE (2022) in collaboration with main sectors in ECCE
- Development of Early Stimulation & Learning Programme and Resources for Home-Based Child Care Services and undertake a pilot implementation.
- Provision of Facilities to accommodate the Head Office of IECD and the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for ECCE



- Approval of Early Childhood Development Bill (2022) by the National Assembly and Assent of Early Childhood Development Act (2022) by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Seychelles
- Participation of a multi-sectoral delegation at the World Conference in Tashkent, the Republic of Uzbekistan. The conference adopted the Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action for Transforming Early Childhood Care and Education.



- Participation in the World Bank Collaborative Project titled 'Women, Business and the Law Project on Early Childhood Education and Care' and Regulatory Frameworks around the availability, affordability, and quality of childcare services around the world as a pilot research.

# NEW ERA, NEW MANDATE 2023 AND BEYOND



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The Early Childhood Development (ECD) Act 2022, which has come into force in 2023, provides the Institute with the legal basis to operate as a Category 2 Centre for ECCE, under the auspices of UNESCO, thereby enhancing its capacity to provide technical assistance and support to other countries in the region and beyond as per the criteria and obligations specified in the UNESCO Agreement.

## ENTRANCE INTO NEW ERA

The entrance into the new era has been marked by key milestones:

### 2019

- **(April)** Application submitted to UNESCO for the Institute to be designated as a Category 2 Centre
- **(August)** Feasibility Study undertaken as per requirement from UNESCO
- **(October)** Results of Feasibility Study submitted to and approved by UNESCO Executive Board
- **(November)** Resolution adopted on the establishment of IECD as a Category 2 Centre by UNESCO General Conference (photo with delegation in Paris)

## 2021

• **(April)** Agreement between the Government of Seychelles and UNESCO for the establishment of the Institute as a Category 2 Centre for ECCE under the auspices of UNESCO signed by Director General UNESCO

• **(June)** Agreement between the government of Seychelles and UNESCO for the establishment of the Institute as a Category 2 Centre for ECCE under the auspices of UNESCO signed by Seychelles Minister for Education



• **(July onwards)** Review of the Institute of Early Childhood Development Act 2014 with technical legal assistance from Attorney General's Office and relevant partners

## 2022

• **(June)** Final Draft of Early Childhood Development Bill (former IECD Act 2014) developed to incorporate IECD's new international mandate of UNESCO Category 2 Centre

• **(July)** Approval of Early Childhood Development Bill (2022) by the Cabinet of Ministers

• **(September)** Approval of Early Childhood Development Bill (2022) by the National Assembly

• **(December)** Early Childhood Development Law enacted and assented by the Head of State





# 2023

- **(January)** Early Childhood Development Law and relevant documents submitted to UNESCO

- **(February)** Signing of Agreement between IECD Seychelles and Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU)



- **(February)** The Category 2 Centre Annual Report submitted to UNESCO

- **(May)** The Seychelles Framework for ECCE approved by Cabinet of Ministers

- **(June)** Republic of Seychelles – UNESCO Agreement to establish and operate as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre enforced



- **(July)** IECD as a Category 2 Centre set up, which includes governance and autonomy framework, rebranding activities and capacity building and sensitization of staff

- **(October)** Appointment of the Category 2 Centre Governing Board Members by the President of the Republic and first meeting held

- **(October)** IECD as a Category 2 Centre inaugurated





# UNESCO CATEGORY 2 CENTRE FOR ECCE



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IECD as a Category 2 Centre will continue to provide leadership, coordination and strategic direction in the field of ECCE with specific functions in the domains of:

- **Knowledge-Production:** provide relevant information and data for evidence- based policy and actions through research publications and resource management in early childhood development to further improve the quality of ECCE programmes.
- **Capacity Building:** carry out multi- level training programmes to build the capacity of ECCE professionals, service providers, caregivers and policy makers in the areas of early childhood development and provide training to policy makers and teachers in ECCE.
- **Technical Service:** provide direct technical support and skills transfer to countries with a view to strengthening the quality, holistic development and comprehensive ECCE services to children.
- **Standard Setting:** provide guidance for the formulation of legal instruments and standards development to improve, regulate and sustain early childhood systems.
- **Advocacy and Information Sharing:** develop advocacy strategies for the promotion of ECCE, articulate common benchmarks and agree on future agenda for the development of ECCE through a biennial conference as an international structured platform on ECCE and a best practice hub for ECCE.

As a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, the IECD will operate independently with functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities at regional and international levels.



## PUBLICATIONS

IECD has over the years, as part of its advocacy strategies, produced a variety of publications ranging from legal documents, policy papers, learning programmes to research reports and children's literature.

1. Policy Briefs for Childminding Study (2013) – A collection of 7 briefs
7. Children's Classic Stories – A collection of Big Books (6 stories translated in Creole) (2017 – 2022)



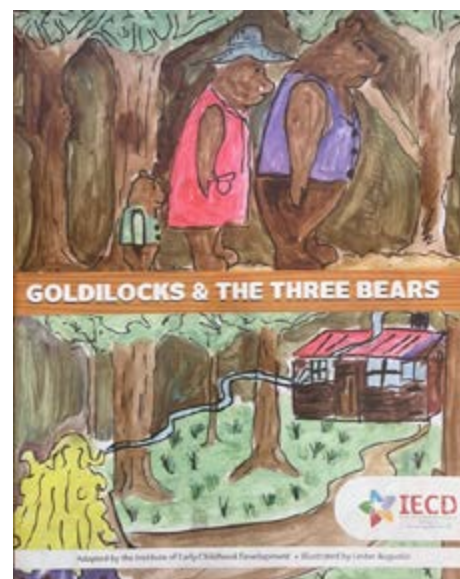
2. Institute of Early Childhood Development Act 2014

3. Early Childhood Islanders Aspirations 2020+: Letter to the President (2014)

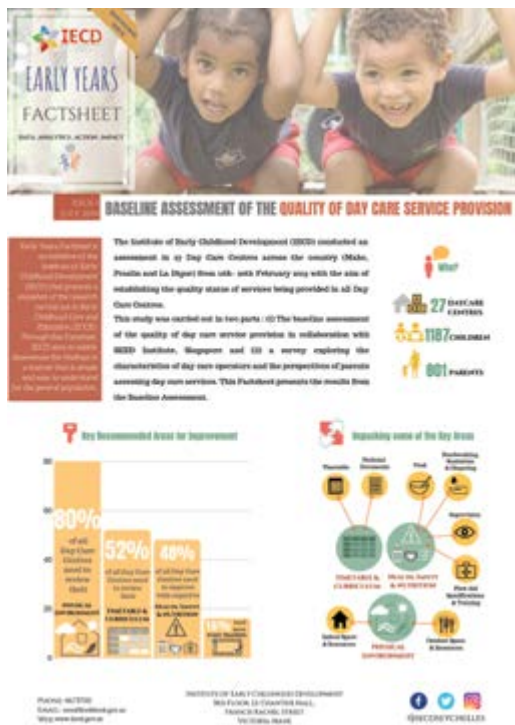
4. The Seychelles Early Childhood Care and Education Terminology Directory (2015)

5. IECD National Standards on Childminding Regulations (2016)

6. I Love Seychelles: Through the Eyes of Early Childhood Children (2017) – A collection of poems



8. IECD Advocacy Survey Reports (2017, 2019, 2021)
9. An Assessment of the Provision of Services in Day Care Centres in Seychelles (2018)
10. Snacks Booklet: Healthy mid-morning snack ideas for childminders and parents
11. IECD Early Years Factsheet (based on research projects findings): Issue 1-8 from 2019 to 2022
12. National Framework on National Standards for Centre-based Childminding Services (2021)
13. 'Valoriz Kiltir Travay Dir' (2020) - A collection of poems contributed by professionals in the ECCE Sectors in support of National Theme for 2020
14. Government Financial Assistance for Child Care: A Ten-Step Guide for Parents (2020)
15. Children 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter: 14 editions from 2013 to 2023



16. IECD Directory on Registered Childminding Services (South and West Region; North Region; Central and East Region; and Islands Region): 4 editions from 2018 – 2020

17. National Action Plan ECCE: 6 editions from 2013 to 2024



18. Early Childhood Development Act 2022

[12th December 2022] *Early Childhood Development Act* 492  
REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES SUPPLEMENT TO OFFICIAL GAZETTE ACT



**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2022**  
*(Act 25 of 2022)*



*I assent*  
  
Wavel Ramkalawan  
President  
*6<sup>th</sup> December, 2022*

**AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INSTITUTE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND TO SET UP A FRAMEWORK FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION TO PROMOTE THE HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.**

**ENACTED** by the President and the National Assembly.

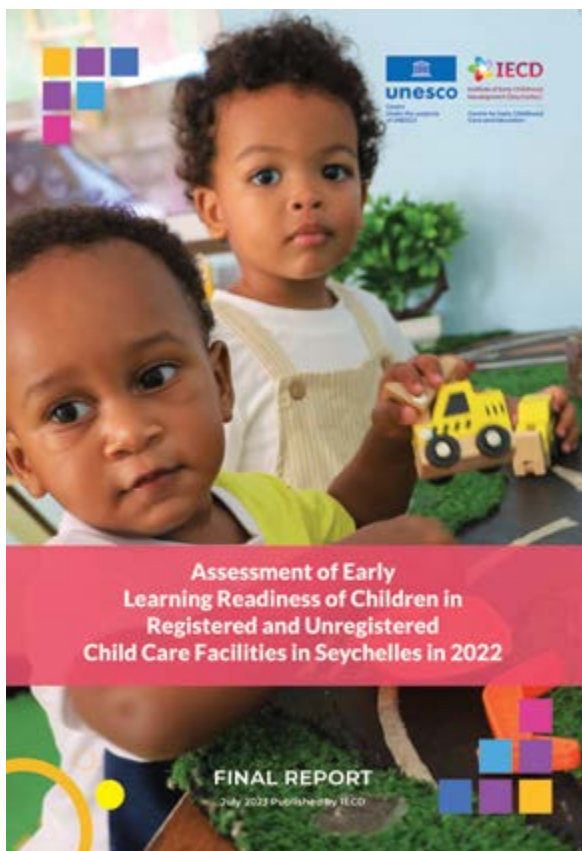
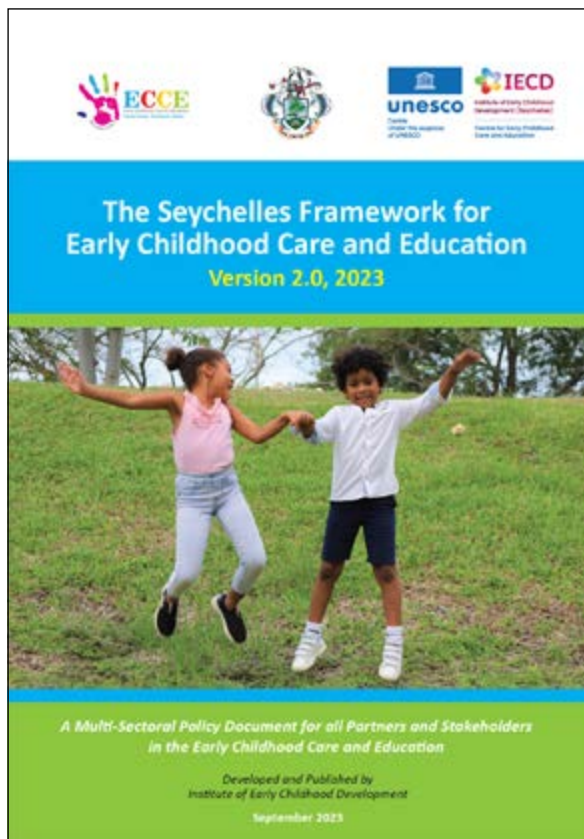
**PART I - PRELIMINARY**

**Short title and commencement**

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Early Childhood Development Act, 2022 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister, by Notice published in the *Gazette*, appoints.



19. The Seychelles Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education – Version 2.0 (2023)



20. Assessment of Early Learning Readiness of Children in Registered and Unregistered Child Care Facilities in Seychelles in 2022 (2023)

# ONLINE PLATFORMS & CONTACTS

IECD operates the following online platforms to disseminate and share useful information with its partners and the general public:

**Tel:** 248 4286565 | **Email:** [ceooffice@iecd.gov.sc](mailto:ceooffice@iecd.gov.sc)  
**Website:** [www.iecd.gov.sc](http://www.iecd.gov.sc) | **Social Media Channels:**

    @IECDseychelles

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Ile Perseverance, Mahé, Seychelles



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