



Make Local Government Work for ECD: A Call to Action



Your voice matters—your action counts!

THE VISION

Imagine your community filled with quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers where children from every home can **learn, grow, and thrive joyfully**. Imagine caregivers and ECD practitioners are equipped and supported to give children the best possible start in life, and families know their children are safe and cared for.

THE TRUTH

This vision cannot be realised without the dedicated voices of community members like YOU and the active support of your local government. Together, we can make local government work for ECD, ensuring that your municipality provides **holistic, inclusive and quality ECD services** necessary to support the development of young children.

WHY LOCAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS FOR ECD

Local governments are **legally mandated** to play a role in supporting ECD. From conducting health and safety checks, to upgrading infrastructure and providing basic services, municipalities have the power to create environments where ECD centers can thrive. **But across the country, many municipalities are falling short.**

Here's what's happening:

- Barriers to Registration

Health and safety checks and zoning requirements are often overly complicated and exclusionary, making it difficult for ECD centers to register.

- Infrastructure Challenges

Local governments are not building new facilities or upgrading existing ones.

- Lack of Basic Services

Many ECD centers lack access to essential services like water, electricity, and sanitation.



HOW YOU CAN *MAKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORK* FOR ECD

Here's what you can do to become an **activist** for ECD in your community.

1

Advocate for ECD in your Integrated Development Plan

The **Integrated Development Plan (IDP)** is the short, medium, and long-term plan that guides your local municipality's priorities and budget. If ECD is not in the IDP, it won't be prioritised or funded.

Demand that your municipality:

- **Use data** to identify access gaps and challenges in ECD services.
- **Set clear targets** for building and upgrading ECD centers.
- **Allocate funding** specifically for ECD infrastructure and programmes.
- **Identify underutilised spaces** (e.g. municipal buildings and community halls) to house ECD programmes.
- **Provide free basic services** like water, electricity, and sanitation to ECD centers.
- **Simplify registration processes** for ECD centers.

2

Build Relationships with Local Leaders

Meet with local councillors, ward committees, and municipal officials. Educate them about the importance of ECD and ask them to:

- **Be ECD champions** who prioritise ECD in municipal decision-making.
- Commit to addressing **delays and inefficiencies** in the ECD registration process.
- Regularly engage with ECD practitioners and parents to understand their needs.

3

Mobilise Your Community

Strength is in numbers! Work with parents, caregivers, and ECD practitioners to:

- Organise **community meetings** to discuss ECD challenges and solutions.
- Use **social media** and local platforms to raise awareness about ECD issues.
- Partner with local organisations and ECD forums to amplify your voice.

LET'S TAKE ACTION TOGETHER



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Join the Real Reform for ECD network. Together, we can amplify our voices and demand change.



RAISE AWARENESS

Share this pamphlet with other parents, caregivers, and community members.



CELEBRATE PROGRESS

Recognise and support local government officials who champion ECD.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The future of our children is in our hands. By working together, we can ensure that local government fulfills its role in supporting ECD. **Let's #MakeLocalGovernmentWorkForECD - because every child deserves the best start in life!**

Contact Real Reform for ECD

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