

ECRN Fund Annual Meeting: 2024

May 27 & 29 2024 | Penang, Malaysia

Hosted by ARNEC: Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood

The [Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund \(ECRN Fund\)](#) is a philanthropic initiative that supports strong, resilient and representative networks to catalyse impact and advance early childhood development. Each year, the ECRN Fund convenes its partners to reflect on our collective achievements, adapt our strategy and implementation, and deepen our learning on a topic that is at the centre of our work and advances our collective agenda.

This year's annual meeting will be hosted by ARNEC, the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood, and is annexed to their Regional Conference which will bring together hundreds of actors working to advance ECD in the region. We invite you to explore [ARNEC's conference website](#) for more details.

Agenda Overview:

- Detailed session plans can be found at the end of this document. -

Day 1: Monday, May 27 th
8:30-9:00 Location: Wembley 9, Level 9
<p>Welcome & Coffee</p> <p>For those attending the fatherhood and male engagement session, please join us from 8:30am to enjoy a coffee, catch up with each other, and be ready to start on time.</p>
9:00-12:30
<p>Fatherhood and Male Engagement: Learning Session & Kick-off Meeting</p> <p>Over several months, ARNEC has been laying the foundation for a joint learning initiative among ECD regional networks to strengthen approaches to improve male engagement in early childhood. This kick-off meeting is broken into two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Deep-dive on RN activities and member best-practice: An open session where each regional network and relevant members present their work on the topic, mapping entry-points, promising initiatives and potential learning partners from across the regions. Other attendees, including Sesame Workshop, Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP), Parenting for Lifelong Health, Plan International and others will provide constructive feedback on these approaches and share examples and insights from evidenced-based behaviour models for fatherhood and male engagement.

- 2) **Closed session to explore regional network pathways and collaborative opportunities:**
Following the deep-dives and feedback, regional network representatives will meet together to co-design this joint initiative and begin outlining a project proposal to the ECRN Fund.

Session learning questions:

- How are regional networks uniquely positioned to advance fatherhood and male engagement in ECD?
 - What are the current initiatives of the RNs in their region on this topic?
 - What are the current opportunities and priorities at the country, regional and cross-regional levels? What are the top challenges?
 - How can RNs and others leverage strategic partnerships to advance fatherhood and male engagement?
- Where are there gaps in noteworthy or successful practices or understanding of approaches and solutions?
- Are their joint priorities that could benefit from taking a collective approach?

Facilitator: Amanda Welsh, Network Impact.

Attendees: (Please see full participant list on page 5.) Regional network staff; select members and partners; ECRN Fund staff and funders.

12:30-15:00

Locations:

Lunch: reserved table at Wembley Restaurant

Meeting: Wembley 5, Level 9

Closed session – Lunch & Internal ECRN Fund Meeting

We will host a closed meeting to go over latest updates and discuss what is working, what can be improved, and what aspects of our strategy and workplan we should adapt moving forward.

Agenda: *If RNs have agenda items to add or strategic questions you want to discuss, please bring them with you and we'll add them in!*

- Welcome & lunch
- Introducing Carolina Turriago & Somos Crianza, the Latin American coalition of ECD networks.
- Updates from the ECRN Fund:
 - o strategy and direction beyond 2024
 - o proposal for a streamlined approach for reporting and applications in the future
- Discussion: what's working? What's not? What in our strategy and workplan should we adapt moving forward?
 - o Proposed areas to explore: Fund C structure; overall application processes; learning & development activities; Annual Meeting structure and value-add for the future

Facilitator: ECRN Fund team

Attendees: (Please see full participant list on page 5.) Regional network staff; ECRN Fund staff & funders; Network Impact.

15:00-17:30

Location: Wembley 9, Level 9

Learning Session: How networks define and communicate impact

This session will be a series of facilitated discussions that focus on deep reflection on the challenges and successes across the regional networks, for their members and partners, and for funders related to defining and communicating impact.

The goal of this session is to explore:

- The different kinds of impact, including collaborative impact, generated by regional networks and their members and partners that advance ECD; and
- Challenges and opportunities in communicating impact to both internal and external audiences.

Session learning questions:

- How do different networks define and understand impact?
- How do different networks monitor impact? How do they track or collect stories of impact?
- How do different networks communicate their impact *internally* to members and partners to share what's working, and *externally* to advance ECD, and support strategic partnerships and sustainability?

Facilitator: Amanda Welsh, Network Impact.

Attendees: (Please see full participant list on page 5.) Regional network staff and select national networks and members; ECRN Fund staff and funders; other invited organisations and individuals interested in deepening their understanding of how ECD networks catalyse impact to advance early childhood development.

Day 2: Wednesday, May 29th

17:00-18:30

Location: Wembley 9, Level 9

ECRN Fund Open Space

After Monday's sessions, we will hold an "open space" where participants will create and manage the agenda themselves, so that we continue conversations or tackle new issues that have emerged from discussions the day before.

Facilitator: ECRN Fund team

Attendees: *(Please see full participant list on page 5.)* Regional network staff; ECRN team & funders; Network Impact.

19:00-21:00

Group Dinner

We will hold our dinner at the [Kebaya Dining Room](#), a wonderful restaurant that serves IndoChinese and Peranakan cuisines, which are unique to the region. We will have a private room for our group. The restaurant is about a 10 min drive from the hotel and we will organise transport to and from. Please meet in the hotel lobby at 18:50 to secure your ride.

Attendees: *(Please see full participant list on page 5.)* Regional network staff and network members; ECRN team & funders; Network Impact, ECDAN, select members of ARNEC's Board of Directors.

Participant list

NAME	PARTICIPANT	DAY 1: May 27			DAY 2: May 29	
		Morning session	Lunch & meeting	Afternoon session	Open Space	Dinner
Lynette Okongo	African Early Childhood Network (AfECN)	X	X	X	X	X
Given Daka	African Early Childhood Network (AfECN)	X	X	X	X	X
Joylet Gende	Malawi National ECD Network	X		X		X
Ghassan Issa	Arab Network for Early Childhood Development (ANECD)	X	X	X	X	X
Mohamad Albekaa	Arab Network for Early Childhood Development (ANECD)	X	X	X	X	X
Beya Guezzi	Tunisian Network for Early Childhood	X		X		X
Joel Lasam	Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)	X	X	X	X	X
Evelyn Santiago	Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)	X	X	X	X	X
Jiahao Lee	Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)			X		X
Cliff Meyers	ARNEC, Board of Directors	X		X		X
Sheldon Shaeffer	ARNEC, Board of Directors			X		X
Christine Chen	ARNEC, Board of Directors					X
Karma Gayleg	Bhutan National ECD Networks			X		X
Newelle Magas	ECCD Council, Philippines	X		X		
Himigbayan Santiago	ECCD Council, Philippines	X		X		
Mega Indrawati	HI-ECD Coalition, Indonesia	X		X		



Dwi Purwestri	HI-ECD Coalition, Indonesia	X		X		
Mahmuda Akhter	Bangladesh ECD Network			X		X
Nicole Rodger	Plan International	X		X		
Syifa Andina	Plan International, HI-ECD, ARNEC National Rep for Indonesia	X				
Jayanti Prakash	Sesame Workshop, India	X				
TBC	Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP)	X				
Liana Ghent	International Step-by-Step Association (ISSA)	X	X	X	X	X
Zorica Trkic	International Step-by-Step Association (ISSA)	X	X	X	X	X
Miroslav Sklenka	Wide Open School NGO, ISSA Member in Slovakia	X		X		X
Giulia Barnhinsel	Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund	X	X	X	X	X
Rosemary Heenan	Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund	X	X	X	X	X
Carolina Turriago	Somos Crianza: ECD coalition in Latin America	X	X	X	X	X
Jane West	Two Lilies Fund	X	X	X	X	X
Joan Lombardi	Independent			X		X
Amanda Welsh	Network Impact	X	X	X	X	X
Alan Barbieri	The Human Safety Net	X	X	X		
Mirjam Schoening	The Human Safety Net					X
Hui Fang	UBS Optimus Foundation (TBC)	X		X		X

Emily Gilkinson	ECDAN, Early Childhood Development Action Network	X	X	X
--------------------	--	---	---	---

To a limited extent, online attendance will be made possible for colleagues unable to join in-person. This list includes:

Ayisha Osori	Open Society Foundations, ECRN Fund Steering Committee Member
Helena Duch	Oak Foundation, ECRN Fund Steering Committee Member
Nathan Koblitz	Porticus, ECRN Fund Steering Committee Member
Sophie Kange	INTRAC, ECRN Fund Learning Partner
Paul Knipe	INTRAC, ECRN Fund Learning Partner
Helen Collinson	INTRAC, ECRN Fund Learning Partner
Madeleine Taylor	Network Impact, ECRN Fund Learning Partner
Diana Ureña	Somos Crianza: ECD coalition in Latin America

DETAILED AGENDA – DAY 1 MORNING SESSION

Monday, 27 May – 9-12:30pm

Fatherhood and Male Engagement: Learning Session & Kick-off Meeting

Over several months, ARNEC has been laying the foundation for a joint learning initiative among ECD regional networks to strengthen approaches to improve male engagement in early childhood. This kick-off meeting is broken into two parts, described below.

Facilitator: Amanda Welsh, Network Impact. Amanda will serve as process facilitator for both parts of the session.

Attendees: Regional network staff and select members; ECRN Fund staff and funders; Representatives from Somos Crianza, the coalition of national ECD networks from Latin America; select organisations with experience and expertise on the topic of parenting and male engagement in early childhood development, including Plan International, Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP), Parenting for Lifelong Health, and Sesame Workshop.

Session learning questions:

- How are regional networks uniquely positioned to advance fatherhood and male engagement in ECD?
 - What are the current initiatives of the RNs in their region on this topic?
 - What are the current opportunities and priorities at the country, regional and cross-regional levels? What are the top challenges?
 - How can RNs and others leverage Strategic Partnerships to advance fatherhood and male engagement?
- Where are there gaps in noteworthy or successful practices or understanding of approaches and solutions?
- Are their joint priorities that could benefit from taking a collective approach?

High-level session overview:

- 1) **Deep-dive on RN expertise, activities and member best-practices:** An open session where each regional network and relevant members present their work so far on the topic, mapping entry-points, promising initiatives and potential learning partners from across the regions. Other attendees, including Sesame Workshop, Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP), Parenting for Lifelong Health, Plan International and others will provide constructive feedback on these approaches and share examples and insights from evidenced-based behaviour models for fatherhood and male engagement.
- 2) **Closed session to explore RN strengths, and joint project and collaboration opportunities:** Following the deep-dives and feedback, regional network representatives will meet together to co-design this joint initiative and begin outlining a project proposal to the ECRN Fund.

Detailed agenda:



OPEN SESSION	
9-9:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get settled and review agenda, including learning questions Brief introductions
9:10-9:50	<p>Facilitated presentations by each regional network that will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brief overview of the current approach to this work in this region (e.g. planning phase, research, implementation) with examples of work supported by the Secretariat, and an of work by members on the ground <i>Top three</i> opportunities and priorities for exploring this work deeper regionally <i>Top three</i> challenges for the work regionally based on needs, gaps and context <p>Each region will have approximately 10 minutes.</p>
9:50-10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thought partner reactions and joint discussion on opportunities/strengths and challenges/gaps, and the role of strategic partnerships as a lens on the work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thought partners: <i>Sesame Workshop, Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP), Parenting for Lifelong Health, Plan International and others will provide constructive feedback and share examples and insights from evidenced-based behaviour models for fatherhood and male engagement.</i>
10:20-10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BREAK - coffee, snacks
CLOSED SESSION - Regional Networks	
10:30-11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the discussion before the break, what are the strengths of individual networks and their current work? Based on opportunities/strengths and challenges/gaps, what are the pathways to learning and impact that the regional networks are best positioned to support? Which pathways could benefit most from collaboration?
11:45 - 12:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional network teams will break into groups to explore how the work could be planned and articulated within their own contexts
12:15-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report out by RNs on emergent contextual approaches to the group

Outputs:

- A **shareable write up** of the session's key themes and discussion points, including regional and joint opportunities and challenges, and a Draft Theory of Change for how regional networks can advance Fatherhood and Male Engagement with and among

their members, and collectively in the region. To the extent possible, this will include both regional and global pathways to explore.

- **Next steps** for:
 - Drafting a joint proposal on a priority area of exploration/learning for the regional networks to work on collectively
 - Drafting individual proposals (which could be separate or part of the joint proposal) for how each network will specifically contextualise their work to resonate with their region's opportunities and challenges
- **Refined learning questions** related to collaboration opportunities designed to feed into the Learning Platform's areas of ongoing work to support the regional network's proposal(s)

DETAILED AGENDA – DAY 1 AFTERNOON SESSION

Learning Session: How networks define and communicate impact

The goal of this session is to explore:

- The different kinds of impact, including collaborative impact, generated by regional networks and their members and partners that advance ECD; and
- Challenges and opportunities in communicating impact, including collaborative impact, to both internal and external audiences.

Facilitator: Amanda Welsh, Network Impact.

Attendees: Regional network staff and select national networks and members; ECRN Fund staff and funders; Representatives from Somos Crianza, the coalition of national ECD networks from Latin America; other organisations and individuals interested in deepening their understanding of how ECD networks catalyse impact to advance early childhood development, which may include Joan Lombardi, ECDAN, and other funders interested in learning about networks in this context.

In-person attendance will be prioritised but online attendance and participation will be made available for select network members and ECRN Fund Steering Committee members.

Session learning questions:

- How do different networks define and understand impact, including collaborative impact?
- How do different networks monitor impact? How do they track or collect stories of impact?
- How do different networks communicate their impact *internally* to members and partners to share what's working, and *externally* to advance ECD, and support strategic partnerships and sustainability?

High-level session overview:

This session will be a series of facilitated discussions that focus on deep reflection on the challenges and successes across the regional networks, for their members and partners, and for funders related to defining and communicating impact, including collaborative impact.

Detailed agenda:

OPEN SESSION	
3:00–3:10	Welcome and agenda review
3:10–4:10	<p>How do different networks identify and define success? What different mechanisms for tracking impact are networks using?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each network and their members and partners as applicable will contribute examples of how they define and track their impact, and what's most challenging to them

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group reflection with all participants on the different ways of defining and understanding impact, including collaborative impact
4:10-4:20	Break – coffee, walk, snacks
4:20-5:25	<p>What’s working well and what are the core challenges to communicating impact both internally and externally?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group reflection among all participants Each network or their members and partners as applicable, or any other participant, may contribute examples of their own “best practices” where they feel they had the most success communicating impact, either internally or externally Each network or their members and partners as applicable, or any other participant, may contribute examples of the challenges they face to successfully communicating their impact, either externally or externally
5:25-5:30	Wrap up

Outputs:

- Shareable report out of key insights from the discussion of different ways to define and understand impact, and the challenges and successful strategies for monitoring and communicating impact both internally and externally
- Recommendations for how the RNs, and their members and partners as applicable, can build on the session through their ongoing learning platform.