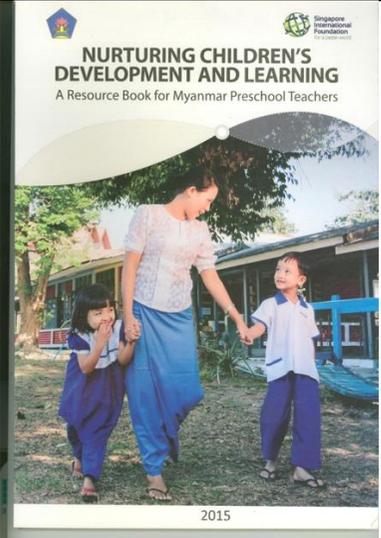| Challenges	
Challenges 1. Data collection and compilation at national level. 2. Teacher competencies and preschool registration. 3. Children in mobile families (Internally Displaced Persons or IDPs) and children in camps.	**Myanmar Country Profile:** **Early Childhood Care and Development** **(ECCD)**
  Resource book for kindergarten teacher training published by MoSWRR, the Union of Myanmar and Singapore International Foundation, 2015	**General information about ECCD in Myanmar[i][ii]** In 2013, Myanmar launched its first multi-sectoral policy on ECCD for children 0-8 years. The Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) ministry at the time pledged an increase to 28% of its budget towards ECCD services while the Education ministry commits 12% of its budget towards pre-school education. Since 1999, armed conflicts have affected provisions of early education and early years social services. However, improvements can be observed as the country stabilizes. A new curriculum for preschools and daycare centers, as well as teachers' manual and guidelines for children under age 3 have been developed. The public sector has since increased ECCD services as private provisions decline.
Priorities 1. Establish Model Preschool in regional levels of every state and division and Mother Circle in every township for children under-three. 2. Early Childhood Intervention Program 3. Kindergarten curriculum	**Key policy** Myanmar multi-sectoral policy on ECCD Education Policy Brief National Social Protection Strategic Plan Health Policy Brief **Ministry in charge**

	Two ministries (Social Welfare; Education) coordinating through focal departments under Plan

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Key data: A life cycle approach for ECCD	**Noteworthy practices[vii]**

Key data: A life cycle approach for ECCD

Demographics

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Total population (thousands)	52,885.22	World Bank Open Data (2016[iii])
Rural population (%)	65	UNICEF SWOC (2016[iv])
Under-5 population (thousands)	4,538	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Population below the global poverty line of US $ 1.90/day (%)	N/A	N/A
Population growth rate (annual %)	1	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Total fertility rate (births per women)	2.2	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

Prenatal

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Annual number of births (thousands)	944	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Birth registration (%)	81	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	230	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

Noteworthy practices[vii]

1. Community-based early childhood care, health, and education
   Noteworthy aspects: Community-based childcare services for early childhood are developed by establishing Parent Core Groups to address childhood development issues, including child protection and nutrition.
   Achievements: Collaboration between public service providers, local and community-based organizations across 44 villages in Myanmar. Promoting safety and security of women and girls in the communities through provision of safe space for children to play and learn while parents work.

2. Holistic children development through ECCD project
   (by Save the Children)
   Noteworthy aspects: Strong community and parents' engagement through consultations, in-kind contributions to the ECCD centers, and participation in ECCD networks.
   Achievements: Project benefitted 42 townships across Myanmar since 1997. 18,000 children reached between January 2013 and June 2014 to benefit in project that supports language learning, development of social skills, good hygiene behavior. Parents and grandparents trained on nutrition.

3. Mother Circles: Inclusion of low-income families
   Noteworthy aspects: Parenting education on developmentally appropriate practices is provided to community volunteers and support groups to benefit low-income families and rural

Birth to 5 years

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	40	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Exclusive breastfeeding under-6 months (%)	51	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Under-5 stunting prevalence (moderate and severe) (%)	29	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Under-5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	51	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
DTP3 national immunization coverage (%)	90	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Violent discipline (Children aged 1-14 exposed to violent disciplinary methods during the last month) (%)	77	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

School readiness

Indicator	Data	Source (year)
Early Childhood Development Index or ECDI (%)	N/A	N/A
Father's support for learning (%)	6	UNICEF SWOC (2016)
Availability of children's books (%)	5	UNICEF SWOC (2016)

communities. Activities are managed at low cost with a participatory community approach.

Achievements: Child participants have been found healthier with weight gained and improved physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development as observed by parents and community members. There is also increased demand for these services.

Gross enrollment ratio or GER in pre-primary (%)	23.46	UIS (2014[v])
Gender parity index of GER; F/M (%)	1.04	UIS (2014)
Children entering Grade 1 with ECD experience (%)	20	ARNEC Regional ECD Data Portal (2012[vi])
Gender parity index of children with ECD experience; F/M (%)	1.1	UIS (2010)
Grade 1 repetition rate (%)	0.54	UIS (2009)

Testimonies

"The future of these children depends on the implementation of ECCD activities which are not just about the quantity but also the quality of services." – H.E. President U Thein Sein, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

"If you look at primary education in Myanmar, we have to think in terms of early childhood development that's going back to before the child is born – making sure the mother is well nourished and the child is properly nurtured. Early childhood development has proved to be very beneficial and very cost-effective in societies where this has been tried. So let's not confine ourselves to primary education. Let's think of early childhood development and education as a whole." – Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Laureate and Democracy Icon, Union of Myanmar.

"Trafficking and exploiting children are horrific crimes. They leave lifelong scars and rob children of their childhoods. Children are not for sale. For the sake the world's children, we must work hard to stamp out these damaging and criminal practices." -- UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Jackie Chan.

[i] ARNEC. Asia Pacific Regional ECD data portal: Enabling environments.
[ii] UNESCO. (2016). New Horizons: A review of early childhood care and education in Asia and the Pacific
[iii] World Bank Group. (2016). World Bank Open Data. (Accessed 16 January 2018)
[iv] UNICEF. (2016). The State of the World's Children 2017 Statistical Table.
[v] UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). (2018). Education dataset. (Accessed 16 January 2018).
[vi] ARNEC. Asia Pacific Regional ECD data portal. (Accessed 16 January 2018).
[vii] SEAMEO INNOTECH. Regional consultation forum on early learning frameworks, policies and programmes: A completion report