



# Early Years



## A Proven Child Development Program for Emerging Economies

The research is clear—early investment in young children’s development produces dramatic results. Children with high-quality early childhood experiences do better in school, earn more income over their lifetimes, enjoy better health, and are less likely to be incarcerated or addicted than their peers. Even more, their parents are more secure in employment; their families are more stable; and their own children are better educated.

### OUR APPROACH

EDC’s Ready Right Now Early Years (RRN-EY) approach is an integrated early childhood solution for low-resource contexts that links health, education, and workforce development, enhancing caring, learning, and earning for all participants.



### Challenges

In many emerging economies, the availability of childcare and early education is still limited, creating a barrier to economic and social development. Parents who lack consistent high-quality childcare struggle with finding and keeping work because regular work attendance is challenging. Where families struggle, significant economic value is lost through absenteeism and employee transience. Governments often do not have the resources to provide quality early childhood services at scale, and those that exist usually serve upper-income families rather than those who might benefit the most.



### Our Solution

RRN-EY serves children from age 3 to primary school entry. Community members—usually young women with basic literacy skills—are trained to facilitate the delivery of a high-quality preschool program to groups of children using EDC’s proven interactive audio instruction (IAI). The program is simple and cost-effective to implement, dramatically increasing access to information and services. Delivered on mobile phones or tablets, the program includes a range of digital supports for caregivers with limited experience or training.

Facilitators receive soft skills development and support in establishing their centers as small businesses. Facilitator support ensures the effective management of early childhood environments and relationships with families, and guarantees the quality of the early childhood experiences that children receive. Community members who serve as RRN-EY facilitators also acquire valuable skills in language, instruction, and leadership. The program's capacity-building focus provides livelihood opportunities that increase the scope of available early childhood options and enhance the economic development of communities.

## Proven Success

### EDC's Interactive Audio Instruction Around the World



## EDC's IAI-based learning programs have served over 100 million learners and hundreds of thousands of educators globally.

Across the globe, RRN-EY builds on decades of experience using technology to enhance program quality at reasonable cost—and with powerful results:

- RRN-EY learners are much more likely than comparison peers to meet learning standards, and they show vastly greater learning gains.
- Performance gaps by gender, socioeconomic status, home language, and location are dramatically reduced or eliminated by program participation.
- RRN-EY learners' school readiness is greatly improved by addressing social-emotional barriers to learning and providing rich developmentally appropriate early learning experiences.

## ABOUT EDC

EDC works with partners worldwide to advance every person's journey to [learn](#), [work](#), and [be well](#). Since 1958, we have been a catalyst for community-led initiatives that promote sustainable change and advance solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

## OUR IMPACT

10+  
years

EDC's *RISE* and *ZTUR IAI* programs in Zanzibar have been integrated into the Ministry of Education's eLearning Division and sustained for more than a decade.

45%  
of Young  
Children

The *Juego y Aprendo* program began with EDC support in 53 isolated centers and now serves nearly half of the early childhood population in Honduras.

Top  
100

The *Tikichuela* early childhood mathematics program in Paraguay was selected as one of the 100 most innovative education programs in the world by the HundrEd initiative.



Education Development Center

Boston | Chicago | New York

## CONNECT WITH US

[in](#) [go.edc.org/linkedin](http://go.edc.org/linkedin)  
[f](#) [go.edc.org/facebook](http://go.edc.org/facebook)  
[@](#) [go.edc.org/instagram](http://go.edc.org/instagram)