Early childhood development continues to be a major challenge for Latin American countries. Although there have been major advances in reducing child mortality and malnutrition in most countries in the region, progress in other aspects of child development (cognitive, language, socio-emotional, motor skills development) has been slower. The gaps observed between different socio-economic groups are large. As a result, too many children are not able to fully develop their potential and begin elementary school likely to fail academically.

The last few years have seen a growing interest in improving child development in the region. Various governments have included the topic in their political agendas. Today there is a growing presence of civil society and academic organizations debating child development best practices. This has generated a fertile field from which to delineate and implement national action programs oriented around child development.

Unlike in the case of child health or learning outcomes for school-age children, the availability of reliable early childhood development indicators is very limited and generally comes from a few studies carried out in early learning centers or specific research projects, rather than from regular monitoring. There is still no consensus on how to measure child development, which has caused a critical bottleneck in the field. The expert community, political decision-makers, and program managers do not have clear, aligned goals regarding the potential of the data they are collecting, or the advantages and disadvantages of various measuring tools they can use to enable decision-making. The purpose of this seminar is to help advance and build such a consensus in Latin America.

**Objective:** Convene a select group of experts in early childhood development from various sectors (public and private, national and multi-national, the academic and policy worlds) so they can agree upon a framework for development and use of child development assessment results. The group will also revise measurement instruments currently available, keeping in mind their advantages and disadvantages not only from a methodological standpoint but also from a scaling up perspective. Based upon this revision, the organizers will also develop an event summary that will be made available to the public.

**Participants:** A group of 45-50 experts from various countries in Latin America and from outside the region who can contribute to the discussion.
Tuesday, September 20

08:30 – 09:00 AM  Registration

09:00 – 09:15 AM  Opening remarks: Miguel Jaramillo (GRADE), Livia Benavides (World Bank), Cecilia Llambí (CAF) and Jesús Zamora (Fundación Nicolás y Baltazar).

09:15 – 09:30 AM  Presentation of seminar participants

09:30 – 09:45 AM  Introduction of the Initiative ‘Regional Agenda for Early Childhood Development’ by Ariel Fiszbein (Inter-American Dialogue)

09:45– 10:30 AM  Measuring Child Development: What, When and How
- Dimensions of child development
- Measurement at different ages
- What to consider when selecting a measurement instrument
- Pros and cons of different modalities of administering the measurement

Abbie Raikes (University of Nebraska and Coordinator of project Measuring Early Learning Quality and Outcomes, MELQO)

10:30 – 10:45 AM  Coffee break

10:45 – 12:15 PM  International initiatives for the measurement of child development (Part I)
- Objectives of the initiative
- Description of the instrument
- Challenges in design and implementation

Facilitator: Julieta Trias (World Bank)

Dana Charles McCoy (Harvard University): The ‘Caregiver-Reported Early Development Instrument’ (CREDI)

Abbie Raikes (University of Nebraska): Generating a measurement tool with global applicability: The experience of the Measuring Early Learning and Quality Outcomes (MELQO) project

Ann Weber (Stanford University): Construction and validation of the D-Score as a measurement of child development

Santiago Cueto (GRADE): Generating a measuring tool in Latin America: The experience of the Regional Project on Child Development Indicators (PRIDI)

12:15 – 13:30 PM  Lunch

With the support from:
13:30 – 15:00 PM   International initiatives for the measurement of child development (Part II)
Facilitator: Julieta Trias (World Bank)

Daniel Santos (University of Sao Paulo): The Early Human Capability Index (EHCI) and its adaptation to the case of Brazil
Juan Leon (GRADE): The Early Development Instrument (EDI) and its implementation in Peru
Maria Elena Ubeda (UNICEF): Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) - The experience with MICS in Latin America
Antonio Rizzoli (Federico Gómez Hospital): The Child Development Evaluation (CDE) Test and its application in Mexico

15:00 – 15:15 PM   Coffee break

15:15 – 16:00 PM   Comparing instruments

Caridad Araujo and Marta Rubio (Inter-American Development Bank): Concurrent and predictive validity of abbreviated tests of child development: Lessons from Colombia and Ecuador

16:00 – 17:00 PM   Working groups: The role of international evaluations: How can Latin America use and benefit from them?

17:00 – 18:00 PM   Plenary Discussion

18:00 – 18:30 PM   Closing of first day
Summary: Santiago Cueto (GRADE)
Comments

Wednesday, September 21

09:00 – 09:15 AM   Welcome and summary of the previous day

09:15 – 10:00 AM   Monitoring child development: Why, what and how?
Dana Charles McCoy, School of Education, Harvard University

10:00 – 11:15 AM   Longitudinal surveys in Latin America: Lessons learned about the measurement of child development outcomes

With the support from:
- Objectives of the measurements
- Description of the instruments
- Challenges in design and implementation

Facilitator: **Gabriela Guerrero** (GRADE)

**Gonzalo Salas** (University of the Republic, Uruguay): The Uruguay Child Development and Health Survey (ENDIS)

**Lina Maria Castaño** (Director of the ELCA): The Colombian Longitudinal Survey of University of the Andes

**David Bravo** (Catholic University of Chile): The experience of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey (ELPI)

**11:15 – 11:30 AM**  
Coffee break

**11:30 – 13:30 PM**  
Opportunities and challenges for designing monitoring and evaluation systems for child development in Latin America. A round table conversation with government representatives from participating countries

Facilitator: **Ariel Fiszbein** (Inter-American Dialogue)

- Demand for information on child development by the public sector (budget decisions, program management, evaluation, accountability)
- Viability of monitoring and evaluation systems for child development in the region (technical teams, budgets, etc.)
- Opportunities for the institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation systems for child development. Who leads? What roles should government and other actors play?

**13:30 – 14:45 PM**  
Lunch

**14:45 – 16:00 PM**  
Working groups: Monitoring and evaluation systems for child development: How can governments in Latin America advance?

**16:00 – 16:15 PM**  
Coffee break

**16:15 – 17:30 PM**  
Plenary Discussion

**17:30 – 18:00 PM**  
Closing of first day

Summary: **Cecilia Llambí** (CAF)

Comments

With the support from:
Thursday, September 22

09:00 – 09:15 AM  Welcome and summary of the previous day
09:15 – 10:45 AM  Group work: Identifying lessons learned
10:45 – 11:00 AM  Coffee break
11:00 – 12:45 PM  Final Plenary: Discussing Seminar Conclusions
12:45 – 14:00 PM  Lunch and closing ceremony

Gabriela Guerrero (GRADE), Julieta Trías (World Bank) and Ariel Fiszbein (Inter-American Dialogue)

With the support from: