Early childhood education in this program emphasizes comprehensive development, including nutrition and health of young children until primary school entry. Specifically, it has been demonstrated that there is a high potential to encourage entry into primary school and academic achievements to overcome poverty and unfavorable environments through a good foundation in the early years for disadvantaged children. In this program, Early Childhood Development (ECD) is recognized as an effective means of reducing poverty. Aimed at policy-makers in the African and Middle East regions, contributions to the improvement of ECD to underpin education as a whole are anticipated through restoration of ECD knowledge and experience gained in Japan to affiliated organizations and other actors in their own countries.

**Objective/Outcome**

**Objective**

Each participant will develop the plan of improvement corresponding to the challenges of the country by referring to the specialized knowledge in early childhood care and education, the experience, the methods of Japan and the exchange of information from the opinion of other participants. It will be shared to the organization membership and other stakeholders.

**Outcome**

1. Identify the challenges each participant faces in their professional capacity, make hypotheses to overcome the challenges
2. Broaden the scope of knowledge on the concepts, contents and the trends of ECCE
3. Problem analysis - gaps in access and quality of ECCE, and how to fix them
4. Methods of early childhood care, multi-phased approaches according to the stage of child development
5. Teacher training and the training system
6. Evaluation of the early childhood care and education
7. Apply, reflect and disseminate outcomes of training in Japan to own-country early childhood education

**Contents**

Lecture: Concept and international trend of ECD / Practice in Nursery school / Overview of Early childhood education in Japan / Curriculum of Early childhood education / Understanding ‘Learning through playing’ / Reinforce of support of collaboration between primary and secondary education and early childhood education

Discussion: Comparison of early childhood education / Refraction / Discussion on report

Visit: Method and idea of Early childhood education / Collaboration between Early childhood education and primary education etc.

Workshop: Child care for infant / Understanding ‘Learning through playing’ etc.

Presentation of the Report: Initial and summary report

*This program incorporates “Active Learning” for Knowledge Co-creation (KCCP).