Programming for Children's Social and Emotional Well-being - Lessons from Iraq

AGENDA

Introductions

SEL Programming in Iraq

What is ISELA?

- ISELA Pilot in Iraq
- Findings

Q&A

What is Social & Emotional Learning [SEL]?

SEL covers 5 basic competencies, which are inter-linked:

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is a process of acquiring social and emotional values, attitudes, competencies, knowledge, and skills that are essential for learning, being effective, well-being, and success in life. [UNICEF, 2015]

SEL aims to foster the development of five interrelated sets of cognitive, affective, and behavioral competencies:
• Self-awareness
• Self-management
• Social awareness
• Relationship skills
• Responsible decision-making

What is Social & Emotional Learning [SEL]?
## SEL and PSS

PSS and **SEL** are complimentary and they both help students to effectively cope with crisis and achieve learning outcomes.

| PSS	SEL	
- can be preventive, curative or promotive and broadly addresses psychosocial wellbeing	- builds upon children`s skills to reduce negative developmental and behavioral effects of exposure to crisis - specific to the education sector and focuses on the promotion of skills and abilities that help young people learn, cope and succeed	 *Levels of MHPSS – IASC*
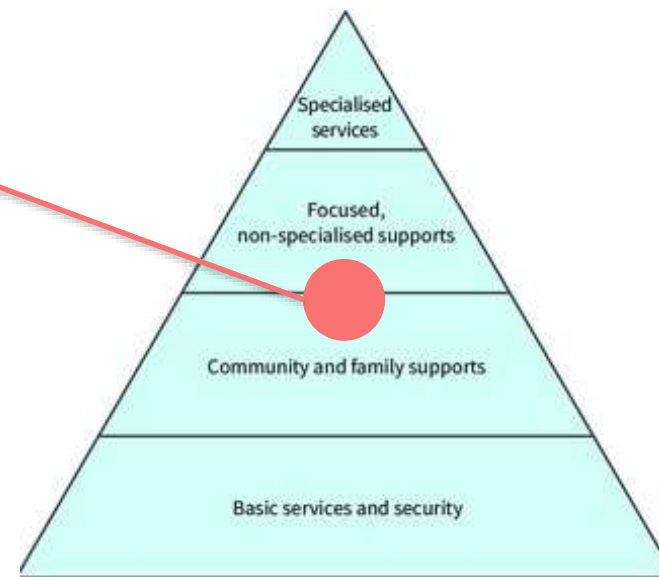
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The impact of SEL

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

SEL

CHILD LEARNING
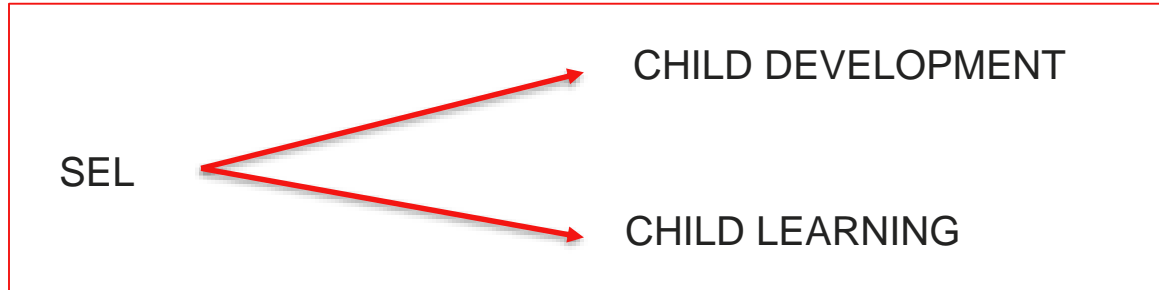
SEL programs can:
- enhance academic achievement and attainment;
- improve school attendance, engagement, and motivation;
- reduce negative student behavior in schools and in the community, such as bullying, violence, and juvenile crime;
- benefit the mental health of staff and students by lowering stress, anxiety, and depression;
- improve health outcomes by reducing teenage pregnancies and drug abuse;
- lead to better staff retention and higher morale;
- and generally help to improve the social and emotional skills of both students and staff.

Child wellbeing in Iraq
Save the Children`s work on SEL in Iraq
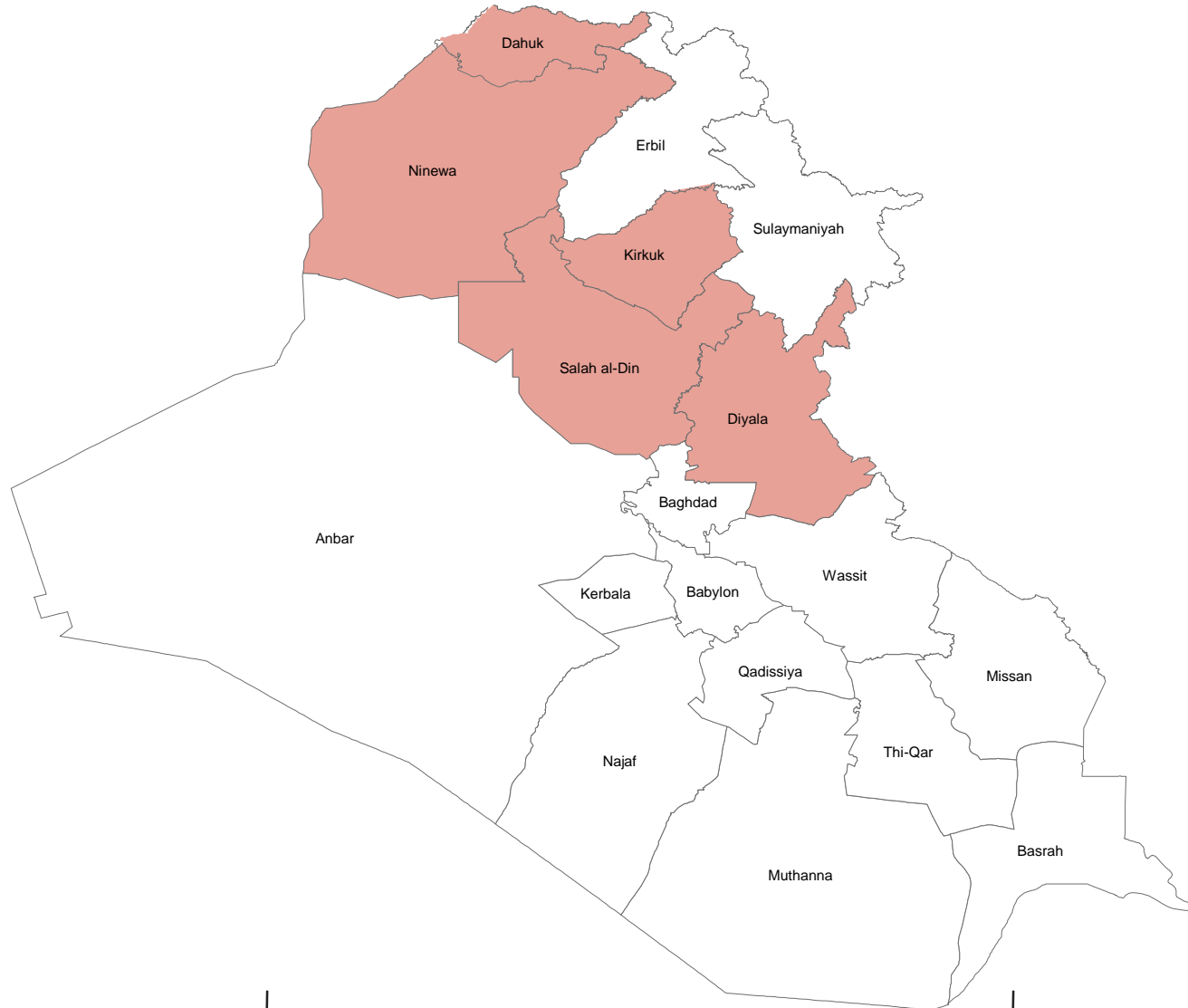
How does International Social and Emotional Learning Assessment (ISELA) measure SEL?

SEL COMPETENCY AREA	Skill included in ISELA (name of ISELA task)
Self-awareness	• Accurate self-perception (Self concept) • Self-efficacy (Self-concept)
Self management	• Stress management (Stress management) • Self-motivation (Perseverance)
Social awareness	• Perspective-taking (Empathy) • Empathy (Empathy)
Relationship skills	Relationship building (Relationships)
Responsible decision-making	Solving problems (Solving conflict)

What is ISELA?

- ISELA helps us understand the development of SEL competencies in children between 6-12 years

- Cross-sectional use: Provides profile of children's SEL competencies and the SEL environment

- Longitudinally: Provides picture of how SEL competencies change over time

- ISELA is <u>not</u> a diagnostic tool

ISELA Pilot in Duhok Office

Introduction
ISELA Pilot Duhok

Country Review

Select sample: Two camps, 10 schools, Children grades 1-4, Random selection

Translate/ Back translate into Arabic/ Spoken Kurdish

Enumerator recruitment, training and review

Pilot test, Revise, Finalize

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ISELA Implementing on Field

How teachers and students did feel in this process?

- ## Students
  - Nervous before the assessment
  - Enumerators explained purpose of assessment and built rapport through games and energizers to ease discomfort
  - Refreshment was provided

- ## Teachers
  - Excited about assessing Social Emotional Learning.
  - Supportive in filling out social competency tool for each students
    - A few teachers struggled with Arabic on the social competency tool, enumerators assisted them in translating the tool to Kurdish
  - Asked for the results to help them in their work.

How did SEL training supported teachers to help children in social and emotional learning?

- **SEL training separate from ISELA**

- **Classroom management support**

- **Spot check assessment results**

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Challenges During ISELA Implementations

- Time and timing

- Translation

- Random Selection

- Children's mobility

ISELA findings and implications

- **Grade was positively and significantly correlated with children's outcome scores (*** $p<0.001$, ** $p<0.01$, * $p<0.05$)**

- **Learning environment threats**

- <u>**ISELA Construct Validity and Reliability**</u>

THANK YOU

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