

**Impact of the withdrawal of NGO support for the ECED sector in the
Vavuniya division of the Vavuniya District of the Northern Province of Sri
Lanka**

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ABSTRACT

Using a multi-disciplinary approach to the development discourse, this paper examined the contribution made by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), particularly, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to the Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) sector in the Vavuniya division of the Vavuniya District of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka as well as the consequences of their withdrawal from preschool education in the post conflict era. The research exercise identified a significant gap between ECED policy and ECED practice in the targeted area that negatively impacted access, infrastructure and overall quality of instruction, learning and development of children under the age of five. Additionally, it determined that both the state machinery and the provincial education infrastructure were ill-prepared to respond to the spike in births in the post conflict era from an ECED standpoint. Collaterally, it also yielded findings that clearly indicated that NGO withdrawal exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and negatively impacted the socio-economic stability of families with young children in the targeted area.