Kasongo is five years old and has been living in a camp for displaced persons since the beginning of 2009 with his family. Life in the camp was extremely stressful for Kasongo’s family who experienced depression and post-traumatic stress. There were very few activities for children in the camp at that time, making it virtually impossible for Kasongo to feel a sense of security and any measure of relief in the midst of such chaos. With no stimulation or any semblance of home, Kasongo began to experience ennui and sadness. Until one day, the arrival of toys and games and the opportunity to play and interact with other children who were also surviving the difficulty of war and displacement, changed life in the camp for him. Now there were child-friendly spaces with daily ECD activities that provided a temporary relief, a reminder of home and a safe learning environment with the potential for long-reaching effects in these children’s educations and lives. Kasongo is still forced to live in a camp, but today his smile is back as he plays and learns as all children have the right to do.
“I love to come to school and play with the toys given to us from the ECD Kit. I have learned the names of colours and shapes. We make shapes with mud at school and the teacher gives us paints. At home I make the same shapes and my mother feels happy. We enjoy it. We love our teacher also.”
– Khalida Habib, ECE student at GPS Qadirabad, Rajanpur, Pakistan

“There was no school for girls in the near vicinity. With the introduction of Early Childhood Education (ECE) classes, girls in particular have benefitted. There are 65 girls and 20 boys in my class, who had never gone to school before. ... I make full use of the ECD Kit to manage all of these children at one time. The children take interest in doing activities, making use of their cognitive and imaginative skills and creativity, and thus learning the concepts of matching, building and relating very easily.”
– Saira Gul, ECE caregiver at Government Elementary School Asifabad, District Rajan Pur, Pakistan

“We see these benefits taking place in each of the schools that have received the UNICEF ECD Kit. Now, with the Kits distributed throughout Haiti, the next step is for us to focus on instructor’s training on how to use them.”
– Galia Ngamy, UNICEF Education Specialist, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

“The Kit has had a considerable impact on developing the children’s intelligence. They now recognize shapes and colours more easily. Furthermore, the Kit has allowed them to refine their ability to create shapes and has also helped develop their physical and mental skills. They’ve become very adept with their hands.”
– Daphneed Batichon, Counselor at Paradis des Petits, Haiti

“That my daughter can walk and talk now is a miracle in itself. She also sings songs and tells stories that truly fill our home with joy and laughter.”
– Daw Than Nwet, mother of six year old Mary Myint who has shown great improvement since attending the Centre where over 500 ECD Kits were distributed after numerous natural disasters struck the village of Ayeyarwaddy Delta, Myanmar

“The ECD training that I received was a turning point in my life. I knew nothing about Early Childhood Development before and the skills I learned from the training contribute so much to my ability to help children... We all have the best intentions for our children – we just need to do more to offer them the best support to start their lives. Living in poor communities, many children have no support or access to early learning and development.”
– Daw Naw Le Htoo Whar, Assistant ECE Caregiver, Ayeyarwaddy Delta, Myanmar