



Early Learning Initiative

National College of Ireland

Delivering on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Community Action Research:

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*Supporting parents, communities and schools
in the education of children*



Delivering on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Sustainability at the very heart of NCI's 5-Year Institutional Strategy.
- ELI has committed to NCI's delivery of the UN SDGs
- Focus on
 - Quality education the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development.
 - Prevention and early intervention programmes
 - Upholding our basic responsibilities to people and planet through partnerships & collaborations
- Using Community Action Research to understand and evaluate our commitment and progress
 - Recognize that the SDGs are integrated, interdependent and indivisible.
 - Included in the End of Year Reports beginning in 2022/23
 - SDG Community Action Research Day in January 2024
 - Annual reviews re: implementation

Community Action Research

Create a learning community that works together to ‘nurture and sustain a knowledge-creating system’, based on valuing equally each other and the following three interacting domains of activity:

- ✓ **Research:** a discipline approach to discovery and understanding, with a commitment to share what is learned.
- ✓ **Capacity-building:** enhancing people’s awareness and capabilities, individually and collectively, to produce results they truly care about.
- ✓ **Practice:** people working together to achieve practical outcomes.

(Senge and Scharmer 2001, 240)



SDGs

Priority

 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building resilience and empowering people living in poverty and vulnerable situations
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting well-being and healthy lives for children and parents
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring equal access to all levels of education, in particular children in vulnerable situations
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empower and promote gender equality for all
 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable communities
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure public access to information and promote peaceful, responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making
 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage in effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships



SDGs Deliverables



- Ambition to provide Home Visiting to 12,400 babies born into poverty each year in Ireland
- Lead agency of Area Based Childhood Programme, which aims to address child poverty



- Making learning fun and something to be shared
- Building capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of early childhood and parental health risks
- Infant Mental Health, Restorative & Trauma Informed Practice, Critical Incident Management



- Children developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being,
- Proficiency in literacy, numeracy, information and communications technology (ICT) skills
- Completion rate upper secondary & third level education

SDGs Deliverables

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



- Empowering fathers as parents – equal responsibility for their children’s health, wellbeing and education
- Empowering women and girls

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



- Empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- Paying attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Indicative Evidence of Impact

(Veerman and van Yperen 2007)

- ✓ 16,433 children, parents and educators took part in 2022-23 with satisfaction rates of 94% and learning indicators at 91%.
- ✓ Children perform at levels expected of their age unlike children in similar disadvantaged areas. Educational aspirations have increased
- ✓ Positive impact on the morale, well-being and home learning environment of vulnerable families.
- ✓ Ripple effect throughout the local Docklands community and Ireland.
 - Delivering 25 educational support programmes to 5,079 families in Dublin's Inner City, while upskilling 463 staff in 40 organizations with 130 interagency meetings
 - Upskilling 484 staff in 81 organisations across Ireland with 80 interagency meetings supporting 2,791 families
- ✓ Critical lifeline for at-risk children & families during crises.

Together We are Changing Communities

ELI is transforming lives and providing hope and confidence to those in our communities.

Through ELI, NCI is investing in a brighter future for thousands of children by making their community a great place to grow up in and where they and their families get the support they need to achieve their educational, career and life dreams.

Together we can foster vibrant, sustainable, high-achieving and inclusive communities.

