Nurturing care for early childhood development

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PrideInn Paradise Beach Resort

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WHO-Kenya Country Office
A unique convergence of evidence and political momentum for ECD

WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health 2008

ECD Lancet series 2007
ECD Lancet series 2011

2000

2005

2015
Global Strategy 2016 - 2030

1. SURVIVE
   End preventable deaths

2. THRIVE
   Ensure health and well-being

3. TRANSFORM
   Expand enabling environments
Evidence to action

• The most formative experience of young children come from NURTURING CARE

• The early years starting from conception are a period of special sensitivity

• Early investment has lifelong and intergenerational benefits

• Policies, information and services are important

• Multisectoral collaboration is essential and the health sector has a special role to play

Nurturing care: What the infant’s brain expects and depends on for development
Nurturing care is fostered by an enabling environment.
Risks to brain development

• Individual level (e.g. preterm birth, stunting, disability)

• Family level (e.g. poverty, poor caregiving, few learning opportunities)

• Community level (e.g. unclean and unsafe environments, crime)

• Systems level (e.g. poor health care, low quality child care)

• Societal level (e.g. conflicts)
Many health and nutrition interventions have an impact on brain development

What support can be added?

Responsive Care and Opportunities for Early Learning

Parental mental health
A global framework for action and results

1. Increase political interest, action and investment

2. Promote a set of effective, feasible policy and programme actions

3. Engage the health sector and other sectors in joint actions

4. Mobilize a global movement towards attainment of the relevant SDG targets
Framework linked to SDG targets

- **Goal 1, target 1.2:** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty.
- **Goal 2, target 2.2:** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.
- **Goal 3, target 3.2:** By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age.
- **Goal 4, target 4.2:** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.
- **Goal 16, target 16.2:** By 2030, end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
Guiding Principles

- Early means early
- Life-course approach
- Family-centred care
- Enabling environment
- Leaving no one behind
- Multisectoral action
Framework action areas

• Provide **leadership** and invest in nurturing care from conception through the early years.
• Build **quality responsive systems** and community services to support nurturing care.
• Empower **families** and communities to be the **foundation** for children’s development.
• **Monitor** implementation and account for results.
• **Innovate** for scale-up and strengthen the evidence.
# Proposed implementation model

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<tr>
<th><strong>Universal:</strong></th>
<th><strong>National policies</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>for <em>all</em> families and children</td>
<td>Population services</td>
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<td>Public information</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Targeted:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Additional benefits</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>for communities, families and children at risk</td>
<td>Additional contacts, e.g.,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Home visits</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Parent groups</td>
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<td>• Child day care</td>
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<th><strong>Indicated:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Specialized services and assistance</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>for individual families and children with special needs</td>
<td>Specialized services and assistance</td>
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Who is it for?

- National policy makers and programme managers
- Civil society groups, development partners, professional associations, academic institutions and funding initiatives
- Parliamentarians, service providers, professional education institutions, the private sector and media
- Families, parents and other caregivers
ASANTENI SANA!

“If you are doing nothing, do something
If you are doing a little, do more
If you are doing a lot, do better”

Michael Marmot