

NURTURING THE FUTURE

Technical Meeting to Enhance Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development in the Health Sector

February 25-28, 2025
Nairobi, Kenya

The primary goal is to assist governments in enhancing focus on all five components of nurturing care and caregiver well-being within and through the healthcare sector.

Objectives

- To introduce countries to the foundational concepts, relevant guidance, resources, and opportunities that can enhance nurturing care and caregiver well-being in health systems.
- To share and learn from practical experiences of countries in strengthening health systems to improve nurturing care for early childhood development and caregiver well-being at national and sub-national levels.
- To gather feedback on a draft set of global standards for enhancing nurturing care for early childhood development in health and nutrition services.
- To outline priority actions for the advancement of nurturing care for early childhood development in health systems at national, regional, and global levels.

Expected outcomes

- Enhanced practical experiences and improved capabilities among country teams to bolster existing health and nutrition services, ensuring comprehensive delivery of all five components of nurturing care.
- Identification of country-specific priority actions that aim to strengthen pertinent policies, scale-up Early Childhood Development (ECD) interventions, and enhance workforce capacities for large-scale delivery of ECD interventions.

DAY 1: TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY

TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
08:30-09:00	Arrival, registration	
09:00-09:30	Welcome Opening remarks Objectives, expected outcomes Introductions	Janet Kayita & Oliver Petrovic
09:30-10:45	Nurturing care for early childhood development (NCfECD) in the health sector – foundations & progress Introduction to key concepts (30 min) Global Progress in implementing the Nurturing Care Framework (15 min) Discussion on regional progress (30 min)	Moderator: Oliver Petrovic Sheila Manji Boniface Kakhobwe
10:45-11:15	Tea/coffee break	
11:15-12:45	Strengthening National Policies for ECD – Multisectoral Regional landscape (10 min) Country presentations (10 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanzania • Kenya • Burundi • Botswana Discussion (30 min)	Moderator: Oliver Petrovic Oliver Petrovic Tanzania: Ms. Subisya Kabuje, Assistant Director - Health, Social Welfare and Nutrition, President's Office - Regional Authority and Local Government Kenya: Ms. Lucy Ghati Wambura, Director, Compliance – Public Awareness, Capacity Building & Partnerships, National Children's Council Services Burundi: Dr Angelique Nshimirimana, Deputy Director, Nutrition Department, MOH Botswana: Ms. Kebaagetse Sekwakwa, Child Health, MoH
12:45-13:45	Lunch + group photo	
13:45-14:45	Strengthening National Policies for ECD – Sector-specific (health and nutrition) Overview (10 min) Panel discussion (30 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya • Malawi • Tanzania Discussion (20 min)	Moderator: Luigi D'Aquino Sheila Manji Kenya: Dr. Loise Nyanjau, Program Manager, Newborn & Child Health Section/MoH Malawi: Dr Msandeni Chiume, Technical Lead for Newborn Health, Reproductive Health Department, Ministry of Health. Tanzania: Dr. Felix Bundala, Assistant Director - Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health - Tanzania Mainland, MOH
14:45-15:15	Country reflections and planning	Moderator: Leseke Mukokomani

15:15-15:30	Tea/coffee break	
15:30-17:30	Marketplace Countries will visit each other's displays.	Moderators: Janet Kayita and Boniface Kakhobwe

Day 2: Wednesday 26 February

TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
09:00-09:30	Day 1 recap Overview of Day 2	Reporter: Akiko Sakaedani Petrovic
09:30-10:15	ECD-specific interventions in the health sector for holistic child development – global and regional guidance Core ECD-specific interventions & what the evidence is telling us (10 min) Well-care approach (10 min) Guided discussion (25 min)	Moderator: Oliver Petrovic Oliver Petrovic Janet Kayita
10:15-10:45	Tea/Coffee Break	
10:45-12:30	Defining interventions for ECD in the health sector – country experiences Country presentations (10 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Botswana: Integration within PHC Malawi: Mapping on the well childcare visits Uganda: Integrating interventions for disabilities in early childhood into PHC Q&A (10 min) Country presentations (10 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burundi: Play to heal Zambia: Integrating nurturing care interventions into the health system Q&A (10 min) Interventions from the floor (20 min) Country discussion (15 min)	Moderator: Denis Tindyebwa Botswana: Ms. Mildred Masiga, Primary Health, MoH Malawi: Dr Msandeni Chiume, Technical Lead for Newborn Health, Reproductive Health Department, Ministry of Health Uganda: Dr. Fred Kagwire, Health Specialist, UNICEF Burundi: Ms. Christine Kaligirwa, Chief Nutrition & Child Development, UNICEF Zambia: Mr. Vichaehl Silavwe, Chief IMCI Officer, Child Health Unit, MoH
12:30-13:30	Lunch	

13:30-15:00	<p>Facility and community-based health worker capacity</p> <p>Regional systematic analysis of nutrition and ECD counselling services (20 min) Mozambique: Health workers' competencies (15 min) Discussion (10 min)</p> <p>Panel discussion (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda • Tanzania • Zambia <p>Discussion (15 min)</p>	<p>Moderator: ZewelANJI Nata</p> <p>Christiane Rudert, Regional Advisor Nutrition, UNICEF ESARO Mozambique: Arla Alfândega, Head of Child Health Unit, MoH</p> <p>Uganda: Dr. Deogratias Migadde, Senior Medical Officer, MoH Tanzania: Ms. Alinune Nsemwa, ECD Specialist, UNICEF Zambia: Dr. Matilda Kakungu Simpungwe, Assistant Director Child Health and Nutrition, MoH</p>
15:00-16:00	<p>Pre-service training</p> <p>Panel discussion (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global • Pediatricians (Kenya) • Child Development Centre (Uganda) <p>Discussion (30 min)</p>	<p>Moderator: Boniface Kakhobwe</p> <p>Ms. Sheilia Manji Dr. Susan Wamithi Dr. Isha Grant</p>
16:00-17:00	<p>Country reflections and planning <i>Pick up tea/coffee at start of country planning (no formal break)</i></p>	Country teams

Day 3: Thursday 27 February

TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
09:00-09:15	Recap Day 2 Overview of Day 3	Reporter: Boniface Kakhobwe
09:15-10:45	<p>How do we know if we are promoting nurturing care in health facilities?</p> <p>Overview Group work Discussion</p>	Moderators: Mark Tomlinson and Marguerite Marlow
10:45-11:15	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:15-12:30	<p>Regional, national and sub-national perspectives</p> <p>Europe and Central Asia (10 min) South-East Asia (10 min) Discussion (10 min)</p> <p>Interventions for community health (10 min) Kenya: Nurturing care at sub-national level (includes a video) (15 min) Discussion (20 min)</p>	<p>Moderator: Susan Wamithi</p> <p>Ivelina Borisova Rajesh Khanna</p> <p>Jennifer Barack Video + Kizito Wangalwa, Beatrice Nakholi, Elizabeth Muli</p>

12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	Areas of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending violence against children (7 min) • ECD in emergencies (7 min) • ECD and technologies (7 min) • ECD and climate change (7 min) Discussion (20 min)	Moderator: Maniza Ntekim Binta Sako (recording) Najwa Al dheeb (online) Herson Abreu (online) Elizabeth Gitonga
14:30-15:00	Parking lot – Q&A	Moderator: Janet Kayita
15:00-16:00	Inter-country dialogue	(pick up tea/coffee before you begin)
16:00-17:00	Country reflections and planning	Country teams
17:00	End of Day	

Day 4: Friday 28 February

TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKERS
09:00-09:15	Recap Day 3 Overview of Day 4	Reporter: Leseka Mukokomani
09:15-09:45	Updates on resources	Sheila Manji
09:45-10:45	Group work: Country planning Each country to agree on three priority actions, discuss processes for taking forward these actions and support required (if applicable).	Country teams
10:45-11:15	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:15-12:00	Report back Each country spokesperson to share priority actions. Ideas for how to carry forward.	Moderator: Boniface Kakhobwe Country presenters
12:00-12:30	Closing Closing remarks on behalf of co-convening organizers	Janet Kayita, Team Lead – Child and Adolescent Health, WHO AFRO Elizabeth Muli, CEC in charge of ECD, Makueni County, Kenya Loise Nyanjau, Programme Manager, Newborn & Child Health Section, MoH Kenya Oliver Petrovic, Regional ECD Advisor, UNICEF ESARO
12:30	Lunch & End of Meeting	