



ZAMBIA

Integrating Nurturing Care for ECD in Routine Health Visits

Day 2

ECD-specific interventions in the health sector

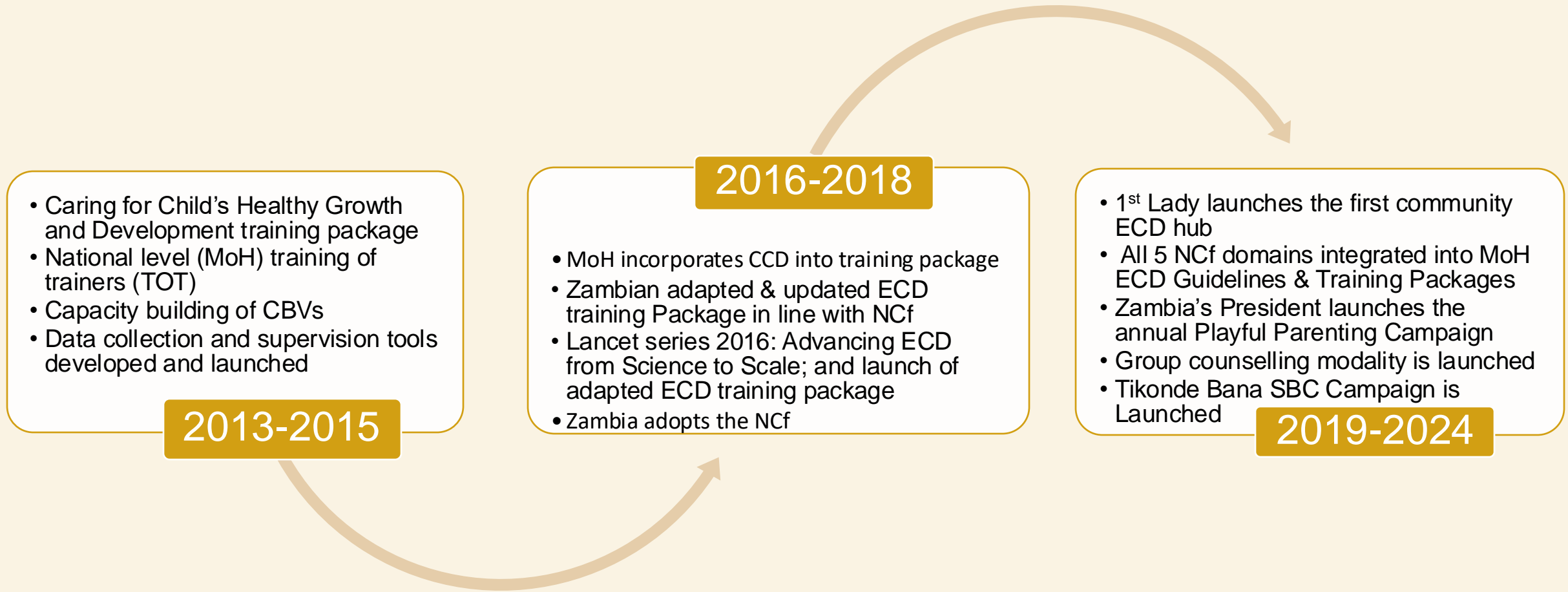
Mr. Michael Silawe, Chief IMCI Officer
Ministry of Health, Child Health Unit

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

25-28 February
Nairobi, Kenya



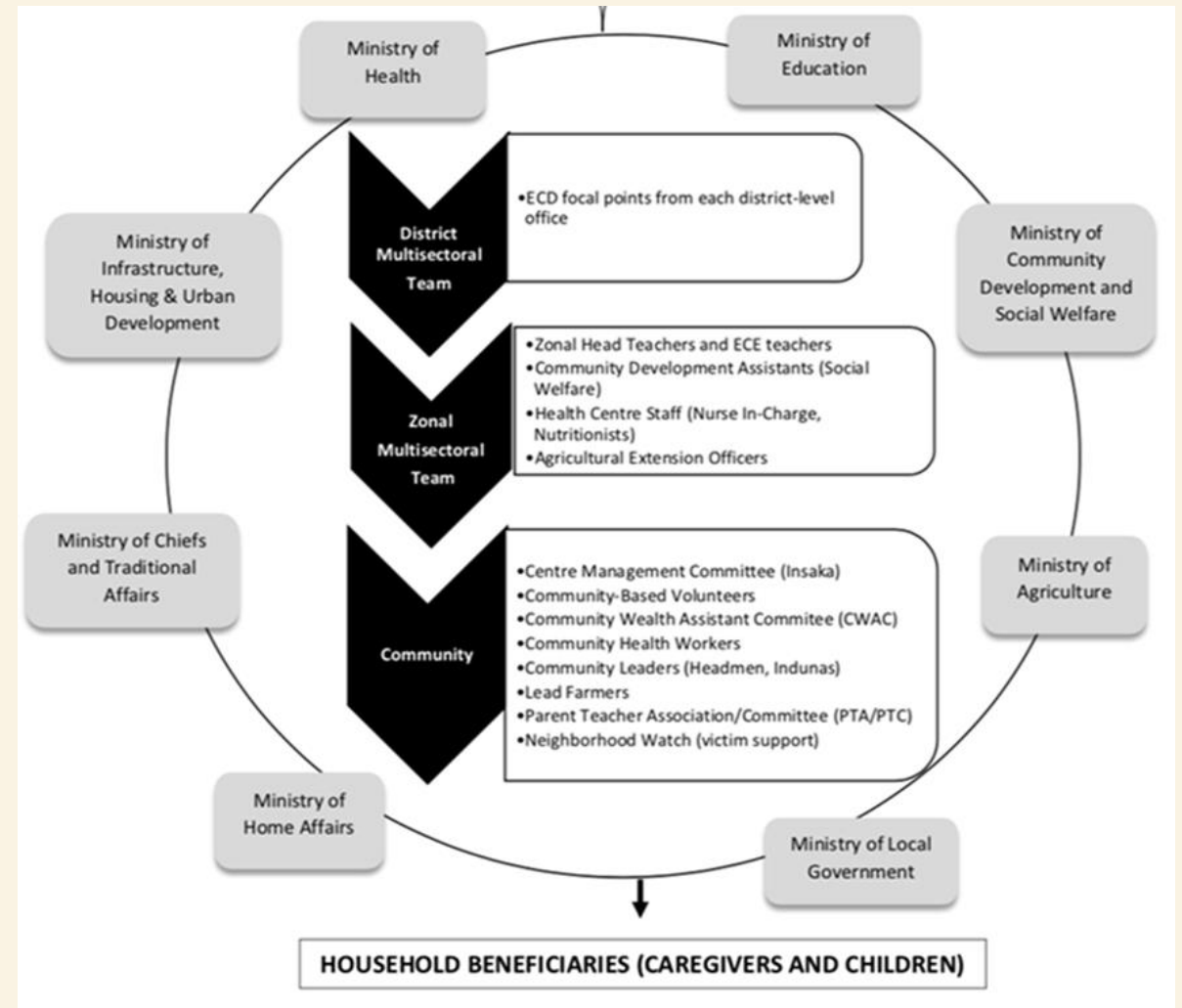
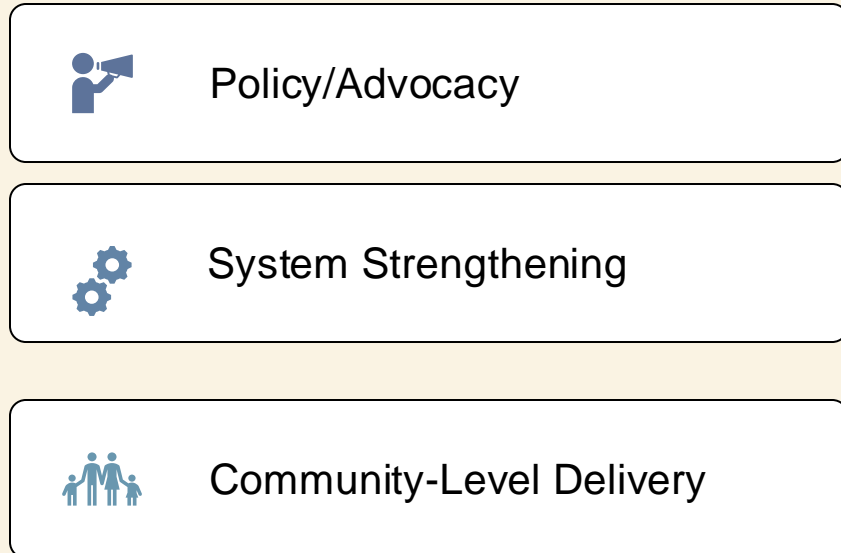
A brief history of Zambia's integration of NCfECD Interventions into the health system



A MULTI-LEVEL, MULTISECTORAL INTEGRATED ECD APPROACH

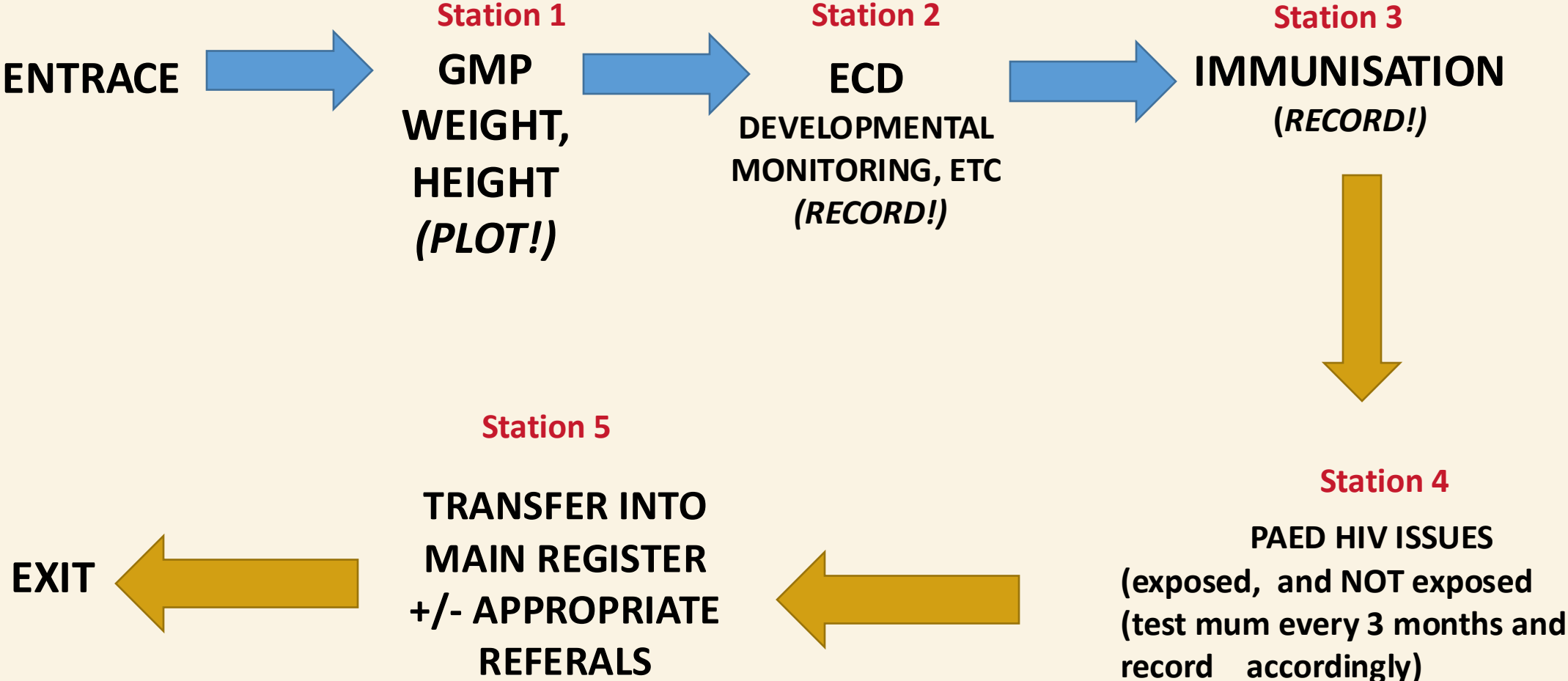
2018 Zambia adopts the Nurturing Care Framework

2019 GRZ partners with UNICEF to pilot a Community-based Integrated ECD Programme—*Insaka*



CLIENT FLOW DURING THE CHILDREN'S (UNDER 5) CLINIC

AT EVERY STATION, MUM TO CARRY THE CARD, AND TO BE COUNSELLED AS APPROPRIATE



Child Health Services in the Routine Under-5 Clinics

Republic of Zambia
Ministry of Health

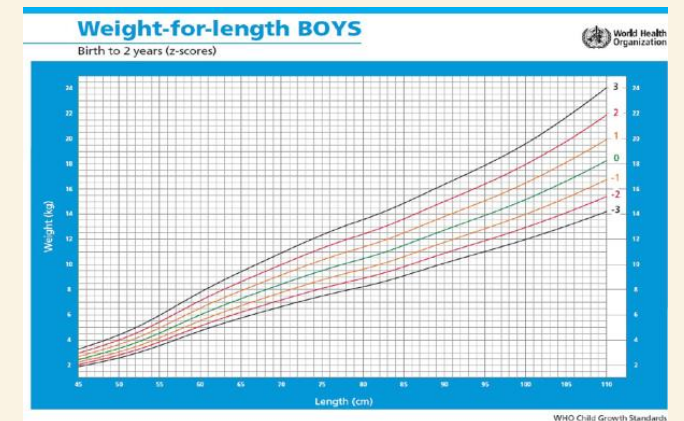
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH HAND BOOK

NOT FOR SALE

ASSESS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

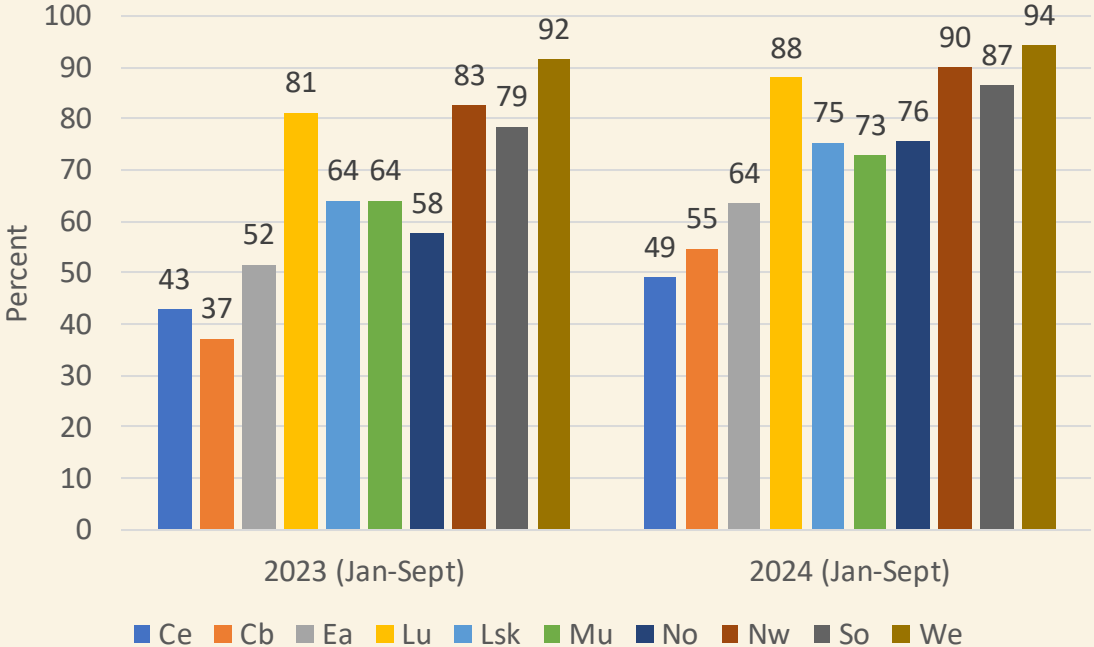
Does the child act and behave like other children of her/his age?
Follow the appropriate age for the child and the corresponding messages with pictures below

Age Group	Milestone 1	Milestone 2	Milestone 3	Milestone 4	Milestone 5
0 - 2 months	Follows objects with eyes	Turns head toward sounds	Moves legs and hands freely when awake	Smiles when you speak	
2 - 4 months	Follows objects with eyes	Turns head toward sounds	Holds head upright	Smiles when you speak	
4 - 6 months	Starts to sit	Reaches and grasps objects with a hand	Rolls over	Babbles (Ahahah...)	Takes objects to mouth
6 - 9 months	Mamama...	Sits without support	Moves objects from one hand to the other	Plays peek-a-boo	Responds to own name (Jelita!)
9 - 12 months	Takes steps with support	Picks up small object or string with two fingers	Imitates simple gestures	Points to objects and says 2-3 words	
12 - 18 months	Walks without support	Drinks from a cup	Says 7-10 words (Lion!)	Where is your nose? Points to body parts	
18 - 24 months	Kicks a ball and starts to run	Points at pictures on request	Sings and uses short sentences (Bring pawpaw?)	Builds tower with 3 blocks or small boxes	
24 months and older	Jumps and runs	Begins to dress and undress by her/himself	Groups similar objects	Plays with other children	Says first name and tells a short story

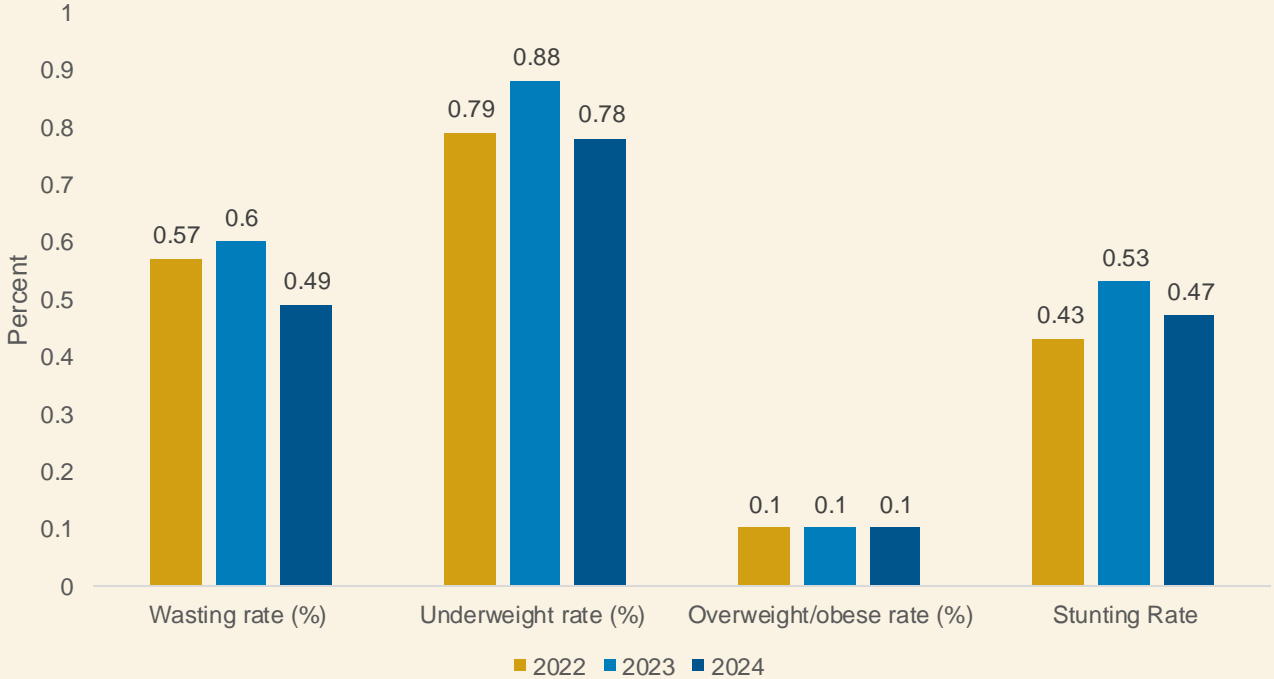


ACHIEVEMENTS—coverage of nutrition activities being implemented during Under-5 clinics

Height/Length Taking rate



Weight Taking rate



ACHIEVEMENTS: a full package of nurturing care interventions integrated into the health service system, and in some districts, converge at a community-based ECD hub or "Insaka"



RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING

(mother-baby play, early stimulation, responsive feeding, Caring for the Caregiver)



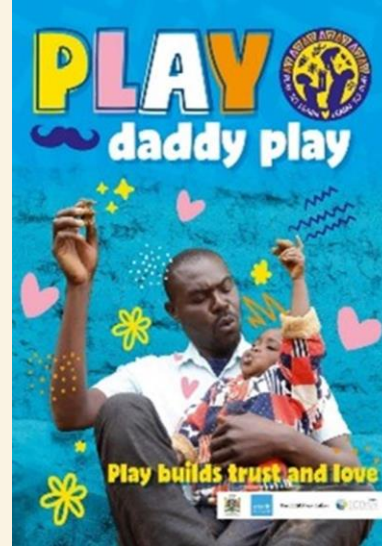
EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

(ECE: 4-6 years, play parks, story-telling)



SECURITY

(birth registration, adult literacy, economic empowerment, SCT)



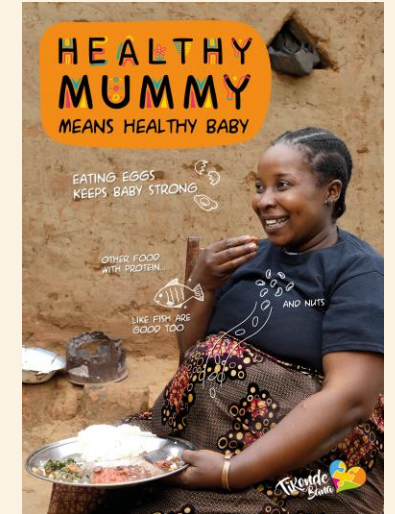
GOOD HEALTH

(ANC, Immunization, newborn support, health outreach, IMNCI, ICCM)



ADEQUATE NUTRITION

(GMP, nutrition supplementation, educ, cooking demos, nutrition counselling-NSGs)



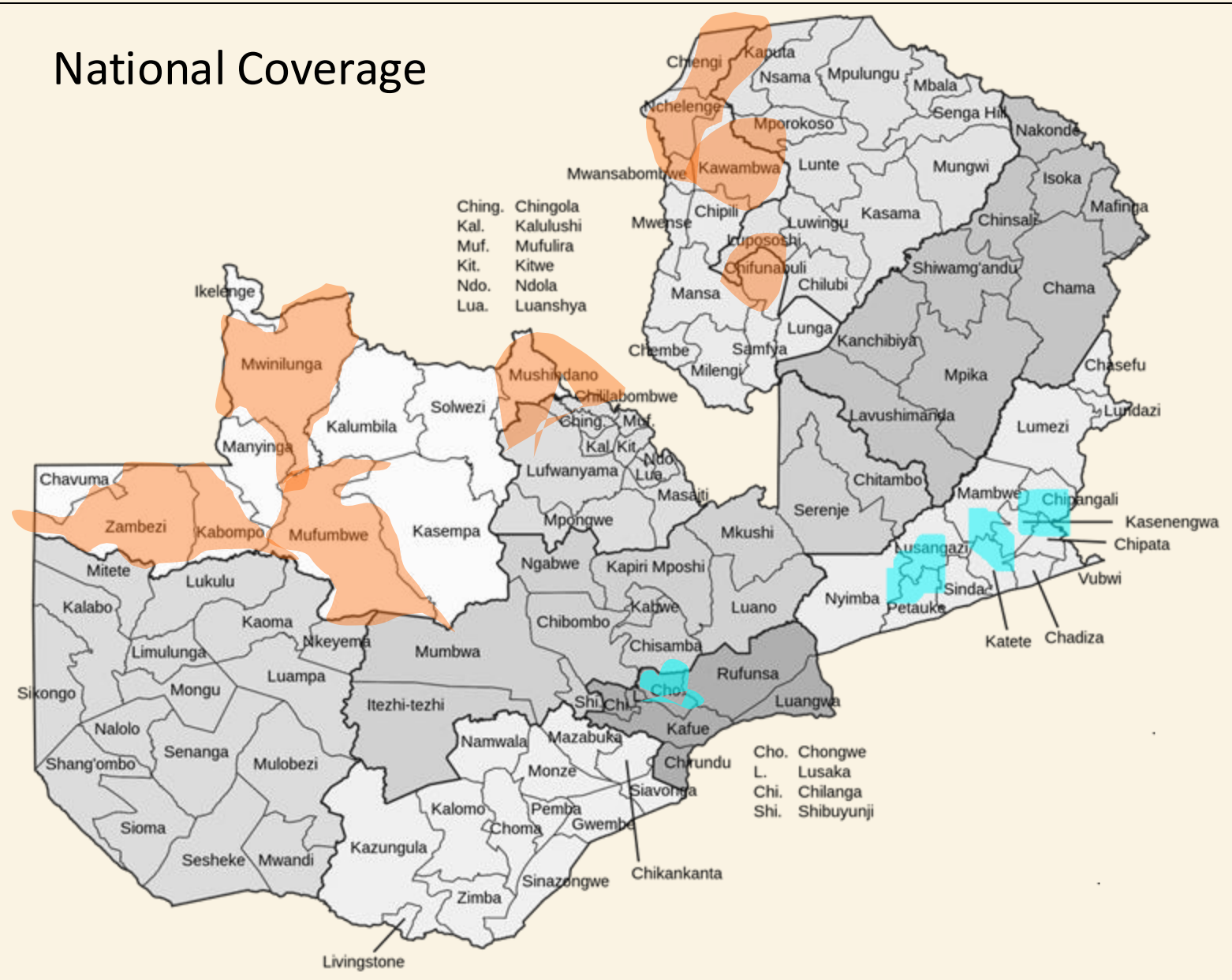
SAFETY

(access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, child protection, GBV prevention)



ACHIEVEMENTS: Zambia's Integrated ECD "Insaka" Programme is transitioning to scale

National Coverage



- Community-based integrated ECD Programme currently well-established in 26 sites in two provinces (2019-present)
 - **Katete:** 10 programming sites; 7 ECD hubs
 - **Petauke:** 10 programing sites; 2 low-cost ECE classrooms
 - **Chipata:** 4 programming sites; 4 ECD hubs
 - **Chongwe:** 2 programming sites; 2 ECD hubs
- EU-funded Human Development programme will expand to 38 more sites in two additional provinces (2025-2028)
 - **Luapula:** 19 ECDE hubs
 - **Northwestern:** 16 ECDE hubs + 3 ECE hub centres

LESSONS LEARNED

- Multisectoral approach enables more resource allocation
- Involvement of government and community ensures continuity and sustainability
- Community participation fosters a sense of ownership and buy-in for ECD services

CHALLENGES

- Inadequate resource allocation to support ECD scale-up
- Too few ECD-trained service providers
- Over-reliance on unpaid CBVs for programme implementation

OPPORTUNITIES

- Strong political will
- Presence of partner support
- Existence of a platform for multisectoral coordination

Priorities for Scale-Up 2025 and beyond

- Invest in continuous capacity building for community-based volunteers and professional frontline services providers , including strengthening supervision & mentorship structures
- Promote and institutionalise multi-sectoral planning and collaboration for NCf ECD interventions
- Integrate multisectoral workforce into the existing enumeration systems; scale up the community health guidelines for the enumeration of volunteers; activate alternative compensation pathways
- Advance the legislative process to pass a National Multisectoral ECD Policy and Strategic Framework to guide and direct implementation and investment in NCf ECD interventions
- Ensure substantive involvement and sensitization of community leaders (headmen and chiefs) on how the programme works and the role they can play to be NCf ECD advocates
- Launch and roll out the MCH booklet across the country to replace current Under-5 Card
- Integrate NCf ECD content into polyvalent CBV MoH & sector based CBVs packages (CWACs, CHWs), pre-service training for professional frontline services providers across sectors (ECE teachers, Health workers, Social Welfare & Community Development officers, etc)
- Continuously track outcomes by integrating scalable ECD measurement tools into HMIS, e.g. the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI2030) and the Global Scales for Early Development (GSED).



THANK
YOU

For more information

Michael Silavwe

Michaelsilavwe@gmail.com

+260 977365034

Links to videos

- **Community-based Integrated ECD Programme 2019:**
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/126tW3sboSrrQ6aNQwbHSVr7zY-HDKtZ5>
- **Longitudinal Tracking of 4 children in the programme 2022:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1A-1XqyG7E>
- **Playful parenting month launch by Zambia's president 2022:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inLtxNyK2wk>
- **Tikonde Bana Social & Behavioral Change Campaign 2022:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4-d-40o5Ps>
- **Play to Learn Learn to Play Flash Mob at Soweto Market 2022:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DLzNcWY_aA
- **Playful Parenting: A social experiment 2024:**
<https://youtu.be/5PrdEct47g8>