Consultation Calendar

21 September 2017
High Level EWEC event
Investing in the Early Years: A Roadmap for Sustainable Futures

22 September 2017
Side event to the UN General Assembly/ New York
1st face-to-face consultation meeting led by countries

3-7 October 2017
ISSA Conference Europe, Ghent, Belgium
75 participants in pre-conference session on 3 October
Aga Khan Institute for Institute of Human Development Conference: ECD in uncertain times, Dar-es-Salaam

4-5 November 2017
First meeting of writing team

15-16 November 2017
Latin-American Forum on ECD
Bogota, Colombia

29 November 2017
Public Consultation session

14-16 December 2017
PMNCH Board meeting, Malawi
PMNCH board members and invited guests

22-27 January 2018
WHO Executive Board meeting
Face-to-face consultation with countries
On-line consultation

24 Jan.-6 Feb. 2018
Phase I - Global
Regional and stakeholder consultations
Various countries

Feb-March 2018
On-line consultation

14-28 March 2018
Phase II - Global
WHO Mission Briefing
Geneva, Switzerland

21-26 May 2018 - WHA
Launch of Nurturing Care Framework for ECD
World Health Assembly 71, Geneva

May 2018 (date TBC) onwards
Launch Nurturing Care Framework in countries

WHA Geneva, to be followed by sponsoring country launches

Hosted by
unicef
World Health Organization

Supported by
The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

Early Childhood Development ACTION NETWORK

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“"If we change the beginning of the story, we change the whole story”
Raffi Cavoukian, The Beginning of Life
A unique convergence of evidence and commitments

Nurturing, protecting, promoting and supporting children in their early years is essential for the transformation that the world seeks to achieve in the next 15 years guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG Target 4.2, to ‘ensure that all girls and boys have access to good-quality early childhood development’ and the ‘Survive, Thrive, and Transform’ goals of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health provide the impetus to governments and all concerned stakeholders to act, with purpose and intensity.

The Lancet series *Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale* (2016) - spearheaded by WHO and UNICEF, brought together state-of-the-art evidence highlighting that the time is right to strengthen programming for ECD. The series emphasized that ‘nurturing care’ - an indivisible cluster of interventions related to health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, safety and security, and early learning - is the foundation for child development. The way mothers, fathers and other caregivers nurture and support children in the first 1000 days — including the time since conception — is among the most decisive factors for healthy child development, with lifelong and intergenerational benefits for health, productivity and social cohesion. Multisectoral interventions are essential, yet, the health sector has a special role to play given its unique reach to families and caregivers during this most critical time period.

Seizing the opportunity

The global community has an important opportunity in 2018 to scale up action and results for Early Childhood Development (ECD) by producing a nurturing care common Framework to guide policy, programme, and budget support at country level. The Framework will be a tool to enable the health sector to step up its role while increasing the strength of national multi-sectoral programming.

The Framework will make the case for investments in the early moments and years of a child’s life as a fundamental approach to achieving the Survive, Thrive and Transforms goals of the Global Strategy, contributing to the achievement of SDG4.2 target and to the attainment of the SDGs more broadly. It will do so by:

- consolidating guidance on practical approaches to support families to provide nurturing care in the earliest years of life, considering policies, an enabling health system, and relevant actions in other sectors.
- providing guidance to countries in their decisions to scale up effective interventions, to mobilize resources, monitor progress, and achieve results for stronger social and economic benefits, demonstrating clear returns on cross-sectoral investments.

Through mutually accountable partnerships between relevant sectors - health, nutrition, social and child protection, education, and environmental health - the Nurturing Care Framework kindles common action and achieves greater results through country leadership.