



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

**World Health
Organization**
South-East Asia

unicef 
for every child

Day 2 Recap:

Regional multisectoral
meeting to promote
nurturing care of early
childhood development

28 April 2021



Overview: Focus on families & strengthening services

Build on assets in communities

Use mixed approaches - all existing contact points and channels

Mitigate harmful beliefs & practices

Foster collaboration between community actors

Engage communities in design and testing of interventions

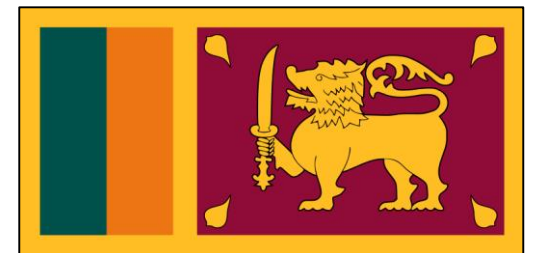
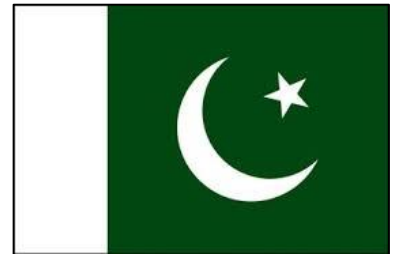
Country examples

Indonesia: Continuum of care through integrated community-based health efforts (Posyandu)

Pakistan: Responsive care in maternal and child health interventions through integrated parenting package

India: Integrating health, nutrition, early learning, responsive care via home visiting program

Sri Lanka: Early identification of disabilities and integrated intervention through parenting



Spotlight on services for caregiver well-being

Need to empower caregivers; caregiver mental health critical to child development and to providing nurturing care

Efforts to help children are unlikely to succeed unless they also support caregivers

The most vulnerable families are most at risk for poor mental health; COVID-19 increased risks

Tools and resources

- Nurturing Care Practice Guide (forthcoming)
- Care for Child Development
- Caring for the Caregiver
- Unmet Early Childhood Champions program

Key points from group discussions

Building workforce capacity is key for all sectors

- Overloaded capacity of frontline workers
- Regular professional training for health sector workers and trainers
- Complementing global tools and guidelines with training

New risks and opportunities from COVID-19

- Use of blended models, including technology, to make adaptations to reach households
- Importance of strengthening home-based platforms to increase access
- Strengthen focus on mental health in nurturing care via existing platforms across sectors, including private sector (private nurseries or health facilities)

Key points from group discussions

Strengthen policy and enabling environment for integrated ECD

- Need for further advocacy at national and sub-national levels
- Integration of nurturing care and responsive caregiving remain as gaps
- Strengthen collaboration between sectors, especially health and education

Maternal mental health as a key driver in ECD outcomes

- Opportunity to support caregivers' mental health through health, nutrition, and other ECD service platforms
- COVID-19 increases the importance of this area

Community-level strengthening

- Importance of engagement and governance mechanism at the local level
- Partnering with key influencers within the community
- Need to build whole-community platforms to deliver nurturing care for ECD

Focus on Families: Country examples

Serbia: Early Moments Matter. Mass media and community engagement for nurturing care



Bangladesh: Fathers' Club for male engagement



India: Pilot to scale model. Community-level governance mechanism for family services strengthening

