PAKISTAN
Country Experience on ECD
Integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD)
From Policy to Programming

WHO SEARO Regional Meeting
27-29 April 2021
**Brief Situation of ECD in Pakistan**

- **55/1000 births (Neonatal MR)**
- **54% receive all basic vaccinations**
- **71% ANC**
- **52% delivery by a skilled health professional**

- **54% Net in-take in primary school**
- **22.5 million (44%) of 5-16 year-old OOSC**

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- **ECCE is mainly a private sector engagement inaccessible for poor (LWQ)**
- **Lack of TLM at Katchi**
- **39% Preschool enrolment**
- **34.4% attendance of ECE 3-5 years**
- **Untrained teachers on ECE and multi-grade teaching**
- **2.3% of GDP to Education**
- **30.4% Net in-take in primary school**
- **22.5 million (44%) of 5-16 year-old OOSC**

- **45.8% Early Initiation BF**
- **48.4% EBF**
- **3.6% children with at least MAD**
- **40.2% U5 Stunting rate**
- **54% of U5 suffer from anemia**
- **13.1% of 24-59mths given deworming medication**
- **23% food insecurity (M&S)**
- **Malnutrition costs US$7.6 billion (3% of GDP)**

- **34% BR; 81% violent punishment, 21% Open defecation with 32% with no access to toilet facilities, baby WASH rarely practiced**

**Components of Nurturing Care**

- **Good Health**
- **Adequate Nutrition**
- **Responsive Caregiving**
- **Opportunities for Early Learning**
- **Security and Safety**
Context: Early Childhood Development in Pakistan

- ECD mapping conducted under the leadership of SUN Secretariat/Nutrition Section M/o PDSI/Planning Commission of Pakistan

✓ Multi-sectoral stakeholders' consultation

✓ Key findings from the mapping
  - Responsive care and nurturing was completely missing from interventions being provided

Recommendation:
  - an integrated parenting package - KFCPs
  - Adaptation and inclusion of ECD in National pre-service and community IMNCI modules

- National Policy Dialogue on ECD
- ECD Policy framework in progress
- National Steering committee and Technical working group for ECD established
- National SUN Secretariat/Nutrition Section MoPDSI/Planning Commission is developing
- PC-II to secure Government resources for ECD
Rationale for Parenting Package – ECD Mapping

• An important stream of the implementation of ECD as indicated in ECD mapping:
  ✓ key family practices have stagnated hence, need powerful behavior change communication
  ✓ Positive parenting
  ✓ System strengthening on ECD

• Process of Development of Parenting Package:
  ✓ Desk review (in-country and global)
  ✓ Multi-sectoral partners’ consultation (federal & provincial)
  ✓ Review, pretesting, revision & endorsement
  ✓ Dissemination at all levels
  ✓ Parenting package includes 22 key family care practices (KFCPs)
    – Gender sensitive based on life cycle approach using existing resource materials
Content of the Package

- **Training manual** for frontline workers training.
- **Handbook** for frontline workers - as reference manual
- **Counselling cards** for front line workers to use for educating parents/caregivers
- **Flyers** on children’s growth milestones
- **Cards** on Learning and development signs
- **Animated videos** on KFCP
- **ECCE booklets and animated videos**

*Materials pre-tested with caregivers, frontline workers and range of stakeholders in provinces and federal level*
Audience to be reached

Service Providers:
- LHW
- Social Welfare Workers
- Social Mobilisers
- Teachers

Community

Service Providers:
- Community leaders
- Religious leaders
- CHWs
- Vaccinators
- Teachers

Front line workers: LHW, ECCE facilitators, teachers, social mobilisers

Trainee:
- Health facility (LHV, EPI supervisors)
- Social welfare officers
- Trainers of teachers
- NFE trainers
- WASH programme facilitators
Progress: Roll out of Parenting Package

- Trainings of trainers – 230 multi-sector participants
  - >720 teachers trained
  - 300 nutrition assistants
  - Around 17,000 families and care givers have been reached

- Social and mass media reach:
  - More than 180,000 people engaged through social media
  - 25 Radio programs aired on 41 channels across Pakistan reaching millions

- Community engagement:
  - Engaged mother and father support groups to promote KFCP messages
  - It is part of integrated service delivery in 40 Polio High Risk Union Councils
  - Roll out through national NGO partners, an Alliance on Early Childhood

- The package has been integrated into existing system:
  - Newborn Care Package, IMNCI curriculum, Health Policy Punjab, LHW curriculum Sindh, EPI-IPC manual in KPK, IPC manual Polio

- Positive Parenting sustainability & resilience in COVID-19 context
ECD- sensitive IMNCI in PAKISTAN

• Revision and endorsement of National pre-service and community ECD-sensitive IMNCI guidelines by MoH & Provincial DoH

• National ECD-sensitive modules developed after intensive deliberations with Provincial DoH, IMNCI TWGs, RMNCAH&N TWG, WHO, Health Services Academy, Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), and Pakistan Pediatric Association (PPA)

• **Way forward:**
  - Detailed implementation plans with Federal Health Ministry and Provincial DoH to be finalized
  - ECD modules to become part of IMNCI App and web-training
  - Integrated ECD-sensitive IMNCI implementation (with nutrition & education sectors)
Next steps

- Scale up use of parenting package through multiple service delivery platforms and multiple stakeholders, including in the context of COVID-19.
The greatest return of all:
Every child whose future happiness is brightened by full cognitive development