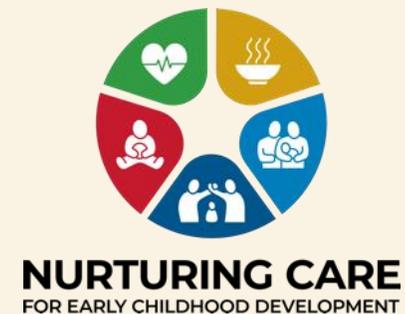




Nurturing care framework progress report (2018-2023): Reflections and looking forward

GLOBAL LAUNCH
THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2023

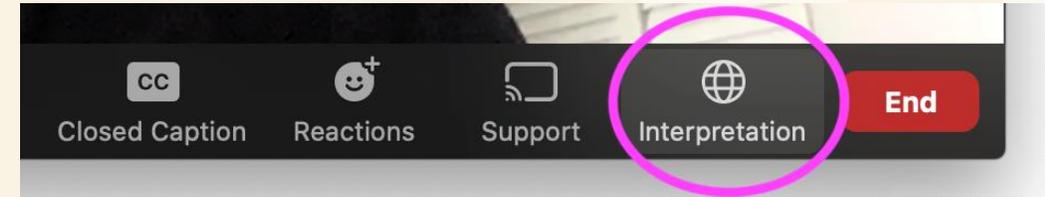
#NURTURINGCARE
@NURTURINGCARE



Housekeeping

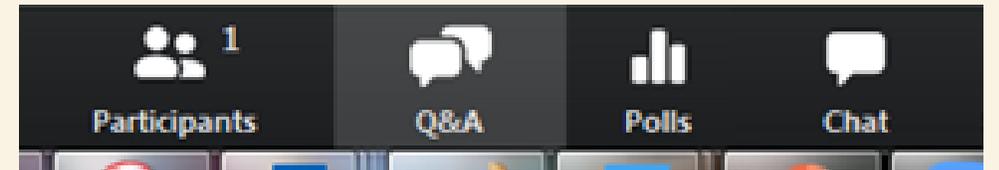
Interpretation

There is available in **English, Serbian and Spanish**. Please click on the globe icon located in your Zoom Meeting control to select the language.



Chat

Please use the **chat** feature located in your ZOOM Meeting Control to introduce yourself and exchange with participants.



Ask questions

Please use the **Q&A** feature located in your ZOOM Meeting Control to ask questions.

Recording

The session will be recorded and made available afterwards.



Nurturing care framework progress report (2018 to 2023)

Moderated by Sheila Manji, ECD Specialist, Child Health and Development Unit, World Health Organization, Geneva



NURTURING CARE
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Opening remarks

Overview of the Progress Report

Regional and country experiences

ARNEC, ISSA, Ghana, Serbia, Paraguay

Questions & answers

Moderated by Maniza Ntekim, Senior Programme Officer for Early Childhood Development, East and Southern Africa, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Closing remarks



Welcoming remarks



Anshu Banerjee

Director

Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child
and Adolescent Health and Ageing
World Health Organization, Geneva



Victor Aguayo

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Nutrition and Child Development
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Overview of the Progress Report



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Nurturing care framework progress report 2018-2023

REFLECTIONS AND LOOKING FORWARD



NURTURING CARE
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

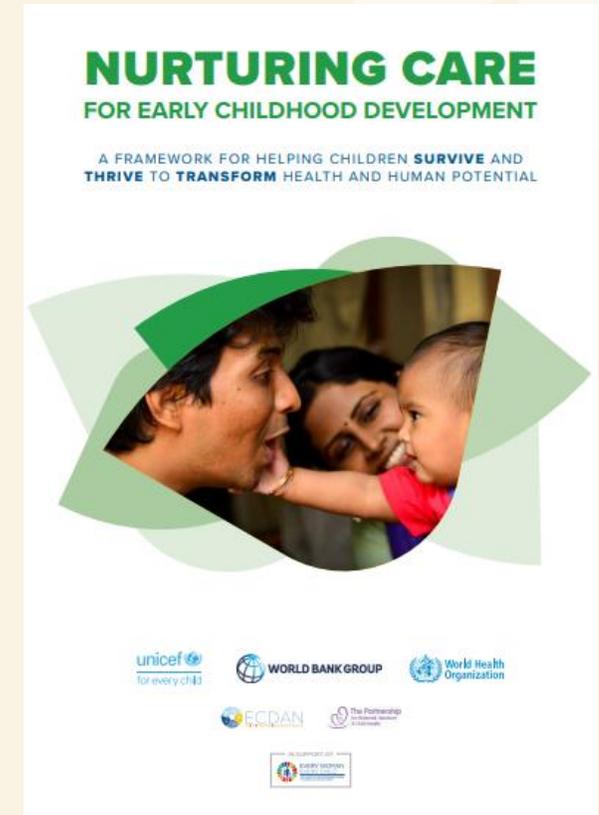
Nurturing care framework progress report (2018-2023)

OVERVIEW



Our questions

- How has the concept of nurturing care influenced policy and strategy by governments and partners?
- How have the five strategic actions proposed in the Framework been translated into actions at global, regional and country levels?
- How has the Framework influenced the global child health agenda?



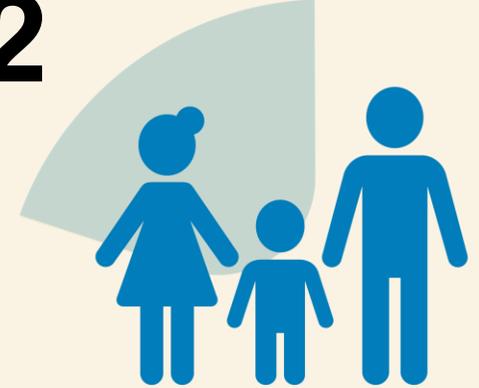
The five strategic actions

1



LEAD
AND INVEST

2



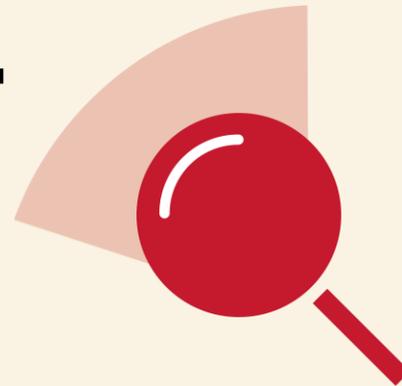
FOCUS ON FAMILIES AND
THEIR COMMUNITIES

3



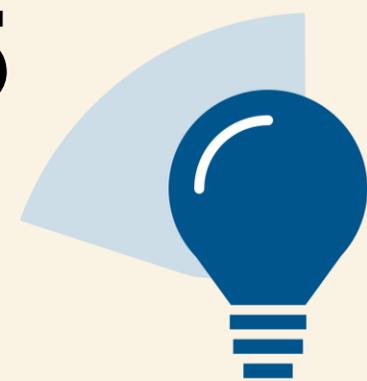
STRENGTHEN
SERVICES

4



MONITOR
PROGRESS

5



SCALE UP
AND INNOVATE

Methodology

- Interviews with 110 key informants with a wide range of stakeholders based in 30 countries.
- A robust literature review of technical reports, policy-related documents, published and grey literature, case studies and meeting notes.
- A rapid survey of 51 randomly-selected low and middle-income countries and areas, with sampling proportional to region.



Supported by an Advisory Committee

The report sections

Introduction outlines the purpose and process for developing this report.

The path to progress describes the activities and resources that supported dissemination and operationalization of the *Framework*.

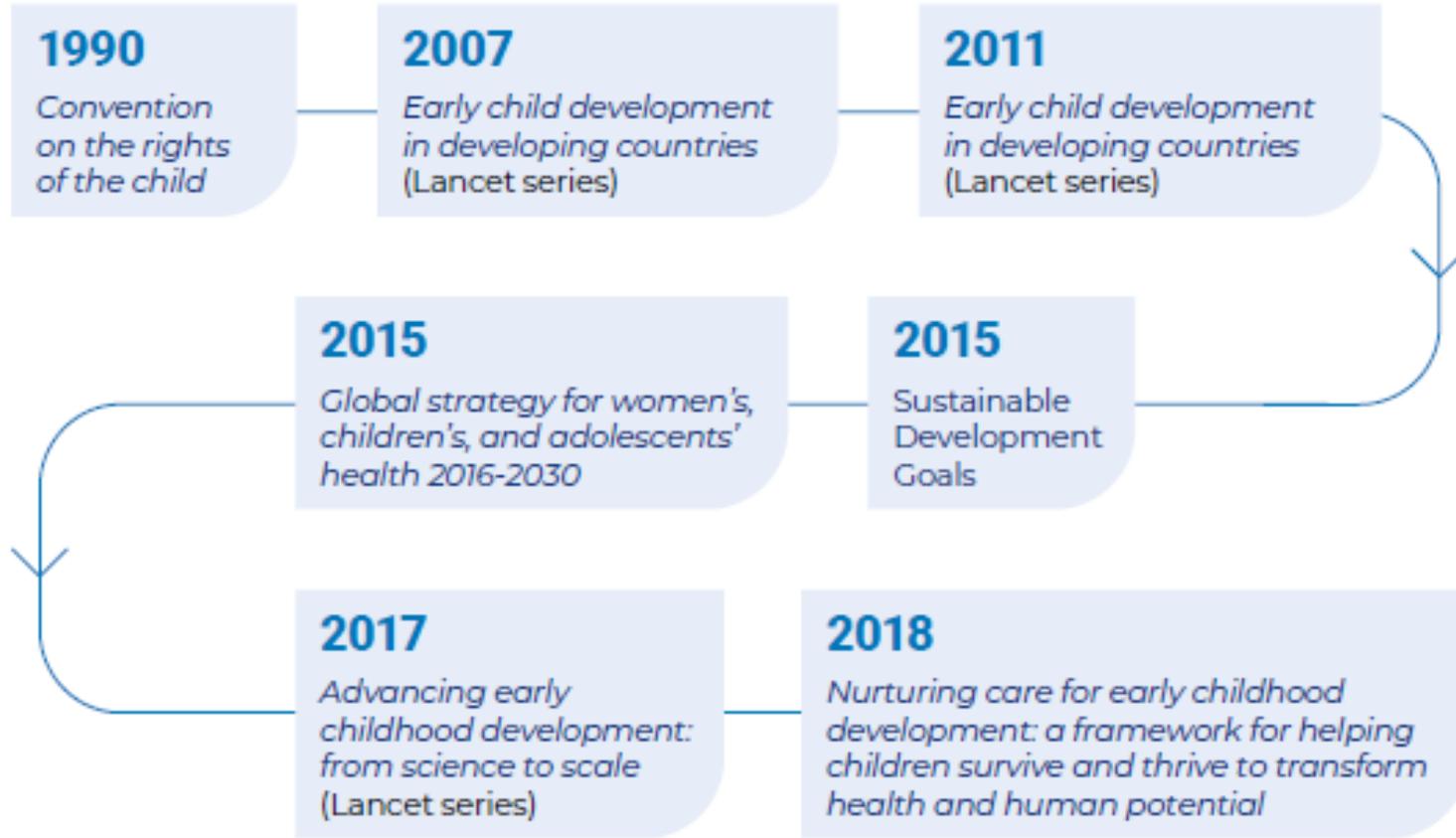
Reflections on progress presents the findings from the key informant interviews and rapid survey.

Looking forward outlines what areas need further attention so as to continue the momentum and advance progress.



A short history

FIG. 1. BRIEF TIMELINE UP TO THE FRAMEWORK



A snapshot of achievements 2018 to 2023



NURTURING CARE
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Diverse stakeholders from multiple sectors **came together** to improve child development outcomes and create enabling environments for nurturing care.

Wider recognition exists of **ECD as an outcome**, not a specific programme or intervention.

Profiles for ECD have been developed for **197 countries** and are regularly updated.

More than 80% of countries and areas responding to a rapid survey reported that frontline workers were trained to strengthen caregivers' capacity to provide their children with responsive care and opportunities for early learning.

Digital traffic on the nurturing care website **increased by 650%** and continues to rise.

The concept of nurturing care was extended across the **first two decades of life**, articulating the health and well-being needs of children and adolescents.

The number of low- and middle-income countries with a national policy or action plan for ECD **increased by 48%**. Many new policies give attention to all components of nurturing care.

The **central role of the family** in creating a stimulating, safe and secure environment for young children is well recognized and includes attention to caregiver mental health and well-being.

Meetings were held with **nearly 1000 stakeholders from over 40 countries** to facilitate understanding of the Framework and agree on actions to advance nurturing care in each context.

Over 570 scholarly articles cited the Framework. Emerging findings are helping to build an evidence base on scaling up and innovation for nurturing care.

The *Early childhood development index 2030* and *Global scales for early development* marked an exciting **milestone in measuring and monitoring** children's development at population level.

Over 30 resources were developed to support operationalization of the Framework.

Three strategic shifts

The Framework has:

- put emphasis on the youngest children
- put a spotlight on the health sector
- put caregivers at the centre of nurturing care

... reframed ECD as
an outcome



Photo credit:

© Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health/Isabel Pinto

Key finding #1

NCF established a globally accepted conceptual framework

- The NCF created a **clear and widely acceptable goal and shared language** for early childhood development. It established:
 - ✓ a clear mandate for buy-in from multiple sectors
 - ✓ new focus on responsive caregiving
 - ✓ programme priorities for children under 3
- In turn, the NCF strengthened **alignment and coordination** for policy and programming processes at multiple levels:
 - ✓ across sectors and organizations
 - ✓ within organizations (internally)
 - ✓ across the lifespan



Key finding #2

NCF informed vital policy processes (and “got them on the right track”)

- Notable efforts have been directed at policy planning (strategic action #1), which some view as a precursor for actions in the other NCF strategic areas.

The number of low- and middle-income countries with a national policy or action plan for ECD increased **by 48%**. Many new policies give attention to all components of nurturing care.



BOX 2. SELECTED EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL POLICIES AND PLANS THAT INTEGRATE NURTURING CARE

Belize ECD National Strategic Plan 2017-2021	Malta National Policy Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care 2021
Bhutan National Multi-Sectoral Early Childhood Care and Development Strategic Action Plan 2021-2030	Mexico Estrategia Nacional de Atención a la Primera Infancia [National Strategy for Integrated ECD] 2020-2024
Cambodia National Action Plan on Early Childhood Care and Development 2022-2026	Nepal National Strategy for ECD 2020-2030
El Salvador Crecer Juntos [Grow Together Policy] 2020-2030	Philippines National Early Childhood Care and Development Strategic Plan 2019-2030
Iraq National Strategy for ECD 2022-2031	Congo Politique Nationale de Développement Intégré de la Petite Enfance [National Policy for Integrated ECD] 2022-2030
Kiribati ECD Policy 2022-2032	United Republic of Tanzania National Multisectoral ECD Programme 2021-2026
Malawi National Strategic Plan for Integrated ECD 2018-2023	Vanuatu National Policy for ECD 2023-2027

Key finding #3

NCF contributed to strengthening aspects of service provision

- Two common programme areas include:
 - Rapid uptake of **responsive caregiving**, **early learning** and other parenting interventions. Focused on strengthening health/nutrition workforce to support caregiver capabilities.
 - Giving more attention to monitoring early childhood development and early intervention for delays and disability.
- Additional areas of common interest related to NCF include **small and sick newborns**, **caregiver mental health**, **humanitarian contexts**, and **climate change**.

Stories of change

BELIZE

Mainstreaming the Care for child development approach and supporting regional uptake

BANGLADESH

Strengthening the capacity of caregivers to responsively feed through nutrition services

INDIA, KENYA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Strengthening capacity and mentoring through paediatric associations

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Using digital tools to train and support frontline workers

Key finding #4

Promising initiatives & progress made in other strategic areas

Monitor progress

- Measures for assessing early childhood development in children 24 – 59 months and 0 – 36 months of age.
- Country profiles of valid and reliable indicators aligned with the Framework.
- Monitoring systems aligned with national ECD policies and strategies in countries.

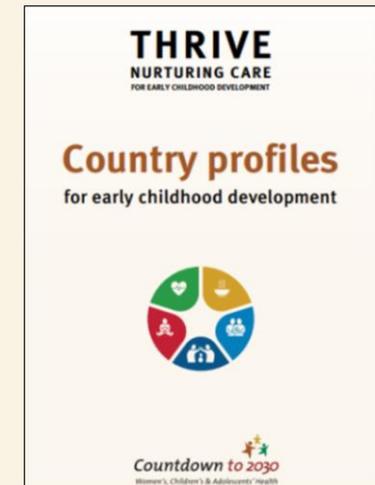


Data and innovation

- Digital innovations that can be scaled to support caregivers in providing nurturing care.
- Family-friendly policy initiatives and private sector engagement.

Focus on families and their communities

- Engagement of community workers, media, fathers, and mothers in the design and implementation of programmes and interventions.



“Our advocacy work in ECD picked up following the Framework. It provided the backbone for us.”
Stakeholder, civil society organization

“The Framework created a common understanding of where we are and where we want to go – particularly where we want to go.”
Stakeholder, multilateral organization

“The Framework helped us to identify priorities and gaps in service provision.”
Stakeholder, government

“The Framework is practical and easy to use. Five years on, it continues to be the way to get everyone on the same page and make a case for ECD. The Framework gives us something that isn't everything but gives a holistic approach to understanding what children need. It has established a common agenda.”
Stakeholder, philanthropic organization

Let's not forget how radical it was that ... responsive caregiving was picked up. This is a huge change and accomplishment. People understand it. We no longer deal with just the child but the whole system around the child. The Framework brought us a notion of family-centred care that we did not talk about before.”
Stakeholder, research institution

Voices from the field

Key finding #5

Common challenges

- Translating and operationalizing the NCF into sustainable practice.
- Coordination across sectors and between levels of government.
- Financial resources to implement (donor dependent).
- Data and evidence to monitor progress.
- Health system capacity and healthcare worker burden/capabilities.
- Health sector engagement.

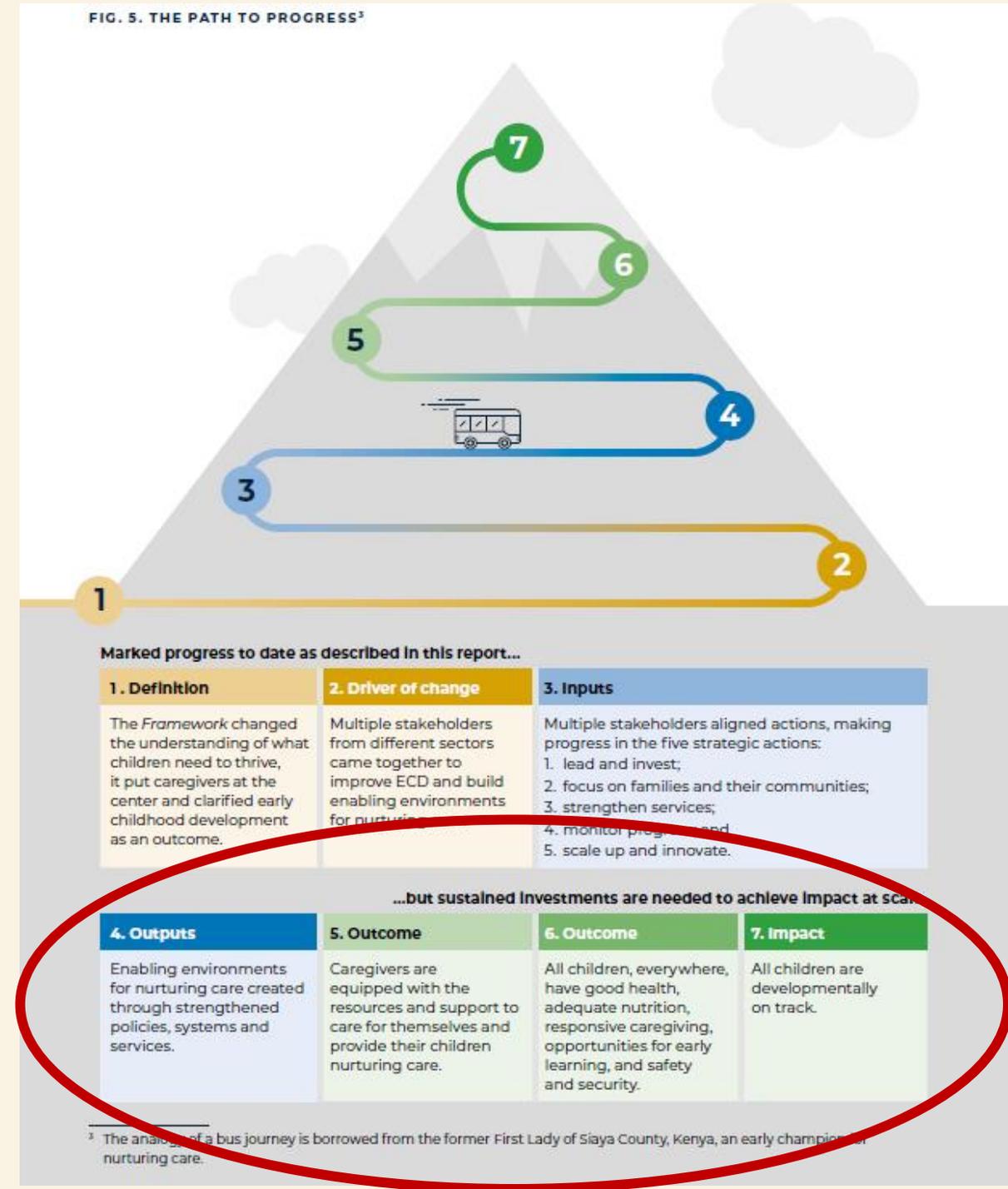


Photo credit:
Aga Khan Development Network/J-L. Ray

Looking forward

- Ongoing attention to each of the strategic actions will further strengthen the enabling environments for nurturing care so that caregivers can care for themselves and ensure every child receives nurturing care.
- Sustained investments are needed to achieve impact at scale.

FIG. 5. THE PATH TO PROGRESS³



³ The analogy of a bus journey is borrowed from the former First Lady of Siaya County, Kenya, an early champion for nurturing care.

Areas that merit further attention



- Deepen coordination and collaboration mechanisms
- Strengthen policies and plans
- Improve public financing



- Involve families and communities in the design of policies and programmes
- Cultivate local champions and use multimedia



- Build a workforce fit for purpose
- Strengthen systems to provide care according to need



- Use data to inform planning, budgeting and programming
- Measure individual and collective impact



- Implement feasible, sustainable and scalable solutions
- Use implementation research

Acknowledgements

Wholehearted thanks to

- The authors of the Lancet series *Early childhood development: From science to scale* (2017) that laid the foundation for the Nurturing Care Framework
- The key informants who were interviewed
- The UNICEF and WHO staff in countries who facilitated responses to the survey
- The advisory committee that accompanied the development of the report
- And last, but not least, Kerrie Proulx who managed the development of the report.



<https://nurturing-care.org/progress-report-2023>



Regional experiences



Evelyn Santiago
Executive Director
Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early
Childhood (ARNEC)



Zorica Trikić
Senior Programme Manager
International Step by Step Association
(ISSA)





Nurturing Care Framework and efforts to strengthen health systems for ECD in Europe and Central Asia

International Step by Step Association

Zorica Trikić
Senior Program Manager
International Step by Step Association (ISSA)
ztrikic@issa.nl

**Nurturing Care Framework (2018 to 2023):
Reflections and Looking Forward**



Just under 5 million young children (around 1 in 5) are at risk of not meeting developmental milestones.

The new perspective on the role of health care in child development

What do we want to achieve?

strengthen support for child development in all routine health care services



Enhance support for ECD in facility – based services



Bring ECD in home visiting



Support developmental monitoring



Support development of children with complex needs

- Supporting and counselling of parents on all aspects of nurturing care, addressing parental concerns
- Universal monitoring of child development based on validated tools
- Identification of children at risk of developmental difficulties
- Coordination of care and referral to other sectors/services, including for ensuring access of children to early childhood intervention services.

How we make an impact?



Advocating for change



Curating core knowledge



Creating a learning community

- Website/Knowledge Hub
<https://www.healthforecd.com/>
- More than 5000 website visitors since December 2022
- Since November 2022 seven webinars organized including the one on regional launch of the Nurturing Care practice guide - in total more than 1000 webinar viewers
258 newsletter subscribers (more to come)
- 6 blogs (more to come)

UNICEF/ISSA “Supporting Families for Nurturing Care” resource modules training package for home visitors

(<https://www.issa.nl/content/supporting-for-families-nurturing-care>)



- A growing set of training modules (soon to have 24 modules).
- Aiming to improve home visitors’ and other professionals’ **knowledge** of the key components of Nurturing Care and strengthen their **skills to support parents and children**.
- Supports different components of Nurturing Care and cover topics that are not routinely a part of pre-service or in service nursing and medical education in the region.

- Trained 40 regional Master Trainers
- Trained National Master Trainers in Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Albania, Kosovo (more than 100)
- Modules or elements of the modules integrated in preservice and in-service training
- Knowledge presented in the modules informed policies and practices on country level
- Contributed to building multisectoral teams of trainers and implementers

ISSA's Initiatives in ECA region based on, or inspired and guided by NCF

first years first priority

THE CAMPAIGN NEWS ACROSS EUROPE TAKE ACTION RESOURCES

IN EUROPE

First Years First Priority is a Europe-wide campaign set up to advocate for prioritization of early childhood development in public policies, with a particular focus on families and children who are at greater risk of discrimination and exclusion.

We aim to ensure that all young children aged 0 to 6 have equal opportunities to safe, healthy and optimal development.

Join our community of followers and supporters to advocate for more political visibility and resource allocation to early childhood.

Join the ECD Community Share on social media

ACROSS EUROPE

Early Childhood Development in the countries where the campaign operates. [Learn more](#)

ENGAGING MEN IN NURTURING CARE (EMiNC)



International Step by Step Association - ISSA

Centro de Estudios Sociales - CES

Centro per la Salute del Bambino - CSB

CONEXUS

Pinrat Centre de Masculinitats - Ajuntament Barcelona

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE INITIATIVE

HOME VISITING WORKFORCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOL

Home Visiting Workforce Needs Assessment Tool
A User's Guide

Primokiz

Better, responsive and coordinated early childhood services

What is Primokiz?

- › An evidence-based program developed by Jacobs Foundation for increasing access to quality early childhood services for young children.
- › A phased methodology to be used by local governments to improve the services they offer for young children, in a strategic, participatory, and responsive way.

#EUROMACHILDREN

Breaking the silence

THE RIGHT OF EACH YOUNG ROMA CHILD IN EUROPE TO DEVELOP AND THRIVE

EUROPEAN REYN EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDY
Exploring the Status of Young Roma Children and their Families



TRAINING OF TRAINERS

Foundational training on psychological first aid and trauma-informed practices with young children and their caregivers.

A TRAINING GUIDE

In Partnership with



Country experiences: Ghana, Serbia, Paraguay



Kofi Issah

Director of the Family Health Division of Ghana Health Services



**Slavica Djukic-Dejanovic
MD, PhD,**

Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia for the Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030

Chair of Inter-sectorial Steering Committee on Playful Parenting in Early Childhood.



Milica Pejovic Milovancevic

Director of the Institute of Mental Health in Serbia

President of the MoH Working Group for the implementation of the National ECD Programme



Sonia Raquel Olmedo

Director General of Early Education in the Ministry of Education and Science in Paraguay

Member of the National Early Childhood Team (ENPI) that carries out the Kunu'u National Strategy for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care



Closing remarks



Helga Fogstad

Executive Director
Partnership for Maternal, Newborn
and Child Health (PMNCH)



Elizabeth Lule

Executive Director
Early Childhood Development
Action Network (ECDAN)



Thank you

For more information:

nurturing-care.org
ecdan.org

Join the conversation:

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