

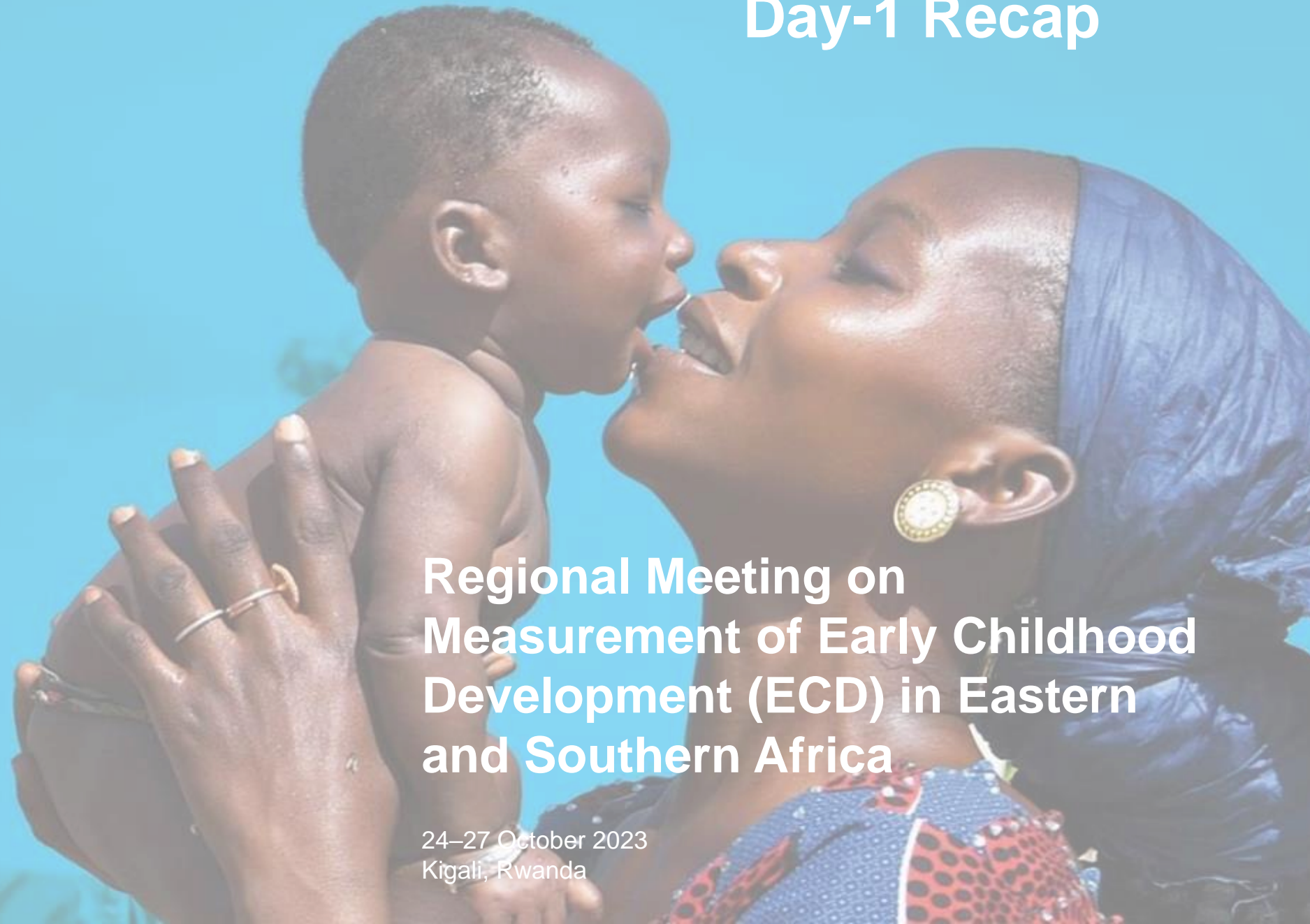
Day-1 Recap

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Regional Meeting on Measurement of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Eastern and Southern Africa

24–27 October 2023
Kigali, Rwanda

The challenge in a nutshell

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- Urgency to invest to build human capital by strengthening NC
- 2/3rds of children in the region are not developmentally on track.
- We need to change what is prioritised and ensure strategic investments
- The evidence of what this will take is abundant, but data has not been harnessed to enable nurturing care to change the story
- Notably in the areas of:
 - Maternal mental health
 - Nutrition, especially complementary feeding
 - Support for enabling stimulation from birth through responsive caregiving
 - Protection from violence in daily parenting practices
 - Birth registration
- This demands sector innovation to identify where the child and family is and use all contact points to maximise the 5 domains
 - Sectors must act, lead, innovate
 - Programme data is especially important to support this

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Solutions

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- Action existing and innovative policies to address gaps, especially in the earliest years

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Need data to inform the development of effective programmes. So, we need to strengthen process programme evaluations to know what works and why, and what doesn't and why not

- The coverage, dosage and quality required must be made explicit
- Also need population level data to confirm investment returns on human capital gains
 - To secure region-wide increased investment by government
- For this we need a measurement framework of agreed indicators across the ages and stage of early development to show impact in the long term
- We now have 3 tools that provide measurement framework

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Preconditions to harness potential of tools

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Measurement framework and tools should be operationalized progressively by government nationally to generate data regularly and secure its use

- UNICEF, the World Bank and the WHO have supported select countries operationalize the tools- building lessons learned
- Are also available to support others do so. There are many resources to support the process.
- The ECDI2030 is ready for actioning and aligned to SDGs so if you are collecting this data – keep on doing this and strengthen efforts
- All 3 are key to cover data across the age ranges in the ECD cohort
- All 3 are important – so build progressively to institutionalize all 3 to build the foundations for more strategic planning for transformation

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Lessons learned in operationalising tools

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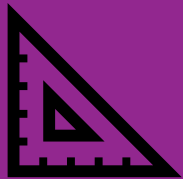
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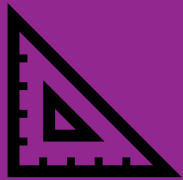
- The tools if taken, must be integrated into existing systems and context
 - Need to understand these and plan for responding to existing systems and context
- Need to translate – but there are challenges
- Need training – foundational ECD understanding is a problem
- To be effective must be done routinely –so need public funds committed by governments
- This requires that the value of the exercise is well-understood by government- Need advocacy and communication efforts

Conclusions

- If we are to move forward as a region, countries should operationalize and institutionalize the tools



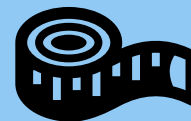
- If we are to move forward as a region, countries should operationalize and institutionalize the tools



- A common process map for doing this, co-developed by the lead agencies would help



- Programme evaluation should complement planning, especially at sector level
 - To do so, it must be strengthened to focus on process



- And systems must be strengthened to ensure pathways for the use of programme data and population data to inform national priorities, policies, resource allocation and reporting





Thank you! Murakoze!

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

– Frederick Douglass

