



Status of Routine Information Systems - Ministry of Health, Zambia



24–27 October 2023
Kigali, Rwanda



Current Status/Context (1)

Background

- Officially rolled-out ECD services in 2012 by adapting the WHO and UNICEF's Caring for Child's health growth and Development training package
- Almost all key indicators relevant for ECD measurement have since been incorporated into Zambia's routine health information systems from 2021 in addition to already existing indicators in EPI, Nutrition & IMNCI

HIA2 VERSION 2023 INTRODUCED ELEMENTS

[D] Developmental Milestones

- 0-2 Months
- 2-4 Months
- 4-6 Months
- 6-9 Months
- 9-12 Months
- 12-18 Months
- 18-24 Months
- 24+ Months

Attained		Delayed		Referred	
CHN2-310		CHN2-315		CHN2-320	
CHN2-325		CHN2-330		CHN2-335	
CHN2-340		CHN2-345		CHN2-350	
CHN2-355		CHN2-360		CHN2-365	
CHN2-370		CHN2-375		CHN2-380	
CHN2-385		CHN2-390		CHN2-395	
CHN2-400		CHN2-405		CHN2-410	
CHN2-415		CHN2-420		CHN2-425	

ECD indicators incorporated in routine health information systems and assessment charts added to child health clinic cards

ASSESS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

Does the child act and behave like other children of her/his age?
Follow the appropriate age for the child and the corresponding messages with pictures below

0-2 Months

- Rolls objects with eyes
- Turns head toward sounds
- Follows hand example
- Smiles when you speak

2-4 Months

- Starts to sit
- Reaches and grasps objects with a hand
- Balls eyes
- Babbles
- Takes objects to mouth

4-6 Months

- Looks without support
- Moves objects from one hand to the other
- Reaches to take
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Responds to own name

6-9 Months

- Takes steps with support
- Picks up small object or moves with two fingers
- Initiates simple gestures
- Points to objects and says 2-3 words

9-12 Months

- Walks without support
- Drinks from a cup
- Says 7-10 words
- Labels
- Points to body parts

12-18 Months

- Kicks a ball and starts to run
- Points at pictures on request
- Sings and says short sentences
- Repeats words
- Builds tower with 3 blocks or small toys

18-24 Months

- Runs and jumps
- Begins to dress and undress by her/himself
- Groups similar objects
- Plays with other children
- Says first name and tells a short story

24+ Months

If the child shows delays in one or more areas, refer the child to a specialist.

Current Status/Context (2)

Key data elements included in community HIMS reporting form (HIA4b) its reported monthly where ECD has been rolled out

Background cont'd

1.4 Early Child Development							
		M	F			M	F
Com 1.4.1	CBVs trained in ECD			com 1.4.4	Households with children that have age appropriate toys for stimulation		
Com 1.4.2	Children enrolled for ECD services			Com 1.4.5	Children referred for advanced ECD services		
Com 1.4.3	Children visited for ECD services			Com 1.4.6	Caregivers counseled <u>on ECD</u> services		

- Interoperability of systems to generate ECD indicators in different sectors
 - Currently not yet achieved in other sectors



Key Success facilitators (1)

- Advocacy and engagement of key high level Ministry / government authorities
- Formation of the National ECD Multi-Sectoral Technical Committee that officially endorses ECD propositions in the country and serves as a link to high level authorities
- Inclusion of ECD in the Multi-sectoral National Development & Sector specific Strategic Plans as well as in MTEF/ annual action plans that contain set targets and means of verification



Key Success facilitators (2)

- Adoption/recognition of ECD as one of key child survival and development programme/strategy that should be given equal attention as other health-related programmes/strategies (such as IMNCI, EPI, ENC, e.t.c) that needs to tracked.
- Existence of a flexible Information Management System e.g. HIMS for inclusion of new data elements



Key challenges with routine information systems

- Inadequate resources to routinely update the data collection tools
- Inadequate government funded structure for data clerks at service delivery level
 - Results in over-burdening of service providers on data capturing & aggregation
- Competing priorities with data elements in HIMS with old established child health programmes
 - Resulting in inadequate inclusion of ECD data elements especially at tertiary level health institutions in MOH



Efforts to strengthen routine information system to measure progress in ECD

- Incorporating key ECD data elements in the routine data collection tools for both tertiary & primary health delivery levels in MOH
- Orienting service providers on ECD data collection at all levels
- Identification of ECD process and output indicators to be tracked monthly/quarterly



What can be done moving forward

- Engaging the M&E department/unit and orienting them on ECD so that they can appreciate the importance of the programme in terms tracking implementation.
- Orienting key government decision makers in key line Ministries regarding the importance of ECD as well as measurements of its implementation
- Requesting the M&E departments/units to attach at least one M&E officer in other sectors to be part of the National ECD core team of technical persons



Conclusion

- ECD measurement must be given equal attention just like for other child survival and development programmes/strategies.
- Clear data elements should be included in routine Information Management System.
- Identification of process and output indicators to track ECD implementation of routine interventions.
- Bringing aboard M & E personnel in ECD is inevitable in monitoring ECD data reporting completeness and validation



Thank you

