



INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (IECD) FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE IN VIET NAM

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- II. Policies and key achievements
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PART 1. FACTS

- Viet Nam ratified CRC for 25 years
- Viet Nam's Law on Child Care & Protection developed since 1991, revised in 2004 and 2016 (new name: Child Law). Children in Viet Nam are identified as Vietnamese citizen under 16 years old
- Total children: 26.000.000 = 28% of population
- Children from 0-9 years old: 14 mil
- Children under 6 years old: roughly 10 mil
- Children under 36 months: 5.7 mil = 6.6% of population
- More than 3 mil children in poor families
- Preschool-age children's attendance rate:
 - ✓ *Kindergarten: 26.2%,*
 - ✓ *Preschool 89.2%, of which attendance rate of 5-year old children reached 99.5%*

FACTS(Cont'd)

- 22,000 children in social protection institutions
- 1.5 mil children in special circumstances=5.6% of all children (incl. orphans, children with disabilities, children affected by HIV/AIDS, etc.)
- About 2,000 children are exploited, abused annually, of which 1,200 are sexually abused (60%)
- About 3,000 children with accident and injuries (average figures during 2010 – 2015), children from 0-4 years old account for the majority
- % women with check-up \geq 3 times during pregnancy period (91 %)
- % birth delivery attended by health workers: 98.1%
- Under one mortality rate: 14.7/1000
- Under five mortality rate: 22.1/1000
- Under five stunting rate : 24.9 %
- Overweight, obesity: 7.4%

PART 2. POLICIES–ACHIEVEMENTS

- Vietnam's Constitution 2013: *Children shall be protected, cared for and educated by the State, family and society; children may participate in child-related issues. Harassing, persecuting, maltreating, abandoning or abusing children, exploiting child labor or other acts that violate children's rights are prohibited*
- Child Law, revised in 2016, effective from June/2017 stipulated 25 groups of child rights
- The Law on Marriage and Family prescribed obligations and rights of parents to care for their children
- The Civil Code stipulated: *"When a child is born, s/he has the right to have his/her birth declared"*.
- The Law on People with Disabilities specified clearly rights of and policies for children with disabilities
- The Labor Code has provisions on female workers, favorable conditions for pregnant women and mothers with small children, employers' support to female workers, e.g. contribution to building kindergartens, nursery classes or providing parts of the fee...

POLICIES - ACHIEVEMENTS(Cont'd)

- National Child Protection Programs for 2011-2015 and 2016-2020
- National Plan of Action for Children in 2012-2020
- The project to assist persons with disabilities in 2012-2020 targeting 70% children under 6 years old are screened for early detection of congenital defects by 2020
- National Plan of Action for children affected by HIV/AIDS in 2014-2020 (Prime Minister Decision No. 570/QD-TTg)
- Child Injury Prevention and Control Programs for 2013-2015 and 2016-2020
- Child Labor Prevention and Minimization Program for 2016-2020
- Program on Child's Right to Participation for 2016-2020
- Other legal documents to increase investment in infrastructure, creating favorable conditions for children to learn and play, narrowing the gap between urban and rural children

POLICIES - ACHIEVEMENTS(Cont'd)

- Universal preschool education for children of 5 years old for 2010-2015, completion of universal primary education, strengthening Vietnamese for preschool and primary school age children in ethnic minority areas for 2016-2020, vision to 2025
- Draft ECED Scheme for 2016-2025 and Draft Govt. Decree stipulated some policies for ECE
- On-going policies to support 5-year old children in mountainous, border, island and disadvantaged areas, EM children, orphan children, children with disabilities Policy on tuition fee exemption/reduction and provision of books/notebooks/school stationaries for poor students, ethnic minority students, children from poor families (lunch support: 120,000VND/month)
- Policies to support preschool teachers: social insurance, job code, allowances for preschool teachers

POLICIES - ACHIEVEMENTS(Cont'd)

- Policy on 6-month maternity leave, 1-hour breastfeeding break daily and assignment of suitable job to lactating mothers
- The Health Insurance Law: children under 6 years old provided with health insurance cards by the government
- Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) for infants: 90% coverage
- National Nutrition Strategies for 2001-2010 and 2011-2020
- National Programme to prevent malnutrition of children under 5
- Micronutrient supplementation program: provision of vitamin A for children 6-36 months old
- Children from near-poor households are subsidized with 70% of the health insurance premium
- The Prime Minister's decision No. 55a on support for cardiac surgery of children with congenital heart disease

PART 3. CHALLENGES

- Lack of a network connecting home-based and community-based IECD services with national level
- Limited knowledge, skills of parents, child care givers and service providers on IECD
- No provisions of free IECD package for children at home and in the community
- Neonatal mortality reduced slowly and remains high (22.1/1000); high under-5 stunting rate (24.9%) especially in disadvantaged areas
- Maltreatment, harassment, violence, exploitation, trafficking and neglect against children still exist

CHALLENGES (cont'd)

- No policy to improve IECD programmes, especially the cross-sectoral coordination mechanism with focus on integration and linkages between social services for the comprehensive development of the
- Insufficient IECD data collection, M&E and reporting system to the Govt.
- Limited investment for kindergarten groups (under 36 months) compared with older age of children. Low rate of children under 36 months access to education (26,2 %)
- Limited implementation, M&E of the care, education, stimulation, protection and development of children in private child care centres and family-based child care groups

PART 4. WAY FORWARD

NATIONAL IECD SCHEME 2018-2025

Overall objective:

Ensure that children in their early life can enjoy the IECD interventions so that they can develop comprehensively both in terms of physical, mental, spiritual, moral development and also social relationships and can access services as per their demand

Specific objectives by 2025:

- 70% of children 0-8 years old, especially children < 36 months, are provided with needs assessment and access to IECD packages
- 70% of staff in education institutions, child protection service facilities, social assistance facilities and treatment facilities have access to knowledge and skills relating to IECD
- 70% of parents and caregivers are trained in IECD
- 80% of provinces pilot the community-based IECD services

Target of beneficiaries:

- Children 0-8 years old, especially children <3 years old
- Parents, care givers and other stakeholders

WAY FORWARD(cont'd)

Key activities:

- Communication to raise awareness and change behaviors in IECD for authorities at all levels for service providers and especially for parents, caregivers, preschool teachers, child protection officers, health workers
- Training to improve knowledge and skills on IECD of service providers and especially for parents, caregivers, preschool teachers, child protection officers, health workers at community levels
- Strengthen the preschool education system and family-based child care groups for children <36 months
- Strengthen the IECD services to guarantee child's rights in the community to: health care for children and pregnant women, education, , physical development, psychological support, foster care children; entertainment; child protection services; legal support services, etc.

WAY FORWARD(cont'd)

Key activities (cont'd)

- Pilot of some community-based IECD models incl. the development of a network to link/connect IECD services to ensure children have access to IECD services in the family/ community
- Promulgation of policies on IECD packages incl. cross-sectoral coordination mechanism
- Scale-up evidence-based sectoral interventions with high return of investment, focusing on interventions for children in the 1st 1,000 days of their life cycle
- Strengthen monitoring, supervision and collection of IECD programmes, development of IECD indicators
- Improve quality, trusted and timely IECD reporting system to the Govt.

WAY FORWARD(cont'd)

Organization of the scheme implementation:

- MOLISA to take the leading role in collaborating with other ministries/sectors in scheme implementation, coordination, monitoring, reporting to the Govt. annually
- Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism & other ministries to perform specific sectoral tasks as assigned.
- People's Committee of provinces/centrally-run cities to implement sub-national IECD services
- Vietnam Fatherland and Front and its member organizations: Vietnam Women's Union, Ho Chi Minh Central Youth Union, Vietnam Farmers' Union, Provincial Peoples' Council to coordinate
- The implementation of the UNICEF-funded IECD programmes in Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Kon Tum provinces in 2017- 2021 will be a good experience for IECD scaling up in Viet Nam and will feed into the accomplishment of the Govt's IECD Scheme

THANK YOU

