


A photograph of a man, a woman, and a young child. The man, on the left, is wearing a red shirt and looking up at the child with a smile. The woman, in the center, is also wearing a red sari and looking up at the child with a joyful expression. The child, on the right, is wearing a bright green t-shirt with a cartoon character and the text '4 HIT and RUN' on it. The child is holding the man's hand and looking down at him. The background shows a blue window frame and some foliage.

# Global Trends in Early Childhood Development: Building Political Commitment

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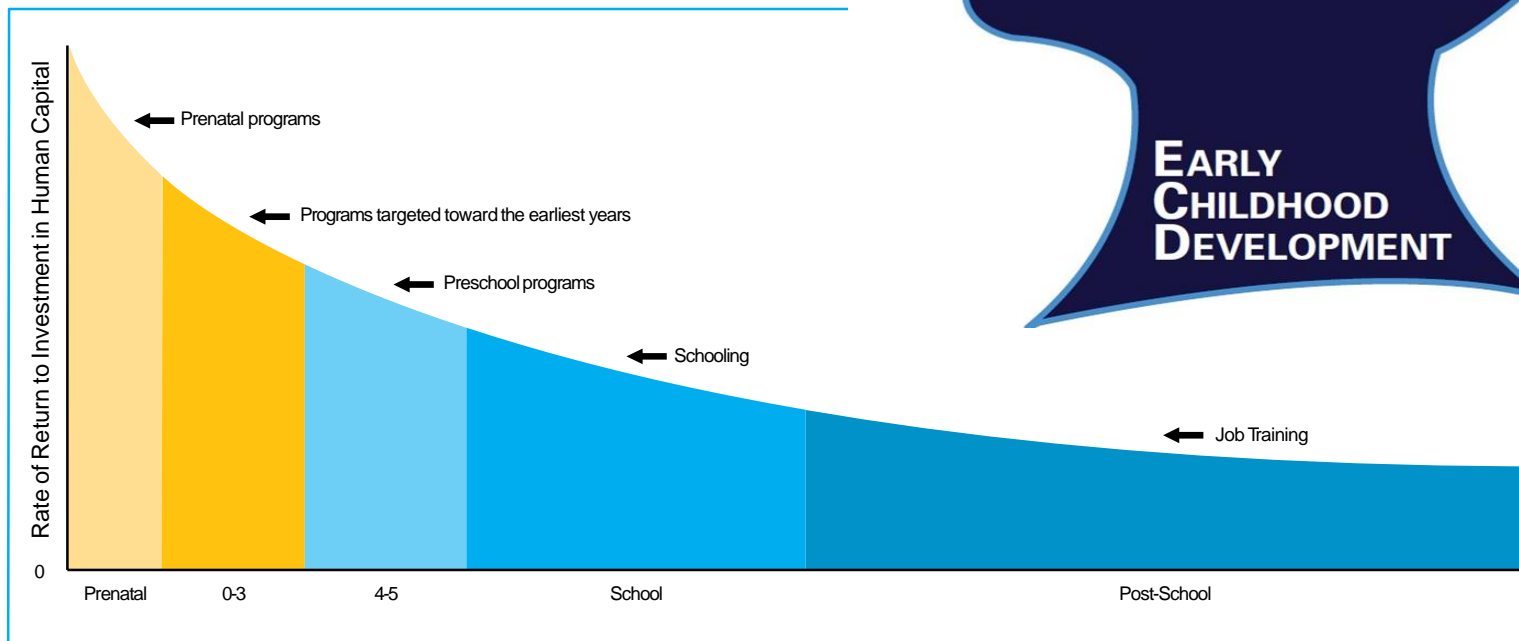
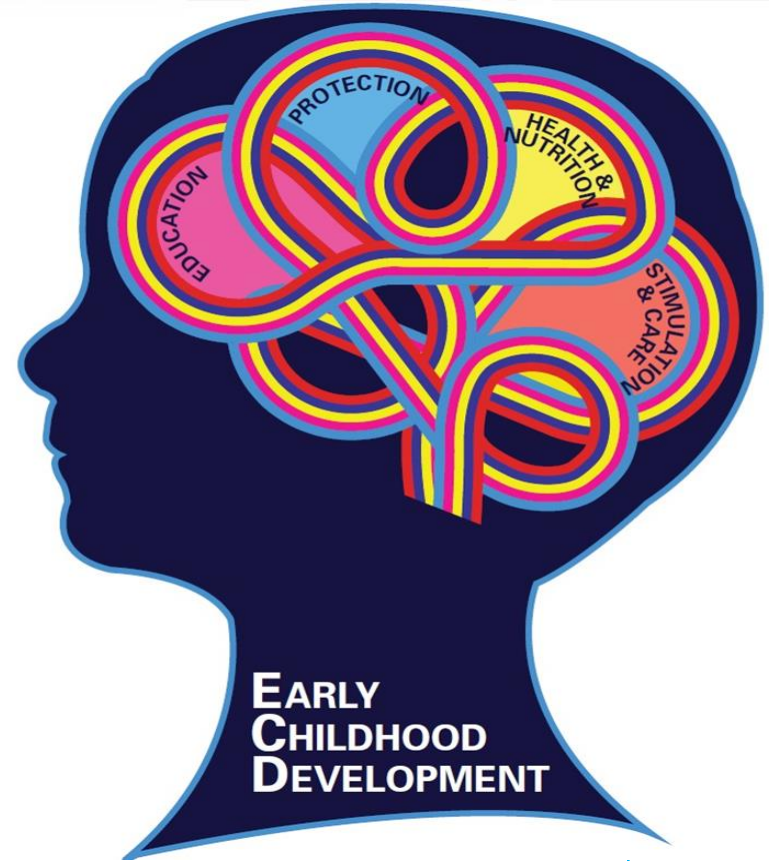


# Taking Stock of Global Trends: Where are we?



# Base Camp: Initial Case for “WHY” ECD

## Neuroscience & Economic evidence



# Beyond Base Camp: “HOW” for ECD

Several areas:

- Programme Implementation
- Evidence and Research
- Communication and Advocacy
- Data, Monitoring and Evaluation
- **Political Commitment**

# Situation of children – Under Age 5 Years

- ❑ **43%** at risk of not achieving development potential
- ❑ **75 million** live in areas affected by conflict, exposed to toxic stress, potentially inhibiting brain cell connections
- ❑ **155 million** are stunted, which prevents brain development
- ❑ **25%** of 2-4 year olds (in 64 countries) do not have opportunities essential for brain development such as playing, reading and singing
- ❑ **300 million** live in areas with toxic air, which can damage their developing brains

# Common features of large-scale programs

1. Political concerns about poverty, equity, social justice
2. Informed by scientific and economic evidence
3. Vision of community development
4. Focus on early childhood development – most often health, nutrition, and cognitive stimulation from pregnancy

**Political commitment**



# Building Block for Political Commitment: SDG



*“The Sustainable Development Goals recognize that early childhood development can help drive the transformation we hope to achieve over the next 15 years”*

Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General, United Nations  
22 September, 2015 at the UNGA side event “Meeting of the Minds”

**What does political  
commitment look like?**



# 6 Point Call to Action

Invest urgently in services that give young children, especially the most deprived, the best start in life.

Expand access to effective and essential early childhood development services in homes, schools, communities and health clinics.

Make family-friendly early childhood development policies a national priority – and a private sector imperative.

Collect data on essential indicators of early childhood development and track progress in reaching the most deprived.

Provide dedicated leadership for early childhood development programmes and coordinate efforts more effectively across sectors.

Drive demand for high-quality early childhood development services.



Early Childhood Development  
**ACTION NETWORK**



**End Violence  
Against Children**  
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



**EVERY WOMAN  
EVERY CHILD**  
FOR HEALTHY AND EMPOWERED WOMEN,  
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP  
for EDUCATION



**SANITATION  
AND WATER  
FOR ALL**



ENGAGE • INSPIRE • INVEST

**unicef**



**WORLD BANK GROUP**



**World Health  
Organization**

# 1. Increase Investment – URGENTLY!

*Investing in early childhood development is not only the right thing to do — it's the smart thing to do*

- **Return on investment for individuals:** Programmes that provide early nutrition, stimulation and protection can improve individual adult earnings by almost 25%
- **Return on investment for societies:** Investments in early childhood programmes, starting with the youngest, yield more than a 13% return in reduced poverty and income gaps and increased prosperity and economic competitiveness. Important to leverage the demographic window of opportunity
- **ECD Programmes are affordable:** On average, ECD programmes cost \$0.50 *per capita* per year when added to existing health and nutrition service-delivery programmes.
- **The cost of inaction is high — for people and for governments:** Governments spend 2-3 times the cost of ECD programmes in related health and education programmes by not making these initial investments from the start of a child's life.

# 1. Increase Investment – URGENTLY!

- **Investment Rates are very low:**
  - Nutrition: ~ 1% of funding for health in general goes to interventions to reduce stunting and wasting
  - Education: ~2.9% of funding for education does towards pre-primary
- **Traditional & Innovative sources of financing**
  - % of GDP; sectoral budgets
  - *Payroll tax*: Colombia has funded ECD programs through a 2-3 percent national payroll tax since 1974.
  - *Lottery funding*: In the United Kingdom and the United States (in California, Missouri and Georgia, where since 1992 about \$900 million has been raised annually) earmarked funds for ECD or education are raised by lotteries.
  - *Social impact bonds (SIBs)*: Special bonds have been issued to finance specific ECD programs in South Africa and the US state of Utah. Evidence on SIBs is just emerging, with only a couple of successfully implemented examples in ECD.

## 2. Expand Services building on systems of delivery

To reach more children and families more cost effectively, governments and their partners must commit to integrating early childhood interventions into existing services.





### 3. Make Family Friendly Policies a Priority

Countries and business should provide key workplace (including informal sector, supply chains, etc.) policies that enable parents to have the time to take care of their children:

- Include 6 to 12 months of paid parental leave
- Breastfeeding facilities and remunerated breastfeeding breaks for the six months
- Onsite childcare and early learning programmes for the children of employees (or provisions for childcare).



<https://vimeo.com/mariafarinhafilmes/review/234738749/629fa16985>

## 4. Collect National Data on ECD Indicators



**Target 2 of Goal 2:** under-five malnutrition, stunting and wasting.

**Target 2 of Goal 3** neonatal, infant and under-five mortality rates.

**Target 2 of Goal 4** developmentally on-track; pre-primary education

**Target 2 of Goal 16** end of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence against children



# 5. Provide Dedicated Leadership

Given the **multi-sectoral nature** –of ECD - a coordinating minister or body can oversee efforts so the policies and programmes are better integrated and more effective and cost-effective, including at provincial, municipal and village levels





## 6. Drive Demand

Parents and caregivers are the single most important factor in giving children the best possible start in life. Families can generate greater demand for high-quality ECD services



# So What can the sector's do?

- Health & Nutrition
  - Ensure that women and young children have access to quality health and nutrition services with early stimulation
  - Establish services for children identified with delays and/or disabilities
- Education
  - Put family engagement at the core of early childhood education services
  - Invest in education of adolescents and adults
- Social & Child Protection
  - Shield families with young children from poverty
  - Protect children from violence and maltreatment

# Political Commitment Opportunity

For the *first time* - ECD is included as a **key focus**:



ARGENTINA 2018

BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR FAIR  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



# Beyond base camp...Call to Action to the next generation of ECD leaders

*What will you do to move your government partner to  
do a bit more? And which new partner will you  
engage in ECD?*

