

A vibrant scene of children playing in a colorful inflatable water park slide. The slide is made of blue and yellow sections, and the water is splashing around the children. Several children are visible, some wearing red and blue swimsuits. There are many colorful inflatable rings (yellow, red, blue) floating in the water. The overall atmosphere is joyful and energetic.

Holistic Early Childhood Development Demonstration programme in Thailand

Situation of Thai Children

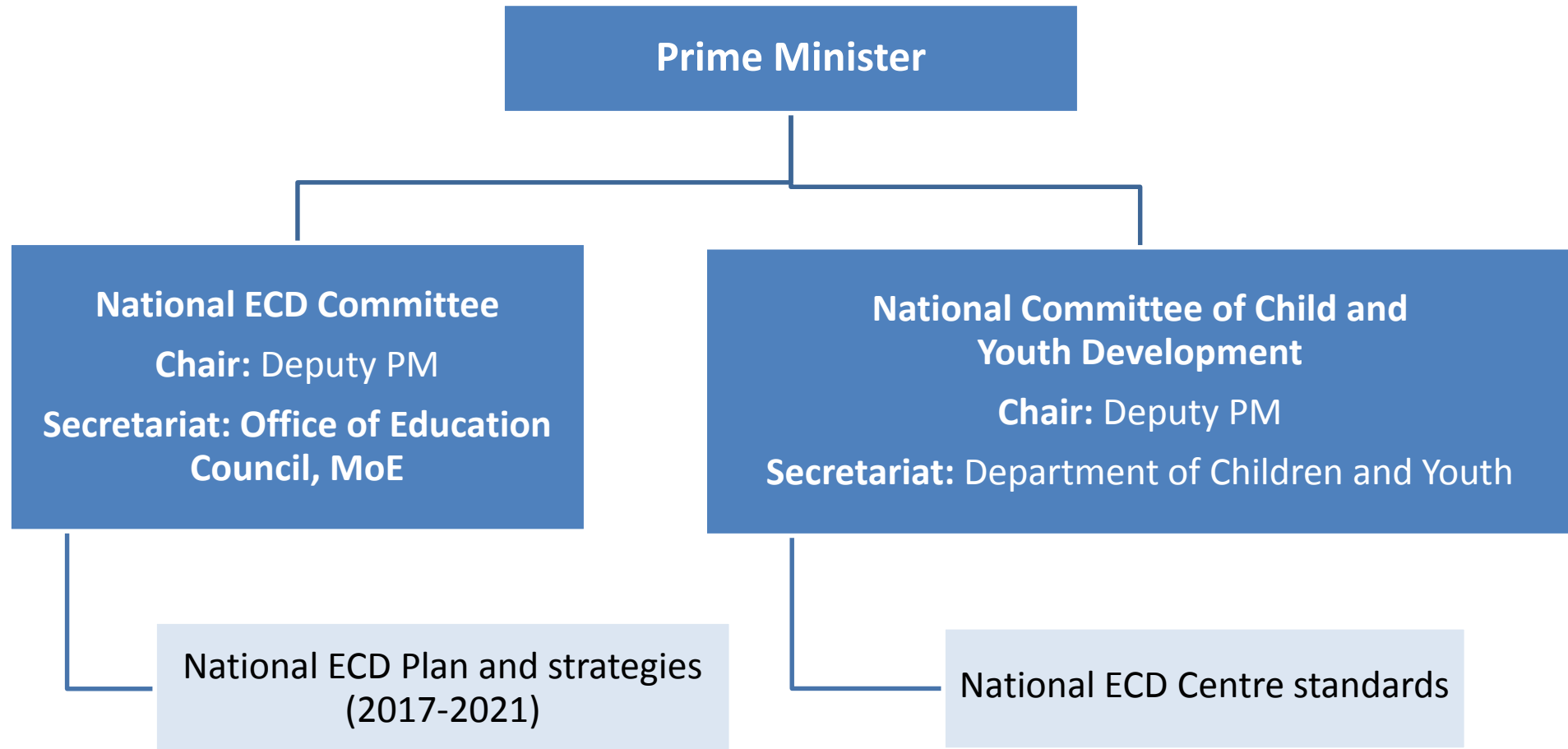
- Only 12.3% of infants younger than 6 months are **exclusively breastfed** (MICS4, 2012) with some improvement in MICS5, 2017.
- More than 10% of children younger than 5 years were moderately or severely **stunted** or too short for their age.
- **Paternal and maternal engagement to promote learning and school readiness** for children age 36-59 months is quite low (mother at 62.8 %, whereas father at 34%).
- Percentage of children under age 5 who have **three or more children's books** is 41.2% (With great disparity between Bangkok (62.4%) and Northeastern (33.8%).)
- The average percentage of children under age 5 who play with **two or more types of playthings** are not high at 70.8% with the lowest for Bangkok (at 66.3 %).
- Among the 4 domains measured by the **ECDI**, two areas of concerns were (i) literacy and numeracy (63% on track); and (ii) social emotional development (87% on track).
- Children attending an ECD programme have higher rankings in the ECDI compared to those who are not attending, at 94% versus 77%.
- **Enrolment in ECD services** for children aged 3-5 is high throughout the country.



Source: MICS 4, 2012

Institutional Arrangements

The National Early Childhood Development Committee, chaired by Deputy PM has developed the national ECD Plan (2017-2021). Several Ministries and agencies provide ECD services, with harmonised Standards being developed.



Institutional Policy Arrangements

- UNICEF Thailand works closely with the ECD multi-sector service providers, especially Ministry of Interior, municipalities and Ministry of Public Health.
- Thailand is developing National ECD Centre standards, integrating various sector specific standards as well as ASEAN standards and will come up as **“harmonised national standard”** for ECD centres.
- It will comprise of 1) Management of services; 2) Process for child development within services; 3) Child Development Outcomes (physical, social, emotional, ethical, and cognitive).



NECDP: All children between the ages of 0-6 developed to their full potential

Access to ECD services with equity for all children



Parenting, including early childhood care and family roles and skills



Quality OF service and quality of ECD professionals



Information management, data and monitoring indicators



Management and coordination mechanism, monitoring and evaluation, and building networks of cooperation.



The improvement of laws, regulations relating to the ECD

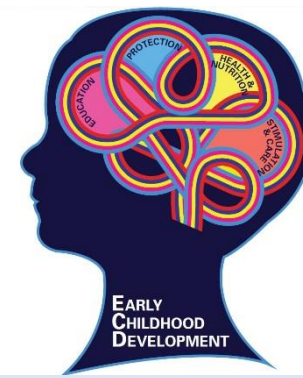


Learning, research and knowledge generations on ECD



Note: "Children from 0-2 years" mean children aged 0-35 months and "children from 3-6 years" mean children aged 36-71 months.

UNICEF Thailand focus on ECD



All children age 0-6 are progressively cared for through quality integrated ECD services and in protective and nurturing family environments

ECD policy makers and stakeholders have enhanced understanding on holistic child dev. and capacity to implement the integrated, inclusive ECD programmes.



ECD professionals have strengthened capacity and tools to support the holistic development (physical, social, emotional, cognitive) of young children.

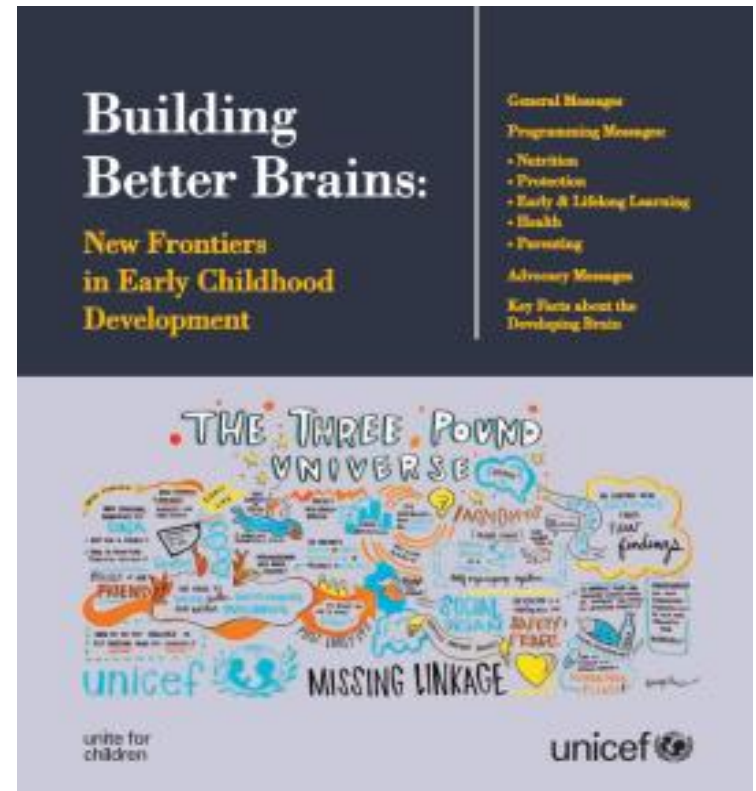


Parents and families have enhanced knowledge and skills on nutrition, care, protection and development of young children.



Advocacy: Evidence-generation and dissemination

- Translating and publishing ECD research and evidence;
- Forums to disseminate knowledge
- Technical support in development of ECD plan.
- Direct mail to public with information on child development
- UNICEF Blogs and social media to raise awareness on early stimulation and care.
- KAP study –to parents of children 0-5 years to inform policy development.



Translated in **Thai** and uploaded on UNICEF Thailand website



Background to ECD Centre Demonstration Programme:

- Thailand has the **Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS)** and indicators to measure children's development at the age 0-3 and 3-5 – physical, social, emotional, cognitive, language, creative and moral.
- It is now known as “**ECD Behavioral Competencies**”.
- Resources and guidelines for ECD teachers/ caregivers, and parents to support and monitor children's development.



Children accessing quality integrated ECD services



ECD Demonstration Programme in Thailand

Outcome for children:

Children aged 3-5 years (targeting equity-focused provinces) are accessing quality, holistic ECD services.

Outputs:

1. Policy makers and stakeholders have enhanced understanding on holistic child development and capacity to implement integrated, inclusive ECD programmes.
2. ECD professionals and caregivers have strengthened capacity and tools to support the holistic development (physical, social, emotional, cognitive) of young children.
3. Parents and families have enhanced knowledge and skills on nutrition, care, protection and development of young children.
4. Nutrition and Hygiene guidelines development and implemented in ECD services.



ECD caregivers have strengthened capacity and tools to support the holistic development of young children.



ECD professionals have strengthened capacity and tools to support the holistic development of young children

Parents and families have enhanced knowledge and skills on nutrition, care, protection and development of young children

In-service training on ECD Behavioral competencies

- Training of trainers for 21 ECD Demonstration centres
- Training for other scaled up ECD centres (Behavioral competencies, Child Development, Communication with children, Positive disciplines, and coaching)
- Certification of ECD centres/ Lead Trainers/ Teachers
- Reporting results

ECD teachers/caregivers in the ECD Demonstration centres use tools and guidelines

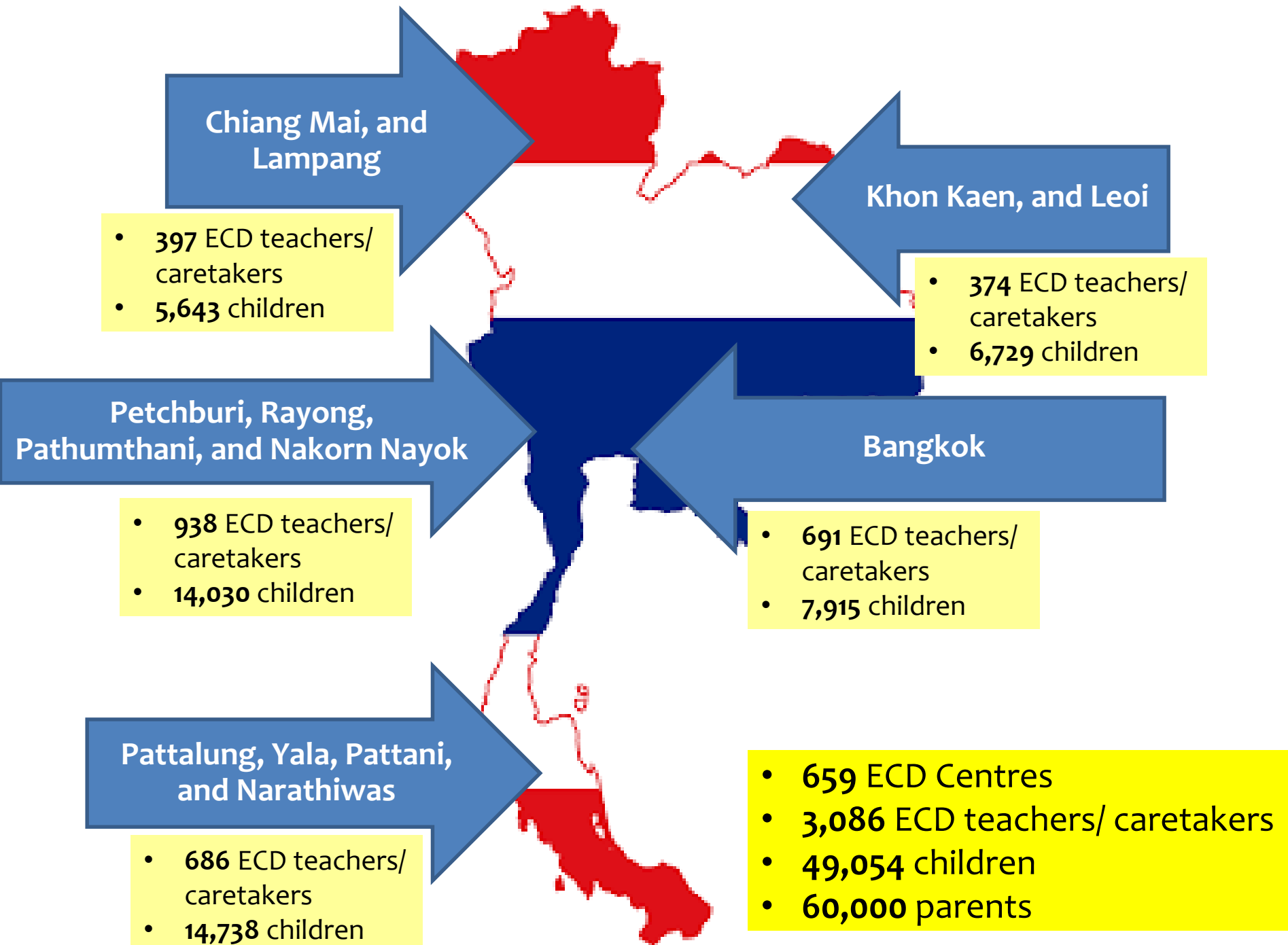
- Teacher Training package
- Implementation of Teacher Training package
- Improve Nutrition and Hygiene guidelines
- Validate and implementation of the Nutrition and Hygiene guidelines at the ECD centres
- Monitoring

Parenting programme is implemented at the ECD centres

- Launch Parenting Programme at the ECD centres (including teacher training, training for parents)
- Knowledge generations on Parenting Programme
- Knowledge exchange on Parenting programme (use of technologies)
- Build local ownership (Local capacity building)

Policy-makers invest in the Parenting Programme

- Policy forum (or knowledge exchange for policy makers) on benefit of Parental involvement and Parental programme; and quarterly meeting on scale up.
- Research and development to support parenting programme (ex: Infographics, Evidence for advocacy for policy-makers on Parenting programme, and Lessons learned.



Chiang Mai, and Lampang

- 397 ECD teachers/ caretakers
- 5,643 children

Khon Kaen, and Leoi

- 374 ECD teachers/ caretakers
- 6,729 children

Petchburi, Rayong, Pathumthani, and Nakorn Nayok

- 938 ECD teachers/ caretakers
- 14,030 children

Bangkok

- 691 ECD teachers/ caretakers
- 7,915 children

Pattalung, Yala, Pattani, and Narathiw

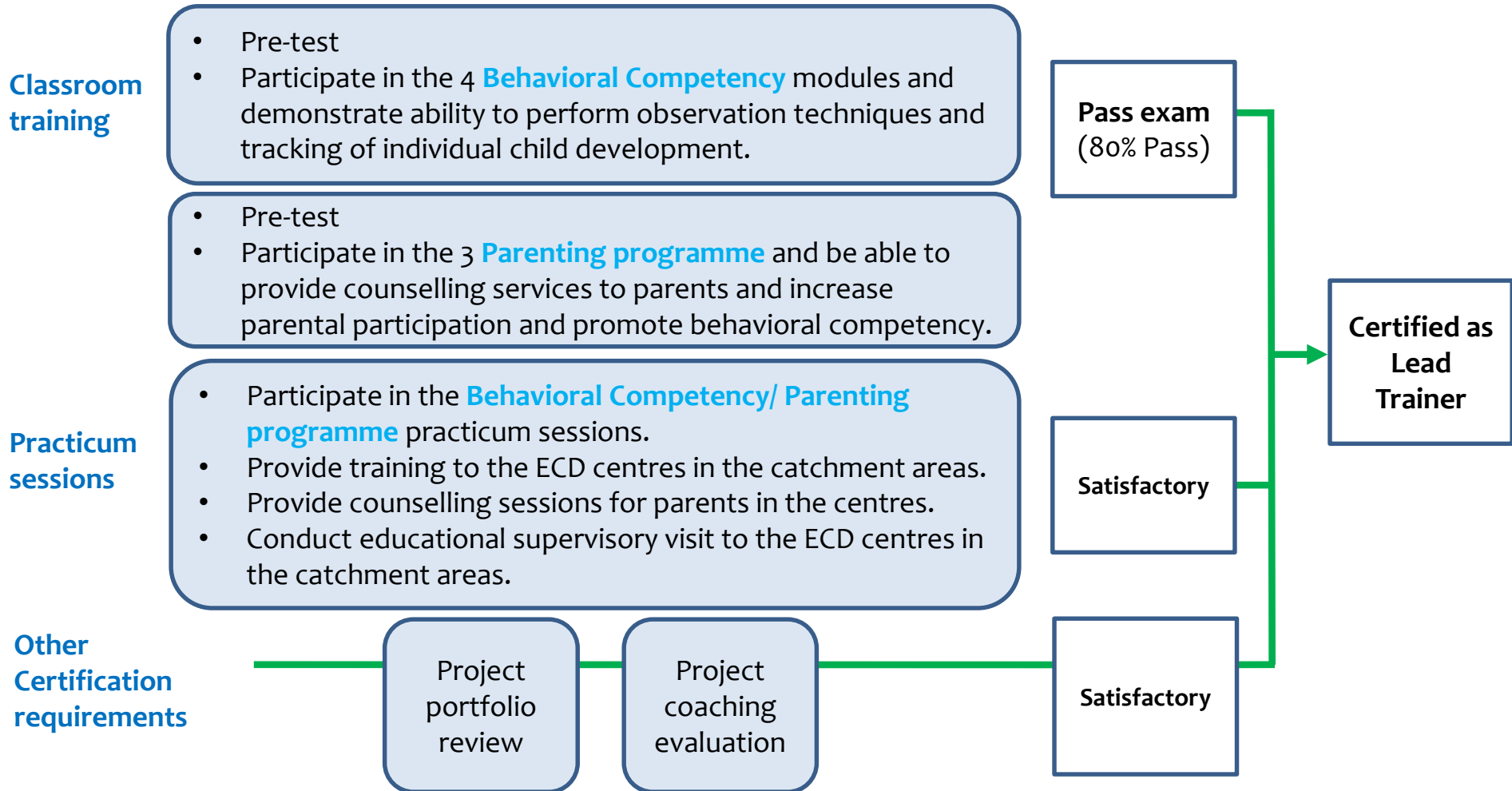
- 686 ECD teachers/ caretakers
- 14,738 children

- 659 ECD Centres
- 3,086 ECD teachers/ caretakers
- 49,054 children
- 60,000 parents

Parents' knowledge and skills on nutrition, care, protection and development of young children enhanced.



Certification process for ECD Teachers/ caregivers



Measuring Success

- **Children:** ECD centres and caregivers documenting child development across 7 domains – aggregated in partnership with Government counterparts;
- **ECD Services:** Development of ECD Service standards and monitoring system.
- **Caregivers:** Certification of capacity and skills within the capacity development programme.
- **Parents:** Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices baselines, mid-term and end-line through surveys.



What have we learned from the programme?

- **Scale-up process is iterative and complex and requires support from multiple actors and attention to common core tasks:**
 - 1) Ensure buy-in from the local partners at all levels (include in core discussion on expected results, and outputs);
 - 2) Assess and improve interventions based on local needs;
 - 3) Leverage participation of all partners and stakeholders to share resources;
 - 4) Project design for scale up must be feasible and meet the local context.
- **Parenting programme:** Implementation at the ECD centre has great variation in different context and sometimes based on different culture. In order to implement the effective Parenting programme in the ECD centre, it is important to include Parent networks in planning process.
- **Setting up solid baseline at an outset is important:** The systematic baseline will help key stakeholders to target recommendations and evaluate the value-added of the interventions at the end of the implementation.
- **Teachers' motivation is a key for success:** Coordination and stimulate motivation through Line group build closer coordination and exchange of good practices.

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for every child

Thank you

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