



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

South-East Asia



**Rapid assessment of national
preparedness for implementing
Nurturing Care for Early Childhood
Development**

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Nurturing Care for Early Childhood
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Rapid assessment of national preparedness for implementing Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development

Guidance Note for National Consultant

The Framework for Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development (ECD)¹, recently released by WHO, UNICEF, World Bank Group and other partners provides a roadmap for action to support ECD. It builds on state-of-the-art evidence about how early childhood development unfolds and how it can be improved by policies and interventions. The framework reiterates the importance of the period from pregnancy to age 3, a window of opportunity when the brain grows faster than at any other time; a significantly large proportion of a baby's brain being formed by this age. It emphasizes on a comprehensive approach for healthy brain development, including a safe, secure and loving environment, with the right nutrition and stimulation from their parents or caregivers. Interventions during this window of



WHO/ UNICEF Nurturing Care Framework

opportunity not only lay a foundation of health and wellbeing whose benefits last a lifetime but continue to benefit the next generation. The framework also identifies five components of nurturing care (figure 1). The need for nurturing care does not end when the child reaches the age of 3. Therefore, the framework also emphasizes on the need for a continuity throughout middle childhood and into adolescence, to consolidate gains and address challenges associated with each stage.

Though the concept of nurturing care is new, countries in the South-East Asia have been already implementing interventions to support early childhood development, which includes various components of the nurturing care framework.

Objectives of the rapid assessment:

- Map the national legislation, policies, programmes and committed resources (Including budget) that are supporting Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development in the country across different sectors
- Assess and understand the range of interventions from conception to 3 years related to Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development and extent of implementation across various sectors and understand the challenges faced and suggestions for improvement

¹ World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, World Bank Group. Nurturing care for early childhood development: a framework for helping children survive and thrive to transform health and human potential. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018.

- Assess intersectoral coordination and role of partners in development and implementation of multisectoral programmes for Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development
- Propose recommendations based on implementation and readiness of the system for at scale implementation of NC for ECD

Methodology:

- **Desk review of data*** related to coverage of services and key elements of nurturing care framework; i.e. child health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, security and safety, and early learning and **prepare a country profile**
- **Desk review of policy and programme documents** including constitutional and policy framework, descriptions of programmes and projects, evaluation reports, etc. from all related sectors at national level
- **Review of admin reports** related to programme activities (Communication, trainings, logistics, service delivery, monitoring etc.), budget allocation-expenditure reports etc. from all related sectors
- **Interviews with key people at national level in different sectors and stakeholders** from the field health, nutrition, education, UN agencies, partner agencies, major NGOs and civil society
- **Collate and analyze information so gathered to prepare a report**

*** Data sources:**

Global Health Observatory data, national Demographic and Household Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), national vital statistics, Countdown to 2030 country profiles for MNCH and for ECD, administrative reports of programmes on early childhood development from key ministries and departments of the national government

Suggested process for rapid national assessment:

- Hire a local consultant to undertake the national rapid assessment using this tool. The expert should have good knowledge of ECD and the Nurturing Care Framework.
- Engage with Ministries of Health, Education, Woman and Child Development and other relevant government agencies, civil society, academics and researchers in the collection of required information.
- A meeting of stakeholders should be called to build common understanding of the purpose and process of the proposed assessment, adapt the tool as per the local contexts in terms of applicability of the five domains of NCF and agree to common definitions / interpretation of the items of assessment included in the tool.
- Collation of recent reliable data sources in the country (Box above). Compile the data and information to prepare the country profile and a list of data gaps.

- The consultant to review of existing programme documents, administrative reports and publications in different ministries / departments of the government. Compile the information from these documents in the appropriate worksheets and prepare an actionable summary.
- Mapping of various sectors and main stakeholder groups related to Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development. Identify key persons from most sectors and groups for interviews. Conduct interviews after informed consent to confirm the information obtained from the document review and collect additional information on the ECD programme planning, implementation, monitoring, achievements, strengths, challenges and opportunities. Compile the findings from the interview in the appropriate worksheets and include in the actionable summary.
- Prepare the assessment report. The suggested sections are listed in the box below.

Notes:

1. This rapid national assessment is the first step of the WHO plan to support countries to roll out Nurturing Care for ECD Framework. The assessment findings and recommendations will be used for the preparation of national action plan.
2. For this we recommend national multi-stakeholder consultations in which the experts and implementers could consider the findings and recommendations of the assessment and provide recommendations for a multi-sectoral plan for Nurturing Care and multi-dimensional services for early childhood development.
3. Before the national consultation there will be another opportunity to strengthen the country assessment report so that it can be effectively used as a baseline for planning purpose in the country.
4. In addition to this assessment, another kind of assessment may be needed at the implementation level in the countries to understand the coverage, effectiveness and quality of the existing ECD services delivered at home, community and designated facilities.

Report Format

- 1) **Background:** Brief description of demographic situation, history of programming related to key elements of Nurturing Care for ECD, political commitment and readiness for large scale implementation of Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development (1-2 pages)
- 2) **Policy framework for implementation of** Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development including work from health sector and other relevant sectors (1-2 pages)
- 3) **Country Profile** (1-2 pages): Key indicators related to Nurturing Care Framework, child caring practices, risk factors and their determinants
- 4) **Landscape and Implementation Status in the 5 domains** of Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development with a **focus on health sector** (10 pages): Brief analytic description of the following
 - a. Leadership, governance and financing for ECD programmes
 - b. National legislation, policies and strategies that support ECD
 - c. Existing programmes and activities for care during pregnancy and children of 3 years and parents' empowerment that address child health and development
 - d. Extent of implementation of policies, strategies and programme activities for early childhood development through various sectors and programs, with a focus on the health sector
 - e. Brief description of monitoring, evaluation, results and outcomes of the programme activities
 - f. How are parents and other caregivers involved in these initiatives
 - g. What is being done to address inequities in early childhood development
 - h. Stakeholders and organizations involved in these programmes and their contribution at the national and sub-national level (including private sector, and

Rapid assessment of national preparedness for implementing Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development

Assessment Template

Please use this template to record the information collected from document analysis and key informant interviews. There are 9 work sheets to record the information:

- **Work Sheet 1:** Country Profile – Population, Health and Nutrition status and coverage of ECD related indicators
- **Work Sheet 2:** Leadership and Governance for ECD programmes in different sectors
- **Work Sheet 3:** Landscape Analysis and Implementation Status of ECD Services delivered by different sectors (Work sheets 3.A – 3.C)
- **Work Sheet 4:** Results of Implementation of Early Childhood Development programmes in different sectors
- **Work Sheet 5:** Monitoring and Evaluation of Early Childhood Development programmes in different sectors
- **Worksheet 6:** Overview of intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral approaches and coordination
- **Work Sheet 7:** Overview of Partnerships and coordination
- **Work Sheet 8:** Summary of the assessment of the Early Childhood Development programmes in different sectors
- **Work Sheet 9:** Recommendations and Possible actions for improving ECD programmes in all sectors

Please include a narrative summary of key findings and gaps for each section in the space provided. This will be useful to compile the overall assessment report.

Note: In the work sheets key interview (KI) questions have been embedded. If adequate information is already available and recorded in the work sheets for different items, you don't need to ask the KI question to the informant. Please strike out these questions in the Key Informant Interview Guide and shorten the list of questions so that too much time is not required for the interview

Work Sheet 1: Country Profile

Beneficiary population					
Estimated pregnant women (last 1 year)	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Total estimated deliveries (last 1 year)	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Child population: 0-3 years	Total:	Males:	Females:		
Child population: 3-6 years	Total:	Males:	Females:		
Mortality indicators					
Maternal Mortality Ratio	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Neonatal mortality rate	Total:	Rural:	Urban:	Males:	Females:
Infant mortality rate	Total:	Rural:	Urban:	Males:	Females:
Under-5 mortality rate	Total:	Rural:	Urban:	Males:	Females:
Maternal health and nutritional status					
Prevalence of anemia in women aged 15–49	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Iodized salt consumption	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Nutritional status of children 0-3 Years / 0-5 Years					
Underweight (W/A < -2SD)	Total:	Rural:	Urban:	Males:	Females:
Stunting (H/A < -2SD)	Total:	Rural:	Urban:	Males:	Females:
Wasting (W/H < -2SD)	Total:	Rural:	Urban:	Males:	Females:
Coverage with essential health care services					
Contraception: Unmet need	Total:	For spacing:	For limiting:		
Pre-conception care: % women delivering in last year availed pre-conception services for youngest child	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Antenatal care: % women delivering in last year had minimum 4 ANC visits	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Deliveries: % delivery attended by SBA out of total deliveries	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Deliveries: % institutional delivery out of total deliveries	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Deliveries: % caesarian section out of total deliveries	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Postnatal care: % mothers who have postnatal contact with a health provider within two days of delivery	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		
Postnatal care: % mothers paid at least 3 visits in the first	Total:	Rural:	Urban:		

month / 6 weeks after delivery			
Early childhood (0-3 years)			
Proportion of newborns registered at birth	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
At birth: % children provided immediate skin-to-skin contact	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
% children who were put to breast within one hour of birth	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
Postnatal care: % newborns who have postnatal contact with a health provider within two days of delivery	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
Postnatal care: % newborn paid at least 3 visits in the first month / 6 weeks after delivery	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
% infants under 6 months old who are fed exclusively with breast milk in the last 24 hours	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
% infants 6-8 months received solid/ semi-solid food in the last 24 hours	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
% children with suspected pneumonia taken to an appropriate health-care provider	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
% children with diarrhea receiving oral rehydration salts (ORS)	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
Immunization: % of children 12-23 months, who received immunization as per the national immunization schedule	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
Early childhood (3-6 years)			
% children 3-6 years currently registered in a pre-school institution	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
Early stimulation/ Home environment (if findings from UNICEF MICS is available)			
% children aged 0–59 months left alone, or in the care of another child under 10 years old, for more than an hour at least once in the past week	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
% children aged 0–59 months who have three or more children’s books at home	Total:	Rural:	Urban:
% children aged 0–59 months who play with two or more	Total:	Rural:	Urban:

of the playthings at home	
Other data / information	
% of children up to 6 years reporting corporal punishment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At School • At Home 	
% of children up to 6 years reporting violence	
% children aged 0–59 months children having working mothers	
% of early childhood population comes under different wealth quintiles	
<p><i>Provide an overview on how existing data is collected in the country:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is data from sub-national level available - Which year</i> • <i>Is an analysis of the data at national and subnational level available – Which year</i> • <i>Is Sex disaggregation available</i> • <i>Is age disaggregation (10-14 and 15-19 years) available</i> • <i>Is Socio-economic disaggregation available</i> • <i>Is data from research and special surveys available</i> <p>What are the challenges and gaps in the data</p> <p><i>NB: Cite the details of the data source, year of publication and related information. In some cases, original data source may not be available, secondary data sources may be cited.</i></p> <p><i>NB: In some instances, national data may not be available, or the data is not recent or not disaggregated by demographics. In such situation smaller scale and qualitative data may be used.</i></p>	

Work Sheet 2: Leadership and Governance ECD programmes in different sectors

Work Sheet 2.A: National Laws, Policies or Strategies related to Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development

Document review

	Title and hyperlink to online source	Year	Nodal ministries/ departments	
National Laws and Policies on the five domains of Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development – in different sectors Including: Infant food/Breastmilk substitutes Act; Maternity and labour benefits (Paid maternity leave, paternity leave, child care leave) etc.				
Programme documents	Title and hyperlink to online source	Year of launch	Nodal Department	Year of Revision, If any
National Health Sector strategy / plan / programme for early childhood development (covering lifecycle starting pre-conception to newborn to 3-year child, including immunization)				
National strategy / plan / program from sectors other than health for early childhood development, (e.g., nutrition, education, social welfare, child protection)				
Training manual/ Job aids/ resource materials developed by health or other sector for early childhood development				

IEC-BCC resource materials developed by health or other sector for early childhood development				
Work Sheet 2.B: National leadership and governance for ECD programmes in different sectors				
Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated)				
	Health sector	Nutrition	Education	Social Welfare/Other
Provide Designation of nodal person at the <u>National level</u> for coordinating ECD programmes in different departments and sectors? KI-1.a				
Provide Designation of nodal person at the <u>State level</u> for coordinating ECD programmes in different departments and sectors? KI-1.b				
Provide Designation of nodal person at the <u>District level</u> for coordinating ECD programmes in different departments and sectors? KI-1.c				
Role of the Interviewee in the ECD programme KI-2				
What is the <u>age group</u> of children targeted under ECD programmes? KI-3				
Is there a component focusing on <u>0-3 Age group</u> ? KI-3.a				
Is there a component focusing on <u>3-6 Age group</u> ? KI-3.b				

Is the ECD programme for all the children? KI-4				
Is there a component for ' <u>at risk</u> ' children and families? e.g. rural and remote rural areas/ urban poor/other underprivileged households KI-5				
Is there a component for <u>affected children and families</u> ? e.g. child with development issues, delays and disabilities KI-6				
Is the overall national policy environment adequately supportive of ECD? KI-7				
Who are responsible for planning, implementation and management at national, state and district levels? Is the implementation and management mechanism effective? KI-8				
Is there an inter-ministerial steering committee; Parliamentary Committee, working group or expert committee for ECD? KI-9	IF YES, Give details -Which ministries are included in the inter-ministerial mechanisms? -Are the members from different sectors / stakeholders? -Is this mechanism functional (regular meetings, availability of budget, minutes of meetings available etc)			

<p>Is there dedicated funding for ECD programme/s? KI-10</p>	<p>If yes, please identify under each:</p> <p>A. Ministry of Health B. Ministry of Woman & Child Development C. Ministry of Education D. Others (specify _____) E.</p>	<p>If yes, budget for current/ last year? Is it adequate?</p>	<p>Is budget allocated for National, state, and district level?</p>	<p>What is the expenditure level?</p>
<p>Which Partners have assisted in developing the programme? (including NGOs, Private sector, Corporates) KI-11</p>				
<p>Is there a defined mechanism for partnership coordination? How is this working? (Impression / evaluation report) KI-11</p>				
<p>Is ECD component included in the CRC reporting mechanism? KI-12</p>	<p>If yes: Specific elements?</p>			
<p>How do these policies/strategies cover diversity and living conditions of various parents and families? KI-13</p>				

Work Sheet 2.C: Implementation of activities under ECD programmes in different sectors

Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated)

	Health	Nutrition	Education	Other
What activities were undertaken before developing the national programme <i>to guide the development of the programme?</i> KI-14				
Consultation				
Survey, community / caregivers' needs assessment				
Awareness generation				
Facility preparedness assessment				
Are there implementation plans at the national, state and district level? Yes / No KI-15 If yes: Annual or multi-year plans				
Is the budget adequate for the implementation plan? Is it spent effectively? KI-16				
Which people are responsible for implementation of programme activities in the field? What are their roles and responsibilities? E.g. Communication, trainings, logistics, supervision, monitoring etc KI 17				
Which service providers are responsible for delivering the planned ECD interventions on the ground? KI-18 E.g. Health workers, nutrition workers, teachers, peers, counsellors, NGO workers etc.				
Is the team of service providers adequate to meet the needs of children and caregivers in the districts? KI-19				
If No, what would be your suggestion to change this scenario?				
Capacity building plan for ECD service providers in different sectors KI-20 Who are the trainees and Total numbers trained in 2018?				
Who are the trainers?				
Duration of the training?				
Is the training found effective? Fully/partially				
Supervision of service providers in different sectors: KI-21				
Who are the supervisors?				

What is the frequency of supervision visits?				
Is the supervision mechanism effective? Fully/partially				
Is there any communication plan for advocacy, social mobilization and behavior change to support ECD? KI-22 What media are used? (E.g. Inter-personal. Mass media, Social and Digital Media)				
Factors that helped implementation of all planned implementation activities KI-23				
Factors that hindered implementation of all planned implementation activities KI-24				
What support is expected and provided from the ministry (national and state) for all implementation activities in districts and at the service delivery points? KI-25				

Work Sheet 2
(Narrative Section)

Provide summary including salient features, success and limitations of the national laws, policies, strategies and programs addressing Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development in different sectors

Salient Features	Improvement
National Laws, Policies or Strategies under different sectors (WS 2-A)	Suggestions / Recommendations for improvement
National leadership and governance under different sectors (WS 2-B)	Suggestions / Recommendations for improvement
Implementation activities under ECD programmes under different sectors (WS 2-C)	Suggestions / Recommendations for improvement

Work Sheet 3: Landscape Analysis and Implementation Status of ECD Services delivered by different sectors

Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated)

Work Sheet 3.A: Mapping of the service package

Which interventions for ECD are included in different sectors? KI-26

Interventions	Health services	Nutrition services	Education service	Social services	Other Sector
Child and maternal Health Interventions (Lifecycle starting <u>from pre-conception to 3-year</u> child, including immunization)					
Nutrition (<u>pre-conception to 3-year</u> child)					
Early learning Interventions (0-3 years)					
Responsive caregiving Interventions incl. early stimulation (0-3 years)					
Security and safety Interventions , incl. hygiene, sanitation					
Interventions for wellbeing of the caregiver (physical, mental and social)					
Parenting interventions					

Work Sheet 3.A
(Narrative Section)

Provide summary of interventions for Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development being provided in different sectors

Key observations on missing interventions, overlap and complementarity in across sectors:

Suggestions / Recommendations for improvement

Work Sheet 3.B: Mapping of service delivery channels / approaches for ECD in different sectors

Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated) KI-27

(Multiple channels of service delivery and approaches are mentioned in the first row)

Sector	Services for individual counselling of caregivers at facility and home	Peer-based approaches (Parent groups / Youth groups)	Community-based approaches for supportive environment	Creche services Play centers	Early Childhood Education services	Referral services and Services for children with special needs	Others: E.g. Public information campaigns; Social Media
As applicable	<i>Yes / No and Remarks (Details to be provided in the next sections)</i>						
Health (pre-conception to newborn to 3-year child, immunization)							
Nutrition (Girl, women, children)							
Woman & child development (wherever applicable)							
Education sector							
Department of social justice							
Other sectors: Name them							

Is there attention to marginalized groups for equity?* KI-28							
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* Is there any govt support / provision specific for ECD of Underprivileged children? (Yes /No; if yes please provide brief description)
 * Are there any actions for promoting community solidarity and social cohesion for ECD? (Yes /No; if yes please provide brief description)

[Narrative Section for work Sheet 3.B]

Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges related to service delivery channels in different sector:

- Health
- Nutrition
- WCD
- Education
- Others

Suggestions / Recommendations for Improvement

Work Sheet 3.C: Implementation Status

1. ECD Services for individual counselling of caregivers at home and facility Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated) KI-29

Individual counselling during home visits:		
Is there provision of home visits for households with woman in reproductive age / pregnant woman / young children? Yes / No	If yes, which are the sectors providing these services at home:	
Who are the beneficiaries of the of counselling in facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Girls <input type="checkbox"/> Women planning pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant woman <input type="checkbox"/> Newborn babies <input type="checkbox"/> Children (specify age-group _____)	
Number and timing of home visits		
Does the counselling during home visit include the following topics? If Yes, provide details.		
Responsive caregiving, Incl. early stimulation	Yes / No	
Early learning	Yes / No	
Child nutrition	Yes / No	
Child Health	Yes / No	
Safety/ Security, Incl. water, hygiene, sanitation	Yes / No	

Is this provision for all children and / or for those with special needs? E.g. Delayed development, retardation		<input type="checkbox"/> For all children <input type="checkbox"/> Children with special needs
Profile of service providers		
Incentive given to service providers: If yes, how much?		
Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:		
Individual counselling at Facilities:		
Is there provision of counselling in facilities for woman in reproductive age / pregnant woman / young children? Yes / No		Which are the sectors providing these services at home:
Who are the beneficiaries of the of counselling in facilities?		<input type="checkbox"/> Girls <input type="checkbox"/> Women planning pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant woman <input type="checkbox"/> Newborn babies <input type="checkbox"/> Children (specify age-group _____)
Is this provision for all children and / or for those with special needs? E.g. Delayed development, retardation		<input type="checkbox"/> For all children <input type="checkbox"/> Children with special needs
Does the counselling include the following topics? If Yes, provide details.		
Responsive caregiving, Incl. Early stimulation	Yes / No	

Early learning	Yes / No	
Child nutrition	Yes / No	
Child Health	Yes / No	
Safety/ Security, Incl. hygiene and sanitation	Yes / No	
Profile of service providers		

[Narrative Section for work Sheet 3.C-1]

Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:

Suggestions / Recommendations for Improvement

Work Sheet 3.C: Implementation Status:

2. Peer-based approaches (Parent group meeting/ Parent support group)

Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated) KI-30

Are there provision of group counselling for woman in reproductive age / pregnant woman or mothers of young children – e.g. parents’ meeting/workshop?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Describe the activities of group counselling/ parents’ meeting for woman in reproductive age/ pregnant woman or mothers of children (0-3 years):		
Which are the sectors providing these services?		
Who are the beneficiaries of the Parents’ group counselling/ Parents’ support group?	<input type="checkbox"/> Women planning pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant woman <input type="checkbox"/> Newborn babies <input type="checkbox"/> Children (specify age-group _____)	
Are there support groups for children with special needs?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the parents’ group counselling include the following topics? If Yes, provide details.		
Responsive caregiving	Yes/ No	
Early learning	Yes/ No	
Child nutrition:	Yes/ No	
Child Health	Yes/ No	
Safety/ Protection	Yes/ No	
Profile of service providers who facilitate the groups		

Provide details of the training of providers facilitating the group meeting or support group

Provide details of the training manual or other job aids for the providers facilitating the group meeting or support group

[Narrative Section for work Sheet 3.C-2]

Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:

Suggestions / Recommendations for Improvement

Work Sheet 3.C: Implementation Status:

3. Community-based approaches and Mass media

Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated) KI-31

Are there provision of community-based actions targeted to parents? (Community events and Community-based networks e.g. Self-help groups of women and other community groups)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Describe the community-based actions targeted to parents		
Are there provision of engaging community-based networks, e.g. Self-help group of women and other community-based groups for reaching parents?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Describe the approaches of engaging community-based networks		
Which are the sectors providing these services?	Main sector/s:	Other sector/s contributing in this activity:
Is this provision for all children and/ or for those with special needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> For all children <input type="checkbox"/> Children with special needs	

<p>Do these community approaches include activities and messages for these groups?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Women planning pregnancy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant woman</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newborn babies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children (specify age-group _____)</p>
<p>Provide details of the training of providers facilitating the community-based approaches</p>	
<p>Provide details of the training manual or other job aids for the provider facilitating the community-based approaches</p>	
<p>Are there mass media or mid-media approaches for empowering parents?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Describe the mass media and/or mid-media approaches for empowering parents</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>[Narrative Section for work Sheet 3.C-3]</i></p> <p>Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:</p>	
<p>Suggestions / Recommendations for Improvement</p>	

Work Sheet 3.C: Implementation Status:

4. Facility based ECD services: Creche, Play centers and Early Childhood Education

Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated) KI-32

Creche services

Are there provision of Creche services for young children?

Yes No

Describe the provision of services for young children at Creche.

- Counseling targeted at child

- Counseling targeted at caregiver's own health, social and mental wellbeing

What is the profile and training of the service providers:

Are the service providers trained for early identification of children with developmental delays/ disabilities?

Yes No

Are the service providers trained to address needs of children with special needs?

Yes No

Provide details of the training of providers facilitating ECE

Provide details of the training manual or other job aids for the providers facilitating ECE

Play centers services

Are there provision of Play Centers for young children?

Yes No

Describe the provision of services for young children at Play Center.

- Counseling targeted at child

- Counseling targeted at caregiver’s own health, social and mental wellbeing

What is the profile and training of the service providers:

Are the service providers trained for early identification of children with developmental delays/ disabilities?

Yes No

Are the service providers trained to address needs of children with special needs?

Yes No

Provide details of the training of providers facilitating ECE

Provide details of the training manual or other job aids for the providers facilitating ECE

Early Childhood Education Services		
Are there provision of Early Childhood Education (ECE) for children?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Describe the ECE services:		
Are the providers trained for early identification of children with developmental delays/ disabilities?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are the service providers trained to refer to higher facilities / services when needed?		Yes No
Are the service providers trained to address needs of children with special needs?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Which are the sectors providing these services?	Main sector/s:	Other sector/s contributing in this activity:
Provide details of the training of providers facilitating ECE		
Provide details of the training manual or other job aids for the providers facilitating ECE		
<i>[Narrative Section for work Sheet 3.C-4]</i>		
Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:		
Suggestions / Recommendations for Improvement		

Work Sheet 3.C: Implementation Status:

5. Services to children with special needs

Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated) KI-33

Is there provision for early identification and referral of children with special needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Describe the program approach for early identification and referral of children with special needs	
Are there adequate provision for community-based support services for parents of children with special needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Describe the community-based support services for parents of children with special needs?	
Is there provision of multi-disciplinary team/ early intervention facilities for management of children with special needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Describe the provision of early intervention facilities for management of children with special needs.	
Do the policy support inclusive education for children with special needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Describe the implementation of inclusive education for children with special needs		
Which are the sectors providing these services?	Main sector/s:	Other sector/s contributing in this activity:
Provide details of the training of service providers/ teachers.		
Provide details of the training manual or other job aids for the service providers / teachers		
Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:		
<i>[Narrative Section for work Sheet 3.C-5]</i>		
Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:		
Suggestions / Recommendations for Improvement		

[Narrative Section]

**Describe the overall assessment of implementation
(Based on information recorded in the Work Sheets 3.A, 3.B and 3.C)**

Work Sheet 4: Results of Implementation of Early Childhood Development programmes in different sectors
Document review and Key interview

<p>Outcomes- Coverage of ECD services KI-34</p>	
<p>Impact- Improvement in nutritional status and development outcome KI-35</p>	
<p>Strengths and achievements of the programme? KI-36</p>	
<p>Weaknesses / challenges of the programme? KI-37</p>	
<p>How appropriate and useful have these programmatic efforts been in meeting the needs of children and caregivers? KI-38</p>	
<p>How much is the programme acceptable to and accessed by the target audience and stakeholders including adolescents, teachers, parents, community etc KI-39</p>	
<p>Challenges faced in ensuring quality of services under the ECD programmes KI-40</p>	
<p>Additional channels / approaches that can be used to deliver ECD services KI-41</p>	
<p>Main lessons learnt KI-42</p>	

**Worksheet 4: Overall observations:
(Narrative section)**

Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:

Suggestions / Recommendations for Improvement

Work Sheet 5: Monitoring and Evaluation of Early Childhood Development programmes in different sectors

Document review and Key interview

Is there a monitoring plan for ECD programmes in different sectors? KI-43	Yes / No If No, Skip this section	
If Yes, collect following information KI-44		
Who carries it out and oversees this?		
What are the indicators used?		
How is the information on these indicators collected?		
How are these indicators reported?	Level of reporting: State, district, block, facility	Frequency
How is the collected information used?		
Have there been any evaluations or reviews of the programme?	By whom? Year?	What were the findings?
Did the ECD plans change based on findings of Monitoring or Evaluation?	If so, how? Why?	
Overall observations: (Narrative section)		
Describe the Scale of Implementation, successes and challenges:		
Suggestions / Recommendations for Improvement		

Worksheet 6: Overview of intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral approaches and coordination

Document review and Key interview

Provide an overall view of the initiatives/ activities to strengthen **intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination** among various sectors engaged in ECD, and parents' and caregivers' empowerment. Which are the relevant sectors? What are the mechanisms for coordination? What are the efforts to provide integrated ECD services across sectors? **KI-45**

Please share details if any task force or committees like Parliamentarian Committee have been constituted to support and strengthen the ECD and parenting programs. (Within the health sector, a similar question pertains to interdisciplinary coordination, between units or departments in the health sector) **KI-46**

Please elaborate upon the most notable coordination (Best practice / success case study). **KI-47**

What are the main challenges for improve inter-sectoral coordination **KI-48**

What are the main suggestions to improve inter-sectoral coordination **KI-48**

Work Sheet 7: Overview of Partnerships and coordination
Document review and Key interview (KI items are indicated)

Partnership with parents/ caregivers

Provide an overall view of the initiatives/ activities to strengthen partnership with parents/ caregivers in the planning, implementation and monitoring of ECD and parents'/ caregivers' empowerment programs. **KI-49**

Please elaborate upon the most notable coordination and partnership for ECD (Best practice / success case study) **KI-50**

What are the main challenges for improve partnership **KI-51**

What are the main suggestions to improve partnership **KI-51**

Partnership with agencies

Enumerate the main partners for ECD in the country (**UN and other agencies, NGOs, civil society, private sector**) **KI-52**

Provide an overall view of the initiatives / activities to strengthen partnership **KI-52**

Please elaborate upon the most notable coordination and partnership (Best practice / success case study) **KI-53**

What are the main challenges for improve partnership? **KI-54**

What are the main suggestions to improve partnership? **KI-54**

Work Sheet 8: Summary of the assessment of the Early Childhood Development programmes in different sectors

Provide an overall analysis and summary of the gaps between needs and the availability of services provided by the current programmes.

How effective are governance, planning and implementation mechanisms for ECD programmes in all sectors?		
Overall, what are the strengths of the existing ECD programmes in all sectors?		
In your opinion, what are the opportunities to strengthen ECD program in different sectors?		
What are the weaknesses of the ECD programme	From the Conceptual (design) perspective	From the Implementation perspective
Best Practices in implementation of the programme (service delivery and inter-sectoral collaboration)	Brief description	

Work Sheet 9: Recommendations and Possible actions for improving ECD programmes in all sectors

Recommendations for improving the ECD programmes in different sectors

Recommendations on inter-sectoral coordination and implementation

Immediate actions recommended

Actions within next six months to one year

Long term actions

Rapid assessment of national preparedness for implementing Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development

Key Informant Interview Guide

Key informant interviews will be carried out with select health sector and other sector officials and representatives of major stakeholders at the National level. This is a guide to be used to carry out key informant interviews (KII). A consent form is also being provided in a standardized language for obtaining consent. Questions can be adapted according to the context as needed. Transcripts for each interview will be used for consolidated report.

Basic information

NAME				
GENDER	Woman (1)		Man (2)	
	Transgender (3)		Prefer not to disclose (4)	
DESIGNATION/ROLE				
DATE OF INTERVIEW				
	Time interview began:		Time interview ended:	
RESULTS OF INTERVIEW	Refused (1)			
	Completed (2)		Partially completed (3)	

Information Sheet

(Greet the interviewee). My name is .

I am conducting interviews for a rapid assessment of national preparedness for implementing Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development (ECD) being commissioned by the WHO. The review is trying to draw out lessons learned from the ongoing implementation of the ECD programmes in different sectors. We wish to seek your responses to related questions.

If you agree to participate, your participation will help to strengthen the comprehensive multi-sectoral national programme of nurturing care for early childhood development in the country. This will also assist the National Government to better meet the needs and fulfill the rights of children.

The interview will take approximately 60 minutes of your time. Your participation is completely voluntary. The interview will be conducted in a private setting. Your name will not appear on the interview unless you give us consent to do so. You can stop the interview at any time if you wish to. If you feel uncomfortable about discussing any topic or issues, please let us know. We will drop the topic or issues altogether.

If you are not aware about any topic or issues, we do hope you will guide us and put us in touch with persons who can respond to those questions. Before you decide to be part of the assessment and respond, if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer those.

Consent Form

I have read the above considerations regarding participation in the study. I have been given a chance to ask questions and the questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that my records will be kept private and that I can stop the interview at any time. I agree to this interview.

Signature of interviewee and date

Interviewer's statement

I, the undersigned, have explained to the interviewee the procedures to be followed. I have also provided my mobile number so that he/she may contact me at any time if required.

Signature of interviewer and date

Key Informant interview guide

Please study the **Assessment Tool** and note the kind of information to be collected in relation to the ECD programmes.

Much of this information will be searched from the published documents as a first step.

Key informant interview is used to:

1. Get additional information that is not available (or incompletely available) in the documents. **Hence you do not need to ask all the questions in this guide from each informant**, if the required information is already available from the documents and is recorded in the worksheets.
2. **Gather qualitative information about the implementation issues** that will help you to fill up the work sheets in the assessment template.

The questions from this guide are embedded in the works sheets in the assessment tool. If the information is adequately collected in the work sheets, exclude the embedded KI question from the interview list.

The questions are good for the assessment in all sectors that may be contributing to ECD. Please interview key individuals identified for the assessment, sector by sector.

You can take notes of the responses to these questions separately or directly fill up the information in the assessment template.

It is recommended to record the audio on mobile phone or another device (with consent of the interviewee) so that you can access this later when writing the report.

Work Sheet 2.B: Leadership and Governance

1. Nodal person for ECD in the sector / programme (as applicable):
 - a. Provide Designation of nodal person at the National level for coordinating ECD programme
 - b. Provide Designation of nodal person at the State level for coordinating ECD programme
 - c. Provide Designation of nodal person at the District level for coordinating ECD programme
2. What role do you play in the planning, implementation and management of the ECD programme?
3. Which age group of children does your programme target / focus on?
 - a. Is there a component focusing on 0-3 Age group?
 - b. Is there a component focusing on 3-6 Age group?
4. Is the ECD programme for all the children?
5. Does your programme focus on the needs of the children who are at risk of poor development? e.g. rural and remote rural areas/ urban poor/other underprivileged households.
6. Does your programme also address the children who are affected with developmental issues, difficulties or delays? e.g. child with development issues, delays and disabilities
7. In your opinion is the overall national policy environment adequately supportive of ECD; and is the implementation and management mechanism effective?
8. What is the management structure for this programme at national and sub-national level?

- a. Who are responsible for planning, implementation and management at national, state and district levels?
- b. Is the mechanism effective in your opinion?
9. Is there any national steering committee, task force, working group or expert committee to support and strengthen the ECD programme?
 - a. Is there inter-sectoral representation? Are the members from different sectors?
 - b. Which ministries are included?
 - c. Do stakeholders include parents, teachers and community members?
 - d. Is this mechanism functional (regular meetings, availability of budget etc)
10. What are the financial mechanisms at the national and sub-national level?
 - a. How much is the budget for the current and last financial year?
 - b. In your opinion is it adequate?
 - c. Is the budget allocated for national, state and district level?
11. Which Partners have assisted in developing the programme? a defined mechanism for partnership coordination? is this working?
12. Is ECD component included in the CRC reporting mechanism?
13. How do these policies/strategies cover diversity and living conditions of various parents and families?

Work Sheet 2.C: Programme Implementation

Ask only if adequate information is not available from the document review

14. What **activities were undertaken before developing the national programme?** (Probe: Any consultations, surveys, community needs assessment, awareness generation, facility preparedness undertaken to guide the development of the programme)
15. Are there **implementation plans** at national and state level? (Duration – annual?)
16. Is the **budget** adequate for the implementation plan? Is it spent effectively?
17. **Which people are responsible for implementation of the programme activities in the field?** What are their roles and responsibilities? (Probe: Activities for Communication, trainings, logistics, supervision, monitoring etc)?
18. **Which service providers are responsible for delivering the planned ECD interventions** on the ground? (Probe: explore the role of health or nutrition workers, counsellors, peers teachers and others)
19. Is the **team of service providers adequate** to meet the needs of children and caregivers in the districts? If No, what would be your suggestion to change this scenario?
20. What are the **capacity building** plans for ECD service providers?
 - a. Who are the trainees and Total numbers trained in 2018?
 - b. Who are the trainers?
 - c. Duration of the training?
 - d. Is the training found effective? Fully/partially
21. What is the mechanism and plan for **supervision** of trained workers?
 - a. Who are the supervisors?
 - b. What is the frequency of supervision visits?

- c. Is the supervision mechanism effective? Fully/partially
- 22. Is there any **communication plan** for advocacy, social mobilization and behavior change to support ECD? What media are used?
- 23. In your opinion what are the **factors that helped implementation** of planned implementation activities?
- 24. In your opinion what are the **factors that hindered implementation** of planned implementation activities?
- 25. What support is expected and provided from the ministry (national and state) for implementation in districts / service delivery points?

Work Sheet 3: Landscape Analysis of ECD Services and Implementation Status

Ask only if adequate information is not available from the document review

Service Package in different sectors (Record the responses in Worksheet 3.A)

- 26. What is the service package under ECD programme in your sector? (*Probes: Services in the five domains of Nurturing Care: Child Health Interventions (Lifecycle starting from pre-conception to 3-year child, including immunization); Responsive caregiving Interventions (0-3 years); Women-Child nutrition, Security and safety, Early Learning, Health and wellbeing of caregivers*)

Mapping of service delivery channels / approaches for ECD provided through different sectors

- 27. What are the services provided through different delivery channels / approaches for promotion of Early Childhood Development in your sector? (**Record the responses in Worksheet 3.B**)
 - a. Services for individual counselling of caregivers at facility and home
 - b. Peer-based approaches (Parent group meeting/ Parent support groups)
 - c. Community-based approaches for supportive environment
 - d. Creche services, Play centers
 - e. Early Childhood Education services (For SH Programme only)
 - f. Referral services and Services for children with special needs
 - g. Others: E.g. Public information materials and campaigns
- 28. Is there attention to marginalized groups for equity for these services?

Implementation Status: (Record the responses in Worksheet 3.C - 1-5)

- 29. Please provide details of the ECD services through individual counselling of caregivers at home and facility.
- 30. Please provide details of the ECD services through Peer-based approaches (Parent group meeting/ Parent support group)
- 31. Please provide details of the ECD services through community services and media.
- 32. Please provide details of the ECD services through Facility based services: Creche /Play centers and Early Childhood Education.
- 33. Please provide details of the ECD services for children with special needs.

Work Sheet 4: Results of Implementation of Early Childhood Development programmes in different sectors

Ask only if adequate information is not available from the document review

34. What are the Key results of the programmes in terms of coverage of ECD services (proportion of target population getting the services)?
35. What are the Key results of the programmes in terms of the Impact-improvement in nutritional status and development outcome About the monitoring of the programme
36. What are the Strengths and achievements of the programme?
37. What are the Weaknesses / challenges of the programme?
38. How appropriate and useful have these programmatic efforts been in meeting the needs of children and caregivers?
39. How much is the programme acceptable to and accessed by the target audience and stakeholders including adolescents, teachers, parents, community etc?
40. What are the challenges faced in ensuring quality of services under the ECD programmes?
41. What additional channels / approaches can be used to deliver ECD services?
42. What are the main lessons from implementation of ECD services in your sector?

Work Sheet 5: Monitoring and Evaluation of Early Childhood Development programmes in different sectors

Ask only if adequate information is not available from the document review

43. Is there a monitoring plan for ECD programmes in your sector?
44. If yes:
 - a. Who carries it out and oversees this?
 - b. What are the indicators used?
 - c. How is the information on these indicators collected?
 - d. How are these indicators reported?
 - e. What is the level of reporting (State, district, block, facility) and frequency of reporting?
 - f. How is the collected information used?
 - g. Have there been any evaluations or reviews of the programme? If yes, provide details
 - h. Did the ECD plans change based on findings of Monitoring or Evaluation?

Worksheet 6: Overview of intra-sectoral and inter-sectoral approaches and coordination

45. What are the initiatives/ activities to strengthen intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination among various sectors engaged in ECD? What are the efforts to provide integrated ECD services across sectors?
46. Please share details if any task force or committees, like Parliamentarian Committee have been constituted to support and strengthen the ECD and parenting programs.
47. Please elaborate upon the most notable coordination (Best practice / success case study).
48. What are the main challenges and suggestions to improve inter-sectoral coordination

Work Sheet 7: Overview of Partnerships and coordination

Partnership with parents/ caregivers

49. Provide an overall view of the initiatives/ activities to strengthen **partnership with parents/ caregivers** in the planning, implementation and monitoring of ECD and parents'/ caregivers' empowerment programs
50. Please elaborate upon the most notable coordination and partnership for ECD (Best practice / success case study)
51. What are the main challenges and suggestions to improve partnership

Partnership of UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, private sector

52. Enumerate the main partners for ECD (UN and other agencies, NGOs, civil society, private sector) in the country and provide an overall view of the initiatives / activities to strengthen partnership
53. Please elaborate upon the most notable coordination and partnership (Best practice / success case study).
54. What are the main challenges and suggestions to improve partnership?