



Operationalization of the NCF in Save the Children's work in conflict and crisis contexts

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Boost for the Youngest Approach
- Overview of project goal and outcomes
- Overview of theory of change
- Outcomes and Strategic Activities
- Key considerations going forward

Introduction

Project: Operationalization of the Nurturing Care Framework in Save the Children's work in conflict and crisis contexts

Funder: Dubai Cares

Implementers: SC - Uganda, MGLSD, OPM, DLG

Implementation areas: 4 Refugee Settlements– West Nile region of Uganda

Common Approach: Zero to Three (*Building Brains*), adapted as *Boost for the Youngest* in Uganda

Project duration: 3 years - 1st October 2020 – 30th September 2023

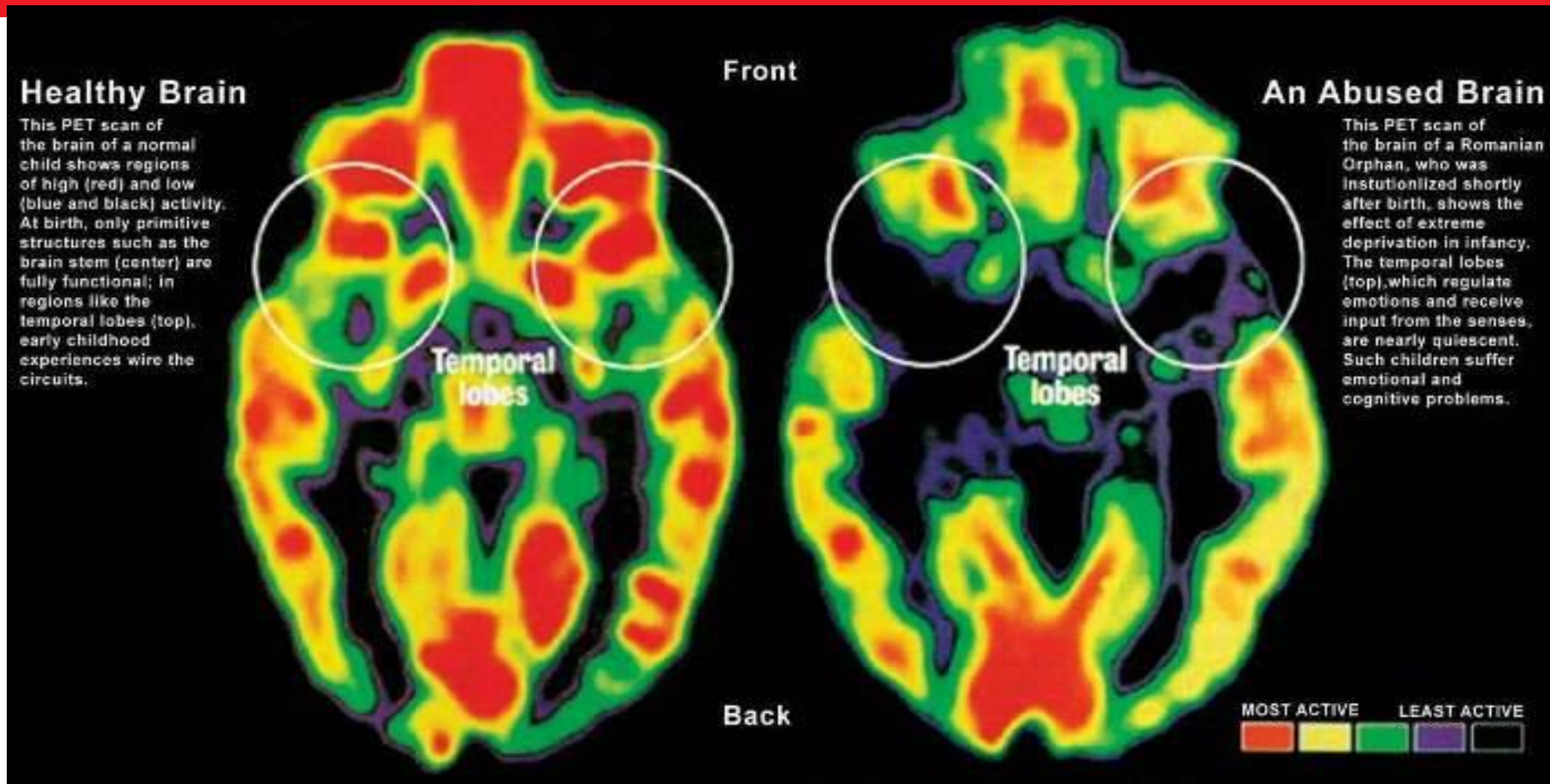
Introduction

- WHO's Nurturing Care Framework (NCF) there are still prevailing questions around operationalisation and integration at country level
- Limited understanding and experience in operationalisation of NCF in humanitarian settings.
- Access to quality ECD and nurturing care services from birth has a positive impact on later development, learning and achievement .

Summary BFY for operationalization of NCF

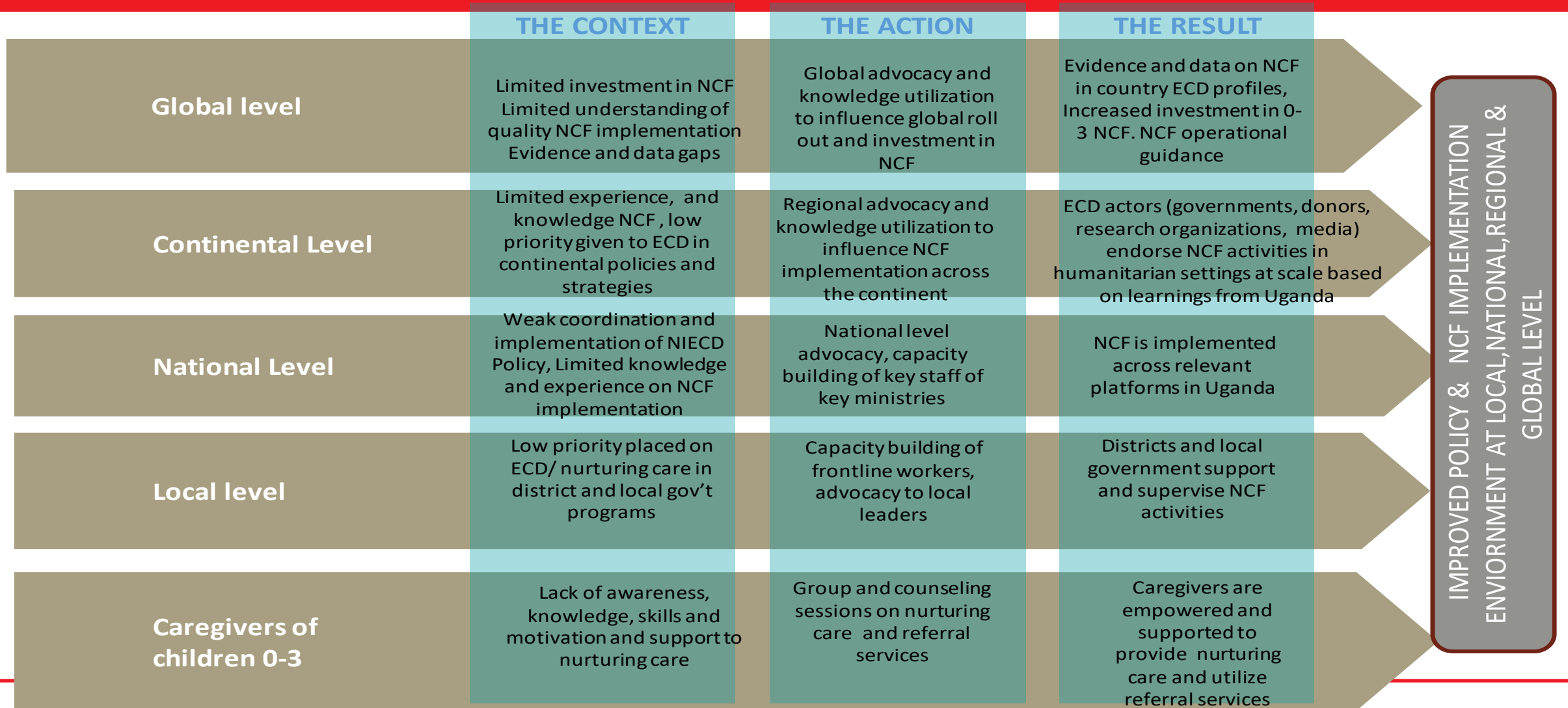
National Policies & Frameworks	National Parenting Guidelines, National Integrated ECD Policy, RMNCAH sharpened plan, Boost for the Youngest approach
Content	<p>Learning and practice by caregivers within communities about the critical benefits of responsive parenting and stimulation for optimum growth and development among children from before birth to 3 years of age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Maternal Health and Child Care✓ Healthy Beginnings✓ Responsive Caregiving✓ Playful Learning and Sensory Stimulation✓ Language and Literacy✓ Male Engagement
Delivery System	<p>Group Parenting Sessions /Workshops Home-based activities, Use of safe spaces (Mother Baby Areas)</p>
Providers	<p>HWs, Nutrition Counsellors & Volunteers, Community Health Workers + Other Community Resource Persons, Parents/Caregivers</p>
Intensity	<p>Parents/caregivers engaged through training on five modules to be covered in 18? sessions with the goal of sharing simple actions and activities they can do with babies during their daily routines at home.</p>

The developing brain needs nutrition, stimulation and protection

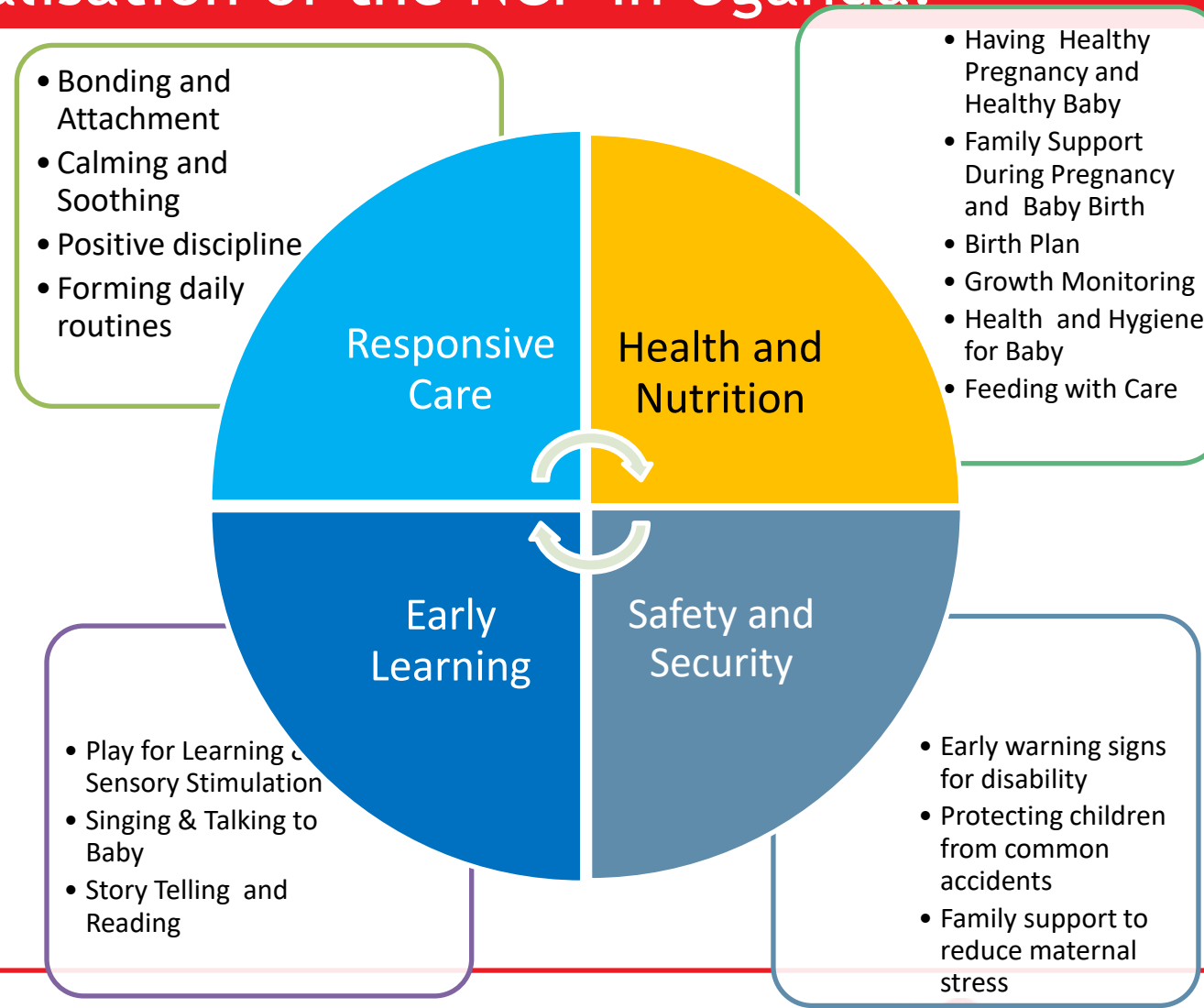


Save the Children

Project Theory of Change



As GOU's endorsed package, BFY is the preferred modality for operationalisation of the NCF in Uganda.



Overall Project Goal

To improve NCF enabling policy, advocacy and practice environment at national, regional and global levels.

Key Result: A model and recommendations on how to operationalize the NCF in humanitarian contexts, ensuring the best possible outcomes for the youngest children caught in crisis.

BFY for Uganda Context

- Reliance on health system with limited infrastructure and HR
- Health seeking behaviors in this context not optimal: after child is one year of age, caregivers will only seek services if child is sick.
- GoU preference is for an approach that can be delivered through multiple platforms
- BFY aligns with GoU shifts towards family-centred and integrated programming.
- Value additions noted by GoU included: introduction of learning material development skills for caregivers, early literacy focus in the home, male engagement and a nurturing framework aligned to the national Parenting Guidelines.

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Parents/caregivers provide nurturing care and support children to achieve holistic development in violence-free environments.

Outcome 2: Government capacity to test, adopt and scale up NCF through existing programme delivery platforms enhanced.

Outcome 3: Global humanitarian actors including UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF and governments managing humanitarian crisis endorse promising practices in the operationalisation of the Nurturing Care Framework

Progress to date



- Conducted baseline survey on NC
- Developed 18 informative videos
- Competency framework on 0-3 to delivering parent training.
- 12 District TOTs,
- 176 Community volunteers
- Graduated a total of 32,090 caregivers (M 23,961, F 8,129) in **1,428** groups.

- 712 (259F, 453M) refugee and host community reached through dialogues
- 274 (105M, 166F) children referred for SN and disability
- District Quarterly technical review meetings
- Supported (MGLSD) to convene o quarterly NCF/ECD coordination forum
- Developed NCF advocacy strategy (June 2022) in collaboration with other partners in country



Developed video clips communicating different components of Nurturing Care Framework

- [Uganda DMS Advocacy, Media and Communications - OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY LEARNING.mp4 - Thumbnails \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Use of Learning from BFY experience

- Save the Children ECD and Health teams have learned that integration is possible and how to do it effectively
- Learning can be used for contributing to implementation of Nurturing care framework in Uganda and other countries
- Developed our Pre-natal ECD sessions as part of BFY
- Strengthened our engagement with Health systems in Wakiso district which also positively impacted our School Health and Nutrition Programme
- Learned that transition to the pre-school intervention needs separate materials from the 0-3 specific materials
- Early warning signs for disabilities and referring pathway messages can be incorporated into a regular parenting session content

Lessons learnt

- Mainstreamed NCF helps to cascade information at District level.
- Use of SBC interventions / Videos facilitate information flow.
- Utilization of community and district structures builds sustainable integration in government programs.
- TWGs at Ministry level help in NCF advocacy

Challenges and Recommendations

- Fragmentation of ECD services across sectors:
- Limited availability of monitoring or evaluation data
- Limited effectiveness of coordination working groups
- Inadequate capacity building of government systems undertaken by international humanitarian response agencies.
- Refugee families have not been adequately consulted about their needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Partner with governments to build capacity for sustainable ECD systems.
- Use data to align the type and intensity of the intervention .
- Advocate for comprehensive, inclusive national early childhood systems adaptable to populations in crisis.

Questions?

