

# ECD Diagnostic: Eval findings and implementing changes

Presentation at the DPME/DSD

Roundtable on emerging evidence on impact of programmes on wellbeing of young children

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# OUTLINE OF THE PRESENTATION

- Purpose
- Introduction
- Background
- SA Integrated Programme of Action for ECD - Moving Ahead (2013 -2016)
- Draft ECD Policy and Comprehensive ECD Programme
- Way forward

# PURPOSE

The purpose of the presentation is to provide progress on the South African Integrated Programme of Action for Early Childhood Development-Moving Ahead (2013-2016) and draft ECD Policy and Comprehensive Programme.

# INTRODUCTION

- ECD is a national priority programme under Outcome 1 – Quality Education as government has supported the principle of investment in Children.
- The National Planning Commission in the National Development Plan (NDP) indicated that action was needed to improve ECD Services.
- Core of the NDP is the focus on capabilities of the people and of the country.
- ECD is critical to ensure better performance in formal schooling which will later result in improved levels of employment.

# BACKGROUND

- Department of Social Development and key partners launched an awareness campaign to promote ECD in local communities in 2010.
- There were three National activities which impacted on ECD services in South Africa since 2011/2012:
  - Review of the National Integrated Plan for ECD
  - ECD Diagnostic Review, and the
  - Buffalo City Declaration on ECD that was adopted at the National ECD Conference held in March 2012.
- The above processes were merged into a draft "An Integrated Programme of Action for Early Childhood Development - Moving Ahead 2013-2016".

# BACKGROUND

The South African Integrated Programme of Action for Early Childhood Development - Moving Ahead (2013 to 2016) was approved by Cabinet on 18 September 2013 and had the following time frames for implementation:

- **Short Term: April 2013 – March 2014**
- **Medium Term: April 2014 – March 2015**
- **Long Term: April 2016 – March 2017**

A costing process on the Integrated Programme of Action which also addresses issues in the Policy is in process with the National Treasury.

# Key findings

- A broader definition of ECD programmes than is currently in the Children's Act is needed to cover all aspects of children's development from conception to the foundation phase of schooling.
- Using this broader definition, many elements of comprehensive ECD support and services are already in place and some are performing well. These include some aspects of basic services provision, citizenship (birth registration), social security, health care for women and children, early child care and education, and preparation for formal schooling. Improvements in access and quality must continue to be sought in all areas.
- There are important gaps, notably: support for parenting, prevention of stunting among young children, safe and affordable child care for very young children and other families needing assistance, and planned rapid expansion early child care and education and provision of services to the most at-need families, including children with disabilities.

# Strategies needed

- to deliver comprehensive services to young children, using all opportunities of contact with families; to extend early child care and education ECCE through home- and community based programmes, beginning with the poorest communities not reached by current services;
- to ensure food security and adequate daily nutrition for the youngest children to avert the lifelong damaging effects of stunting;
- to launch well-designed high-profile parent support programmes through media campaigns, community activities and services that acknowledge and reinforce the importance of positive parenting for young children.

## Strategies needed (2)

- ECD services require strong and coordinated inter-sectoral vision, commitment and action. The current coordination structures are not working adequately. High-level authorization and legitimacy of a well-resourced central agency or mechanism is needed to drive forward key strategies for ECD.
- Achieving these goals also depends on new funding and resourcing strategies, especially for early child care and education. There is need for a decisive paradigm shift towards a rightsbased ECD framework and accompanying funding model that recognises and is capable of realising the State's obligations to provide ECD services, especially those living in poor families, rural areas, informal urban areas and children with disabilities.

# South African Integrated Programme of Action for Early Childhood Development- Moving Ahead (2013 to 2016).

1. Legislation and Policy
2. Institutional arrangements/Coordination and integration
3. Human resources, training and capacity building
4. Comprehensive ECD Programme
5. ECD Infrastructure
6. Funding and partnerships
7. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
8. Communication and awareness

# 1. LEGISLATION AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

OUTPUT	TIMEFRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<p><b>Develop the ECD policy.</b></p> <p>Develop an integrated ECD Policy.</p>	<p><b>31 March 2014</b></p>	<p>Presentations on the ECD Policy and Comprehensive ECD Programme were made to the following structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ministerial Implementation Forum (<b>29 January 2015</b>)</li> <li>▪ Cabinet Committee on Social Protection, Community, Human Development (SPCHD Cabinet Committee) (<b>10 February 2015</b>).</li> <li>▪ Cabinet <b>18 February 2015</b>:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Approved publishing of the draft ECD Policy for public comments from stakeholders</li> <li>– Approved the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee for ECD to be led by the Minister of Social Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# 1. LEGISLATION AND POLICY FRAMEWORK (cont...)

OUTPUT	TIMEFRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<p>Amendment of the Children's Act on ECD.</p> <p>Proposed amendments to legislation on ECD to be included in the Parliamentary legislative programme</p> <p>Promulgation and implementation of the agreed upon legislative amendments.</p>	<p>31 March 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legislative amendments to be made once the ECD Policy is approved.</li> <li>▪ Meeting scheduled with the state law advisors on the processing of some amendments.</li> <li>▪ Harmonizing of all legislation – areas identified for ECD. UNICEF will provide technical support. Proposals has been evaluated and the service provider will be appointed by end of April 2015.</li> </ul>
<p>An Integrated Strategy for the implementation of universal access for children birth to school going age developed.</p> <p>Desktop research on the concept on the universal access to ECD.</p>	<p>31 March 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concept of ECD as a public good with universal access is articulated in the draft ECD Policy</li> <li>• A zero draft roll-out plan on universal access has been developed.</li> </ul>

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION

OUTPUT	TIMEFRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<p><b>Feasibility study conducted on options for inter-sectoral management and coordination.</b></p> <p>Research on the various options of integrated governance structures such as an ECD Council or, ECD Institute or, ECD Agency, and integrated ECD Directorates/units in the Department.</p>	<p>31 March 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNICEF is providing technical support to conduct the feasibility study on options for inter-sectoral management and coordination.</li> </ul>

# 3. HUMAN RESOURCES, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

OUTPUT	TIMEFRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<p><b>Human Resource Development plan for the ECD Sector.</b></p> <p>Develop a Human Resource Development Plan for the ECD Sector.</p>	<p><b>31 March 2015</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementing departments are developing their HR plans which will be consulted with DPSA and consolidated into an integrated HR plan for the ECD sector.</li> <li>▪ DSD has appointed a Chief Director and will soon appoint a Director.</li> <li>▪ USAID through FHI 360 will also appoint a Technical Advisor.</li> </ul>

# 4. COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME

OUTPUT	TIMEFRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<b>A comprehensive ECD programme for children birth to four (4) years with roles and responsibilities of government departments and other stakeholders</b>	<b>31 March 2014</b>	The Comprehensive ECD Programme has been gazetted for public comments as part of the ECD Policy.

# 5. ECD INFRASTRUCTURE

OUTPUT	TIMEFRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<p><b>Audit of existing ECD infrastructure provisioning.</b></p> <p>Produce an audit report.</p>	<p><b>31 March 2014</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Audit has been completed and the report has been submitted to DSD SMS.</li></ul>

## 6. FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

OUTPUT	TIME FRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<p><b>Identify and conduct research on all existing funding models.</b></p> <p>Compile a list of all applicable funding models relating to ECD.</p> <p>Identify the gaps and challenges in the various funding models for ECD services.</p>	<p><b>31 March 2015</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft funding model for ECD services has been developed.</li> <li>• DSD and National Treasury agreed that the funding model needs to change.</li> <li>• Review of the costing and drafted funding model to be done with DSD Finance and National Treasury.</li> </ul>

## 6. FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS (cont....)

OUTPUT	TIME FRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<p><b>Funding norms and standards developed for ECD.</b></p> <p>Benchmarks available norms and standards for ECD services</p>	<p><b>31 March 2015</b></p>	<p>Draft funding model has been developed (both centre and non-centre based including children with disabilities) and is to be discussed with National Treasury, then to be finalised after the approval of the draft ECD Policy.</p>
<p><b>Identify government and private donors to leverage resources for ECD services including children with disabilities.</b></p> <p>Increase leverage and lobby for adequate financial and human resources for ECD from Government.</p>	<p><b>31 March 2014</b></p>	<p>Engagement with National Lottery, for financial support for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Infrastructure development (new building or container).</li> <li>▪ Office furniture and equipment</li> <li>▪ ECD learning and support material</li> <li>▪ Indoor and Outdoor equipment</li> <li>▪ Accredited Practitioner training (NQF Level 4)</li> <li>▪ Operational costs (e.g. overheads, nutrition) capped at R300,000 per individual organisation.</li> <li>▪ Standard Bank and ABSA have committed to provide containers in the EC, WC, FS and GP.</li> </ul>

## 6. FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS (cont....)

OUTPUT	TIME FRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<p><b>Strengthening of the existing ECD Donor Forum for ECD services.</b></p> <p>Identify private donors to leverage resources for ECD.</p> <p>Develop Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Donors.</p>	<p><b>31 March 2014</b></p>	<p>ECD Donor Forum consisting of the SA private sector has been identified.</p> <p>A working relationship has been established and they are now forming part of the Integrated Inter-sectoral Forum for ECD.</p>

# 7. RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

OUTPUT	TIME FRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
<b>Develop an Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for ECD</b>	March 2016	<p>Review the existing Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks and align them to the new ECD Policy - by DPME.</p> <p>Implementing departments to develop indicators for the Programme of Action after the approval of the ECD policy.</p>

## 8. COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

OUTPUT	TIME FRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
Develop an integrated inter-sectoral awareness raising and communication strategy.	31 March 2015	A draft integrated communication strategy has been developed.
Communication materials developed	31 March 2015	Brochures have been developed on the registration of the Partial Care facilities and the ECD programmes.
Roll-out of the Information and Communication (ICT) strategy for children.	31 March 2014	The ICT strategy has been approved by the Department Telecommunications and Postal Affairs.

# 8. COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

OUTPUT	TIME FRAME	CURRENT SITUATION
Develop an Action Plan for ECD Annual Awards.	31 March 2015	An action plan has been developed.



# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME

## THE VISION AND MISSION OF THE DRAFT ECD POLICY

- **The vision of the draft ECD Policy** is that all infants and young children and their families in South Africa live in environments conducive to the optimal development of young children.
- **The mission of the draft ECD Policy** is to provide quality ECD services that would be universally available in sufficient quantities and proximity so that all children enjoy an equal opportunity to access them.

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont..)

## THE ECD POLICY GOAL

**The goal is to provide** a comprehensive and essential age and developmentally stage appropriate package of quality ECD services to all young children and their caregivers.

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont....)

## THE ECD POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Ensure **universal access** of the comprehensive **age and stage appropriate** quality ECD services;
- Ensure **equitable access** to ECD services;
- **Empower and enable parents;**
- Ensure the **alignment and harmonisation of sectoral policies, laws and programmes across the different sectors;**
- Ensure **adequate and effective leadership.**

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont....)

## PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

- ECD AS A PUBLIC GOOD:

Government recognise ECD as a **universal right** and that ECD lays the foundation for the attainment of broader societal benefits;

Government support the dual government-regulated model of public and private delivery of ECD programmes and services with universal access for all children.

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont....)

## PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

**Ages:** The ECD Policy will address the period from **conception to school-going age**, DSD will retain the responsibility to provide Pre-Grade R services and programmes, while DBE provide two years of Grade R programmes.

**Institutional arrangements:** The draft ECD Policy proposed three alternatives:

- The establishment of a **National ECD Agency**, a **branch in DSD** as government should not lose control and strengthen DBE and DOH and the **ECD Institute**.

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont....)

## PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

- **Infrastructure**: The draft ECD Policy recommends that infrastructure grant to be located with DSD;
- **The Essential Package of Services**: Services will include: **Health care and nutrition, birth registration, social protection, parent support and opportunities for learning.**
- **Period**: Pregnancy, birth to two years and two to five years.

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont....)

## PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

- **Children with disabilities:** Young children with disabilities must enjoy equal access to inclusive ECD services;
- **Nutrition:** No child must be stunted, wasted, severely underweight, nor overweight or obese from poor nutrition.

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont....)

## PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

Comprehensive ECD Programme will include: Housing, water and sanitation, refuse removal and energy sources, Food security and play facilities, sport and culture;

Human Resources: Develop appropriate cadres of **ECD practitioners**, in sufficient numbers, with sufficient skills to support the implementation of the ECD policy. A comprehensive ECD training system needs to be developed. Remuneration and conditions of services needs to be standardised.

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont....)

## PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

**Funding:** Revise the current funding model of subsidy (per child for 264 days) and develop a comprehensive funding model for both centre-based and non-centre based ECD programmes.

**Communication Strategy:** Develop a national multi-sectoral ECD communication strategy for public communication about the value and importance of ECD and ways of improving children's resourcefulness.

# DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE ECD PROGRAMME (cont....)

## PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Develop a centralised national ECD monitoring and evaluation framework which will annually measure progress towards the achievement of the national policy vision, goals and objectives.

# WAY FORWARD ON THE DRAFT ECD POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME

- Completed the gazetting process – 13 March 2015 to 24 April 2015;
- Consolidate inputs received through the gazetting the process during May 2015;
- Determine new dates for the meeting with the NIDC for ECD and relevant stakeholders which was postponed (22-23 April 2015)
- Workshop with the National Interdepartmental Committee for ECD - 08 to 12 June 2015;
- Finalisation of the draft ECD Policy and Comprehensive ECD Programme by 30 June 2015;
- Presentation of the adjusted draft Policy to provinces (one joint meeting) and different structures including FOSAD, ECD IMC for ECd, Parliament (NCOP and the Portfolio Committee) and Cabinet starting in July 2015 with the approval processes.
- Upon approval amendments will be made to the Children's Act (Third amendment process).



*Thank you for  
thinking of  
me.  
Ngiyabonga!*