Nurturing Care Framework

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September, 2019
Overview

1. Definition of Nurturing Care Framework (NCF)
2. Components of the NCF
3. Intersection with health and nutrition programs
4. Global actions
5. USAID’s support
6. Useful references
The Nurturing Care Framework

A road map that outlines:

• Why efforts must begin in the earliest years, from pregnancy to age 3
• How nurturing care protects children from the worst effects of adversity
• What caregivers need in order to provide nurturing care
Nurturing Care

• Nurturing care: conditions created by public policies, programs, and services

• These conditions **enable communities and caregivers to ensure children’s good health and nutrition, protect them from threats, and give them opportunities for early learning through interactions that are emotionally supportive and responsive**
Early childhood development is explicitly mentioned as part of SDG Target 4.2, and contributes to the achievement of several other goals.

4.2.1: Proportion of children under age 5 years who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being
ECD in Low and Middle Income Countries

- 43% of children under five years of age in LMICs (250 million children) are at risk of sub-optimal development.

- Sub-Saharan Africa has more countries with high prevalence of children at risk.

- Poverty, stunting, low maternal schooling, and physical abuse are determinants of sub-optimal development.

- Sub-optimal development is associated with poor health, inadequate learning, lower education, smaller adult earnings, and social tensions later in life.

Black M. et al., 2016
Interventions through the Life Course

Family planning
Periconceptional nutrition
- Maternal infection prevention, diagnosis, and treatment
- Assessment and management of fetal health and growth
- Management of pregnancy complications

Routine antenatal care and antenatal nutrition

Routine care for labour and childbirth
- Management of birth complications
- Immediate newborn care

Neonatal disease prevention and treatment
- Healthy home care and nutritional support
- Promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding
- High quality early childhood care and education programmes

Infectious disease prevention
- Detection and management of childhood illness
- High quality childhood care and education programmes

Adolescence and adulthood
First trimester
Pregnancy
Second trimester
Third trimester
Labour and birth
Labour onset-first 3 days
Infancy
First week-first month
Neonatal
First week-first month
Infancy
1-23 months
Early childhood
24-60 months
School age
5-10 years

Interventions throughout the life course
- Parenting programmes
  - Psychosocial stimulation
  - Positive parenting and responsibility
  - Maltreatment prevention
- Maternal mental health and wellbeing
  - Assessment and treatment for anxiety, psychosis, and depression
- Social protection
  - Conditional cash transfers
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
  - Ensuring access to clean water
  - Creating sanitation infrastructure
  - Promoting hygiene behaviours

Britto et al., 2016
Opportunities for Nurturing Care in Health Sector

- Interventions during pregnancy, in antenatal care, ensuring pregnant woman feels the movements, sings, soothe the fetus
- Around birth: From birth, the baby can recognize the mother’s voice
- Postnatal follow up: Early bonding is facilitated by skin-to-skin contact, BF and the presence of a companion to support the mother
  - Soon after birth, babies respond to faces, gentle touch and holding, as well as the soothing sound of baby talk
- During well-baby consultations or sick child visits: Caregivers soon learn to appreciate how babies respond to them, which is essential for the optimal development of the baby’s rapidly growing brain
  - These parenting practices also build the foundation for optimal nutrition, quality interactions, and care.

Lagercrantz H, 2016
Vally Z et al. 2015
Developmentally Supportive Care for Small and Sick Newborns

Small (preterm and low birth weight) and sick newborns need nurturing care because they are most vulnerable and likely to suffer from disability and developmental delay.

Global Actors Work: Metrics

Efforts for Global monitoring: Tool development

UNICEF - Revisions to Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI)

WHO - Global Scales of Early Development (GSED)

Inter-Agency: Measuring Early Learning and Quality Outcomes (MELQO)
Countdown profiles

- Example of efforts to coordinate use of all available data to create a ‘picture’ of ECD

- Indicators selected relate to the 5 components of Nurturing Care

- Updated country profiles being developed for 2019
Country profiles for early childhood development

www.ecdan.org and www.nurturing-care.org
Regional Efforts in Africa

AfECN has been promoting Nurturing Care in child rights policy and practice in Africa

This has been achieved through partnerships with

- CSO Forum
  The Civil Society Forum on the African Charter on the Rights & Welfare of the Child

- ACERWC
  The African Committee of Experts on the Rights & Welfare of the Child

- CRINSA
  The Child Rights Network of Southern Africa

- The African Child Policy Forum

- OAFLAD
  The Organization of African First Ladies for Development

- SAFOD
  Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled
Other regional networks

• Arab Network for Early Childhood Development (ANECD) and Arab Resource Collective (ARC)

• Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood Development (ARNEC) a professional regional network for ECD

• PAHO’s work:
  – PAHO annual congress of presidents of Health Commission in Parliaments
  – OAS-supported network of parliamentarians working on childhood development and education
  – National meetings with health, education, social protection, academia, professional associations and national commissions to end poverty
  – Forefront countries for NCF where policies and strategies are advanced: Peru, Ecuador, Nicaragua, DR, Honduras, Panama and Brazil for NCF
USAID’s Support

• Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (APCCA) new strategy provides great opportunities for synergies

• Education Office’s new strategy including younger children

• GH/MCHN Office providing some limited support to UNICEF and WHO for tool development and implementation guidance on the Nurturing Care Framework for health delivery platforms

• GH/MCHN commissioned development of nurturing care for small and sick newborns and landscape of countries’ experiences

• Internal ECD Working Group

• OHA ECD tool assessment
APCCA Strategic Objectives

Objective 1: Build Strong Beginnings

Objective 2: Put Family First

Objective 3: Protect Children from Violence

Build Strong Beginnings

Put Family First

Protect Children from Violence
Some take away messages

• Progress is being made and there is already a wealth of knowledge and resources
• Common elements and needs are emerging
• There is increasing country demand and readiness to invest
• More emphasis on effectiveness and implementation research
• There is need to contextualize, specially for humanitarian contexts
• It’s important to capitalize in every opportunity- PHC, UHC, Human Capital Project, Country Investment Cases, others.
• Develop clear guidance on what and how to measure progress
Resources

- 2016 ECD Lancet Series
- Nurturing Care Framework
- Care for Child Development (UNICEF)
- World Bank ECD measurement toolkit
- ECD country profiles
- ECD and nutrition programming (FANTA)
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