A Brief of

National Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Intervention

Estimate of early childhood developmental delays and disabilities

Myanmar lacks a national assessment of prevailing rates of developmental delays, disabilities and atypical behaviours in young children, and survey is urgently needed for purposes of appropriately planning and targeting ECI and related health, nutrition, sanitation, education and protection services.

However, by joining together

- **rates of moderate to severe stunting (35.1%),**
- **childhood anaemia (64.6%), and**
- **the approximate rate of disabilities in children under five years of age (7%),**

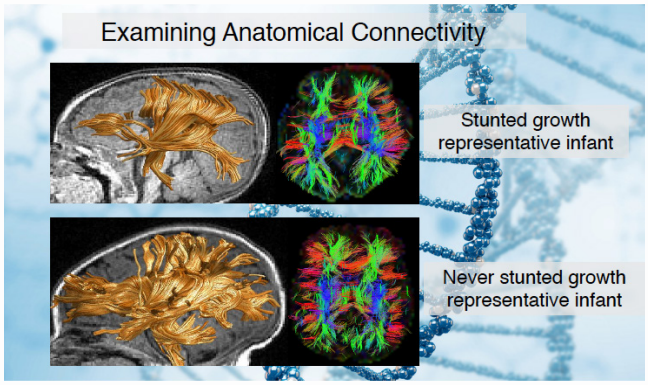
it may be

- **estimated that at least 42% to 45% of young Myanmar children and their families require ECI services.**

The status of young children in Myanmar constitutes a national emergency.

It is essential to develop a national ECI service system to improve child development, achieve human and disability rights, increase national workforce productivity, and reduce future costs for health, nutrition and remedial education.

Results of International Research



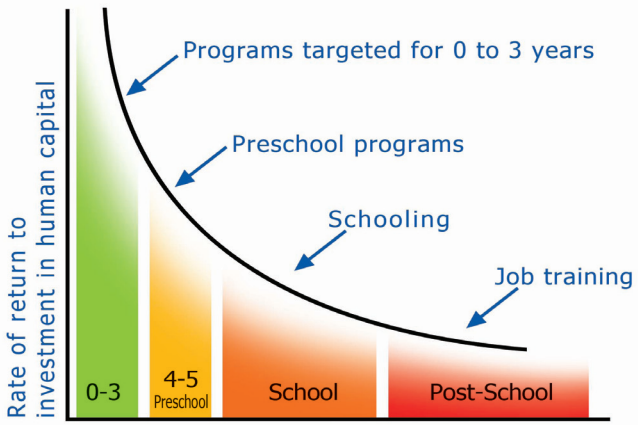
Diffusion Weighted Imaging (derived from Magnetic Resonance Imaging)
Yingying Wang, Ph.D., Borjan Gagoski, Ph.D., Danielle Sliva, Ph.D., Meaghan Mauer, Ph.D., Nadine Gaab, Ph.D., & Charles A. Nelson

Above image demonstrates the reason of developmental delays in stunted children. The neural pathways of stunted children are fewer and narrower compare to that of well developed children.

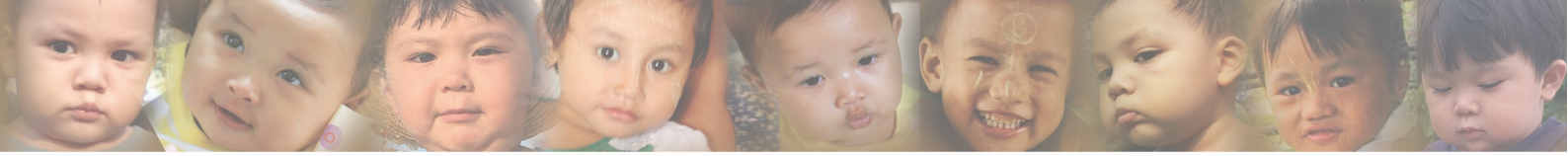
ECI must be early

The earlier children are discovered to be developmentally delayed and are given ECI services, the better the outcomes are. Usually about 70% of children become as close to typical levels of development by age 3, and follow up is encouraged to age 5.

Rates of Return to Human Capital Investment at Different Ages



Research evidence from many countries reveal that ECCD provides a very high return on investment ranging from $3 to $17 US dollars for every $1 invested in ECCD. (Heckman, 2006)



ECCD Policy Strategy 3: Early Childhood Intervention Services, 0 to 5 years

Once implemented, this National Strategic Plan for ECI will enable Myanmar to fulfil its commitments to the achievement of: several Sustainable Development Goals for education, health, nutrition, and environmental improvement; the Convention on the Rights of Children; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Above all, it will greatly improve the development of the nation's children.

ECI Vision Statement

All of Myanmar's vulnerable children from birth to five years of age with developmental delays, malnutrition, disabilities and other special needs are able to access high-quality ECI services in order to enjoy their rights and achieve their full developmental potential.

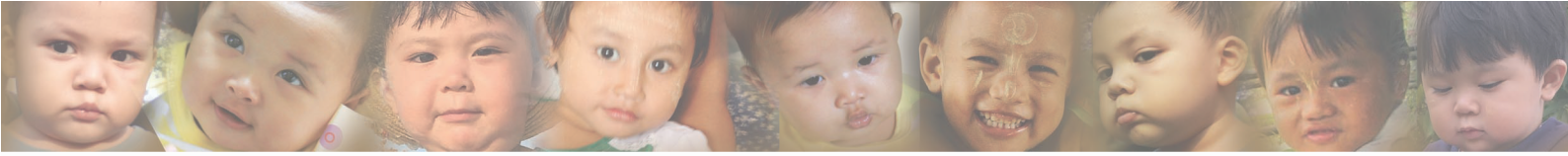
SDG Target 4.2

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre—primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

The National ECI Strategic Plan of Myanmar is fully consistent with and supports the implementation of provisions under Articles 23.3* and 25.b* of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **(CRPD)**:

*23.3 *States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realising these rights, and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.*

*25.b *States Parties shall… provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimise and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons.*



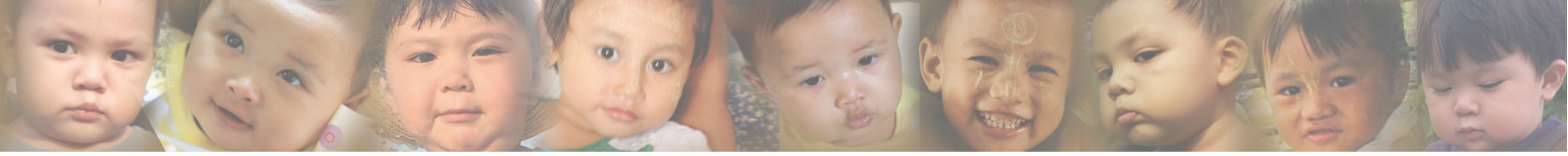
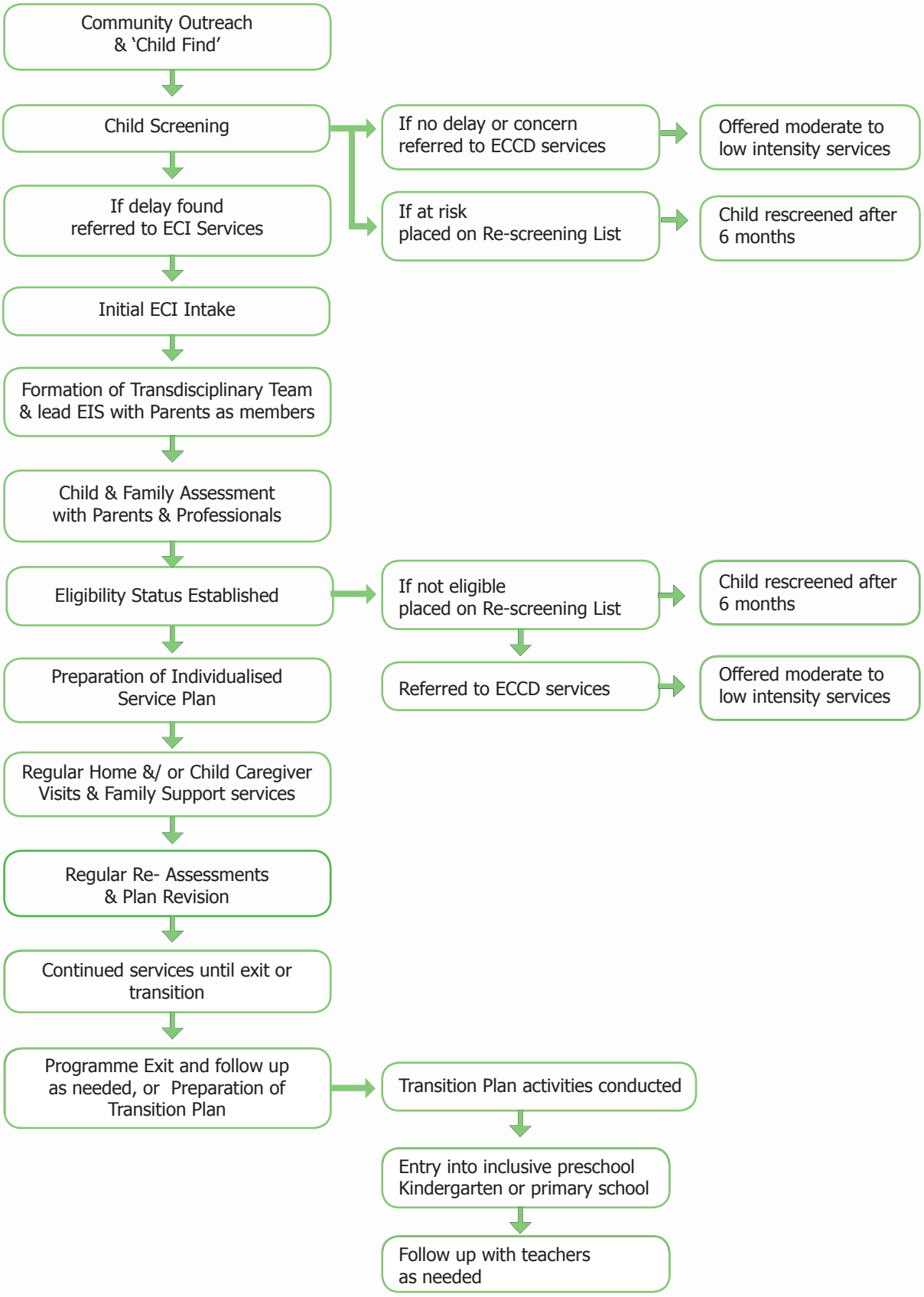
Primary Goals of the National ECI System

ECI services will identify, screen and assess vulnerable children, with parents and professionals working together to achieve balanced child development through implementing individualised service plans to create stimulating, safe, protected and hygienic home environments.

- ECI services will be designed and prepared from 2015 to 2017.
- Pilot projects will be implemented in three Regions or States during 2017-2018.
- Through continuously expanding ECI services, by 2021 all 21 States, Regions and Self-Administered Areas will have begun some ECI services.
- By 2025, all vulnerable children in communities of all Townships will be served.

ECI Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority 1	Advocacy, Communications and Awareness
Strategic Priority 2	Community Outreach, Developmental Screening and Referrals
Strategic Priority 3	ECI Service Development
Strategic Priority 4	Pre- and In-Service Personnel Training and Developmentt
Strategic Priority 5	Establishment and Phased Expansion of ECI Services
Strategic Priority 6	ECI Programme Accountability
Strategic Priority 7	Intersectoral Collaboration and Coordination
Strategic Priority 8	ECI Organisational Structure, Annual Planning and Budgeting



Flow Chart of ECI Services