DRAFT NATIONAL INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY

KNOWLEDGE BUILDING SEMINAR
DATE: 25 NOVEMBER 2015
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Background and context
- Review of implementation of ECD and chart way forward
- Moving towards SA Integrated Programme of Action
- Components of the SA Integrated Programme of Action – Moving Ahead 2013-2016 (SAIPOA)
- Situation analysis and current funding
- Draft ECD Policy
- Key policy proposals
- ECD Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC)
- Roles of different departments pertaining to ECD
- Conclusion
BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

• Pre-1994, discrimination resulted in children being exposed to malnutrition, family disruption and instability;

• Post 1994, this changed and by 2001, >30 policies, legislation and programmes developed to help improve children’s prospects e.g.:
  – Children’s Act no 38 of 2005

• NIPECD Review developed in 2004 as plan for ECD 2005-2010
  – DSD, DBE and Health given mandate to develop an integrated plan for ECD services. Sectoral framework and plan for ECD 2005-2010. Integrated approach for services for children aged 0-4 years
  – NIP ECD expired in 2010, need to review for way forward

• National Development Plan (NDP) acknowledged significant role of ECD to address unequal opportunities for children and action needed to improve ECD Services.
REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ECD

- Second review of NIP ECD in 2011-12;
- DSD in a group led by DPME looked at approach to evaluation in SA;
- Decided to pilot national evaluation system with a Diagnostic Review (DR) (evaluation) of ECD, started in October 2011.
- NIP ECD Review focused on institutional issues, Diagnostic Review included wider issues on ECD
- Minister hosted a National ECD Conference in March 2012, which launched a Buffalo City Declaration on ECD.
- Results and findings were brought together in the SA Integrated Programme of Action-Moving Ahead (2013/14 to 2016/17).
PROCESSES LEADING TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- Review of the National Integrated Plan for ECD (NIPECD)
- ECD Diagnostic Review
- ECD Conference Plan of Action

ELEMENTS OF THE SA IPOA FOR ECD – MOVING AHEAD 2013-2016

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
SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

- There are 8,207,723 million children from birth to 6 years old according to Mid Year Population estimates;
- The largest number is in KZN (23%), Gauteng (20%) and lowest in N Cape (2%) and FS (5%);
- Whilst poverty levels have fallen by 15% since 2004 using the lower bound poverty level of R604 per person per month, about 58% children are still deemed poor;
- Burden of poverty is distributed unequally across provinces, majority of poor children are black, living predominantly in rural provinces i.e. Limpopo (76%), E. Cape (75%) & KZN (67%).
SITUATION REGARDING ECD CENTRE REGISTRATION AND CHILDREN RECEIVING SUBSIDIES IN 2014/15

1. Total number of registered ECD Centres - 25,254
2. Total number of children subsidized – 704,798
3. Total number of children accessing ECD services – 1,354,274
4. Total budget spent on subsidy for 2014/15 - R1,671,321,000

Subsidy - Going up to R16 per child per day in 2016/17

Breakdown

50% - Nutrition
30% - contribute to salary
20% - educational equipment and running costs
DEVELOPMENT OF ECD POLICY PROCESS

- Started in June 2013 with support of UNICEF;
- Service provider Human Science Research Council (HSRC) appointed for the development of a draft ECD Policy and a Comprehensive ECD Programme;
- The HSRC Team facilitated 4 small expert consultations on scale, media and communication, developmental delays/disability and nutrition from September to December 2013;
- Simultaneous provincial consultations were also conducted with representatives of the NGO sector and government from October to November 2013;
- Draft documents were developed and provided to the Department of Social Development.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

- A national conference followed in March 2014 on the draft ECD policy and Programme;
- Further consultations were conducted with representatives of the disability sector;
- On 18 February 2015 Cabinet approved the publication of the draft ECD Policy in the Government Gazette from 13 March to 24 April 2015
- An additional consultation was held in Lavender Hill Cape Town with mainly ECD practitioners;
- Comments were evaluated and included in the final draft ECD Policy;
BENCHMARKING

- Study visit undertaken to both developed (Sweden) and developing (Chile) countries, to benchmark child well-being and to examine the context, where a comprehensive package of ECD interventions have been delivered at scale in resource poor environment;

Key lessons learnt : Sweden

- The study provided insight on how a developed country provides ECD services, how the funding model is utilized and the central role played by municipalities;
- All key stakeholders prioritise children and respect and promote their rights;
KEY LESSONS LEARNT : SWEDEN

- Sweden has a long history of committed involvement in ECD as a country.
- Early Childhood Education and Care is now defined as a societal responsibility for all children and parents.
- Universal preschool education is unanimously accepted.
- All key stakeholders prioritise and put children first regarding promotion of their rights including children with disabilities;
- Service delivery is integrated at all levels/spheres of government both vertically and horizontally for vulnerable children including children with disabilities;
- There is a strong compliance with policy and legislation enforcing the integrated service delivery by all affected departments at all levels/spheres of government;
- Municipalities play a central role in delivering ECD services;
KEY LESSONS LEARNT: SWEDEN

- Practitioners at both public and private independent centres are highly qualified with university degrees;
- Strong integrated information management system for tracking children from birth up to school going age;
- There is respect for indigenous languages diversity of cultures inclusive of immigrants;
- There are support systems working very closely with families from Ministries of Health, Social affairs and Education;
- There is a centralised waiting list for admission to ECD centres and this is administered by municipalities;
- There are comprehensive youth support services which covers a spectrum of needs for young people regardless of their affluence, i.e. youth clinics, career guidance, life skills and independent living for those with no parents at the end of schooling;
KEY LESSONS LEARNT: CHILE

- Early Childhood Development is a system and not a programme and the President is the political champion supported by policies and legislation.
- ECD services are provided in a systematic approach which has been phased in over 6 years starting from conception to school going age;
- The model is centrally designed but implemented at municipality level and everybody has the same message;
- Integrated Management and Information System at all levels to track the children and services provided to them and families;
- Children are at the centre of service delivery, i.e. main focus is on children’s needs and not on portfolios of different ministries;
- There is a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities including services to be provided at all levels and a good referral system;
- There is strong support with appropriate allocation of resources for municipalities to deliver ECD services;
- The mandate of municipalities is to ensure quality integrated ECD services from conception to school going age;
KEY LESSONS LEARNT: CHILE

- There is strong support for parents and inclusion of fathers from conception and post delivery regarding health care in general, bonding, psycho social support, nutrition and stimulation of the babies and young children;
- There is strong support for parents and inclusion of fathers from conception and post delivery regarding health care in general, bonding, psycho social support, nutrition and stimulation of the babies and young children;
- Parents are provided with whatever they need regarding nutrition, e.g. milk and vitamins, social security during pregnancy and after delivery of the baby;
- There is also use of social media;
- The reason behind the success of the programme was the realisation that integrated programmes stand or fall based on the quality of interaction between different sectors which naturally have own priorities;
- Midwives play a critical role in health services;
- Professionals in the sector are highly qualified practitioners (University qualifications) at all levels;
A study tour was undertaken to both developed i.e. Sweden and middle income country Chile to examine the context, comprehensive package of interventions, delivered at scale in both well resourced and poorly resourced communities.

The purpose was to learn about best practices in the 2 countries which could enhance the policy development and implementation.

In both countries municipalities play a central role in the delivery of ECD services and programmes.
VISION

All infants and young children and their families in South Africa live in environments conducive to the optimal development of young children.
POLICY GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Goal is to provide a full comprehensive age and developmentally stage appropriate quality ECD services to all infants, young children and their caregivers by 2030.

POLICY OBJECTIVES: Universal access of the comprehensive age and stage appropriate quality ECD services;

- Equitable access to ECD services;
- Empower and enable parents to participate in the development of their children;
- Alignment and harmonisation of inter-sectoral policies, legislation and programmes across the different sectors;
- Collaborative and effective leadership, coordinated planning, funding, implementation, monitoring of progress and ongoing quality improvements to ensure realisation of the national ECD vision, goals and objectives;
1. Age coverage: Policy covers children from conception until the year before they enter formal school or in the case of children with developmental difficulties and disabilities until the year before they turn seven (7), which marks the age of compulsory schooling or special education;

2. ECD as a public good: Policy recognises that provision of ECD services can be regarded as a public good, based on the recognition that it does not only contribute to the development and outcomes of the individual child, but also to the growth and development of society as a whole in the medium and long term.
KEY POLICY POSITIONS

3. Universal access: Government has committed to the attainment of universal access to ECD for all young children in South Africa.

5. Institutional arrangements:

- It asserts the leadership and coordination role of government.
- Supports an Inter-Ministerial Committee on ECD, supported by the National Inter-departmental Committee on ECD.
- Establishes a government led inter-sectoral forum to ensure participation of the non-governmental sector and inter-governmental forums national, provincial and local level in terms of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act 13 of 2005.
6. **Infrastructure:** Ascertains sufficient infra-structure for ECD services, linked to population based planning to realise universal access to quality ECD services that are appropriately spread out, within safe and reasonable physical reach, including infrastructure required to promote inclusion for children with disabilities. Policy proposes the establishment of a national ECD infra-structure grant to be located in DSD.

7. **Nutrition:** Nutritional support for women from conception, during pregnancy, and for infants and young children is critical. This includes exclusive breast feeding in the first 6 months after birth, safe and adequate nutritional practices. Poor nutrition in these crucial periods can lead to irreversible stunting and developmental delays, resultant in poor cognitive development, and ultimately lower educational and labour market performance. Stunting, wasting, under-weight, over-weight and obesity must be addressed.
8. Social Security: Pre-registration of income-eligible pregnant mothers to have access to the Child Support Grant from the first day of the child’s life;

9. Children with disabilities: Policy is rooted in inclusion of young children with disabilities, in ECD services and programmes. Focus is on prevention, early screening and intervention, appropriate support and early learning and developmental opportunities;

10. Comprehensive ECD Programme: Provides for a comprehensive package of quality ECD services, with identified essential components, i.e. programmes on health care and nutrition; social protection, parent support, and opportunities for learning and playing.
11. **Human Resources:** Consolidate appropriate cadres of human resources required in sufficient numbers and with sufficient skills;

12. **Funding:** Secure and distribute sufficient funds to ensure the comprehensive package of quality ECD programmes and services, with prioritisation for children from poor families and children with disabilities;

13. **Communication Strategy:** Provide information and make parents and caregivers aware of importance of ECD services and programmes and how to access services;

14. **Monitoring and evaluation:** National monitoring and evaluation framework will be designed and implemented to collect and provide information on progress and review of the policy;

15. **Research:** Conducted every five years to assess the impact of the national ECD Policy service delivery.
INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

- Draft ECD policy proposed the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC);
- Basis is that multiple government departments are responsible for implementation of ECD services and programmes at national, provincial and local level;
- IMC will ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to ECD provisioning;
- Draft Policy provides a framework for government’s accountability to provide a comprehensive package of quality ECD services to be coordinated;
- Institutional arrangements to be properly aligned;
### MEMBERS OF THE IMC ECD

#### CORE MINISTERS

1. Social development (Chair),
2. Health,
3. Basic Education,
4. Higher Education and Training,
5. Home Affairs,
6. Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs,
7. Planning, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation,
8. Justice and Correctional Services,
10. Transport
11. Women

#### CO-OPTED MINISTERS

1. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
2. Water and Sanitation
3. Labour
4. Public Service and Administration
5. Arts and Culture
6. Science and Technology
7. Human Settlements
8. Police
9. Public Works
10. Sport and Recreation
11. Government Communications and Information services
12. Statistics S. A.
ROLES OF DEPARTMENTS

Five Core Departments

**Department of Social Development (DSD)**
- Lead department in implementation of ECD services and programmes for children birth – 4 years.
- Registration of ECD centres and programmes, funding and capacity building.
- Inspection, Monitoring and Assessment of ECD services & Partial care.

**Department of Basic Education (DBE)**
- Development of curriculum pertaining to children birth- 4 years and Grade R.
- Develop training and stimulation material & training of ECD practitioners and payment of stipends.
- Provide services for children in Grade R.

**Department of Health (DOH)**
- Ensure compliance to all health related legislative mandates.
- Promote healthy pregnancy, birth and infancy & Immunisation (Road to health booklet)
- Integrated National Nutrition Programme.
- Integrated management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT).
ROLES OF DEPARTMENTS

Department of Higher Education and Training

- Selection of appropriate qualifications for ECD practitioners and Grade R teachers.
- Support DBE on training issues for ECD practitioners

Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

- Provision of child care facilities (Schedule 4 to the RSA Constitution, page 149)
- Provision of Permission to occupy (PTO)
- Issuing of health certificates pertaining to child care facilities
- Implementation and management of Municipal by-laws that regulate and monitor child care facilities.
ROLES OF DEPARTMENTS

Department of Home Affairs

- Provisioning of documents such as identity document, marriage, birth and death certificates.

Department of Justice and Correctional Services

- Register ECD Centres in Mother and Child Units as partial Care facilities.
- Register ECD Programmes delivered at the ECD Centres at prisons.
- Training and capacity building of prison officials.

Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring and mainstreaming evaluation of government service.

Department of Women

- Monitor and report on government-wide in mainstreaming and realization of women’s rights in accordance with the commitments made by government.
ROLES OF DEPARTMENTS

Department of Transport

- Enforce compliance of service providers with norms and standards for partial care in relation to the safety and transportation of children.

Department of Finance (National Treasury)

- Provide support and advice on budgetary and financial issues

Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs

- Facilitate the provision of land for building of child care facilities including partial care facilities.

Department of Sports and Recreation

- Provide support to ECD centres in relation to recreational programmes.
- Make provision for structures, services and means for promoting the sound physical development of children.
- Recognise the children’s need for development and to engage in play and other recreational activities appropriate to their ages, and make special provision to achieve that.
ROLES OF OTHER SUPPORTING DEPARTMENTS

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Provision of food and food security
- Facilitate nutrition programme

Department of Water and Sanitation
- Provide safe and clean water for ECD centres.

South African Police Services
- Receive reports of child abuse, neglect or a child in need of care and protection.
- Investigate deaths of children in partial care facilities that occurred due to unnatural causes.

Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services
- Equip children to be active participants in the information society and use ICT’s to promote their rights and their empowerment

Department of Public Works
- Provide support for Early Childhood Development Services through the Expanded Public Works Programme.
- Ensure physical accessibility of public buildings in recognition of the special needs for children with disabilities.
OTHER ROLE PLAYERS - AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, SETA’S AND COUNCILS.

National Development Agency (NDA)

- Financial assistance to ECD centres to establish food gardens to serve a source of access to food for children.
- Technical training for identified staff to produce food in sustainable, where possible, profitable manner.

South African Social Security Agency (SASSA)

- Provisioning of social grants to all deserving/qualifying children and equipment for ECD centres.

South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

- Represent the interests of local government (municipalities) and to coordinate local government policies and programmes with those of the national policy and programmes.
AGENCIES, ASSOCIATIONS, SETA’S AND COUNCILS

National Planning Commission (NPC)
- Advise on implementation and work with DPME to turn plans into targets to be incorporated into future performance and delivery agreements.

Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP Seta)
- Provide accreditation to training service providers.

Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)
- Establishing and maintaining the occupational standards and qualifications;
- Liaising with the South African Qualifications Authority, other Quality Councils and professional bodies responsible for establishing standards and quality assurance of standards and qualifications
POLICY GOALS TIMEFRAMES

- **Short-term goal: 2017**, Government has established the necessary legal framework(s), the organisational structures and institutional arrangements, undertaken the planning, and put in place the financing mechanisms necessary to support and realise its commitments to ensure universal availability of, and equitable access to early childhood development services.

- **Medium-term goal: 2024**, age- and developmentally stage-appropriate essential components of the comprehensive package of quality early childhood development services is available and accessible to all infants and young children and their caregivers.

- **The Long-term goal of the policy is: 2030**, a full comprehensive age- and developmentally stage-appropriate package of quality early childhood development services is available and accessible to all infants and young children and their caregivers.

- Financing mechanism to be aligned to these timeframes;
IMPLEMENTATION QUICK WINS FOR ECD POLICY

• Registration of existing ECD programmes;
• Strengthening of the 1st 1,000 days programme with emphasis on collaborative work;
• Training of practitioners;
• Infrastructure development;
• Developing an intersectoral communication strategy on ECD;
• Development of an integrated Information Management System;
• Develop an integrated Communication Strategy;
• Amendment of legislation and related policies;
• Coming up with Innovative ideas to implement the policy;
CONCLUSION

- Policy in the process of approval by cabinet next week;
- Costing of policy to be finalised upon approval;
- The realization and achievement of the objectives of the SA IPOA & ECD Policy requires commitment from all of us in the sector to build a better and strong foundation for the young children of SA.

Together we can achieve more
Thank you