



SERVICES OF CARE IN AUSTERITY

A South African Early
Childhood Development
Perspective
Inge Sonn

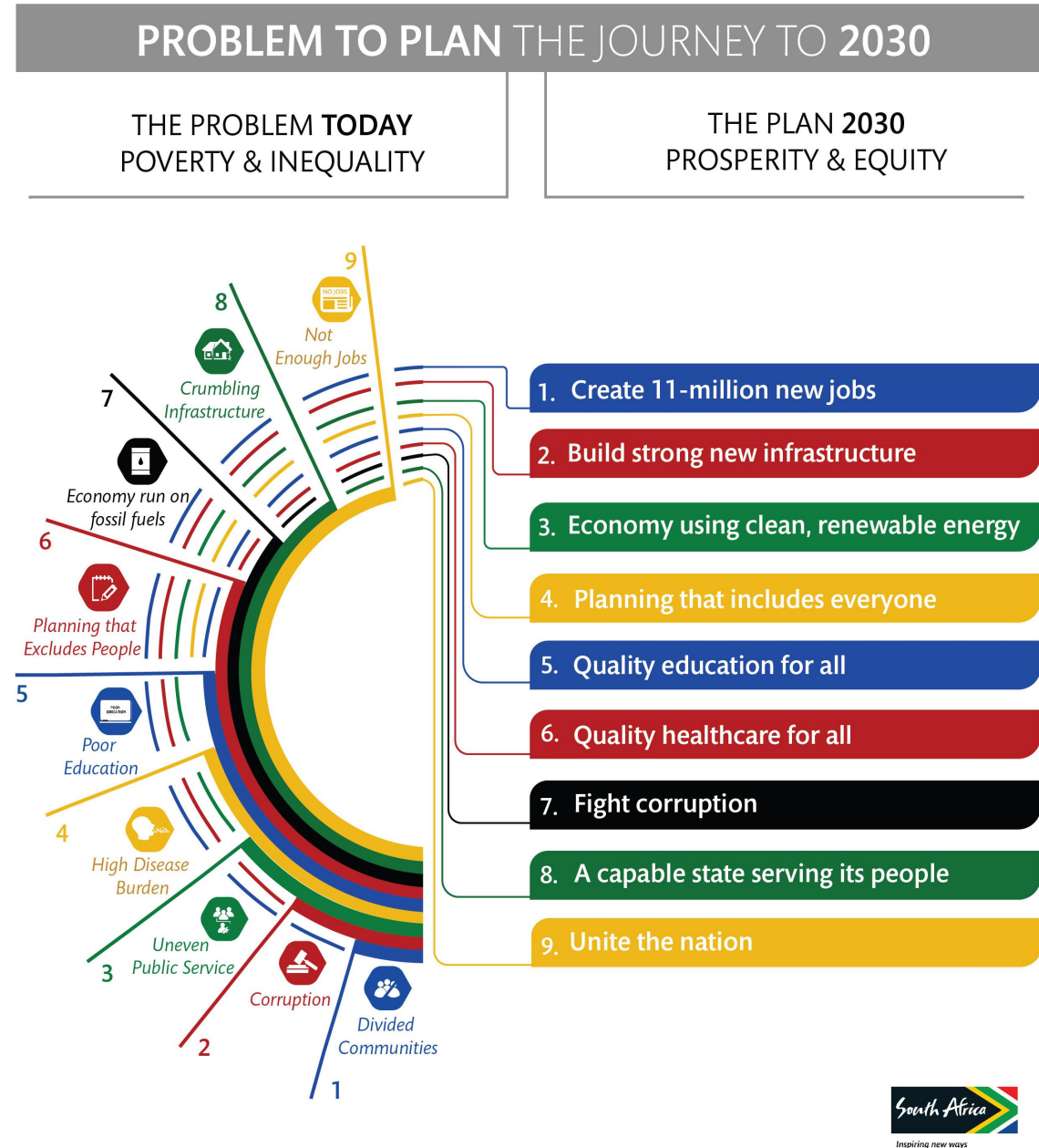
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOP MENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

- ❑ President Cyril Ramaphosa announced an 'intensified focus on early childhood development (ECD).
- ❑ ECD programme is an integral part of education system in South Africa (SA), compulsory two year ECD attendance before Grade 1.
- ❑ SA efforts to date:
 - Free access to primary health care for pregnant women and children;
 - Improved access to housing and housing subsidies;
 - Birth registration and Child Support Grant – R410.



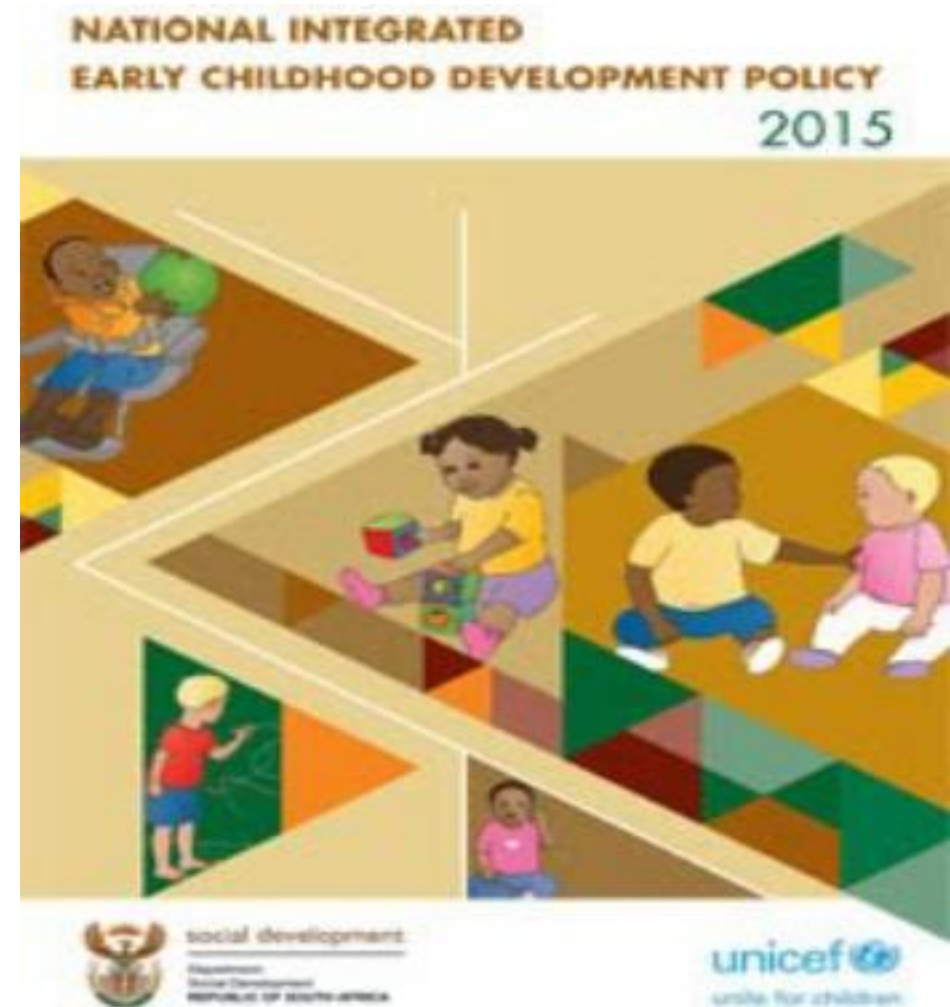


- ❑ Early Childhood Development is PRIORITY!
- ❑ Need for ECD investment to:
 - ❑ Support and advance early years from conception
 - ❑ Promote optimal human development
- ❑ However:
 - ❑ Lack of equitable and accessibility and
 - ❑ Poor quality interventions for



NATIONAL INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2015

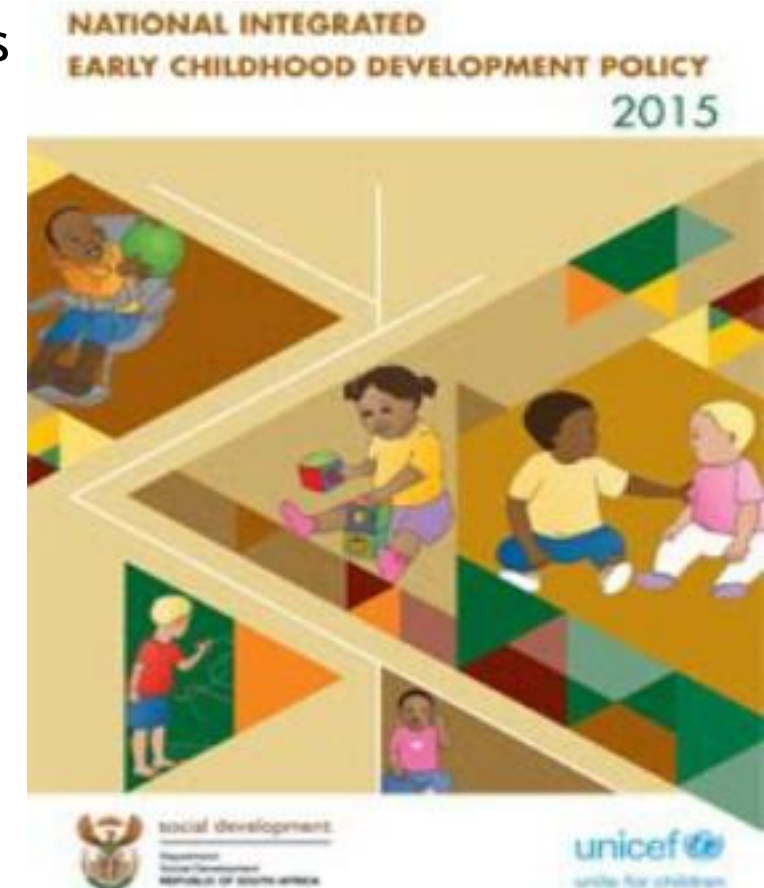
Transformation of ECD service delivery in SA to create provision for all-inclusive, universally accessible, just and fair ECD services.



THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Purpose: 2015

1. Impartial and accessible early childhood development services grounded in a comprehensive and logical legal framework outlining the ECD roles and responsibilities;
2. Establish organisational arrangements to plan for, lead and implement the ECD services;
3. Ensure sufficient funding and accessible and sustainable availability of ECD services; and
4. Establish monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance and scalable systems to ensure quality ECD services to all South African children up until
 - formal school going age and
 - children with developmental delays and disability until the end of their 6th year of life.



THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2015

Provides an over-arching enabling multi-sectoral framework of ECD definitions, responsibilities and role-players within which all relevant sectoral laws, programmes and strategies must be developed and synergised.


Documents the commitments and responsibilities of Government to secure the provision of a universal comprehensive ECD programme for children.

Defines a comprehensive early childhood programme and support with identified essential components.

Identifies the relevant role-players their roles and responsibilities for the provision of the various components of ECD services.

Establishes a national early childhood development leadership and coordinating structure (facilitate centralised planning, strengthen service integration, monitor nutrition strategy, plan, fund, implement and monitor a communication strategy),

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED ECD POLICY 2015?

	Before conception	Pregnancy to birth	Birth - 2 years	3 - 5 years	6 years +
					
Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)	Healthy environments				
				Integrating WASH within preschool programmes	WASH in schools
Health	Family planning Healthcare for girls and mothers-to-be	Antenatal preparation Mother-to-child infection prevention Birthing practices Newborn care	Breastfeeding Reducing disease	Integrating health within preschool programmes	School-based health interventions
Nutrition	Nutrition for girls and mothers-to-be		Infant nutrition	Integrating nutrition within preschool programmes	School-based nutrition interventions
Early learning and education	Preparation for parenting		Early interactions and stimulation Parenting interventions including home visiting Community-based programmes including day care	Centre-based preschool education Home and community-based learning Parenting support and training	Family's readiness for school Children's readiness for school Schools' readiness for children
Social protection and community programmes	Social protection and poverty reduction				
			Birth registration Parental leave and childcare		

POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF ECD

Early childhood in SA - conception to 9 years old.

United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child (1989)

Sustainable Development Goals

South African's Children's Act
(Children's Amendment, Act 38 of 2005)

National integrated early Learning and Development Standards for Children Birth to Four years 2009 (NELDS)

The South African National Curriculum Framework for children from Birth to Four 2014





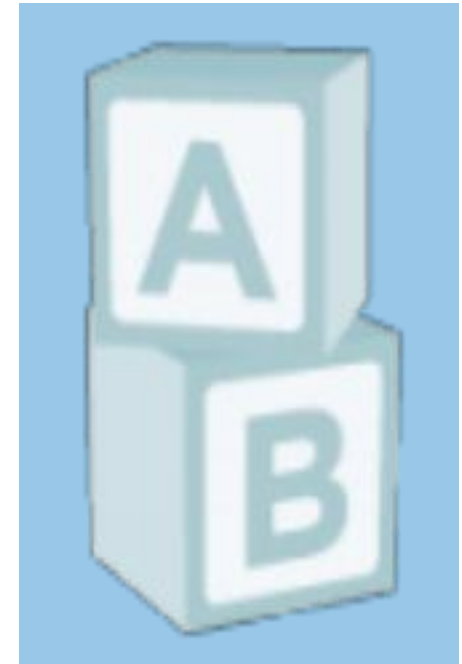
**Why the first
1000 days
are so
important**

- ☐ First 1000 days of life - conception to two years old.
- ☐ Sensitive and period for brain development
- ☐ Thereafter, brain development slows down

Grow- Nutrition, nurturing and a healthy environment are key to the first 1 000 days of a child's life.

Love- A good environment in the first 1 000 days of a child's life includes loving care and a nurturing, safe space free from stress and harmful substances.

Play- It's important to set the scene for your baby to learn and play.

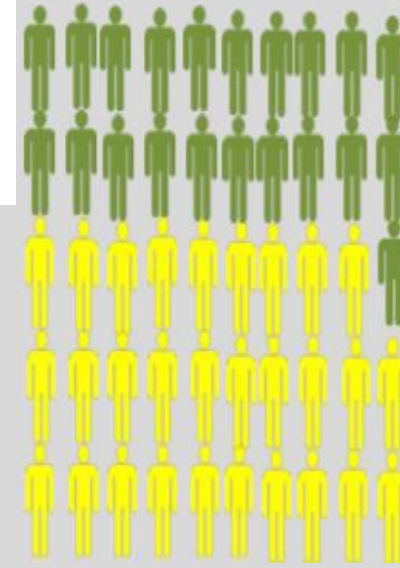


FIRST 1000 DAYS
| OF LIFE

RISK FACTORS

- 250 million children under the age of 5 years
- Poverty
- Malnutrition
- Stunting
- Low-birth weight
- Infectious disease in pregnant women, infants and children
- Environmental toxins
- Stress
- Exposure to violence and abuse
- Psychosocial risks
- Disrupted caregiving - absent parents, ill parents, non-parent caregiving or abandonment
- Disability

Children aged 0-4



43,2% live in
Rural
and
56,8% in
Urban areas

NURTURING CARE FRAME WORK



Nurturing care defined:

1. Promotion of good health
2. Nutrition
3. Responsive caregiving
4. Security and safety
5. Opportunities for early learning.

INVESTING IN ECD SERVICES

1. Cognitive, social, emotional, mental and physical health and well-being of young children and adults;
2. School enrolment, retention and performance of children;
3. A stronger economy;
4. Poverty reduction; and
5. A safer and more inclusive society

**National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy
2015*





SERVICES TO FILL THE GAPS IDENTIFIED:

1. Early childhood development services provided through home visits by community health workers;
2. Micronutrient and food supplementation for all pregnant women;
3. Food and nutritional support provided by community health workers;
4. Screening, counselling and referrals of pregnant women and mothers of young children;
5. Birth screening and follow-up screening for the purposes of early identification of disabilities;
6. Screening of young children for abuse and neglect;
7. An augmented **programme of parenting support**; and
8. Pre-registration during the third trimester of pregnancy for the CSG.

IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED ECD POLICY



INTERVENTION

Home visits (birth - 2 years old)

Playgroups (birth - 3 years old)

Centre-based ECD services:
subsidized day care (3 - 4.5 years
old)

Centre-based ECD services: fully
funded day care (3 - 4.5 years old)

COST and REQUIRED WORKFORC

USD220 per child, training CHW's

USD125 per child, training playgroup facilitators

USD695 per child, training ECD practitioners AND
investment in infrastructure or adapted existing

USD1,390 per child, training ECD practitioners
AND investment in infrastructure or adapted
existing



CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Employed by Department Of Health

Who: Health promoters and community health workers as part of ward-based PHC outreach teams (CHCW)

Objectives: support to pregnant women and young children including health and nutrition support screening for substance abuse, exposure to violence, developmental delays and nutrition, parenting support and opportunities for learning

Cohort: pregnancy - 2 years old

Modes:

home visiting and community and clinic-based support; support groups for pregnant women; 2 home visits to pregnant at risk women; mother-father and baby support; early learning groups two-weekly visits to at risk mothers

Local municipalities

Who: Child minders (accredited + registered)

Objectives: day care, early learning, nutrition support

Cohort: under the age of 2

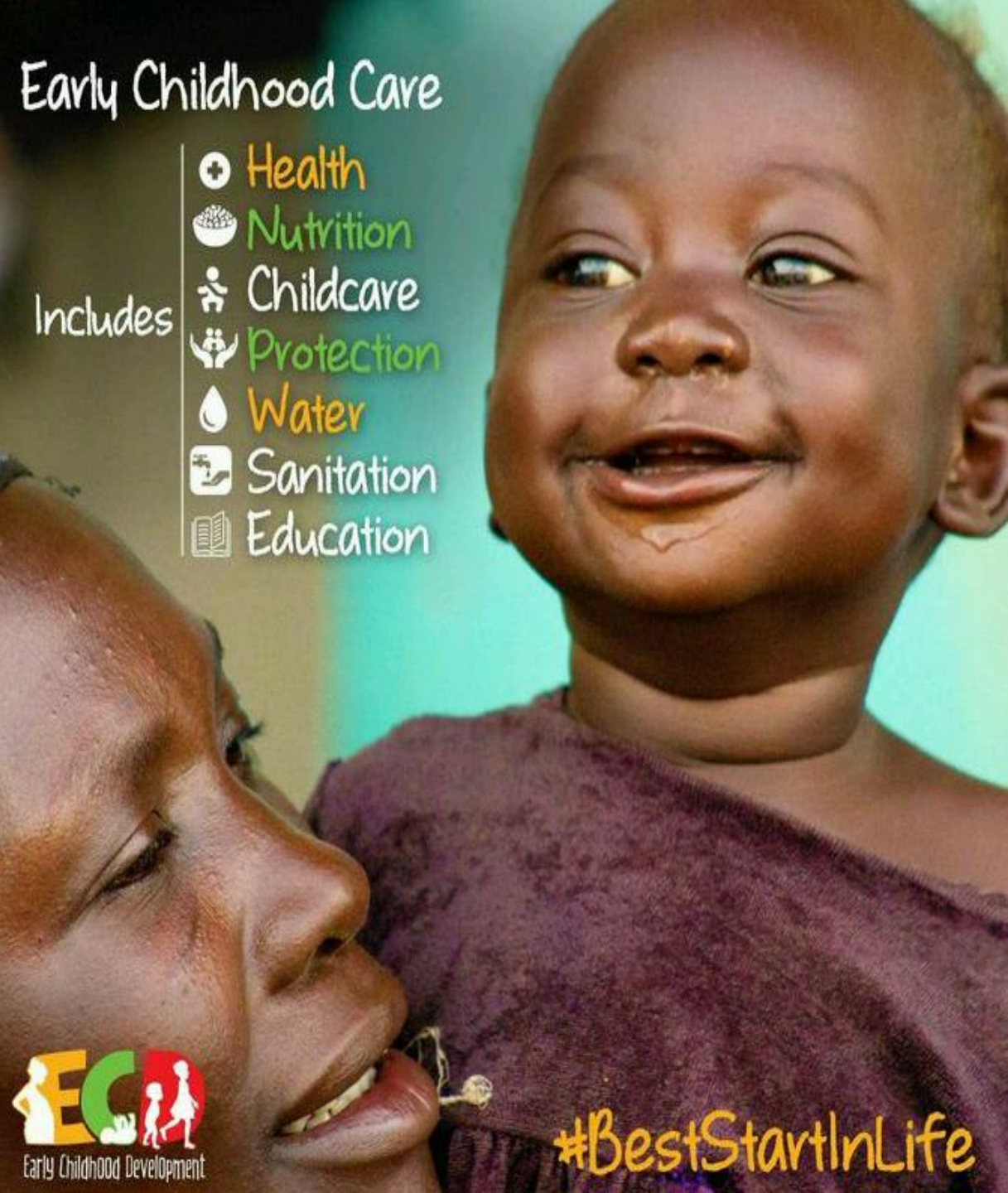
Modes: home based

Suggested Parenting support programme:

A multi-and interdisciplinary (Nurse, OT, PT, SW, Dietician) team based at local municipalities and not only at health care facilities.

Services to include the preparation of pregnant women and partners and of mothers of young children to enable them to optimise their young children's development across all domains, especially in the areas of child safety, the provision of positive parenting practices, food and nutrition, and early learning.

RECOMMENDATION





THANK YOU |