NURTURING CARE
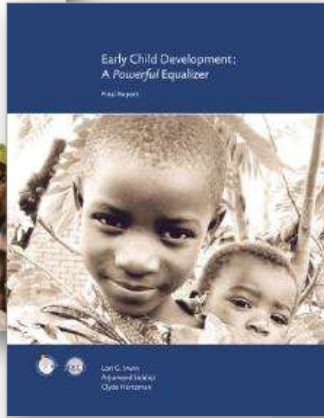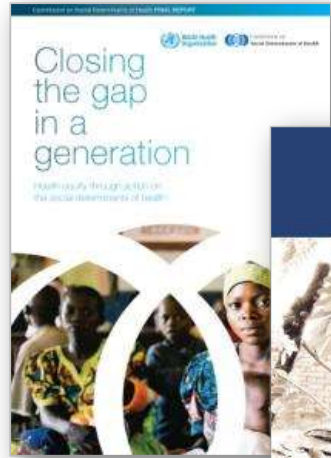# for early childhood development

A framework for helping children survive
and thrive to transform health and
human potential

Core Group Global Health Practitioner Conference
Washington DC, June 04, 2018

A unique convergence of evidence and political momentum

ECD Lancet series 2007, 2011

UN High Level Forum for a **Culture of Peace**: "Sowing the Seeds of the Culture of Peace: Early childhood development is the beginning"
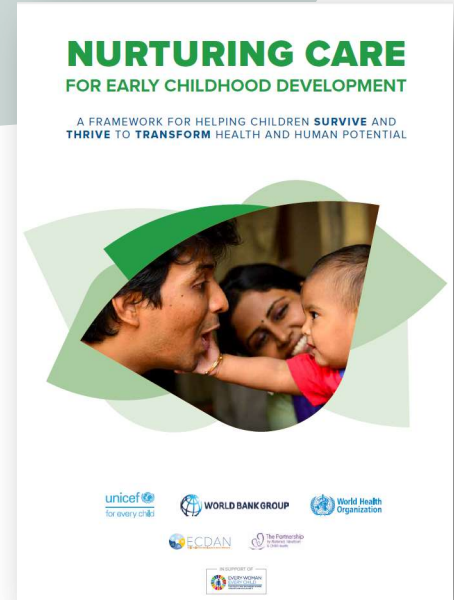
2018

2017

2016

2015

2008

2000

FACT: INVESTING IN A CHILD'S #EARLYYEARS IS ONE OF THE SMARTEST INVESTMENTS A COUNTRY CAN MAKE THURSDAY OCTOBER 6 2016 11:00 AM–12:30 PM WORLD BANK GROUP

NURTURING CARE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT — A FRAMEWORK FOR HELPING CHILDREN SURVIVE AND THRIVE TO TRANSFORM HEALTH AND HUMAN POTENTIAL

World Health Assembly May 2018

- ✓ 1,000 contributions from 111 countries

- ✓ 2 global online consultations

- ✓ 8 in-person national or regional consultations

NURTURING CARE
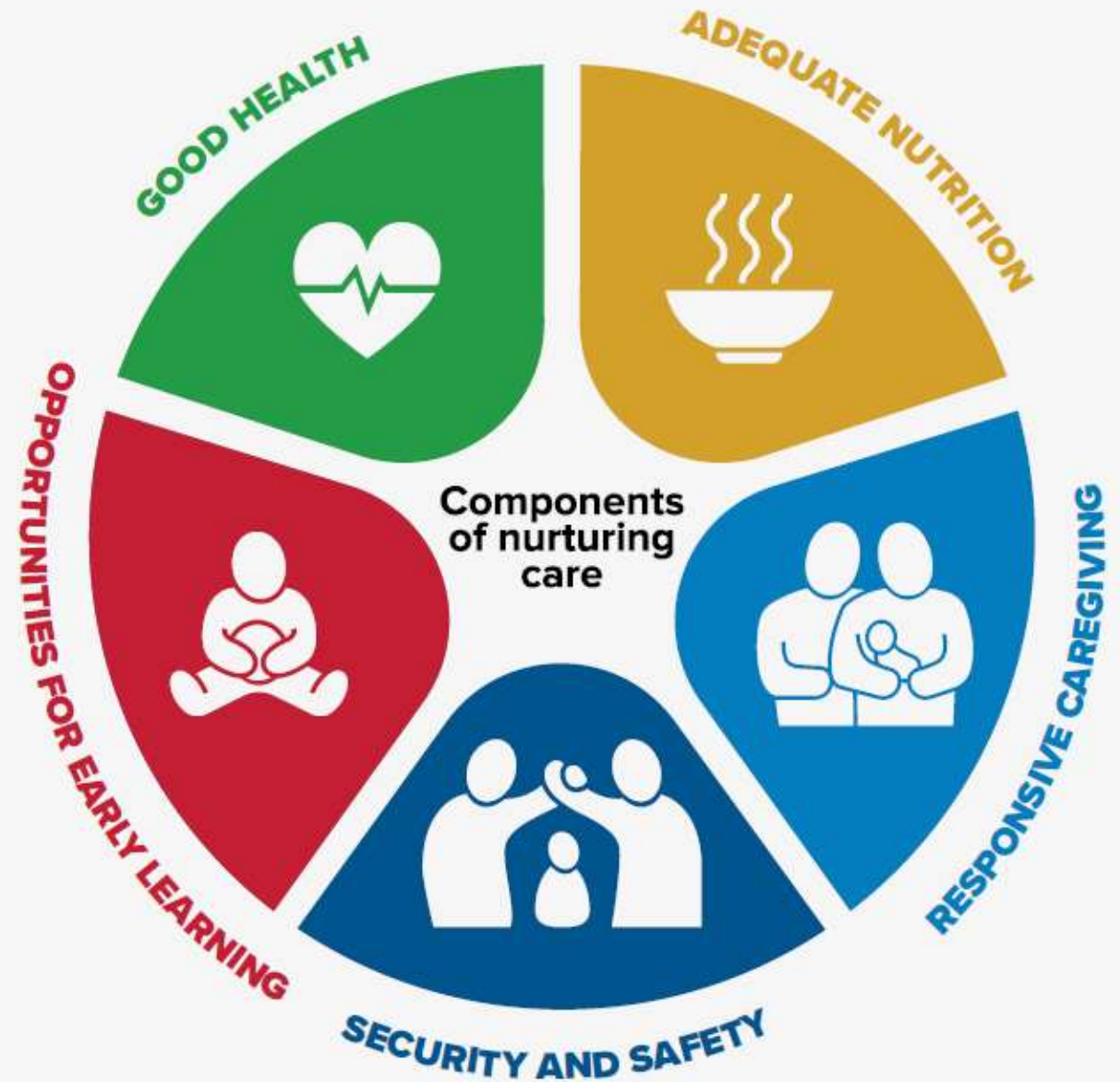FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

A FRAMEWORK FOR HELPING CHILDREN **SURVIVE** AND **THRIVE** TO **TRANSFORM** HEALTH AND HUMAN POTENTIAL

unicef for every child   WORLD BANK GROUP   World Health Organization

ECDAN   The Partnership

IN SUPPORT OF
EVERY WOMAN EVERY CHILD

Nurturing care framework provides a roadmap for action.

www.nurturing-care.org

Nurturing care is:

The set of conditions children need to reach their full potential.

COMPONENTS OF NURTURING CARE

GOOD HEALTH

ADEQUATE NUTRITION

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARLY LEARNING

Components of nurturing care

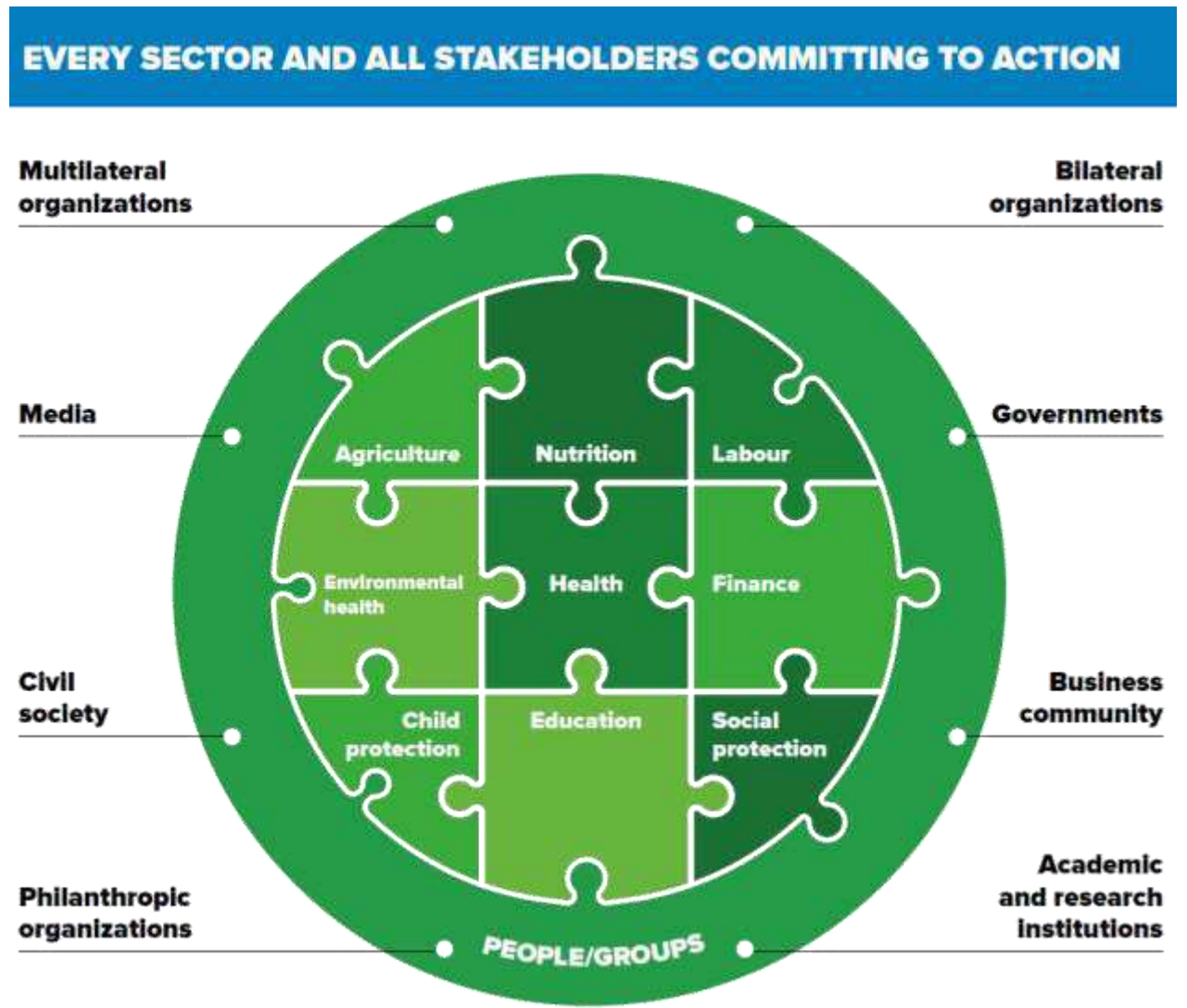RESPONSIVE CAREGIVING

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Nurturing care is created by communities, government, stakeholders' actions;

then,

Parents and caregivers are enabled to provide **nurturing care to their children**

Nurturing Care means Children and their caregivers at the center

EVERY SECTOR AND ALL STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTING TO ACTION

Multilateral organizations

Bilateral organizations

Media

Governments

Civil society

Business community

Philanthropic organizations

Academic and research institutions

Agriculture · Nutrition · Labour · Environmental health · Health · Finance · Child protection · Education · Social protection · PEOPLE/GROUPS

Early Childhood

- CRC: Before birth to the first 8 years of life
- The Nurturing Care Framework: **Before birth to the first three years of life**.

Development

- Continuous acquisition of skills and abilities across various domains:
  cognition, language, physical, motor, social and emotional.
- Domains: Intertwined, equally important, one helps the other.

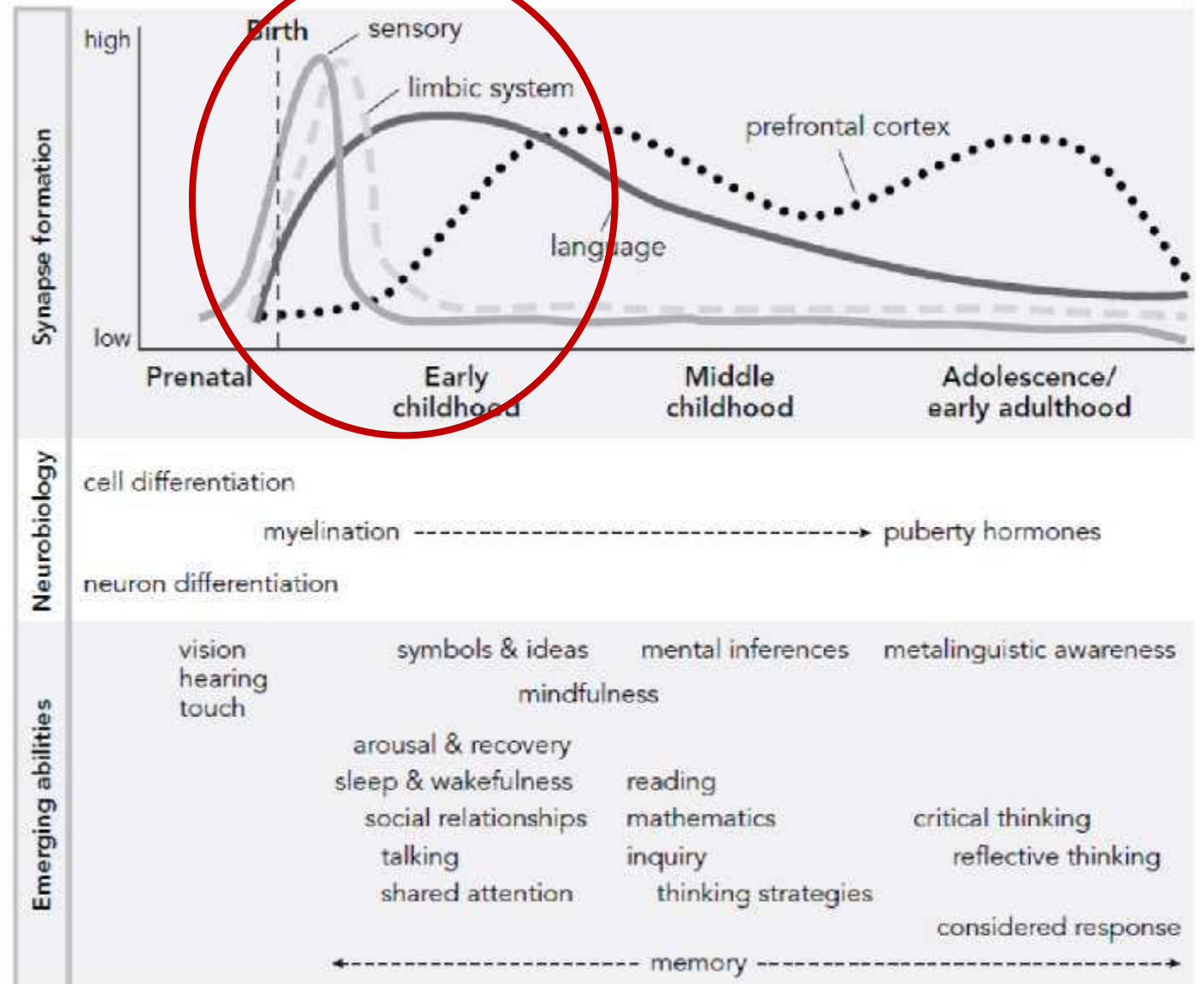CRC: Convention for the Rights of the child

We know……………

- Why early childhood development is **important**

- What **threatens** early childhood development

- What children **need** to develop to their full potential.

- What **strengthens families and caregivers**' capacity to support young children's development.

The Importance of ECD

- Period when **brain** capacity to learn and be influenced by **environment** is the greatest.
- **Human interaction**: The most important
- **Nurturing care does not end at age three**.

FIGURE 2.3 Neural pathways under construction

Adpated from: McCain, M., Mustard, J.F. & Shanker, S. (2007); Nelson, C. (2011); Mustard, F. & Kolb, B. (2011). eEYS3

Children affected by known risks to development

Globally, 250m children (43%) of children experience poverty or stunting (higher with additional data)

62.7% - stunting and extreme poverty

75.4% - when low maternal schooling & maltreatment are added

29 of 35 countries (83%) with more than 60% children at risk are in Africa

Personal & social cost of inaction

43% of children in LMICs (±250 million)
at risk of losing **27%** of average adult income

Several countries will lose a greater proportion of their GDP to poor early childhood development than they currently spend on health

Societal cost of not reducing stunting to 15%

Region	Country	GDP/capita US$	Govt health expenditure (%GDP)	Cost of inaction (%GDP)
Sub-Saharan Africa	Ethiopia	505	1.8	**7.9**
	Kenya	1245	1.8	**5.4**
	Madagascar	463	2.5	**12.7**
	Nigeria	3005	1.9	**3.0**
	Tanzania	695	2.8	**11.1**
	Uganda	572	1.9	**7.3**
South Asia	Bangladesh	1.2	1.2	**5.6**
	India	1.3	1.3	**8.3**
	Nepal	2.2	2.2	**3.4**
	Pakistan	1.0	1.0	**8.2**

We know what threatens early childhood development

- Adversity - persistent, frequent or severe - without the support of a caregiver.

- Threats tend to cluster together - often in conjunction with lack of/poor services and social exclusion.

- Humanitarian settings: Multiple adversities, but investment and services: insufficient.

Nurturing Care is what children need

5 components: Indivisible

Caregivers: Essential

- Support the **adults** who care for children build their own **capabilities**; and

- Strengthen the **capacity** of **communities** to support families raising children under difficult circumstances.

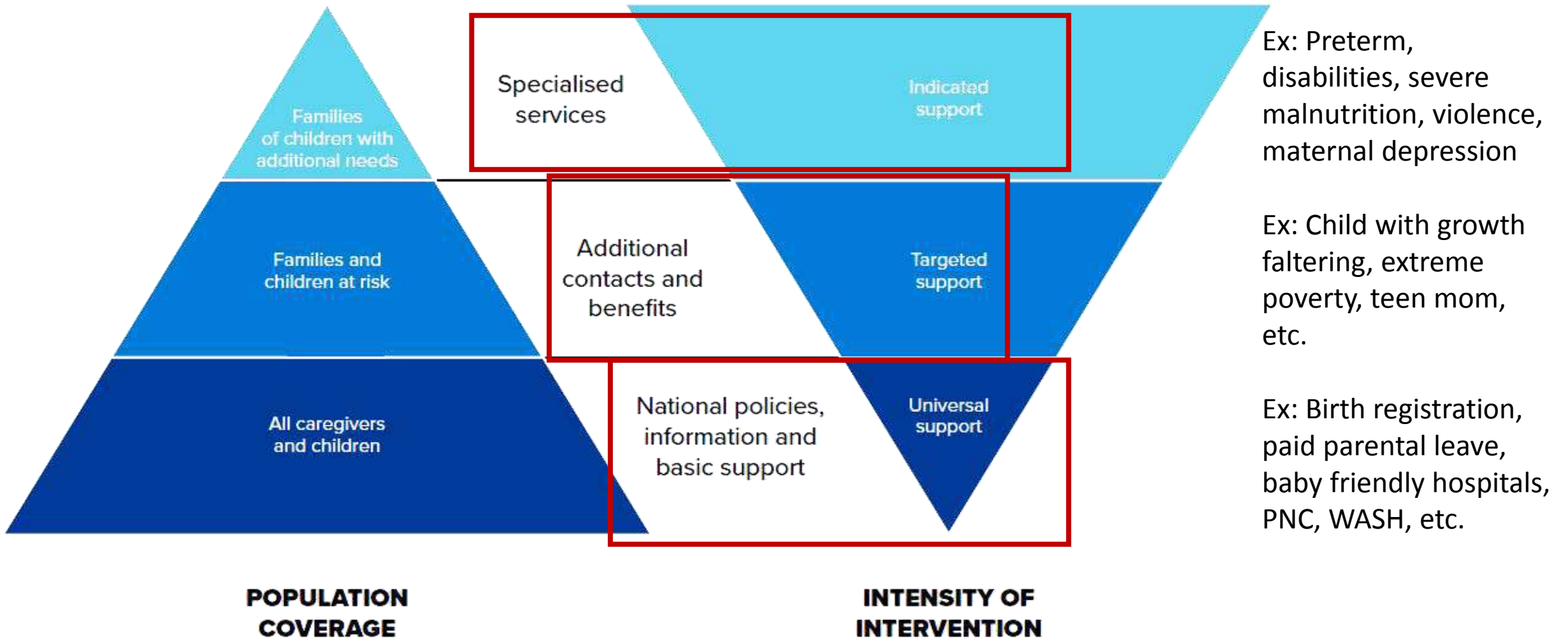# We know how to support families and caregivers

Caregivers need: **time, resources, services, information**.

From:

- Enabling policies
- Empowered communities
- Inclusive services
- Continuum of services and support

Reaching all caregivers and children to meet their needs

Families of children with additional needs — Specialised services — Indicated support

Ex: Preterm, disabilities, severe malnutrition, violence, maternal depression

Families and children at risk — Additional contacts and benefits — Targeted support

Ex: Child with growth faltering, extreme poverty, teen mom, etc.

All caregivers and children — National policies, information and basic support — Universal support

Ex: Birth registration, paid parental leave, baby friendly hospitals, PNC, WASH, etc.

POPULATION COVERAGE

INTENSITY OF INTERVENTION

Guiding Principles	Five Strategic Actions
1. The child's right to survive and thrive 2. Leave no child behind 3. Family-centered care 4. Whole of government action 5. Whole of society approach	1. Lead and Invest 2. Focus on families and their communities 3. Strengthen services 4. Monitor Progress 5. Use data and innovate

Five strategic actions – Country actions

Lead and Invest
- Coordination mechanism
- Current situation and opportunities
- Common vision, goals and targets
- Sub-national and local authorities engaged - the means to act
- Long-term financing strategy – policies and laws as enablers

Focus on families and their communities
- Families' positive voices, beliefs, practices, and needs.
- Empower communities and families
- National & local communication strategies.
- Strengthen and support community platforms
- Involve community and create mechanism for accountability

Strengthen services
- Identify opportunities for strengthening existing services
- Update standards and services to reflect the NC components
- Update competency profiles and strengthen the workforce.
- Provide mentors and supervision for trained staff
- Capacity for monitoring child development & families

Monitor Progress
- Agree on the indicators for tracking progress
- Update routine information systems
- Make data available to all, incl. families and communities
- Support periodic population-based assessment
- Use data to make decisions on programming & accountability.

Use data and innovate
- Foster collaboration among program implementers, researchers and scientists
- Provide leadership in identifying local research priorities, and implementation research.
- Use local and global evidence to create innovations that can be scaled up.
- Support a national platform for learning and research
- Document and publish research findings and lessons learned

Milestones to be achieved in the next 5 years (by 2023)

NATIONAL MILESTONES	GLOBAL MILESTONES
All countries have developed a national coordination mechanism and a plan to address nurturing care in a holistic way.	Global stakeholders have established functional mechanisms for multi-sectoral coordination and harmonized action in support of nurturing care.
All countries are addressing nurturing care in national communication strategies and through community structures and local leaders.	Global stakeholders have launched a global advocacy campaign for nurturing care and promote effective approaches for engaging communities and giving them agency.
All countries are strengthening their workforce's capacity to support responsive caregiving and early learning – among all families and children, including those with additional needs.	Global stakeholders have developed and updated guidelines, service packages and implementation guidance for nurturing care, and promote their use
All countries are collecting data about the quality and coverage of interventions for all five components of nurturing care.	Harmonized global indicators and measurement framework for nurturing care are available and used to assess implementation and impact.
All countries are investing in local research to strengthen implementation of nurturing-care interventions.	Global stakeholders have identified research priorities for nurturing care and invest in studies to address them.

In sum:

- **Unique time**: Convergence of science, evidence, experience and political will
- **Strong knowledge**: Understanding of childhood, children and how we become humans. Understanding effects of adversity and how to build resilience.
- **Experiences of countries**: Main ingredients to translate science into action
- **Arguments**: ethical, economic, social for this and future generations
- **Nurturing Care Framework**: trigger discussions, more in depth analysis, adaptations. To do more and do better.

"If we change the beginning of the story,
we change the whole story".

Raffi Cavoukian, The Beginning of Life

www.nurturing-care.org