Early Childhood Development in Mongolia

Regional Training Workshop on Early Childhood Policy Review
Bangkok, Thailand, 6-8 February 2007
Contents

- UNICEF and ECD in Mongolia
- Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy
- Key objectives of policy review
Basic Education

CFS
- System support
- Capacity building
- Education for children with special needs
- Participation

ECD
- System support
- Capacity building
- Psycho social support
- Family/ community

NFE
- Capacity building
- NFEC
- Equivalency Education/MG
- Life-skills based education
Country of Young Population

- Total population: 2.6M
- Young population (2000):
  - < 24 years = 55%
- Disadvantaged vulnerable groups:
  - Children from poor families
  - Children living in difficult circumstances
Maternal Mortality

- MMR Trend (rate/100,000):
  - 1990: 120
  - 1995: 186
  - 2000: 157
  - 2004: 98.8

- Location of Delivery:
  - Facility: 98.5%
  - Home: 1.5%

- MMR Relative Risk:
  - 10 times higher at home delivery
Malnutrition

- Low Birth Weight (LBW):
  2006 – 3.7%
- Underweight: 2006 – 6.7%
- Prevalence of severe stunting:
  2006 – 4.9%
- Wasting increased:
  2006 – 0.08%
Micronutrient

Trend Anemia in Children

- **Anemia:**
  - children <5 yrs in 2006: 21.4%
- **Vitamin A Deficiency in 2004:** clinical = 0.5%
- **Iodine Deficiency Disorders:**
  - Total goiter rate: 13.8
  - Yes, Law on ban on Sale of non-Iodized salt (2005)
Safe Water

- Low access to potable water
- Source of drinking water in rural areas:
  - Centralized water supply 7.6
  - Transported 7.4
  - Water delivery point 10.4
  - Manually dug wells 22.2
  - Deep drilled wells 14.9
  - Rivers, streams, springs 35.9
  - Lakes, ponds 0.2
  - Other 1.4
- High arsenic contamination
  - Gobi area: Dornogobi, Dundgobi, Umnogobi
Sanitation

- **Unsanitary latrine:**
  - Traditional pit: 52%
  - Open pit: 6%
  - No toilet: 20%
- **Even facilities do not have sanitary latrine, e.g., health, school, etc.**
Early childhood stimulation

- Child care centers (crèche) for 0 to 2 years old dismantled
  - Replaced by extending maternity leave benefits to 2 years
  - No policy/program for supporting parents on home based early childhood psycho-social stimulation
Pre-school Education

- Low participation in preschool education for 3-7 years old:
  - Total Children participating
    - 2005: 46.1 %
  - Participation by sex:
    - Total Boys 31.5 %
    - Total Girls 35.9 %
Participation in Education:
- Completed 4th grade
  - 2005: 85%
- Drop-out rates
  - Boys: 20.6% (higher)
  - Girls: 11.5%
  - High disparity on participation
    - More girls participating

![Participation in Education Graph]
existing policies and programs

- Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy
- NPA for the Development and Protection of Children for 2002-2010
- Child Protection Law
- Health Law
- Education Law
- National Breastfeeding Program
Cont’d...

- National Program on Child Nutrition and Food Security
- National Reproductive Health Program
- Adolescent Reproductive Health
- National Program on Preschool Strengthening-2; etc,
- EFA Assessment Report
Gaps and issues on current policies and programs

- Scope/Content: age, intervention focus
- Coverage (limited access: landscape of Mongolia, economic cost)
- Lack of coordination (no convergence, no linkages in most of areas)
- Highly focus on institution, facility, worker
- Family/community role is limited – no strategy
- Highly dependent on state budget - sustainability
IECD Policy

**Name:** Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy

**Approved by:** Joint order of the MoE, MoH and MoSWL

**Date:** April 13th 2005
DEVELOPMENT & PREPARATION:
1. IECD policy came from MoE and UNICEF
2. Main focus: clarify the role of the ministries involved, outline their responsibilities at national, regional and community level
3. An inter-ministerial task force was formed that included 3 ministries involved and NGOs representative
4. The process took one year and was approved by government/the joint order of MoE, MoH, MoSWL

AFTER APPROVAL:
1. Steering committee: MoE, MoH, MoSWL
2. Implementation plan
3. Launch/distribution
4. Regular meetings
5. Mid term review
Aim of the IECD Policy

- Improve inter-sectoral collaboration in ECD: health and nutrition; welfare and protection; and education
- Meet the needs and demands of early childhood development
- Improve parent’s KAP for better results for children’s development
IECDP Focus

- Family Empowerment
- Life-cycle needs
- Decision-makers
- Home Community
- Where/When
- How
- What
- Who

CHILD
IECDP objectives

Child Growth & Development

- Integrated management
- Effective social services
- Reliability of ECD social services
Implementation of IECD Policy

- National Gov’t.
- Sub-National Government
- Family – Children (GER-fit-for-children)
- Community & Civil Society
Approach for implementation

MODELLING:
- Family empowerment
- Community participation
- Democratic governance
- Project efficiency & effectiveness

Advocacy & Social/Resource Mobilization

Policy & Program Formulation
IECDP expected outcomes:

For children:

- Quality social service, protected from risk;
- Better opportunity for parents, caring for children, that accommodates their capacity, interests and needs;
- Differences in physical, intellectual and social development for all children;
**IECDP expected outcomes:**

**For family:**

- Equal and multi-choice services for mother and child health, care and nutrition, social welfare and protection, and education closer to families;
- Improvement of parenting skills within the family;
- Women’ rights will be supported;
IECP expected outcomes:

For society:

- Favorable environment and implementing activities created;
- Participation of families, local administration and public in meeting ECD needs are increased;
- KAP of parents improved;
- New work places and job plans are created in ECD sector;
Current status of the IECD Policy

- National Consultative Committee: MoE, MoH, MoSWL and NGOs
- Responsible Department and Division based on ministries
- Regular joint meetings
**Key Achievements**

National and Sub-national level:

- Inter-ministerial cooperation (MoE, MoH, MoSWL) institutionalized;
- Government committed to increasing budget (facility, mobile teacher’s salary);
- Amendments to Education Law;
- Renovation of national curriculum & standard (ELDS)
- MGT methodology (incl. curriculum) developed, adopted and integrated into the teacher Training Univ. programme
Key Achievements

Family and Community level:

➢ Children participating in preschool education (through advocacy, alternative forms of PSE/ECD, volunteer mobilization)

➢ Parent’s and community participation into ECD through parents’ training
Goal of the policy review

ACCESS

QUALITY

EFFECTIVENESS

IMPACTS

of social services at current level in ECD
Policy review will cover:

Areas of:

- **Access** of the social services
- **Quality** of social services
- **KAP** of parents on child care
- **Effectiveness** of ECE
- Existing *gaps* in the government policies
- Inter-sectoral *cooperation* at national & local level, *challenges*
Scope of the review
Stages and timeframe of the review

**Preparation:** January – February

**Research and review:** March – July

**Final report:** September

**Launch and distribution:** July – September
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.