ECD Policy Experiences

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Some Experiences

- Jordan
- Jamaica
- Namibia
- EAPRO Countries
Receives high level support for ECD.

There was an enabling environment

High level national conference lead by the Queen set the stage

Queen created a multi-sectoral task force to develop a comprehensive Early Childhood strategy
Jordan cont.

- A technical meeting was held to build ownership
- A Plan of Action developed for monitoring and implementation
- A communication strategy targeted policy makers
What is different as a result of the new policy?

Increase in convergence of efforts across ministries

- Better Parenting Initiative adopted and allocated resources
- More comprehensive services being offered
- Increased focus on quality issues

Pending: Financial and resource issues still need addressing
Jamaica's Experience

- Began with National Strategic Review of ECD
- Led by Planning Institute - a neutral agency
- Involved all stakeholders, held series of broad-based inter-sectoral consultative workshops to examine issues affecting young child development
Jamaica cont.

- Analysis based on CRC, done by age groups
- Developed a National Plan of Action that included:
  1. Policy, governance, organisation
  2. Supportive interventions
  3. Direct services for children
Jamaica cont.

- An inter-sectoral early childhood commission was approved
- Policy for early childhood institutions was developed
- An Early Childhood Act has been developed.
- A National Plan of Action has been created

Pending issues: Financing of implementation
Namibia's Experience

- Push for an “ECD” policy came from President
- Main focus: clarify the role of the ministries involved, outline their responsibilities at national, regional and community level
- An Inter-ministerial Task Force was formed that included all ministries involved and NGOs representative.
- The process took one year and a half and was approved by the parliament.
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There was a restructuring of Ministries and the lead Ministry no longer exists.

No implementation strategy was planned. Thus the policy was not fully implemented.

A trust fund was proposed for financing ECD activities, but not created.

The policy has gone through an extensive review and is being revised.
Pending issue: There is no functioning policy in place at the present time.
A caution

- Policy is not a way to respond quickly to current needs
- Policy making is a process that takes time
- Then is a gap in time between the policy's adoption and its implementation
- The process may get stopped along the way
EAPRO Examples (as of 2003)

- Cambodia - policy ECE (age expansion), work with national counsel for children, MoH chair person, thinking about including minister of finance
- Mongolia - Community based program, child/ family focused strategy (structure already in place and building on)
- Thailand - reorganization of existing policies, task forces,
- Lao - National strategy plan, coordinating body is Lao women’s union
- Philippines - have had a task force in place for years, rotating leadership
- Indonesia - thinking about policy in more integrated approach
Updating EAPRO

- That’s our task now!