Second Annual Summit on Science Enablement for the Sustainable Development Goals: The Workshops

Session B: Early Child Development

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Scope

• Early child development (ECD) encompasses basic needs including adequate nutrition and sanitation, a safe environment and nurturing caregivers, protection from violence, and enrichment activities that feeds a child’s natural curiosity and create a firm foundation for learning, during the period of conception through age six years (adolescence?).
Child Development:
Critical Periods of Risk and Resilience

Prenatal

Early Childhood

Puberty
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Social/Environment/Experiences

Clinical Phenotypes
Cognitive Emotional Social

- Gene
- Social/Environment/Experiences
- Neural Systems
- Cognitive
- Emotional
- Social

Undernutrition
- Food security
- Appetite
- Abortion
- Utilization
- Excretion

Poverty
- Living conditions
- Infectious disease
- Enteropathy
- Access to health care
- Social support

Infections
- Non-immunological factors
- Infectious diseases
- Immune dysfunction
- Inflammation

Mortality
- Infections
- Undernutrition
- Poverty

Cells
Development
Neural Systems
Clinical Phenotypes
ACE reduction reliably predicts simultaneous decrease in all of these conditions.

Population attributable risk
First Annual Summit on Science Enablement for the SDGs, 2016

• A key barrier to scaling up effective ECD programmes was a lack of evidence-based data and learning from implementation or process evaluations.

Second Annual Summit on Science Enablement for the SDGs, 2017

• Focus on bridging implementation and research partnerships in order to:

  • Jointly set priorities on research, actions and data needs
  • Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination
  • Leverage data integration
  • Build technical capacity in programmes
Recommendation 1: Promote Evaluation Culture

- **Goal:** To increase feasibility of conducting evaluations in programmes by reducing the barriers to evaluations in order to improve connections to practice.
  - Reducing costs associated with evaluations (e.g. availability of open access tools)
  - Utilizing emerging technologies
  - Reach consensus on a range of methods that will provide valid evidence for programme effectiveness and processes.

- **Strategy:** Showcase existing models of best practice where programmes effectively integrate evaluations and optimize use of monitoring and evaluation of data
Recommendation 2: Stakeholder Engagement

• Goal: To foster stakeholder engagement in order to learn about experiences with respect to programmes, barriers and enablers to successful implementation and community participation.
  • Stakeholder engagement is a critical goal towards participation in making progress towards achievement of SDGs.

• Strategies:
  • Communication and dissemination of information that speak to a range of stakeholders to support their participation.
  • Conducting stakeholder analysis (Net Mapping)
Recommendation 3: Planning ECD Services as a Continuum of Services in the Lifecourse

• Goal: To promote guidance on how to plan holistic services from conception through to age six years.

• Strategies:
  • Case studies-exemplers/show cased
  • Conducting stakeholder analysis (Net Mapping)
Recommendation 4: Promote Aggregation of Data for Policy and Practice

• **Goal:** To create data platforms (or better exploit existing data platforms) that enable timely access to data between stakeholders/agencies enabling analysis and feedback to support programme implementation.

• **Strategies:**
  • Convene partners on data access and use that supports ECD programmes.
Recommendation 5: Dissemination What We Know with Better Effectiveness

• Goal: To share what we already know about effective models and their adaption to local contexts/realities.

• Strategies:
  • Review and show case best evidence-based practices across the globe.
Inter-Connections

- People in Crisis
- Sustainable Production & Consumption
- Food Security & Nutrition
- ECD