Early Childhood Development and Parenting: Responding to the Crisis of Care and Learning

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Impact on Young Children and Parents/Caregivers

The current situation is likely to have a far reaching and long term impact on SDG indicator 4.2.1 – children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being.


Interruption of ECD services and increased stress due to health concerns, job insecurity, lockdowns etc. will negatively effect the ability of parents/caregivers to provide nurturing care.
WHAT is Parenting?

Parenting: Interactions, behaviours, emotions, knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and practices associated with the provision of nurturing care.

Caregiver: A person who is very closely attached to the child and responsible for their daily care and support. Primary caregivers include parents, families and other people who are directly responsible for the child at home. They also include carers outside the home, such as people working in organised day care.

Parenting programmes: A set of activities or services aimed at improving how parents approach and execute their role as parents across their child's life cycle, specifically their parenting knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviours, and practices.
WHY enhance parenting support?
HOW: Approaches and parenting support

- Strengthening enabling environments
- Supporting strengthened workforce capacities and integrated services
- Raising levels of awareness
- Promoting positive gender norms and socialization
- Empowering parents and communities
Strengthening enabling environments

UNICEF global resource guide on public finance for children in Early Childhood Development

Making Commitments to ECD a Reality

Public financing for children in ECD

Family-Friendly Policies
Redesigning the Workplace of the Future

FAMILY-FRIENDLY POLICIES AND OTHER GOOD WORKPLACE PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19:
Key steps employers can take

INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS, 27 MARCH 2020
This document builds on material developed by UNICEF, ILO, and UNAPRO (ISAPRO) and the ECD. It is an interim guidance note, developed in a fast evolving situation, to provide general recommendations that aim to help employers strengthen support for workers and their families. It needs to be adapted locally and to rapidly changing contexts. As the information contained in this document may date quickly, you are advised to check the resources at the International Labour Organization.

Family-Friendly Policies
Supporting strengthened workforce capacities and integrated services

Nurturing Care Framework (NCF)

ECD Kits for Emergencies

Care for Child Development (CCD) Package
Raising levels of awareness

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guide for parents
What you need to know to keep your loved ones safe

UNICEF Parenting
Helping parents give children the best start in life.
Internet of Good Things (IoGT)

A website that enables free access to content without data charges in 65 countries via partnerships with MNOs and Free Basics by Facebook.

From April – August 2020, COVID-19 parenting resources reached 72.1 million people in 90 languages, covering virtually every country in the world.
Promoting positive gender norms and socialization

Fathers’ engagement
Empowering parents and communities

Caring for the Caregiver Package (CFC)

 Modifications to CFC for COVID-19:

- Expansion of countries implementing the package
- Creation of digital version, for when in-person trainings are not feasible
- Tailoring content for emergencies, including COVID-19 specific content
- Development of assets to help parents/caregivers cope with pandemic-induced stress.
How can you support?

1. Advocate to protect and **enhance public investment** in parenting support programmes;

2. Provide continued **emphasis and elevate the importance of ECD parenting services and interventions**, and a range of modalities for continued support to parents during and in the aftermath of the pandemic;

3. **Enhance direct support to parents with tools and tips**, including specific support to parents.‘
   - Promote support for the mental health and emotional wellbeing of caregivers and children
   - focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized, including families living in conflict settings, displaced families those with pre-existing mental health needs and families of children with disabilities;

4. **Empower parents, policy makers and key stakeholders** with the latest evidence on parenting practices, child wellbeing and their own mental health.
THANK YOU!