



World Health
Organization



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Early Child Development and KMC follow-up

KMC follow-up is important for Early Child Development of preterm & LBW babies

- Assess health and development of the preterm baby after discharge and respond accordingly
 - Support parents in providing nurturing care
 - Review results of care provided and act for improving quality of survival
- **Need to develop KMC programs with strong follow-up**

Outline

- Global context
- Evidence to support investment in ECD
- Nurturing care framework
- Rational for KMC follow-up
- Moving forward
- Conclusions

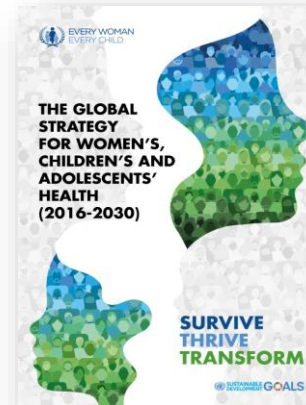


Global context

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under-5 years of age, with countries aiming to reduce NMR to at least 12 per 1,000 live LB

4.2 Ensure that all girls and boys have access to good quality early childhood development

- NMR and ECD specific targets in the Sustainable Development Goals
- Newborn health and ECD reflected in the SURVIVE and THRIVE components of the Global Strategy
- Evidence that quality of care and ECD are important for health and well being along the life course
- KMC is promoted through Every Newborn Action Plan



The miracle of human development

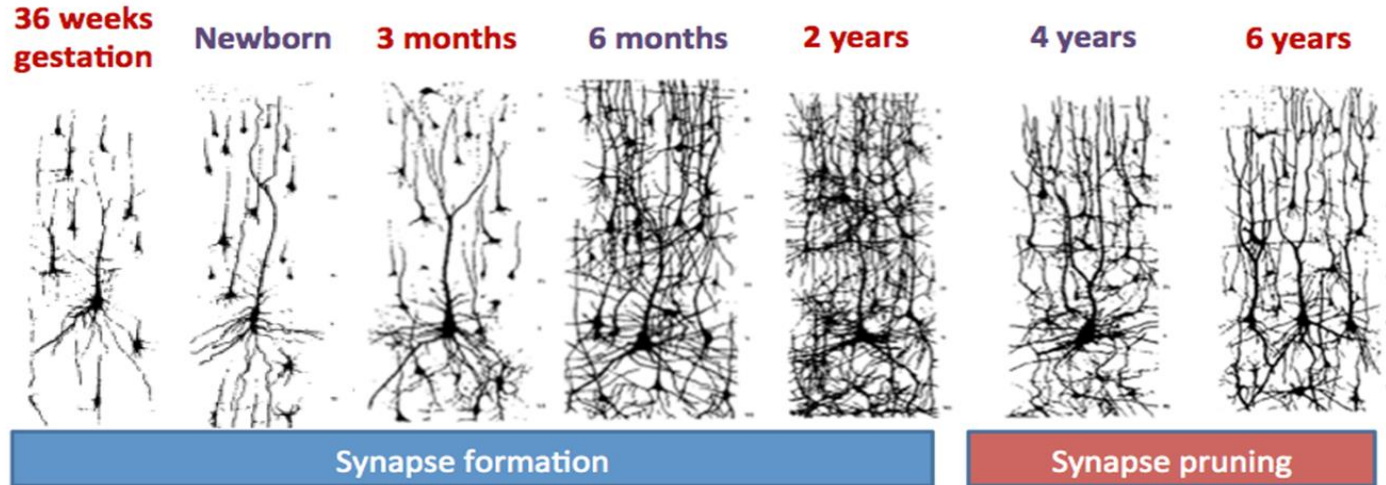


A genetic blueprint in the embryo/fetus establishes the broad strokes of development

Environment modifies this blueprint during critical periods of development

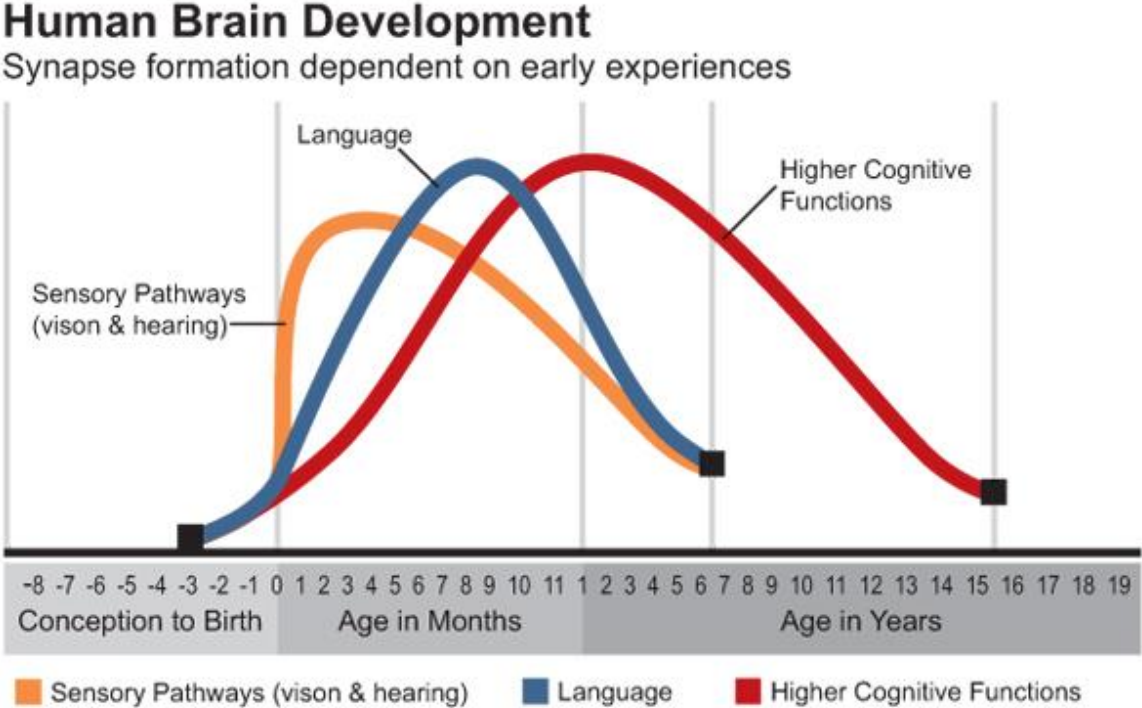


Building the brain



- During late pregnancy the brain starts to wire itself forming connections
- In the months after birth over 1,000-10,000 new connections are made every second as the baby “senses” her environment.
- As babies get a little older, their brains begin to eliminate rarely used pathways and to reinforce those that are used often

Critical functions develop in pregnancy and the early years

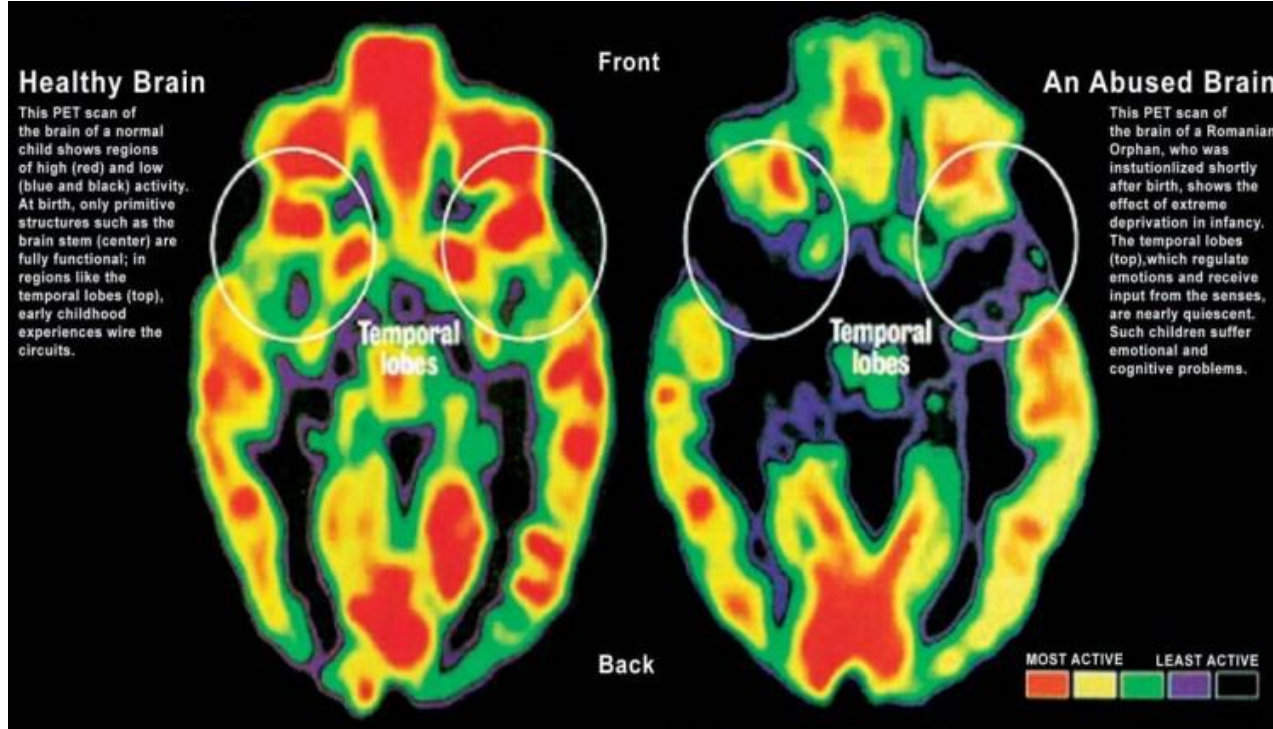




Risk factors preventing children to develop to full potential

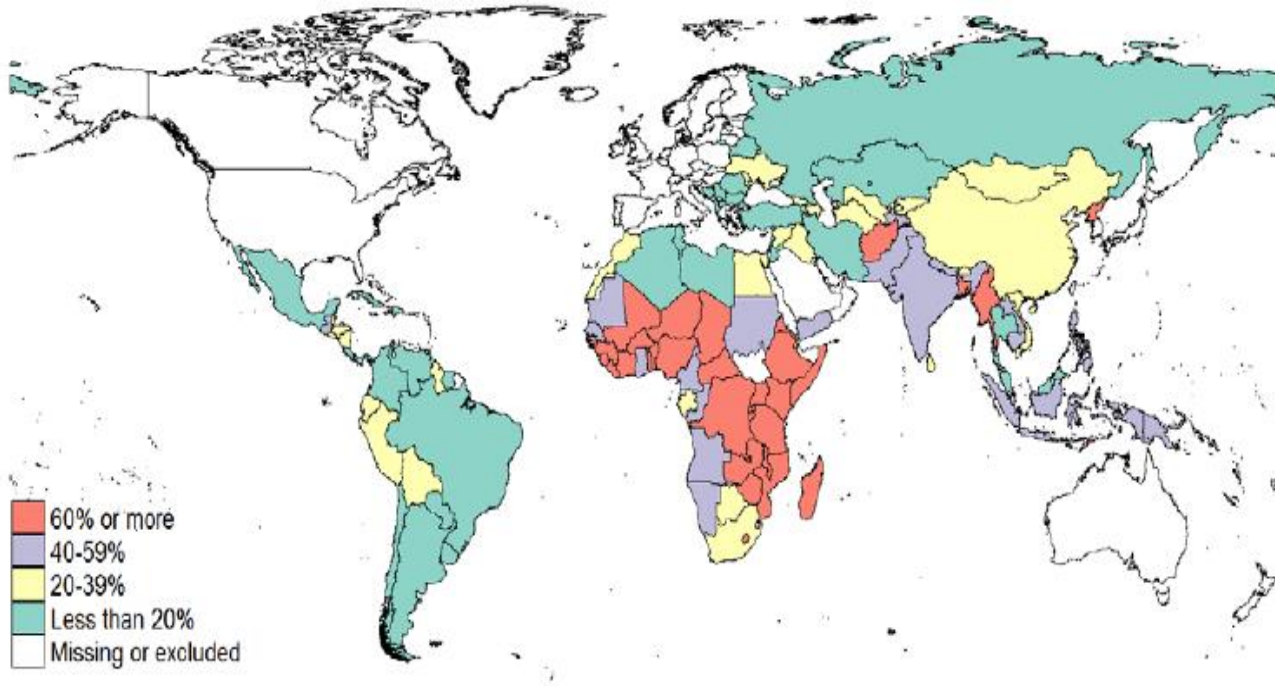
- Poverty
- Nutritional deficiencies
- Inadequate stimulation
- Maternal depression
- Family stress
- Violence
- Child maltreatment

Deprivation leads to smaller and less developed brains



The burden

At least 250 million children, or 43% in LMICs, are at risk of sub-optimal development due to poverty and stunting



Key messages

- The **first 1000 days**, starting from conception, are a period of special sensitivity for child development
- The most formative experiences of young children come from **NURTURING CARE**
- Early investment has lifelong and intergenerational benefits
- Policies, information and services are important
- Multisectoral collaboration is essential and the **health sector has a special role to play**





Nurturing care framework

launched at the 71th WHA in 2018

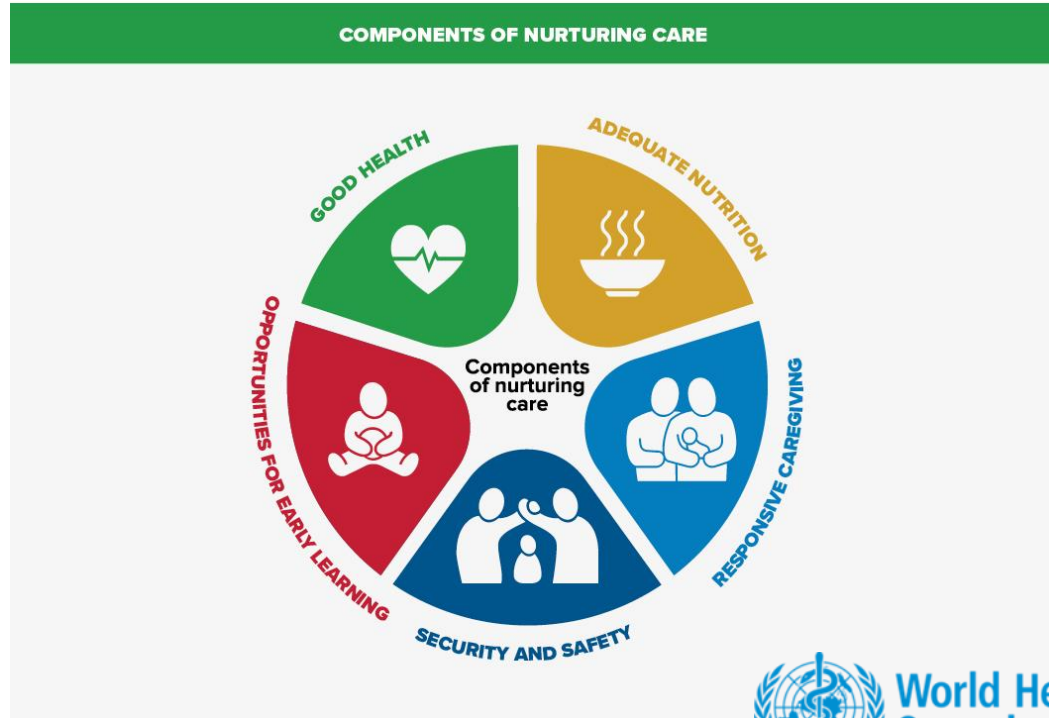
A road map that outlines:

1. Why efforts must begin in the earliest years, from pregnancy to age 3
2. How nurturing care protects children from the worst effects of adversity
3. What caregivers need in order to provide nurturing care

Nurturing care

What the child's brain needs and expects for optimal development

- Nutrition
- Health care
- Love and security
- Protection from danger
- Opportunities to learn and discover the world



Nurturing care interventions

Health and nutrition (examples)

- Maternal nutrition
- Family planning
- Prevention of substance abuse
- Antenatal care
- Child birth care
- Essential newborn care
- Breastfeeding
- Complementary feeding
- Immunization
- Management of childhood illness
- Care for maternal mental health
- Care for children with developmental difficulties

Security and safety (examples)

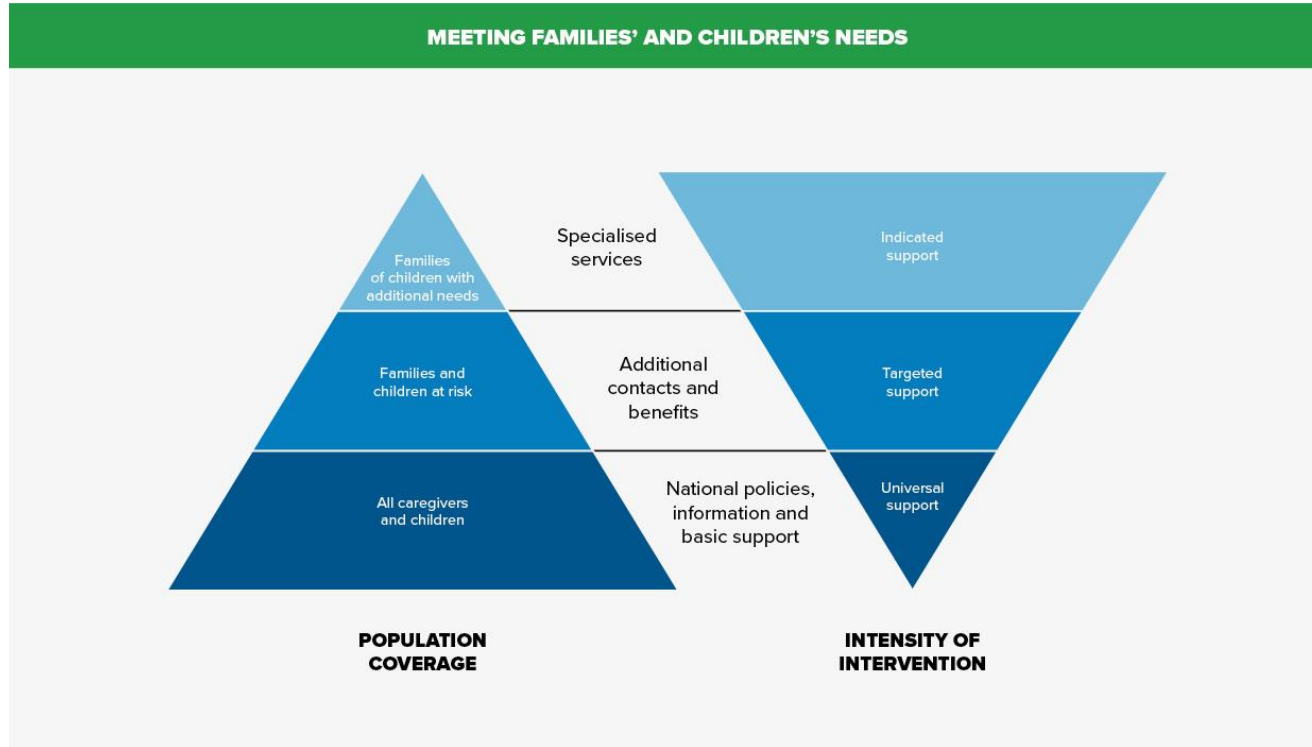
- Birth registration
- Safe water and sanitation
- Good hygiene
- Prevention of air pollution
- Clean environments
- Safe places for recreation
- Prevention of violence
- Cash transfers
- Social care

Responsive caregiving and early learning (examples)

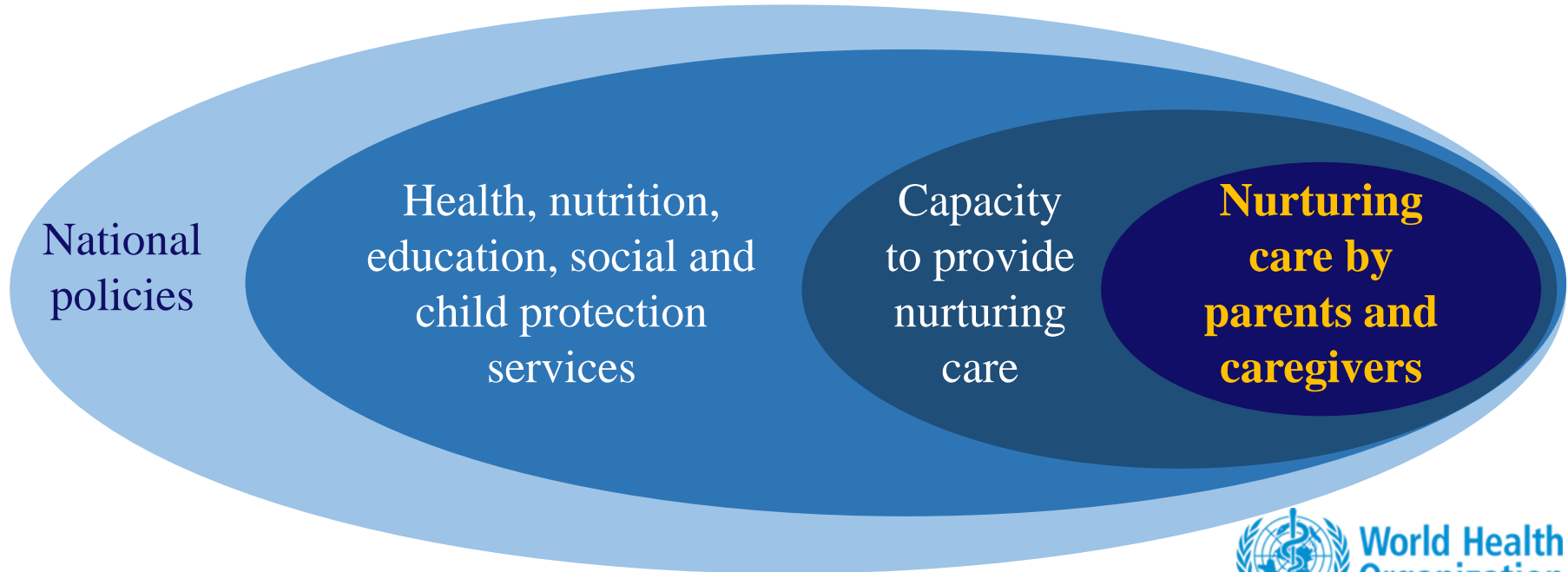
- Skin-to-skin contact after birth
- Kangaroo mother care for small babies
- Responsive feeding
- Play and communication
- Home made toys
- Book sharing
- Father's involvement in child care
- Quality child care
- Using local language

Meeting different needs

KMC follow-up meets the needs of PT and LBW infants



Nurturing care is fostered by a supportive environment



National policies

Health, nutrition, education, social and child protection services

Capacity to provide nurturing care

Nurturing care by parents and caregivers



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Rational for KMC follow-up

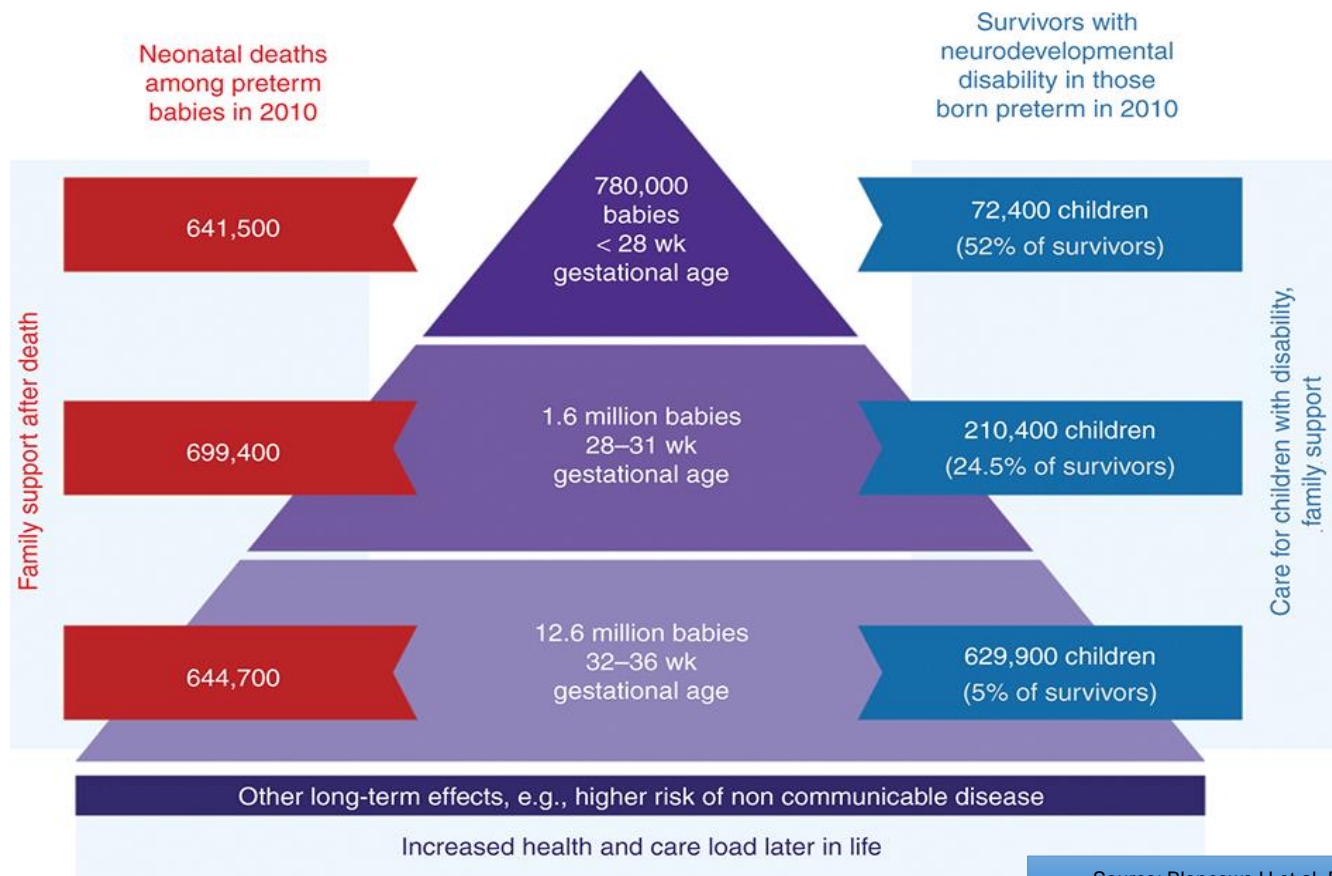
- 15 million PT infants every year, mostly in LMICs, many at risk of suboptimal development and illness
- KMC impact on brain development
- Value of KMC follow-up in providing care for ECD to PT infants

- Content? For how long? Feasibility? Acceptability? Cost?



Mortality and neurodevelopmental outcomes by GA

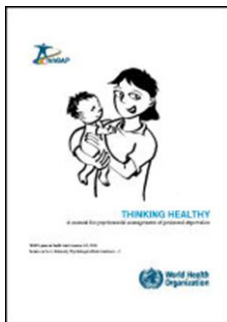
PT babies who could benefit from KMC follow-up



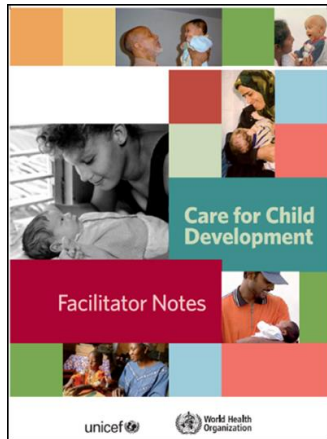
WHO Tools

Attention to both the caregiver and the child for ECD and KMC

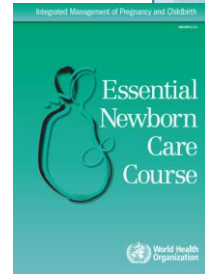
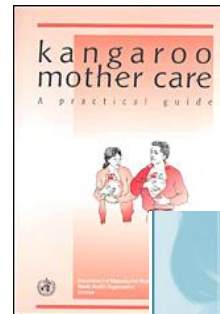
Addressing parental physical and mental health



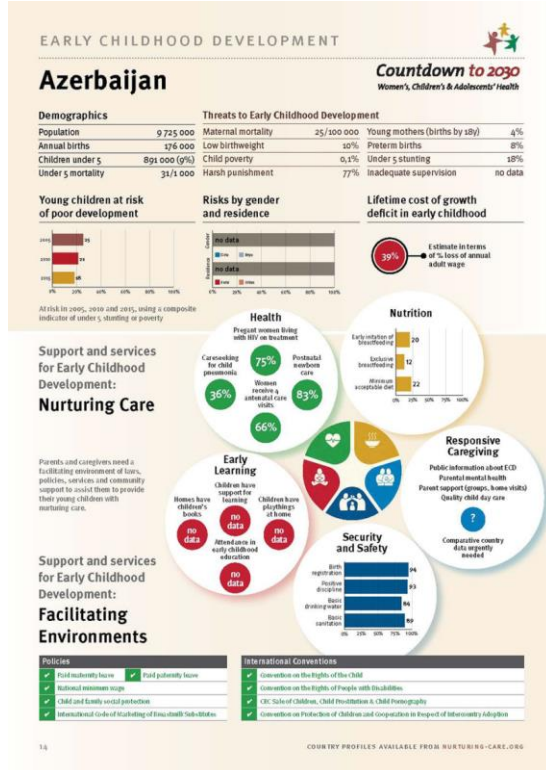
Addressing responsive caregiving and early learning



KMC



Country ECD profiles



- Available for 91 countries
- Based on verifiable data sources
- To track progress and account for results

<http://www.nurturing-care.org>

<http://www.ecdan.org/countries.html>

Moving forward

Normative guidance

- Development of guidelines to operationalize ‘nurturing care’
- Development/update of KMC guidelines

Implementation capacity

- Support for planning of comprehensive national RMNCAH strategies that address care of PT babies, KMC and ECD
- Capacity development for newborn care, KMC and ECD
- Supporting newborn care and ECD in humanitarian settings

Research

- Strengthening evidence of effective interventions for ECD, e.g. KMC
- Strengthening evidence of effective delivery strategies for the interventions

Partnerships

- Working with ENAP partners, Every Woman Every Child, PMNCH and ECDAN in support of KMC and an integral ECD agenda in countries

✓ Conclusions

- KMC follow-up is important for Early Child Development of preterm & LBW infants
- KMC programs should include strong follow-up services which address all aspects of nurturing care
- The ECD agenda offers opportunities to strengthen follow-up and care of PT and LBW infants during hospitalization and after discharge from the hospital





Thank you

Further information:

<http://www.who.int/life-course/en/>

<http://who.int/topics/early-child-development/en/>

www.everywomaneverychild.org