



# Scaling-up Early Childhood Development

## Effectiveness of ECD Mentor Coordinators in Promoting NCfECD



# Our approach to integrating ECD in the health system

PATH supports integration of NCfECD into the Health System via

**Objective 1:** Support the creation of an **enabling environment** for integration of ECD/nurturing care interventions into health systems

**Objective 2:** Improve **ECD/nurturing care practices** of caregivers of children 0–3 years through capacity building of service providers at health facility and community levels

**Objective 3:** Expand **knowledge and evidence-base** on feasibility and impact of promoted ECD/nurturing care interventions

# Child Health Providers & Nurturing Care

## Good Health

Antenatal & childbirth care | Essential care for newborns | Immunizations | Integrated management of childhood illnesses | Early detection of disabling conditions | Prevention & cessation of tobacco & alcohol use | Limit exposure to secondhand smoke

## Early Learning

Support early reading & play | Guidance on low-resource strategies to promote early learning | Monitor cognitive, physical, language, motor, social, & emotional development



## Security & Safety

Birth registration | Good hygiene practices | Guidance to reduce exposure to air pollution | Advocate for safe family & play places | Ensure social care services understand ECD

## Adequate Nutrition

Support breastfeeding | Monitor weight and height | Management of malnutrition | Promote diet diversity

## Responsive Caregiving

Skin-to-skin & Kangaroo care | Coach caregivers on play & responsive feeding | Milestone tracking

ECD Mentors, in partnership with designated government supervisors, provide supportive supervision, mentorship, and on-the-job training to trained service providers and Community Health Volunteers.

# Qualitative assessment of Mentor Coordinators role in integrating NCfECD in the health system in Siaya county

## Methodology

- Independent research assistants carried out a qualitative assessment using KI guide and recorded discussions
- interviewed 3 County Health Management Team members (CHMT), 6 Sub County medical Officers of Health (SCMOH), 6 Sub County ECD focal persons,
- Interviewed 12 facility-based Health Care Providers, 12 Community Health Assistants and, 12 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs).

## Analysis

- Transcription done from the recordings
- The key themes listed through preliminary data analysis
- Coding of data around the identified themes.
- Findings by Key themes

# Findings

- ECD Mentor coordinators role has ensured seamless integration of NCfECD into other health services; Responsive Care, Early Learning
- Ensured quality play box sessions in health facility waiting areas
- Supported integration of Responsive caregiving into household visits by CHVs
- Facilitated coordination of need-based mentorship and supportive supervision to HCPs, CHVs

*“By continuous mentoring of the healthcare workers and being consistent in supporting community health volunteers and reminding them what they are expected to do, so it keeps people know that nurturing care is an important thing” (CFP Gem)*

*“Our mentor coordinator has been part and parcel of the Sub County health management team. Her role has enabled the Sub County to successfully integrate Nurturing Care into routine health services” (Medical Officer of Health, Alego)*



ECD Mentor coordinator Training CHVs

# ECD Mentor coordinators in NCfECD

- ECD Mentor Coordinators are embedded as part of the Subcounty Health Management Team ensuring
  - I. Capacity building - OJT
  - II. Targeted mentorship- HCPs, CHAs and CHVs
  - III. Oversee developmental monitoring of children 0-3
  - IV. Support early identification, management and referral of developmental delays

*“The mentoring and capacity building using simple approach has made us to be able to provide quality services to the care givers say for areas of nutrition. I just admire the knowledge he uses in mentoring here” (Health Care Provider, Gem)*

*“This role has made it easier for our providers through training and regular mentorship to detect any cases of delayed milestone. Cases which were initially being missed out” (Medical Officer of Health, Alego)*



Mentor coordinator conducting health providers training and providing mentorship at facility

## Proposed key actions

1. Advocate for the County Government of Siaya to institutionalize the position of Mentor Coordinators through the Public Service Board to coordinate NCfECD integration in health facilities
2. Advocate for the ringfencing of resources and dedicated budget lines for NCfECD in the Siaya County annual fiscal plans.
3. Document and present the Siaya Mentor Coordinator model for replication in other counties in Kenya

# Thank you!

