

# Evaluation of the Feasibility and Effectiveness of a Health facility-based combined with home-based Early Childhood Development (ECD) intervention in Siaya County, Kenya: Findings from Baseline Qualitative Survey

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# Integrating ECD in Health Care System

- Linking an ECD intervention to primary health care has several advantages:
  - Excellent coverage and compliance with child health visits
  - Saving on additional staff costs as it can be implemented by existing clinic staff
  - Requires no additional time for parents at the clinic
  - No adverse effects of adding the intervention on nutrition or immunization status of the children



# PATH's Intervention



## **COUNSELLING CARDS FOR HEALTH FACILITIES** Counsel the family with pregnant women and children 0-3 years on **Care for Child Development**



**These counselling cards on stimulation and nutrition complement existing job aids in use at health facilities**

**Inspired by the *Care for Child Development* package (WHO/UNICEF)**



# Aim of PATH's Intervention

- To improve caregiver **sensitivity** and **responsiveness**, hence **childcare practices**, and consequently child **developmental outcomes**



# How?

- Improve sensitive and responsive interactions between caregiver and child
  - Building caregiver skills to stimulate child's development Via daily interactions & play – counselling & playboxes
- Improve nutritional practices—especially for pregnant and breastfeeding women and children 6–23 months
  - Counselling by CHVs & health providers at critical touch points
- Detect and address problems in child development
  - Strengthen screening and referral systems



# CCD In Clinical Consultations



ANC

MATERNITY /PNC

CWC / HEI

SICK CHILD (IMCI)

PED. WARDS

PHYSIO

- 1) Check developmental milestones
- 2) Ask how caregiver plays & talks with the child
- 3) Help practice a new age-appropriate stimulating activity
- 4) Advise & help problem-solve how to continue play at home



# CCD in Facility Waiting Rooms (CHV)



1) Share key messages on child development & importance of play

2) Engage caregivers in playing with their children

Counsel individual caregivers showing problems

interacting with children



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# CCD in CHV Home Visits



1. Check developmental milestones
2. Ask how caregiver plays & talks with the child
3. Help practice a new age-appropriate stimulating activity
4. Praise & help problem-solve how to continue play at home





# Methodology

- Evaluation of PATH's intervention
- Three armed mixed method RCT conducted in Bondo, Siaya County
- First arm receives intervention at the facility and in the community
- Second arm receive facility based intervention only
- Third arm MOH standard care (control)
- 18 facilities randomly selected and stratified at ward level.



# Methodology

- KIIs, IDIs and FGDs utilized to collect data
- Qualitative data focused on:
  - Current service provision
  - Current childcare practices
  - Perceptions on how children grow
  - Current child care practices
  - ECD policies,
  - Challenges in service provision,
  - Religious and cultural practices, and
  - Trainings needs of the health service providers



# Results and Discussion

- Children are growing well despite some incidences of malnutrition
- Elements of stimulation and responsive caregiving reported
- There are no child friendly/play corners at the facilities
- Training on nurturing care was mentioned a need



# Results and Discussion

## Facilitators/enablers of this intervention:

- Presence of a robust community health strategy
- Support from the county government
- CHVs availability and support
- Availability of mother/child booklet that has CCD recommendation
- Existing strategies such as health education at the facility

## Barriers to the implementation:

- Shortage of staff
- Inadequate infrastructural space
- Negative religious and cultural practices



# Conclusion

Health service providers perceive that integrating ECD into existing health facility service provision is feasible.

