

# BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING INTEGRATED NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION (ECI) SYSTEMS

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# WEBINAR OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

## ■ **Webinar Objectives**

Identify organisational elements and processes for developing or strengthening Integrated National ECI Systems

Consider options for securing government and diversified support for developing a robust integrated national ECI system

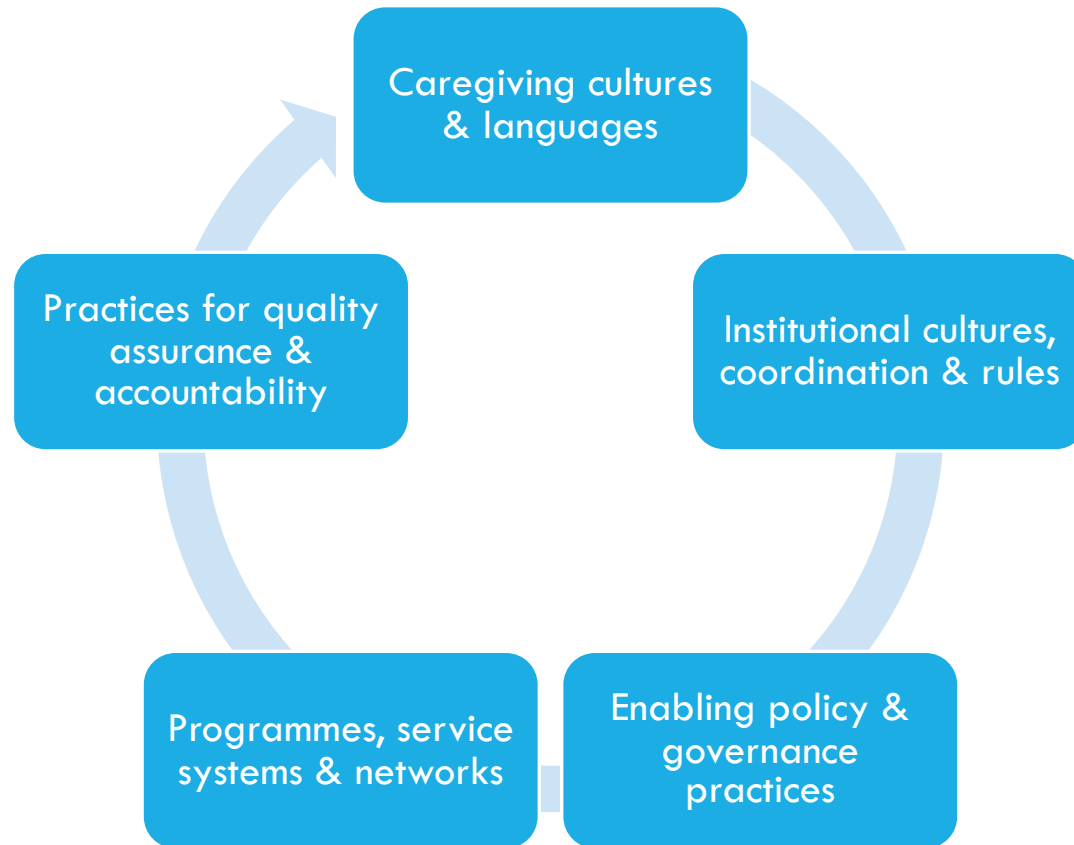
Request and discuss your questions and interests

## ■ **Desired Outcomes**

You will become more aware of the basic elements of an Integrated National ECI System

You will consider options for including these elements in your country's efforts to develop an ECI System

# EACH COUNTRY HAS UNIQUE CULTURES, ORGANISATIONAL & SERVICE PRACTICES





## WHAT ARE ECI SERVICES?

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services are multi-sectoral, integrated and transdisciplinary or interdisciplinary.

They are designed to support families with young children from birth to three years and up to five years, who have at-risk situations, developmental delays, disabilities, and behavioural or mental health needs.

ECI programs include a range of family-centred and individualized services to improve child development and resilience.

They seek to strengthen family competencies and parenting skills to help children achieve their developmental potential.

They often involve advocacy for the educational and social inclusion of these children and their families.

# WHAT SERVICES DO ECI PROGRAMMES USUALLY PROVIDE?

1. Child Find: community outreach to identify potentially eligible children
2. Developmental screening &/or physician-led surveillance & monitoring
3. Referrals from NICUs, physicians, parents, nutrition & protection services, parenting programmes, childcare, pre-primary schools, etc.
4. Comprehensive & specialized developmental assessments
5. Family, parenting, nutritional & safety assessments
6. ECI eligibility & Individualised Family Service Plans (IFSP)
7. Regular visits in the natural environment of the child

# WHAT SERVICES DO ECI PROGRAMMES USUALLY PROVIDE?

8. Case management
9. Revisions of assessments & IFSPs
10. Optional: Toy making, peer group sessions, family counselling, family support services, respite care, etc.
11. Transition services
12. Advocacy & public awareness
13. Networking activities



## WHAT IS AN INTEGRATED SERVICE SYSTEM?

An integrated service system has **one lead ministry or agency** and an **organisational framework with other ministries**, such as education, health, nutrition, WASH, family welfare, justice/rights and protection to ensure a **coherent set of activities** are conducted in all regions of a country.

The integrated system has **an ECI Office usually in the lead ministry that provides one single administration for ECI services** that works to achieve seamless coordination, quality assurance, and full accountability through supporting community-based ECI services.



## WHAT IS AN INTEGRATED SERVICE SYSTEM?

The integrated system seeks to achieve a **common vision, mission, and objectives and coordinates the system to achieve a high level of service efficiency and effectiveness.**

It is recommended that the integrated service system also have a **coalition or network of national organisations** that provide ECI services.



# WHAT IS THE MAJOR CHALLENGE FACED IN ESTABLISHING WELL-FUNCTIONING & EFFECTIVE ECI SYSTEMS IN WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA?

Many **legacy systems** for children with disabilities still exist. They often have dedicated and well-trained specialists with extensive knowledge and experience. However, they tend to:

- Be managed by the medical/health sector
- Feature mainly medical diagnoses conducted by physicians to establish child's programme eligibility
- Provide separate therapeutic services for each type of disability
- Employ therapists and other specialists who provide one-on-one therapies for each child, discipline by discipline
- Provide services in rehabilitation hospitals, clinics or centres but rarely in the natural setting of the child (home, childcare centre, preschool, playgrounds)
- Make decisions for parents

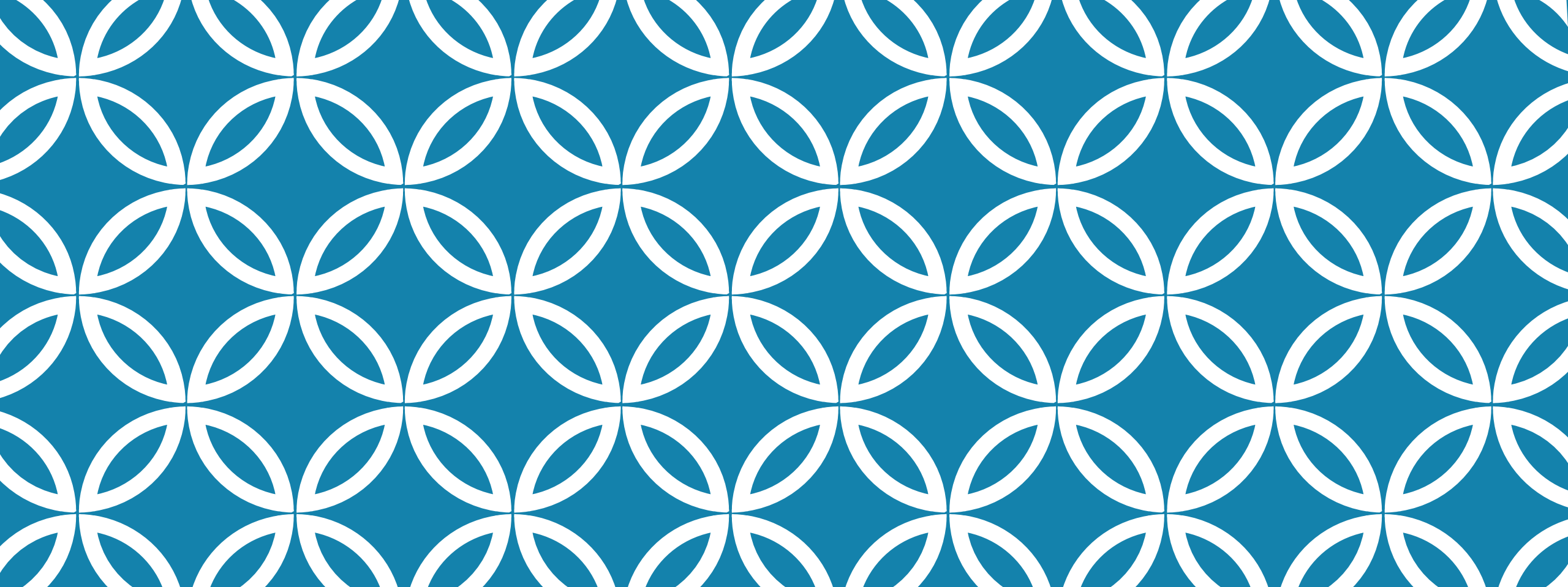
# EVIDENCE-BASED, CONTEMPORARY ECI SERVICES: 45 YEARS OF RESEARCH

- Are mainly managed by the education sector, and some by social protection or health sectors
- Are family-focused rather than child-focused, and integrated and interdisciplinary rather than disciplinary
- Assess eligibility at the programme level using physician's diagnoses and comprehensive developmental assessments
- Provide balanced and comprehensive services, including several disciplines and Early Intervention Specialists (EIS)
- Offer individualised services for each family and child in all developmental areas
- Focus on coaching and mentoring parents, who do playful and nurturing developmental activities with their child during daily childcare routines
- Offer services in the natural environment of the child (in home about 80% of time)
- Ensure service decisions are made by parents or legal guardians



## 8 KEY ELEMENTS OF INTEGRATED NATIONAL ECI SYSTEMS

1. Established and recognised legal basis
2. Normative basis of law with core principles and rules for conduct and methods
3. Integrated organizational and leadership system
4. ECI interdisciplinary workforce and professional development system
5. Public awareness, policy advocacy, and community outreach activities
6. Community-based developmental screening, identification, and referral process
7. Integrated management and supervisory system for quality assurance
8. Multisectoral monitoring and evaluation system for accountability and planning



## OPTIONS FOR KEY ECI ELEMENTS





## 1. ESTABLISHED & RECOGNISED LEGAL BASIS



Strategic Plan with Action Plan



Legislation



Inclusion of ECI sections in other policies



Two or three options together

## 2. NORMATIVE BASIS OF LAW: CORE PRINCIPLES & RULES FOR ECI SERVICES, STANDARDS & STRUCTURES



National ECI Guidelines & Procedures



Service, personnel & performance standards



Accreditation or licensing of ECI programmes:  
official recognition, qualifications & approval  
of services

### 3. INTEGRATED ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK & LEADERSHIP SYSTEM: FOR MANAGEMENT, COORDINATION, PLANNING & SERVICE PROVISION

- Lead ECI sector selected
- National Multisectoral ECI Council
- National Multisectoral ECI Technical Committee
- National ECI Office
- Regional ECI Committees
- Community ECI Committees
- National Coalition or Network of ECI Organisations

## 4. ECI INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKFORCE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

Interdisciplinary: professionals, paraprofessionals & volunteers

Pre-service training & continuous in-service training

Certification/licensing

Career paths (informal), ladders (vertical) or lattices (vertical, horizontal and diagonal)

Salary scales linked to experience, training, performance & seniority



## 5. PUBLIC AWARENESS, POLICY ADVOCACY, & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Plan for public awareness communications, policy advocacy & community outreach

Annual public awareness campaigns

Policy advocacy initiatives linked to systems development

Community outreach & Child Find to identify children & families needing ECI services

## 6. COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING, IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL PROCESS

- National plan for developmental screening, Identification & referrals
- Selection, adaptation & validation of a screening tool
- Training for screening (parents, caregivers, teachers & nurses)
- Referrals to ECI and reporting back to referral sources
- Referral monitoring

## 7. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT & SUPERVISORY SYSTEM FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE



Managerial system to support all ECI services



Supervisory framework at national, regional & community service levels



Reflective supervision linked with in-service training



Performance reviews linked to professional development & certification/licensing

## 8. MULTISECTORAL ECI MONITORING & EVALUATION SYSTEM

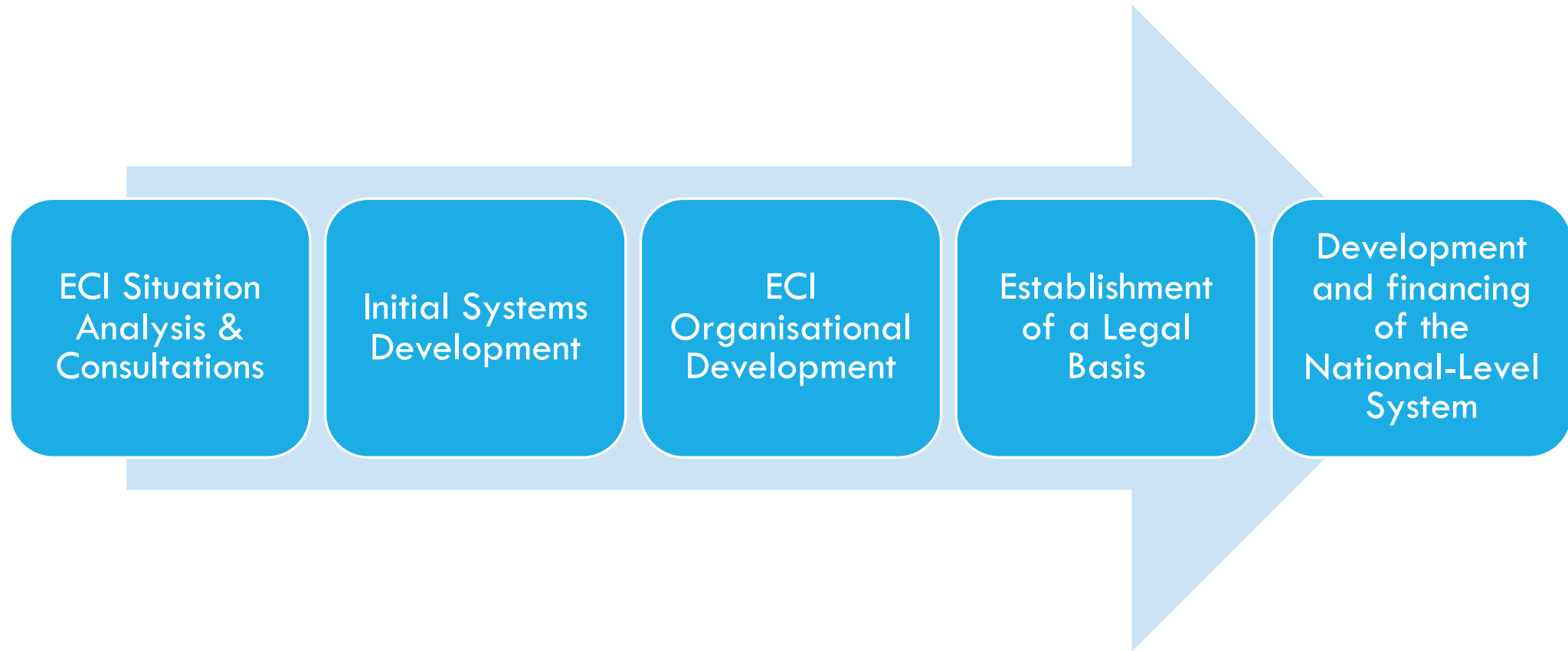
M&E on programme implementation processes, outputs & outcomes, with interagency agreements, indicators, definitions, measures, templates & targets

Studies on rates of children with at-risk situations, developmental delays, disabilities, & behavioural & mental health needs

Longitudinal research regarding child & family development

Design or adaptation, translation, field testing & use of programme, screening & research instruments, methods, materials & media

# WHAT ARE THE MAJOR PHASES OF THE PROCESS TO DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL ECI SYSTEM



# CONDUCT ECI SITUATION ANALYSIS & CONSULTATIONS

## **Assess current status of ECI services and of children & families**

- Socio-demographic study of children & families -- nationally & by region
- Resource mapping
  - Services
  - Workforce
  - Training capacity
  - Financial resources
- Policy analysis
- Consultation workshops: needs & recommendations,
- Conclusions & recommendations for ECI system

# BEGIN INITIAL SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

- Establish a general vision for building an Integrated National ECI System
- Support all existing ECI services & pilot projects while planning ECI system
- Assist existing legacy services, offering training, technical support & exchanges with contemporary ECI programmes
- Identify & study 'lessons learned' by existing ECI services
- Encourage the addition of ECI sections in relevant sectoral & multisectoral policies & laws

# FOCUS ON ECI ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Select lead ECI Ministry or Agency & partner ministries, agencies, organisations, universities, training institutes, parent associations, & others
- Establish national high-level ECI Council & ECI Technical Committee, & their ToRs
- OR
- National Steering Committee and Technical Committee for ECI Strategic Planning
- Consider establishing an ECI Office in a Government ministry or agency & link it with all ECI programmes
- Complete rest of system later



# ESTABLISH LEGAL BASIS OF INTEGRATED NATIONAL ECI SYSTEM

- Develop & adopt national ECI Strategic Plan & Action Plan &/or Law
- Establish or strengthen the ECI Office
- Establish Community ECI Committees
- Possibly begin to develop Regional ECI Committees
- Consider developing an ECI Coalition or Network or reinforce existing structures

## DEVELOP NATIONAL LEVEL SYSTEM & FINANCES: PARALLEL ACTIVITIES

- Prepare & adopt ECI Guidelines & Procedures
- Create ECI service, personnel & performance standards
- Establish accreditation/licensing
- Design a professional development plan – training, certification/licensing, salary scales & career development
- Develop a managerial & supervisory framework linked to professional development activities
- Multisectoral ECI M&E system with reporting & planning cycles
- Systems research: national rates of disability & delays, longitudinal research on child & family development, design & adaptation of instruments, programme methods, materials, and outcomes research projects (implementation science)

# FINANCING INTEGRATED NATIONAL ECI SYSTEMS

**Gain strong government support for ECI in order to ensure your country will:**

- Fulfil national commitments to CRC, CRPD, & other rights documents
- Ensure all children achieve their full potential & become productive citizens

**Governmental resources** usually provide **core funding** for recurrent ECI programme costs & some developmental, in-service training, tools, & materials costs

- 75%-80% of each ECI programme's annual costs

**Governmental sources:**

- Central government: lead & partner ministries & agencies
- Regional governments
- District or municipal governments

**Policy advocacy** must be conducted with ministries of finance, parliament, lead & partner ministries, including interior, justice, and communications

# TYPES OF GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR ECI PROGRAMMES

- Annual contracts (often by number of children to be served at any one time)
- Annual grants (often by achievement of outputs & outcomes)
- Per capita payments, depending upon numbers of children served per month or year
- Voucher systems provided to families who give them, in turn, to programmes they select
- Government insurance reimbursement system, reimbursement for services rendered (expensive & complex to manage)

## 20%-25%: DIVERSIFIED FUNDING SUPPORT

- National & international foundation grants
- NGOs, FBOs, CSOs, CBOs
- Employee/participant cooperatives
- Private sector support
- Employee funds
- Benefactors
- **Fundraising activities**
- Parent fees, on a sliding scale

LET US BEGIN A DIALOGUE!  
WHAT IS YOUR COUNTRY'S SITUATION???

