Discussion

Maureen Black, Ph.D.
University of Maryland School of Medicine
mblack@peds.umaryland.edu
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MICS

Strengths

- Voices from developing countries where >90% of the world’s children live
- Systematic data collection across multiple countries
- Reflect Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Publically available

Weaknesses

- Exclusively parent (maternal) report
- Very limited sampling of items
- Many items limited to Yes/No responses
- Little attention to within-country variation
Ecological Perspective to Early Child Development

• Country
  ▪ Cultural norms and laws (child protection)

• Community
  ▪ Home-based services (0-3)
  ▪ Nutrition and health services

• Family
  ▪ Resources, support, employment
  ▪ Feeding and socialization practices
  ▪ Stress and mental health
  ▪ Beliefs about childrearing

• Child
  ▪ Growth, health, temperament
World map by quartiles of Human Development Index in 2011
Human Development Index

Examine how caregiving practices relate to overall HDI and to each component, controlling for the other two.
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Preschool enrolment by region and income – less than 20% for poorer income quintiles

Proportion of young children attending preschool in 58 low-income and middle-income countries by income quintile within country summed across sample countries by region. Data are from UNICEF’s 2005 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 3 for children aged 3 and 4 years.
Figure 3: Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test standard scores by country and quintile of expenditure. Data for children (aged 5–6 years) speaking the majority language of the region or country (in parentheses). Lancet, 2011.
Examine how caregiving practices relate to overall HDI and to each component, controlling for the other two.

Is the HDI too distal for children’s development?
Child Development Index

The *Child Development Index* (CDI) is an index combining each country's performance measures specific to children - primary education, child health and child nutrition - to produce a score on a scale of 0 to 100. A zero score would be the best. The higher the score, the worse children are faring.
Development of inequality

- Optimum
- Recovery
- Below potential

Bezhastructural competence trajectories

Brain function

Risk factors > protective factors

Protective > risk factors

Reduction in risk factors, increase in protective factors, or intervention during a sensitive period

Prenatal, Birth, Early childhood, Adolescence, Adulthood

Lancet, 2011
Why Use Priority Setting To Establish An Early Child Development Research Agenda?

• Priority setting is a fair and legitimate method of determining how to allocate resources\(^1\)
  - Fairness comes from incorporating multiple perspectives in the formation of the issues
    - Risk and protective factors for ECD identified by the 2011 *Lancet* series on ECD
  - Legitimacy comes from involving a relatively large and diverse group of stakeholders
    - Global group of ECD experts assembled by UNICEF

\(^1\)Daniels and Sabin, 2002, *Setting limits fairly: can we learn to share medical resources?* Oxford: Oxford University Press
Second Global Consultation: Early Childhood Development Research Innocenti Center, Florence, Italy February 2012
Background of Participants

**Primary Professional Role**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning/Policy</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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**Professional Setting**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>International Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
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<td>University</td>
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<td>Foundation</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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Background of Participants

Disciplinary Training

- Psychology: 14
- Education: 8
- Medicine: 6
- Nutrition: 4
- Public Health: 2
- Anthropology: 2
- Economics: 1
- Child Development: 1
- Communication: 1
- Epidemiology: 1
- Other: 4
### ECD Risk Factors, Protective Factors, and Interventions Identified in 2011 *Lancet* Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Protective Factors &amp; Interventions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron Deficiency</td>
<td>Breastfeeding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iodine Deficiency</td>
<td>Maternal Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undernutrition</td>
<td>Income Security</td>
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<td>Lack of Stimulation</td>
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<td>IUGR</td>
<td>Parent-Child Responsivity</td>
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<td>Malaria</td>
<td>Parenting</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Preschool</td>
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<td>ECD Indicators</td>
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Priority Scale Rating Exercise

• 2-day meeting on Early Childhood Development Research
• Multiple presentations on ECD research and activities
• At the conclusion, participants invited to complete the ECD Research Priority Setting exercise:

• Rating system:
  - 1: Not needed
  - 2: Low Priority
  - 3: Medium Priority
  - 4: High Priority
  - 5: Top Priority
  - Missing – Not needed
Categories To Consider

- Basic Research
- Implementation Research
- Quality Assurance
- How To Scale Up
- Policy

- Feasibility
- Importance
- Investment Value
Investment: Top 5 Risk & Intervention

### Risk Factors

- Undernutrition: 55.3
- Violence: 53.2
- Lack stim: 51
- Iron: 42.6
- Mat Depression: 38.3

### Intervention

- Parent-Child Resp: 57.4
- Nutr ECD: 57.4
- ECD Indicators: 57.4
- Maternal Ed: 55.4
- Nutrition: 55.4
## Conclusions: Priority Areas for Early Child Development Research Agenda

### Risk Factors
- Iron Deficiency (3)
- Iodine Deficiency (0)
- Undernutrition (7)
- Lack of Stimulation (8)
- IUGR (2)
- Malaria (1)
- HIV (0)
- Lead (0)
- Maternal Depression (7)
- Institutionalization (4)
- Violence Exposure (7)

### Protective Factors & Interventions
- Breastfeeding (0)
- Maternal Education (1)
- Income Security (0)
- Food Security (0)
- Parent-Child Responsivity (7)
- Parenting (7)
- Preschool (4)
- Nutrition (2)
- Media (0)
- Cash Transfer (1)
- Integrated Nutrition/ECD (8)
- Integrated Health/ECD (4)
- ECD Indicators (7)
Thank You!!