

MEASURING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Developing Country Experiences :

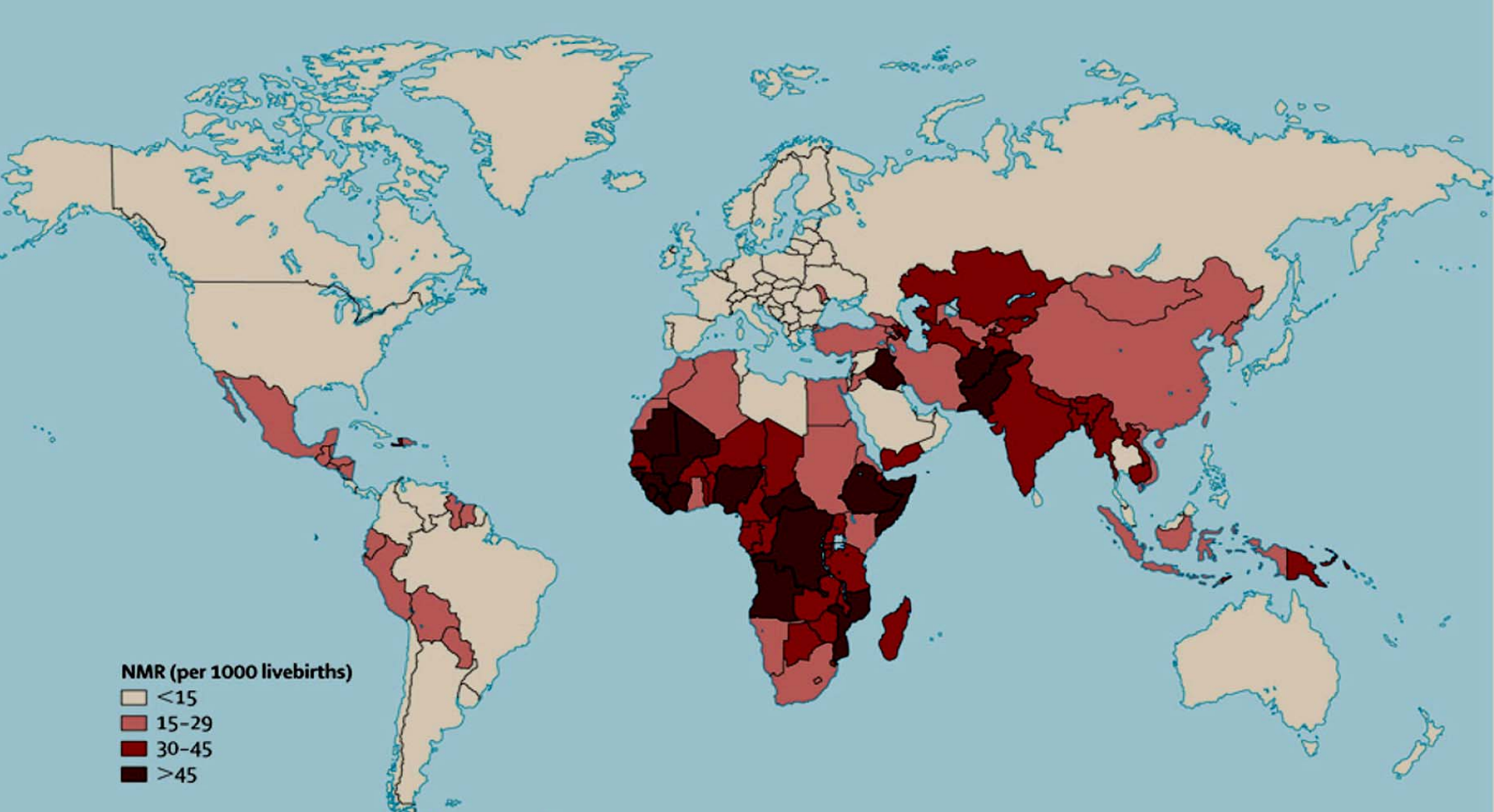
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Presentation

- Introduction
- Measures of ECD
 - Process Measures of early childhood development:
 - Measure of the child's development
- Kenyan Experience
- Recommendations

4 million newborn deaths - Where?



99% of newborn deaths are in low/middle income countries
66% in Africa and Southeast Asia
Within countries neonatal mortality is higher for the poor

Introduction

- Integration of Early childhood development - only recently gained attention
- Gap still remains in multi-sectoral approach to early childhood development - vertical programmes implemented by various stakeholders.
- Little experience in comprehensive and continuous measurement of early childhood development from prenatal period to 8 years of age – most on project/pilot basis.

Introduction (Contd)

- Early childhood development in developing countries is greatly influenced by culture - *measurement must take this into consideration.*
- Other factors include poverty, malnutrition and high prevalence of infectious diseases including effects of HIV/AIDS.

Introduction (Contd)

- Culture pressures and training interact with the basic maturation of the organism to alter the level of performance of particular skills in the population as a whole.
- Without specific training, some children may still acquire these skills given enough time for incidental and random learning.
- Skill that is assigned importance and promoted by a culture, is acquired more easily

Measures of ECD

1. Process Measures of early childhood development:

(Provision of healthy and stimulating environment for ECD).

- Efforts to reduce poverty – Child-Friendly PRSP
- Child Survival and mortality

Measures of ECD (Contd)

1. Process Measures of early childhood development (Contd):

- Child care patterns - Protection from abusive and violent environment
- Psychosocial stimulation of children
- Child health and nutrition - Protection from and management of childhood illnesses and malnutrition

Measures of ECD (Contd)

2. Measure of the child's development:

- Motor development

- Social Development
 - - Social interaction with adults
 - - Social interaction with peers
 - - Dealing with diversity
 - - Social participation



Measures of ECD (Contd)

2. Measure of the child's development (Contd):

- Emotional
 - - Emotional regulation
 - - *Coping with death and bereavement*
- Cognitive
 - Interest in learning
 - - Numbers and Mathematics
 - - Order and measurements
 - - Language comprehension and expression
 - - Reading
 - - Writing

Measures of ECD (Contd)

2. Measure of the child's development (Contd):

- Thin line between social participation and child abuse.
- In the African context a child must participate in domestic chores as a learning experience.
- This can however result in child labour if unchecked -especially where poverty is prevalent.

Kenyan experience

- Some National indicators: Source; KDHS 2003
 - Population: 32.2 million – 19% urban
 - Under 5 years population: 15.9%
 - Neonatal Mortality Rate: 33/1000
 - Infant Mortality Rate: 77/1000 live births
 - Under 5 Mortality Rate: 115/1000 live births
 - Maternal mortality Ratio – 414/100,000 lb
 - HIV prevalence: 6.7%
 - Literacy rate: Female-78.5%, Male-88.1%
 - Life expectancy at birth 56.6 yrs
 - GDP per capita (2000) - US\$345

Kenyan experience

a. Poverty Reduction

- Kenya is implementing the Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation (ERS)

- ERS places great emphasis on health and education including:
 - Free and universal primary education,
 - Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI),
 - Social Health Insurance
 - Elimination of Child labour etc –

These have great impact on early childhood development

Kenyan experience (Contd)

- b. **ECD Policy**
 - ECD has been implemented through vertical programmes with little integration
 - Kenya is in developing an Early Childhood Development Policy through a multisectoral technical committee.
 - Will ensure integrated ECD services and an integrated monitoring system.

Kenyan experience (Contd)

b. ECD Policy (Contd)

- The policy will define the role of the Ministries of Health and Education, other line government ministries and other stakeholders.
- Will Define the age groups and their requirements.

Kenyan experience (Contd)

c. Educational Assessment

- Normally done on children suspected to have learning disabilities
- Implemented under Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE).
- Educational Assessment and Resource Centres established in each Province (Region).

Kenyan experience (Contd)

c. Educational Assessment (Contd)

- Assessment includes:
 - Background information from Caregiver,
 - history of epilepsy
 - Visual and Hearing assessment,
 - Motor development,
 - mental development
 - speech and language development,
 - social and emotional development.

Kenyan experience (Contd)

c. Educational Assessment (Contd)

- Indicators used can assess children from birth up to 16 years

- A team comprising of ECD teacher, occupational therapist and physiotherapist, doctor, psychologist, and special education teacher.
 - Where a member of the team is absent, the child is referred to them as appropriate.

- The assessment tools were developed by KISE through wide consultations

Kenyan experience (Contd)

c. Educational Assessment (Contd)

- No routine assessment of all children before admission to ECD centres or primary schools
- Plans are under way to train ECD teachers on ECD Assessment

Kenyan experience (Contd)

d. Routine assessment of Early Childhood Development

- Not yet been institutionalized in the country.
- Growth monitoring is a routine exercise in the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) clinics.
- A new child health card that includes selected indicators of child development is being developed for piloting

Kenyan experience (Contd)

d. Routine assessment of Early Childhood Development (Contd)

- Counseling on care for development is being integrated into the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) guidelines.
- Plans are under way to develop guidelines for screening children attending MCH clinics, and at the community level, for developmental problems.

Recommendations

- Need to develop standards for measurement of early childhood development in the different social and cultural environments.
- Studies need to be done to determine how psychological tests done in developed countries can be adapted and applied to the African countries.
- More effort is required to scale up implementation of ECD interventions and improve monitoring of early childhood development through advocacy, resource mobilization and operational research.