

## THE MINUTES OF JOINT COORDINATION MEETING

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**Venue:** Lemigo Hotel, Kigali.  
**Date:** JuLY 31st, 2018  
**Chaired by:** Dr. Anita Asiimwe, National ECD Coordinator  
**Co-Chaired by:** Mr. Banda Michael, Ag. Deputy UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE

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### The Joint Coordination Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks; Incorporated
  - One District Approach
  - Minimum ECD standards
  - ECD guidelines
  - ECD training Curriculum
  - Overview of the National Gender and Family Cluster guidelines
  - Closing Remarks and Way Forward.

### The meeting background

The Joint Coordination Meeting (JCM) was held at Lemigo Hotel on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. This meeting brought together government institutions and development partners. The JCM is chaired by National Early Childhood Development Program (NECDP) and Co-chaired by UNICEF.

The main objective of the JCM was accelerating reduction of stunting in Rwanda through integrated ECD services.

To strengthen the JCM and gather partners' interventions as it is an important coordination mechanism among integrated ECD services partners, to share information and planning processes.

## Opening of Joint Coordination Meeting

In her opening remarks, Dr. Anita Asiimwe, National ECDP Coordinator, thanked and welcomed participants to the meeting. She mentioned the meeting as important coordination mechanism of integrated ECD Services.

She said that this Joint Coordination Meeting (JCM) is meant to exist as the platform where all partners in integrated ECD services share information on planning processes, and other information in order to agree on priorities and issue that could be collectively pushed forward for positive and sustainable impact on integrated ECD services. While the work we do is for all Rwandan children, she reminded that special attention is paid on integrated ECD services because this is a critical in child development.

She once again thanked all those present for their participation and officially opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Coordination Meeting (JCM).

The JCM proceeded with the presentations and plenary discussions.

Acting for the co-chair, Michael Banda, emphasized on the importance of One District Approach (ODA) and the main objective is delivering a seamless *integrated package of ECD services* in one whole district: benefiting from synergistic effects of pulling resources (staff, time and money), aimed at improving child development outcomes, targeting same households and communities

### **The ODA approach, if implemented properly will lead to:**

- Maximum impact- on families and children (synergistic effects)
- Leverage the resource basket to address immediate and pressing needs
- Foster stronger partnerships at district level (coordination)
- Address inequities- improved access to social services at family level (equity focus)
- Creation of a stronger evidence base for integrated approaches to inform policy and future scale up plans

### **Other consideration for the technical team**



- Mobilize a multi sectoral workforce to deliver integrated ECD programme at community level- defining roles and responsibilities of the social workforce
- Inclusion of the Private Sector Partners- defining the modality of engagement with the private sector through a shared value approach
- Social Marketing Strategy development to ensure that there is a sufficient awareness to trigger uptake of defined services and products by communities and families
- 360 feedback platform consideration in designing coordination mechanisms must take into account sharing progress/challenges with all stake holders- parents, front line workers, district officials, IP partners, and NECDP and line Ministries

### **The presentation on the Minimum ECD standards**

The Head of Department (HoD) of Early Learning, Parent Education, Child protection and Inclusiveness, Freya De Clercq followed to present on the Minimum ECD standards.

She pointed out how ECD Minimum Standard was reviewed in June 2018 to serve as better guide to the ECD stakeholders in implementing quality integrated ECD services for children aged 0-6 and their parents. The adoption of these reviewed minimum standards will contribute to NECDP's goals for 2024 to increase the access of integrated ECD services from 13% to 80% and to accelerate the reduction of stunting among children aged 0-2 from 38% to 19%.

The NECDP wishes to acknowledge and thank stakeholders at different levels and from different institutions (such as INGOs, local NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, and Government Institutions), all striving for the welfare of young children, for providing their time and inputs in the review of the ECD Minimum Standards.

**Recommendations:** The document to be shared with specialists from the different area for review before sending it to partners for final recommendation before validation

### **The presentation on the ECD guideline**

The Head of Department (HoD) of Nutrition and WASH, Mucyumbitsi Alexis presented the ECD guidelines where he emphasized why integrated ECD guideline which are the following:






Early childhood development program should be integrated with existing family support, health, nutrition, or educational systems, be high quality (whether formal or informal) and provide support to parents, child takers and caregivers

Child growth and brain development depend on good nutrition and stimulation and caretaker emotional responsiveness

The brain is most responsive in the first three years of life. This is when it grows and develops fastest

There is strong evidence that combined program improve growth and developmental outcomes in short and long term

Early child development activities improve maternal mood if conducted using groups and home visits

Regular mother and baby groups to do ECD activities build resilience and increase networks of social support. They provide a non-stigmatizing way of supporting vulnerable women and children exposed to violence

### **Sections of ECD guideline**

He pointed out that this document is divided into 8 sections dealing with the continuum of early childhood development services. These sections are:

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Importance of providing quality early childhood development services,
- ✓ Key pillars of early childhood development,
- ✓ Inter-sectoral collaboration,
- ✓ Quality & inclusive ECD services,
- ✓ Guideline for the physical environment,
- ✓ Guideline for didactic materials and toys,
- ✓ Management, supervision, and accountability of program for children

### **Recommendation:**

To present the guideline in the form of a matrix for easy usage

To share the matrix with partners for review and final recommendation before validation

### **The presentation on the ECD training Curriculum**

ECD training Curriculum was presented by Iradukunda Diane, Child Protection Specialist. In her presentation the ECD Training Curriculum was divided into three parts, these include:

- ECD Resource Manual
- ECD Trainer Guide
- ECD Trainee Guide

Mrs. Iradukunda Diane said that under ECD Resource Manual has the following content

- Foreword
- Appreciation
- Terminologies
- Table of Content
- Acronyms
- Rationale of ECD Resource Manual
- Beneficiaries of the Resource Manual
- How the curriculum should be used?
- Key Lessons in 12 Chapters per integrated ECD components

#### **Recommendation:**

The document to be shared for review before validation by end of August

### **The presentation on the NGFC guidelines**

The last presentation on the guidelines of National Gender and Family Cluster (NGFC) was delivered by the Nadja Piironen, Bilateral Associate Expert, MIGEPROF. She introduced the NGFC, its structure, and how its different part will work and cooperate separately and with each other. She also introduced the structure of the NGFC Strategic plan and explained its role as a key document, outlining

the work of the NGFC. She then spoke briefly about the current efforts to develop the first of such a strategic plan.

**Agreement:**

Partners agreed to change the name of the Joint coordination meeting to the ECD Sub-Cluster Meeting

**Key Resolutions from the Joint Coordination Meeting:**

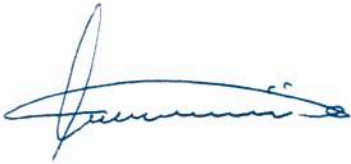
- For future: to share documents ahead of time but for strategic guidance/input
- Moses to share the presentation to all partners after the meeting
- By Friday: the matrix will be sent to all partners, so that by next week we'll be having feedback in 2 weeks
- In 2 weeks: to share the minimum standards and guidelines to all partners
- Validation of minimum standards meeting to be organized with one item on the agenda: the document to be validated.
- Validation of training curriculum by end of August
- Joint coordination team to become the ECD sub-cluster meeting by October
- In the next sub-cluster meeting: the chairs of the working groups will do a 10 min presentation of the status of the group by October

**The closing of the Joint Coordination Meeting (JCM)**

After the presentation and the following discussion, Co-chair of JCM (UNICEF) Mr. Banda Michael the Ag. UNICEF representative, He once again thanked everyone present for their attendance and for their enthusiasm for the road ahead. He said that the Joint Coordination Meeting is very crucial to scale up the integrated ECD services. He believed, it could truly strengthen the work we do. He then reminded the participants of their key role in making the Joint Coordination Meeting functional. And from the reactions in today's joint coordination meeting he was encouraged and felt that this is an endeavor that can allow us all to take the big leaps ahead of us together.



**Minutes taken by:**



**Moses Tumusiime**

Partnership and  
Resource  
Mobilization

NECDP

**Approved by Co- Chair:**



**Michael Banda**

Ag. Deputy UNICEF  
Representative



**Approved by Co-Chair:**


**Dr. Anita Asimwe**

National ECDP  
Coordinator