**Estimate of early childhood developmental delays and disabilities**

Myanmar lacks a national assessment of prevailing rates of developmental delays, disabilities and atypical behaviours in young children, and survey is urgently needed for purposes of appropriately planning and targeting ECI and related health, nutrition, sanitation, education and protection services.

However, by joining together

- rates of moderate to severe stunting (35.1%),
- childhood anaemia (64.6%), and
- the approximate rate of disabilities in children under five years of age (7%),

it may be

- estimated that at least 42% to 45% of young Myanmar children and their families require ECI services.

**The status of young children in Myanmar constitutes a national emergency.**

It is essential to develop a national ECI service system to improve child development, achieve human and disability rights, increase national workforce productivity, and reduce future costs for health, nutrition and remedial education.

**Results of International Research**

Above image demonstrates the reason of developmental delays in stunted children. The neural pathways of stunted children are fewer and narrower compare to that of well developed children.

**ECI must be early**

The earlier children are discovered to be developmentally delayed and are given ECI services, the better the outcomes are. Usually about 70% of children become as close to typical levels of development by age 3, and follow up is encouraged to age 5.

**Rates of Return to Human Capital Investment at Different Ages**

Research evidence from many countries reveal that ECCD provides a very high return on investment ranging from $3 to $17 US dollars for every $1 invested in ECCD. (Heckman, 2006)
ECCI Vision Statement

All of Myanmar’s vulnerable children from birth to five years of age with developmental delays, malnutrition, disabilities and other special needs are able to access high-quality ECI services in order to enjoy their rights and achieve their full developmental potential.

SDG Target 4.2

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre—primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

The National ECI Strategic Plan of Myanmar is fully consistent with and supports the implementation of provisions under Articles 23.3* and 25.b* of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD):

*23.3 States Parties shall ensure that children with disabilities have equal rights with respect to family life. With a view to realising these rights, and to prevent concealment, abandonment, neglect and segregation of children with disabilities, States Parties shall undertake to provide early and comprehensive information, services and support to children with disabilities and their families.

*25.b States Parties shall... provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimise and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons.
ECI services will identify, screen and assess vulnerable children, with parents and professionals working together to achieve balanced child development through implementing individualised service plans to create stimulating, safe, protected and hygienic home environments.

- ECI services will be designed and prepared from 2015 to 2017.
- Pilot projects will be implemented in three Regions or States during 2017-2018.
- Through continuously expanding ECI services, by 2021 all 21 States, Regions and Self-Administered Areas will have begun some ECI services.
- By 2025, all vulnerable children in communities of all Townships will be served.

### ECI Strategic Priorities

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Flow Chart of ECI Services

Community Outreach & ‘Child Find’

Child Screening

If delay found referred to ECI Services

If no delay or concern referred to ECCD services

Initial ECI Intake

Formation of Transdisciplinary Team & lead EIS with Parents as members

Child & Family Assessment with Parents & Professionals

Eligibility Status Established

Preparation of Individualised Service Plan

Regular Home &/ or Child Caregiver Visits & Family Support services

Regular Re-Assessments & Plan Revision

Continued services until exit or transition

Programme Exit and follow up as needed, or Preparation of Transition Plan

Transition Plan activities conducted

Entry into inclusive preschool Kindergarten or primary school

Follow up with teachers as needed

Offered moderate to low intensity services

If at risk placed on Re-screening List

Child rescreened after 6 months

If not eligible placed on Re-screening List

Offered moderate to low intensity services

Referred to ECCD services

Child rescreened after 6 months