JAMAICA’S NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SECTOR 2008 -2013

Maureen Samms – Vaughan
Professor of Child Health & Development, UWI Chairman, Early Childhood Commission, Jamaica
Outline of Presentation

- Background to Jamaica
- Background to the Development of a National Strategic Plan (NSP) for ECD
- Developmental Process
- Structure of the NSP (7 Key Processes)
- Highlights of Critical Pathways
- Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (Details of 2 of the 7 Processes)
- Financing
- Successes and Challenges
FACTS ON JAMAICA

- Population of 2.7 million

- 3rd Largest English Speaking Country in the Americas, behind USA and Canada

- Classified as a Developing Country

- Lower Middle Income Economy

- Recent HDI Ranking (2009) puts Jamaica at 100th out of 182 countries for which there is data
BACKGROUND TO DEVELOPMENT OF JAMAICA’S NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ECD
EC HEALTH AND EDUCATION FACTS

HEALTH (beginnings in 1930s)
- 360 Health Centres for well child care for 0-6 yrs
- 90% of persons live within 5 miles of a health centre
- 90% of children immunised at well-child clinics
- Regular growth monitoring, 90% well nourished
- Limited other services: risk screening, parenting

EDUCATION (beginnings in 1930s)
- Approximately 3,000 EC Centres in Jamaica
- 95% of children 3-6 years enrolled, 10% of children 0-3yrs
- Quality varies tremendously, with poorer children having lower quality services
THE BEGINNING OF CHANGE

- Research emerging locally and internationally on the importance of ECD

- In 1995, Strategic review of ECD sector was recommended to develop a co-ordinated ECD programme. Supported by UNICEF

- Review identified much was happening in ECD in Jamaica, but poorly co-ordinated

- Recommended the establishment of a national cross-sectoral co-ordinating body for ECD, The Early Childhood Commission
DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE CROSS-SECTORAL NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN
DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS
(Eight Steps)

- Establishment of a co-ordinating cross-sectoral agency
- Development of the vision
- Identification of existing resources, information sources and gaps
- Conduct of studies to fill information gaps
- Consultation with all stakeholders
- Development of plan, including costing
- Development of Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategies
- Development of Financing Strategies
1. ESTABLISHING A CROSS SECTORAL BODY

Early Childhood Commission established by an Act of Parliament 2003

FUNCTIONS:
- Advise Minister of Education on ECD Policy
- Convene consultations with stakeholders
- Co-ordinate and monitor ECD Plans and Programmes
- Make recommendations for sector financing
- Identify sources of funding for EC sector
- Regulate EC Centres
- Conduct Research in ECD
- Provide information to public on ECD status
2. DEVELOPMENT OF VISION FOR ECD

An integrated and co-ordinated delivery of quality early childhood programmes and services, which provide equity and access for children 0-8 years within healthy, safe and nurturing environments.
Coherence

- Early intervention
- Social services
- Family support
- Health
- Education
- Policy framework and NSP

Positive Child Outcomes
3. IDENTIFICATION OF EXISTING INFORMATION

INTERNATIONAL (General Guidance):
- Science of ECD and others

LOCAL (Specific):
- KPMG Review of EC Sector (2000) - Policy Based/Administrative SitAn
- Profiles Project (2001) - Study on factors affecting young child outcomes.
- NPA for ECD (2006-2010) (From CPA)
4. IDENTIFICATION OF INFORMATION GAPS AND CONDUCT OF STUDIES

- Parenting in Early Childhood
- Services for Children 0-3 years
- Teacher Qualification Survey
- Public Expenditure Review on ECD
- Social Assessment of Impact of ECD Plan
- Economic Assessment of ECD Plan
5. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS &
6. DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN, INCLUDING FINANCING

- Consultation with stakeholders (inc. policy makers, parents, educators) allowed for congruence between stakeholders’ wishes and available information

- Development of Strategy Map

- Development of Critical Pathways to achieve strategies, with timelines for achieving tasks

- Costing of Plan
## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SECTOR
### STRATEGY MAP – OCTOBER 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Impact</th>
<th>Customer Satisfaction</th>
<th>Key Processes</th>
<th>Working Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I1. Critical thinking, socially competent, healthy children ready for life</strong></td>
<td><strong>Our children’s special needs are taken care of</strong></td>
<td><strong>IP1: Effective parenting education and support</strong></td>
<td><strong>LG1: The sector and sector agencies are achieving targets and are governed by frameworks that promote achieving results in a consultative environment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I2. Parents are informed, educated, involved and supported in meeting early childhood development needs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fathers, mothers, guardians are involved and satisfied with services provided to their children</strong></td>
<td><strong>IP2: Effective preventive health care</strong></td>
<td><strong>LG2: Timely clear and current information to support evidence based decision making</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IP3: Effective screening, diagnosis and intervention for “at risk”</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>IP4: Safe learner centred well-maintained EC facilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IP5: Effective curriculum delivery by trained early childhood practitioners</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>LG1: The sector and sector agencies are achieving targets and are governed by frameworks that promote achieving results in a consultative environment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIGHLIGHTS OF CRITICAL PATHWAYS I

PARENTING:

- Development of accessible Parent support and education programmes delivered through well child clinics and EC Centres, accessible to all
- Development of Parent Facilitator Training Programmes
- Development of an Accreditation System for Parenting Programmes

PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

- Improved Immunisation and preventive health care services through clinic accreditation
- Development of Nutrition policy and programmes for Homes through well child clinics and EC Centres, including provision of Nutrition Manuals, Recipes and training programmes to all Centres
HIGHLIGHTS OF CRITICAL PATHWAYS II

SCREENING AND EARLY INTERVENTION:
- Development of National Screening, Referral and Early Identification Policy, Programmes and Services
- Provision of support to high risk families and children at risk

SAFE LEARNER CENTRED EC FACILITIES
- Development of national standards, inspection and registration system for EC Centres
- Implementation of regulatory framework for EC Centres
- Establishment of Development Support Services to assist EC Centres in meeting standards
HIGHLIGHTS OF CRITICAL PATHWAYS III

CURRICULUM DELIVERY BY TRAINED TEACHERS
- Provision of curriculum to all ECIs; accessible to parents at National Libraries
- Increased provision of teacher training opportunities
- Advocacy for adequate remuneration for EC professionals

TIMELY AND CURRENT INFORMATION (Evidenced Based Decision Making)
- Monitor child development through national population surveys, health clinic visits and readiness evaluations at EC Centres at 4 years
PROJECT OUTCOME OBJECTIVES (2013)

1. 55% of parents have received structured parenting information

2. a) 60% of children screened for developmental and behavioural risks using passport  
    b) 70% of poorest Households receiving CCT(PATH) households are screened using model for high risk households

3. 30% of well child clinics accredited

4. 25% of children attend ECIs that are registered

5. 50% of pre-school teachers being paid by the Government of Jamaica are licensed (trained)
OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Improved Child Development

- Measures of national standardised assessment at 4 years at 2011 and 2013 show improvement

- Measures of child development using population based measures from Jamaican Survey of Living Conditions (national household survey) at 2011 and 2013 show improved child development
EARNINGS AND DIRECT COST: COMPUTING RETURNS TO NSP INVESTMENT
IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION
PERFORMANCE BASED SYSTEM

- There are at least 9 targets to be met by the end of each financial year, with at least one target in each of the seven areas that effect the NSP: (5 Key Processes and 2 Working Environment).

- Numerous monitoring indicators each year. Many of the monitoring indicators in the early years must be accomplished for targets to be met in later years.

- Targets are cross sectoral:
  - 50% of targets are within the ECC
  - 33% of targets are within the MOH
  - Others MOE, MOLSS, PIOJ, Teacher Training Institutions

- Early targets (first 2 years) primarily developmental, later targets (final 3 yrs.) reflect implementation.
MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE
Coordinated by ECC

- MOU’s signed between ECC and partner agencies / ministries each year, outlining responsibilities

- MOUs also allow agencies/ministries to identify budgeting needs for ECD for each year

- Cross-sectoral planning and budgeting meeting planned each year, to ensure targets budgeted for

- ECC submits co-ordinated ECD budget to Ministry of Finance

- Ministry of Finance’s target is budget execution rate
PROCESS 1

EFFECTIVE PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

GOAL:
To provide parents with accessible and high quality parent education and support allowing for optimal development of children
PREPARATORY WORK: PARENTING RESEARCH I

- Research on parenting in EC Period to guide development of parenting interventions conducted

- International information available

- Local information available for pre-school and early primary years (Profiles Project)

- Very limited information on 0-3 years
Local and international research indicated high quality parenting education and support was associated with optimum development and behaviour for young children.

Only a third of families of children 0-6 yrs. received parenting support (2004).

Most parents at primary education level.

Quality of parenting programmes very variable.
CRITICAL PATHWAY: PARENTING I

- Develop parent support strategy for families of children 0-6 yrs based on available research (1, 2)

- Ensure parenting programme quality through development of standards (3)

- Ensure Trainer / Facilitator quality through curriculum and resource material development and reproduction (3,4).

- Public Education Strategy developed and implemented (2,3,4)
STATUS OF PARENTING TARGETS 2009-11

- Parenting sub-strategy 0-3 yrs. approved
- Parenting sub-strategy 4-6 yrs approved
- Parenting Standards approved
- 45% of parents of children 0-6 yrs have received structured information on parenting
- EC Parenting Public Awareness campaign launched
PARENTING TARGETS FOR 2012-13

- Annual Review Publication maps parenting programmes (12)

- 30% of parenting programmes accredited (13)

- 50% of parents of children 0-6 yrs have received structured parenting information (12)

- 55% of parents of children 0-6 yrs have received structured parenting information (13)
PROCESS 4

SAFE, LEARNER-CENTRED, WELL-MAINTAINED PRESCHOOL S

GOAL:
To improve the quality of services offered by early childhood institutions
Daycare Quality & Stress Levels
(Cortisol Levels: Group size / ratios)

CRITICAL PATHWAYS: HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOLS I

- Public Education on new laws governing operations of pre-schools (Early Childhood Act & Regulations 2005) (1)

- Development / distribution of Standards document to all pre-schools (1)

- Development of application process (1) for registration of pre-schools

- Preschools receive initial inspection (1,2), and are subsequently regularly inspected against standards
CRITICAL PATHWAYS: HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOLS

- Programme of technical support to assist preschools in meeting standards through EC Development Officers (2,3,4,5)

- Inspection process identifies gaps in health and safety and development plans made with pre-schools (1,2)

- Preschool staff trained in critical areas of health and safety (2,3,4,5)
STATUS OF QUALITY PRESCHOOL TARGETS 09-11

- 10% of children attend pre-schools that are registered
- 10% of pre-schools are registered
- 90% of ECIs have submitted a complete application for registration (43%)
- 35 trained inspectors on staff
- ≥90% of ECIs have received a complete inspection
- 85% of ECIs have received a complete inspection in the previous fiscal year (42%)
- 40% of ECIs satisfy health and safety requirements (4.5%)
STATUS OF QUALITY PRE-SCHOOL TARGETS 09-11

- <50% of teachers are at Level 1 or have no qualification
- ≥ 60 development officers trained and in the field
- HR Strategy for Levels II, II and IV developed and approved by ECC
- Licensing system for teachers developed and approved by MOE
- 35% of teachers are at Level 2 or above (32%)
- 3 EC Resource Centres enrolling ≥75 Level II trainee teachers (2)
QUALITY PRE-SCHOOL TARGETS FOR 2012-13

- 15% of children attend ECIs that are registered (12)
- 25% of children attend ECIs that are registered (13)

- 15% of ECIs are registered (12)
- 25% of ECIs are registered (13)

- 90% of ECIs have submitted a complete application for registration (12,13)
- 35 trained inspectors on staff (12,13)
QUALITY PRE-SCHOOL TARGETS FOR 2012-13

- >90% of ECIs have received a complete inspection (12, 13)
- 85% of ECIs have received a complete inspection in the previous fiscal year (12, 13)
- 45% of ECIs satisfy health and safety requirements (12)
- 50% of ECIs satisfy health and safety requirements (13)
QUALITY PRE-SCHOOL TARGETS FOR 2012-13

- 75% of ECIs have at least 1 practitioner trained in health and safety (12)
- 90% of ECIs have at least 1 practitioner trained in health and safety (13)

- Detailed information on ECIs meeting standards continues to be accessible to the public (12,13)

- Enrollment rate of >95% for 4-6 year olds and out of pocket fee payment for parents is maintained (12,13)
FINANCING
FINANCING

- The NSP increases government expenditure to (46 US$ over current rate of US$213/yr/child)
- WB Loan covers 22% of the increase
- Government is expected to increase investment in ECD over time
- Loan is linked to Performance Based targets
- Other local and international development partners buy into different areas of the NSP. IDB and UNICEF support different aspects of the NSP
SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES I

- ECC established as central agency for ECD co-ordination
  (Acceptance of this has been difficult for some existing stakeholders)

- Channelling and co-ordination of GOJ ECD Activities and donor funds to single NSP goal
  (Donor fund co-ordination still a work in progress, but majority of IDP and major Local DP funds invested in NSP)

- Cross-sectoral work is inherently difficult. ECC co-ordinates but can’t mandate targets outside its control
  (This is tough work, but progress continues to be made)
SUCCESES AND CHALLENGES II

- Revision of targets has been necessary based on review at mid-term. (Mid-term review was built in to the NSP for this purpose). New information generated by NSP and challenges with effecting some processes has delayed some targets.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Technical and Financial Support of World Bank in development of Jamaica’s first cross-sectoral National Strategic Plan for ECD