



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MINISTRY OF GENERAL EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD NUTRITION

MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY OF GENERAL EDUCATION

Vision:

Quality lifelong education for all, which is inclusive and relevant to individuals, national and global needs.

Mission:

To enable and provide an education system that will meet the needs of Zambia and its people.

Strategic objective:

Uphold the right to education for survival, healthy growth, education and holistic development of children under the age of 7 years.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- Education Act, 2011
- Education policy, 1996
- School Health and Nutrition policy, 2006
- Early Childhood Education (ECE) Policy (awaiting cabinet approval)
- ECE policy implementation Plan

POLICY PRIORITIES

Early Childhood stimulation and nutrition policy priorities

1. Increased access to Early Childhood services for children from disadvantaged backgrounds
2. Integrating nutrition interventions at ECE centres
3. Improved water and sanitation facilities at the ECE centres
4. Strengthening multisectoral coordination mechanisms to ensure holistic delivery of ECE services



ECE POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased access to ECE from 16% to 29% between 2012 and 2016
- This is largely attributed to Government interventions such as annexing of ECE centres and deployment of teachers



CHALLENGES

- Despite increased access to ECE, child malnutrition remains a major challenge in Zambia with stunting levels at 40% (Zambia Demographic Health Surveys, 2014).
- There are limited nutrition interventions at the ECE centres with less than 30% of ECE having a feeding programme

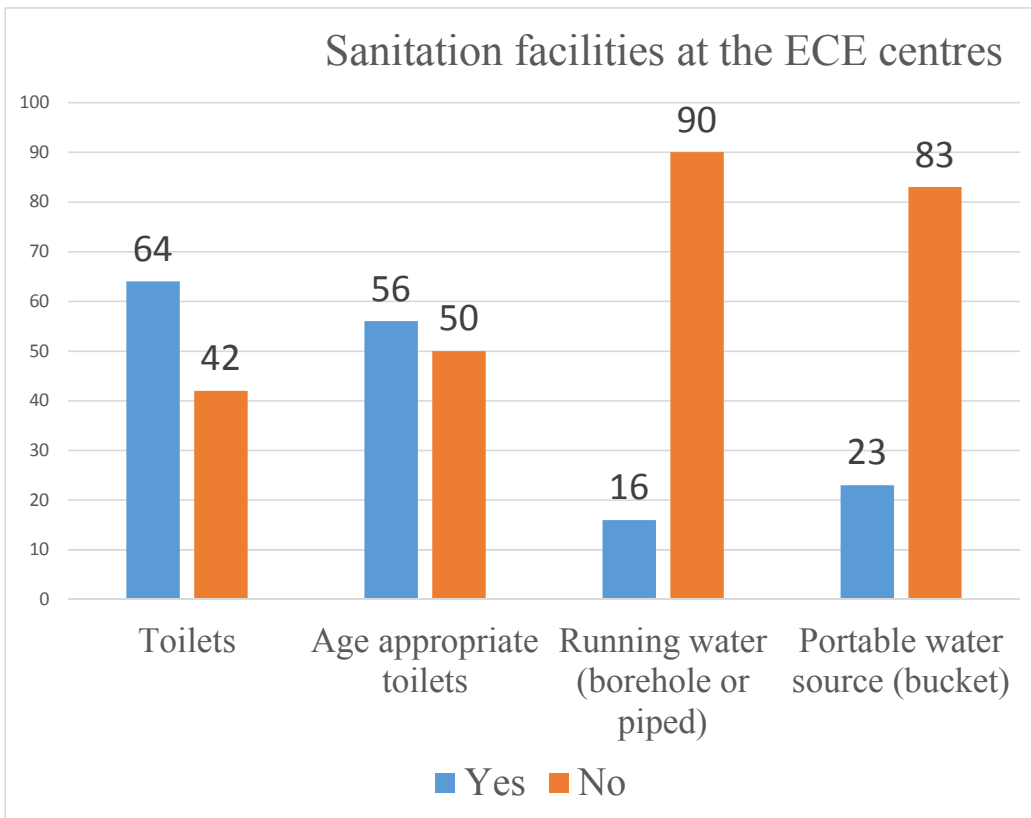
STATUS OF FEEDING PROGRAMME AT ECE CENTRES

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FEEDING PROGRAMME

S/NO	PROVINCE	NO ECE CENTRES	ECE CENTRE WITH FEEDING	NUMBER OF TOTAL LEARNERS		LEARNERS FEEDING		% OF LEARNERS FEEDING
				BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS	GIRLS	
1	EASTERN	294	144	9162	17604	3984	4852	33
2	NORTH WESTERN	80	19	1830	1988	592	589	30.9
3	WESTERN	464	66	5091	5614	1588	1800	31.6
4	SOUTHERN	710	162	12729	1395	4066	4276	32.2
5	LUAPULA	264	90	6318	6973	2540	2838	40.5
6	COPPERBELT	388	82	12318	13290	1485	1433	11.4
7	NORTHERN	140	89	4463	4723	1958	2103	44.2
8	MUCHINGA	126	12	3448	3773	284	280	7.8
9	CENTRAL	442	85	9215	8675	2599	2368	27.8
10	LUSAKA	371	21	5036	5781	698	772	13.6
	NATIONAL	3279	770	69610	69816	19794	21311	27.6

WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES

Water and sanitation facilities



- World Bank ECE mapping in four of the 10 provinces of Zambia found:
 - Roughly half of sampled ECE centres had age appropriate toilet facilities
 - Inadequate access to safe and clean water at the ECE centres

ECE POLICY INTERVENTION

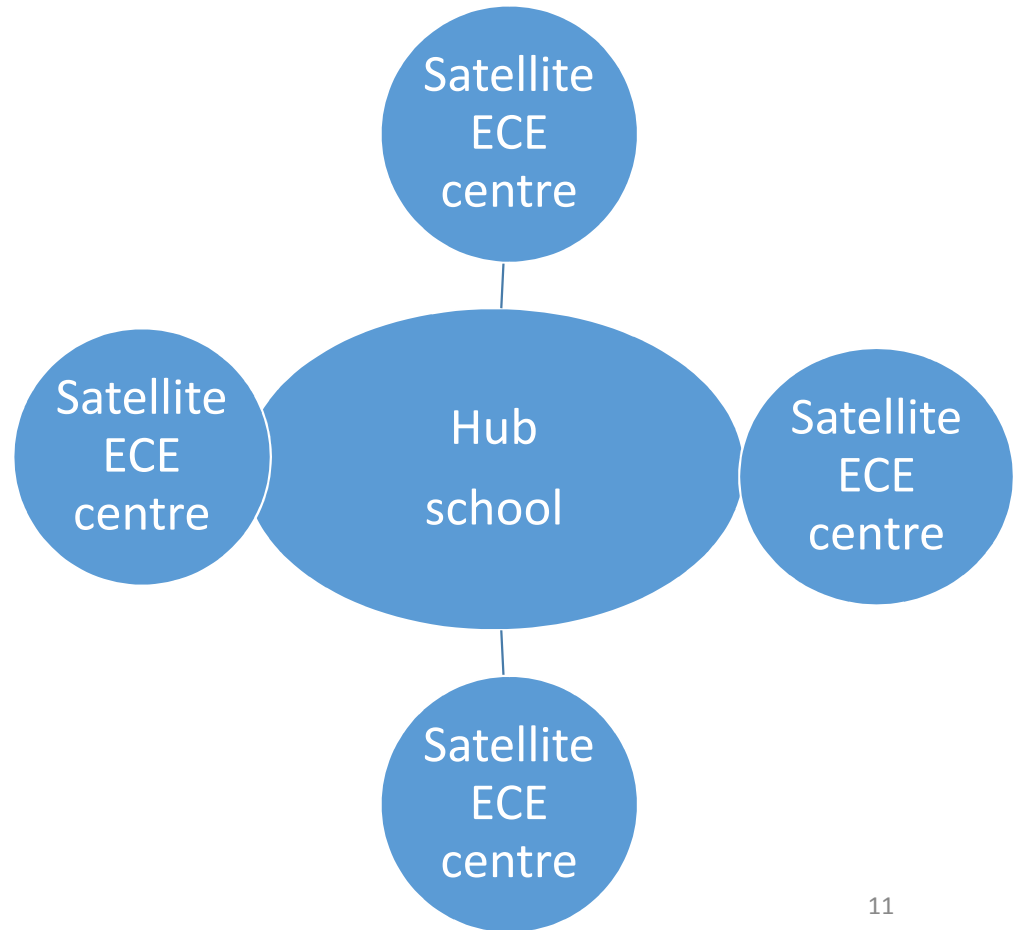
- To better promote improved nutrition and child development, the Ministry of General Education has developed an integrated low-cost ECD model which has since been piloted in two of the 120 districts of Zambia (Katete and Petauke)
- The low-cost model aims to enhance access to quality ECE services for children in rural areas through integration of health and nutrition interventions.
- The low cost model is implemented through establishment of satellite centres within the community.
- The satellite centres are located near a government gazette school that serves as the HUB.

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INTEGRATED LOW-COST ECD MODEL

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INTEGRATED LOW-COST ECD MODEL

- **Nutrition-sensitive interventions**
- School feeding programme
- Micronutrient supplementation
- Community sensitization on:
 - Food production and crop diversification
 - Food processing and preservation
 - Healthy feeding practices

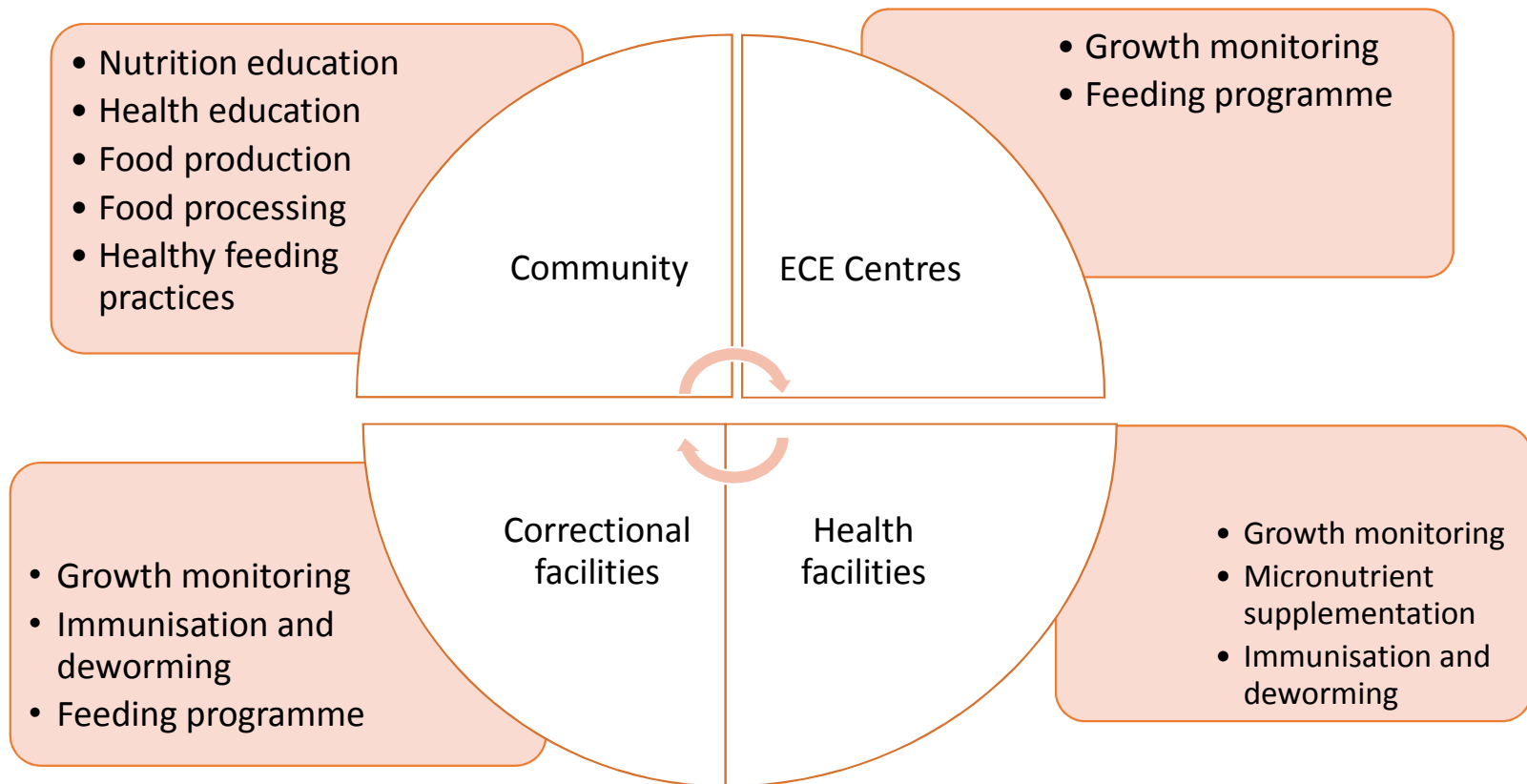


INTEGRATED LOW-COST ECD MODEL

Nutrition-specific interventions

- Regular supply of clean and safe drinking water
- Adequate hand washing facilities
- Safe refuse disposal systems
- Health education
- Growth monitoring
- Prevention of communicable diseases
- Immunisation and deworming

Implementation mechanism



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION

The integrated low cost ECD model provides great potential for multisectoral coordination across sectors:

- **Ministry of Health**
 - Growth monitoring, micronutrient supplementation, immunization, and health education
- **Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare**
 - Community mobilization/ sensitization, and social cash transfer
- **Ministry of Agriculture**
 - Nutrition-sensitive interventions
 - Promotion of home-grown school feeding programme
 - Farmer Support Input programme at household and ECE centres
- **Ministry of Water and Sanitation**
 - Provision of clean and safe drinking water at ECE centres

SUMMARY

The integration of nutrition in ECD interventions has been identified as a policy priority to ensure children reach their optimal potential.

However achieving this policy goal would require:

- Adequate funding to the ECD sector
- Synergising with existing nutrition interventions such as Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiatives and social protection to leverage resources
- Strengthening multisectoral coordination across line Ministries

Plans going forward

- Scaling up the integrated low cost ECE model to the 10 provinces of Zambia
- Training of Community Health Workers (CHWs), nurses, and nutritionists on the integrated low-cost model.
- Strengthen collaboration between the Directorate of Early Childhood Education and Directorate of Open and Distance Education (DODE) in the implementation of the parenting package through Interactive Radio Instruction
- Strengthen multisectoral coordination mechanisms

