



IMPROVING EALY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA



BACKGROUND

Understanding the importance of investment in young children and their families, the Government of Rwanda established in October 2017 the National ECD Program (NECDP) , with the responsibility for coordinating the implementation of all interventions that support adequate ECD for children from their conception to 6 years of age. through six pillars such as :

- ✓ Nutrition
- ✓ Hygiene
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Early stimulation
- ✓ Positive parenting
- ✓ School readiness

ECD pillars issues in Rwanda (DHS2015)

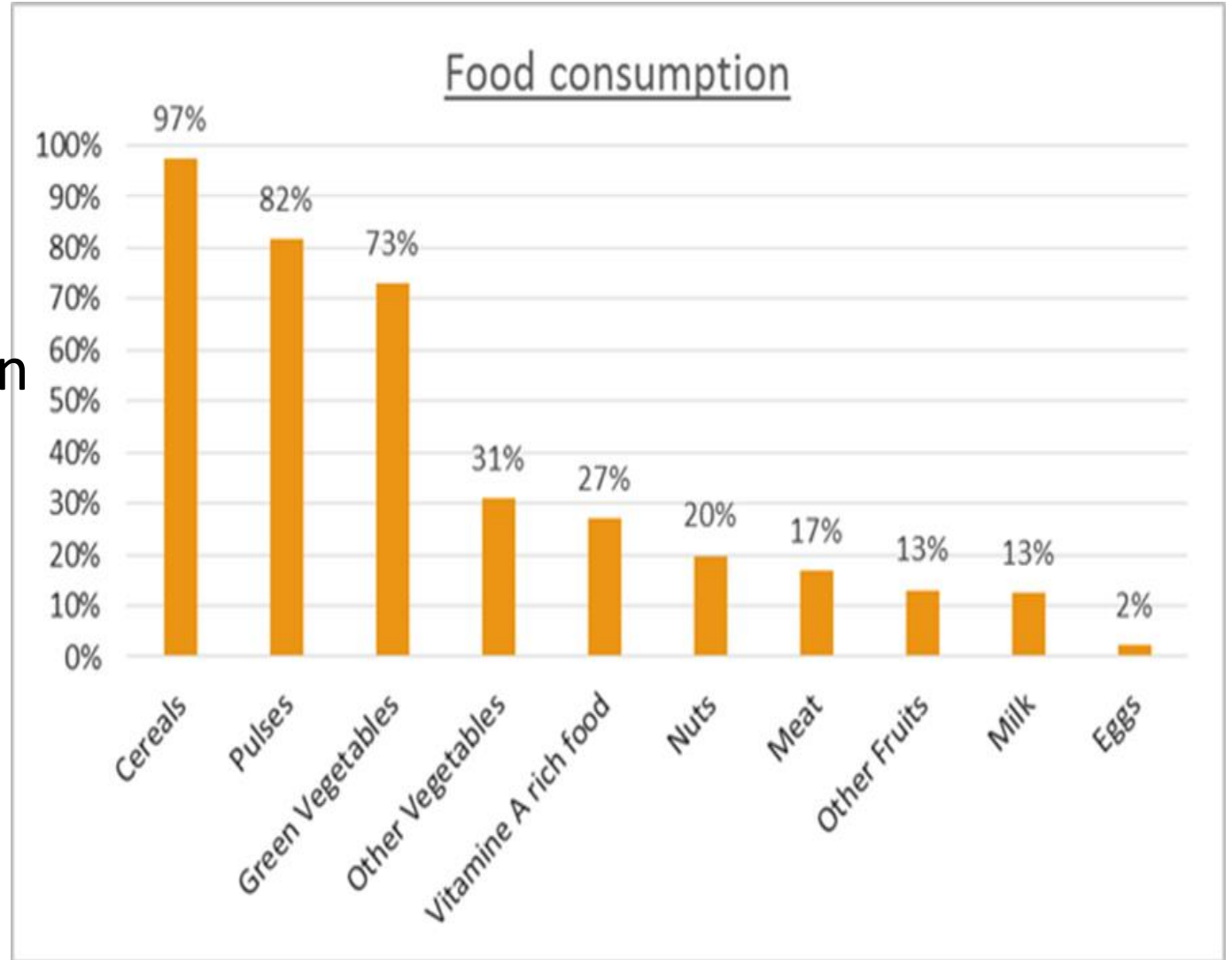
Pillars	Issues
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Stunting 38%, Wasting 2%, and underweight rates 9%.➤ 37% of children between 6-59 months with anemia➤ 19 % women age 15-49 with anemia➤ Only 18% of children under two have a minimum acceptable diet
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Only half of children under 2 have access to improved sanitation➤ 32% of the rural population have non-improved sanitation facilities➤ 60% of the rural households do not treat water prior to drinking
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 42% of women receive all four recommended antenatal care visits➤ 20% of newborns receive postnatal care within two days of birth

ECD pillars issues in Rwanda

Pillars	Issues
Early stimulation	<p>Access to learning and play materials at home is very low.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Only 1 % of children had one or more child-friendly book,➤ 30% of children had access to play materials.
Positive parenting	<p>In terms of child protection,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 35% of Rwandan children under five are left alone or with other children (exposed to higher risks of accidents, abuse and neglect)➤ nearly 50% of those interviewed expressed a belief that children need to be physically punished in order to grow up well (KAP 2014)
School readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Only 49% of young children are engaged with an adult household member in four or more activities that promote learning and school readiness

Children and Women Animal source food consumption

- Only 4% of children < 2 year consume eggs
- 28% women meet the minimum diet diversity (MDD-W)
- Very low consumption of hem iron food groups (meat, 17%) and vitamine A rich food (27%), milk (13%), eggs (2%)



Where in Rwanda do children access ECD services ?

- **Center Based ECD : (70%)**
 - Pre-Schools ,
 - Nursery
- **Community Based ECD (25%)**
 - Church
 - Administrative office
- **Home Based ECD (5%)**



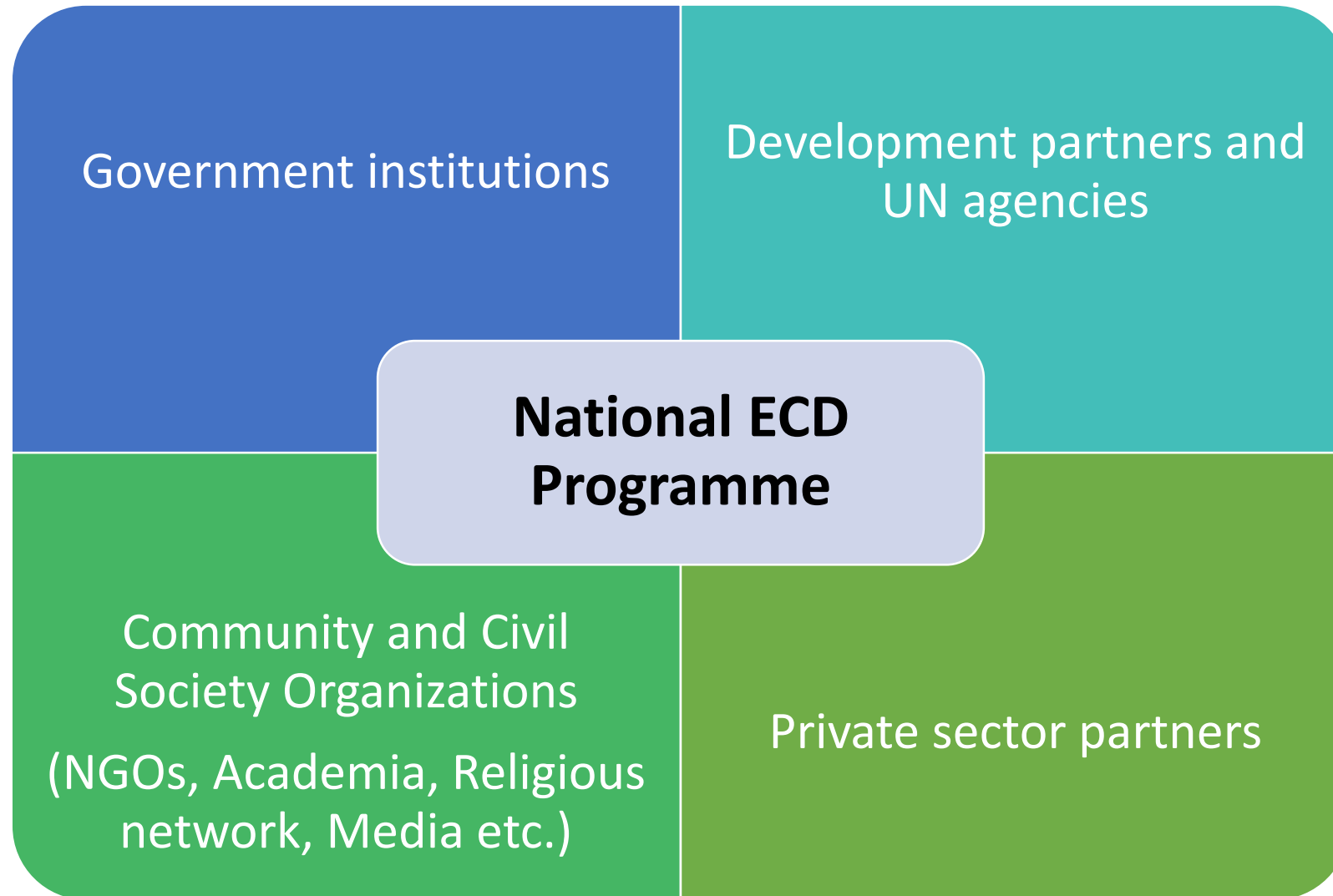
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PILLARS	IMPROVE
Integrating Health and Nutrition in ECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Care (ANC and PNC)• Immunization• Feeding Practices & Behaviors• Fortification of foods• Clean Water & Sanitation• Micronutrient supplementation• Treatment of acute malnutrition• Kitchen Garden and Cooking demonstration• Clean Water & Sanitation• Family cohesion
Stimulation	<p>Stimulate Your Baby's Senses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vision• Hearing• Touch• Smell• Taste

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PILLARS	IMPROVE
Positive parenting	<p>Providing a positive environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Support• Emotional Support• Psychological Support• Protection
School readiness (develop children skills)	<p>Improve the five domains of school readiness :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language and literacy development• Cognition• Approaches toward learning• Physical and motor development• Social and emotional develop

Improve coordination and partnership



NECDP Key achievements

- **Draft National ECD strategic plan 2019-2024 available and to be finalized by April 2019**
- **Draft Nutrition policy available**
- **Community Based Nutrition Program Protocol and Maternal Infant Young Children Nutrition are under development**
- **Integrated SBCC strategy on Nutrition , WASH, ECD validated and published**
- **Multi sectoral Single Action Plan agreed and validated by Social Cluster ministries**
- **More than 4010 key partners and stakeholders (at least 8 are among the District and sector staff) trained on integrated ECD services**
- **Radio, TVs programs and social media broadcast with key messages related to Nutrition, Health and WASH for Early Childhood Development broadcasted on weekly basis**
- **216 New ECDs established in 2018**

NECDP Key achievements

In terms of products NECDP distributes:

- ✓ **FBF in the 30 districts** to eligible Children aged from 6 to 24 months, pregnant and lactating women to reduce malnutrition, from June to December 2018, **4439.64 Mt** of FBF distributed;
- ✓ **One Cup of Milk per Child Program** to prevent and reduce malnutrition among School going Children, have reached 431,348 children since November 2018 (from 75,467 children reached previously)
 - ✓ **From November, ECDs (including pre-primary) started to benefit one cup of milk program, 3,829,204 liters have been distributed;**
- **Conduct community awareness campaigns:**
 - Organized 5 awareness campaigns at Provincial level and City of Kigali
 - Organized **30 awareness** campaigns at district level (including local leaders from Village to Sectors, FBO, CHW, Caregivers, Head of health Centers, Partners etc.)

CHALLENGES

- Availability of Home ECD very low
- Overpopulation in ECD classrooms (including pre-primaries)
- Availability of safe drinking water at ECD Place
- Trained caregivers are still in low number
- Pre-primary teachers are not on government payroll
- Lack of incentives for volunteering caregivers

Thank you!

