

*Promoting health, development
and wellbeing of children on
the move within and across
borders**

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EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Overview of Talk

- Overview: Quantitative (the numbers) and Qualitative (the burden of suffering)
- Making Sense of It all
- A sample project

The Numbers

- **NEW YORK, 9 December 2016** – An estimated 535 million children – nearly one in four – live in countries affected by conflict or disaster, often without access to medical care, quality education, proper nutrition and protection, UNICEF said today.

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to nearly three-quarters – 393 million – of the global number of children living in countries affected by emergencies, followed by the Middle East and North Africa where 12 per cent of these children reside.

- https://www.unicef.org/media/media_93863.html

More Numbers

- *Civilian fatalities in wartime have climbed from 5 per cent at the turn of the century ... to more than 90 per cent in the wars of the 1990s.*
- <https://www.unicef.org/graca/patterns.htm>



Children In War

- Vulnerable Population
- Loss of opportunity (school/nurturing/protective adults)
- Trauma
- Health (disease/malnutrition)
- Maltreatment
- Sexual violence
- War toxicity (chemical,biological,heavy metals,ballistics)

Children with/at Risk for Developmental Disabilities



- Interruption of normal support systems
- **Exacerbated by trauma, malnutrition, disease**
- Missed opportunities for intervention
- Long term downstream effects

Children with Developmental Disability

Who are they?

- 10-20% of children (estimate).
- Developmental delays in speech, motor, cognitive and social domains
- Includes communication disorders, autism, intellectual delays, learning disabilities, mobility problems
- Multiple Causality

What do they need?

- Nurturing and Safe Environment
- Physical Health
- Good Nutrition
- Developmental Intervention Services:
 - Parent Training
 - Various therapies
 - Timing is important
 -

My Personal Journey making sense of it all



Zaatari Camp for Syrian Refugees 2014

Available Tool Kit

- Policies: CRC, CRPD
Global Compact on Migration, Nurturing Care Framework
- Guidelines –UNHCR and other NGOs
- Training materials-MHGAP
- Caregiver Skills Training –WHO/UNICEF/Autism Speaks
- Textbooks-
Where there is no child psychiatrist (Eapen, Graham, Srinath).
Disabled Village Children (Werner).

International Mandate to Care

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities specifically calls attention to disabled people affected by humanitarian emergencies and requests more “inclusive and responsive humanitarian interventions.”
- UNHCR: <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/64324/identifying-persons-with-specific-needs-pwsn>
- WHO: <http://who.int/disabilities/emergencies/en/>

Delivery Models and Guidance

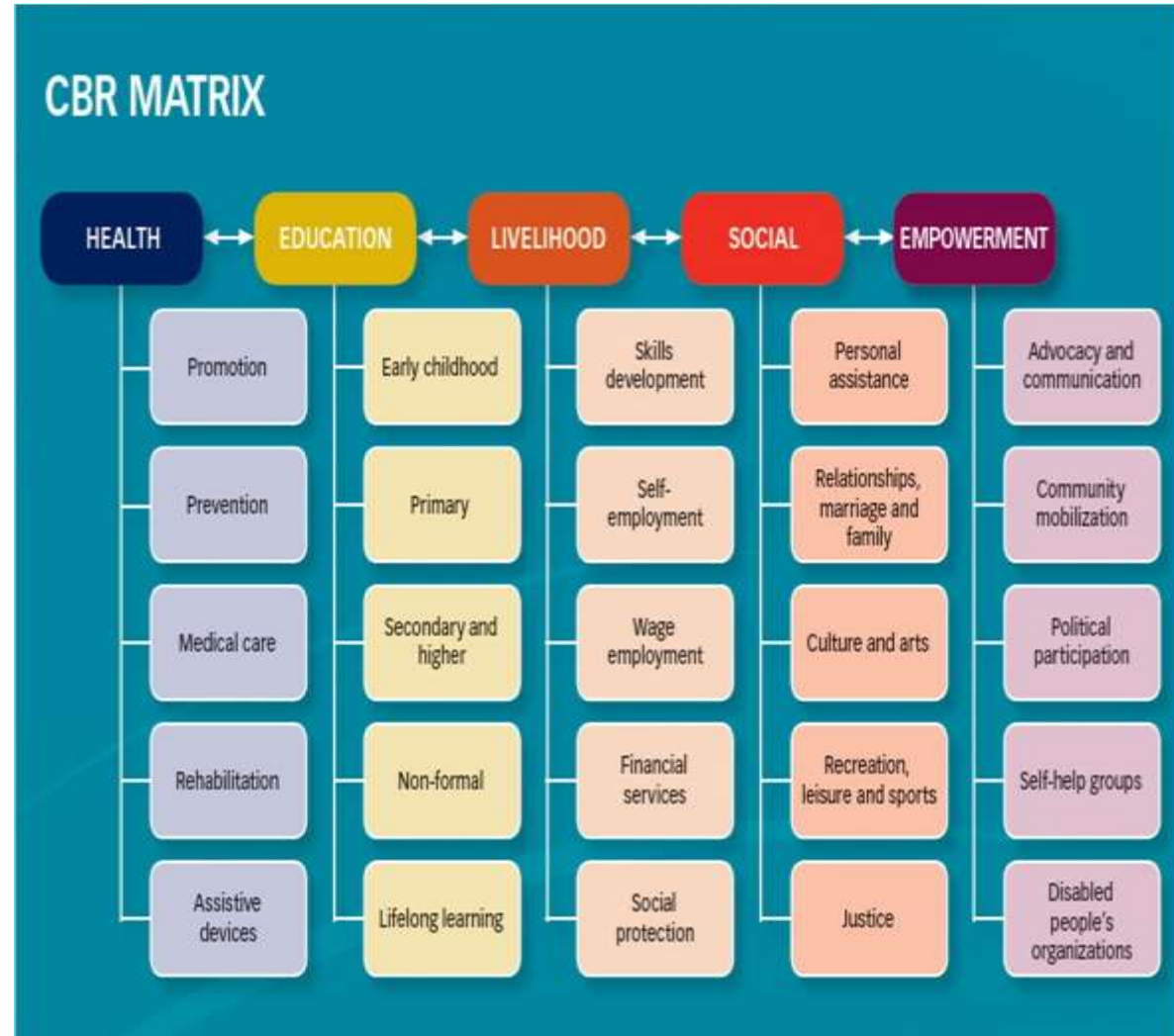
- Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)
- WHO emergency guidance
- Care for Child Development Package (Unicef, 2012):

Community Based Rehabilitation:

- first initiated in 1978 and
- Strategy to improve access to rehabilitation services for people with disabilities in developing countries.
- Over the past 30 years its scope has considerably broadened.
- Applies before, during and after humanitarian emergencies

WHO guidelines 2010 (including humanitarian settings).

<http://who.int/disabilities/cbr/guidelines/en/>



WHO Emergency Guidance 2013



Guidance Note on Disability and Emergency Risk Management for Health



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<http://who.int/entity/disabilities/emergencies/en/>

ECD: UNICEF GUIDANCE 2014



Early Childhood Development
in Emergencies
Integrated Programme Guide



unite for children

unicef 

Integrating ECD into Nutrition Programs in Emergencies (Unicef/WHO 2012)

- In famines and food shortage situations, providing food alone is not enough
- • 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 programmes 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
- http://www.who.int/mental_health/publications/emergencies_why_what_how/en/

Obstacles and Impediments:

- *Implementation research for early childhood development programming in humanitarian contexts: ECD implementation research-humanitarian settings*
- Katie Maeve Murphy,¹ Hirokazu Yoshikawa,² . and Alice J. Wuermler².
- ¹International Rescue Committee. ²New York University, Global TIES for Children. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, May 2018.

The scarcity of implementation research and high-quality evidence to inform early childhood programming in humanitarian settings relates to the current lack of political prioritization, funding, and practical actions..

What about Inclusive ECD ?

A Journey Into the Humanitarian World



MSF Collaboration



- Pediatric Days Stockholm 2016
- Online Teaching-2017
- Telemedicine Consultation-2017
- Proposal in Progress (sub-Saharan africa)-2018



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

- Children on the Move Task Force
- Text Book Chapter in Progress...
***Child, Adolescent & Family
Refugee Mental Health***

Eds: Pieter Ventevogel (UNHCR)
and Suzan Song (GW University Medical
Center)-

***Children with developmental
disabilities in emergency settings***

Vanessa Cavallera, Ramzi Nasir

Judy Palfrey, Kerim Munir, Don Wertlieb

Lessons Learned and Looking Forward

- It's not about YOU and Me
- Leverage your strengths
- Build alliances
- Learn a new language
- Persistence and Focus



Additional Slides

Looking Forward



www.SmileysOI.com

- Scaling up
- Collaborative Work
- Advocacy for a pediatric voice

Smaller Scale Projects

- Telemedicine (e.g. MSF, SAMA)

<http://www.stmh.net/-lectures/>

- <http://www.aglobalvoiceforautism.org/>
- Mobile Phone technology /cloud based EMR
- International Medical Corps-CST
- Many other small scale individual efforts

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/partnerlist.php>

<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/non-governmental-organizations.html>

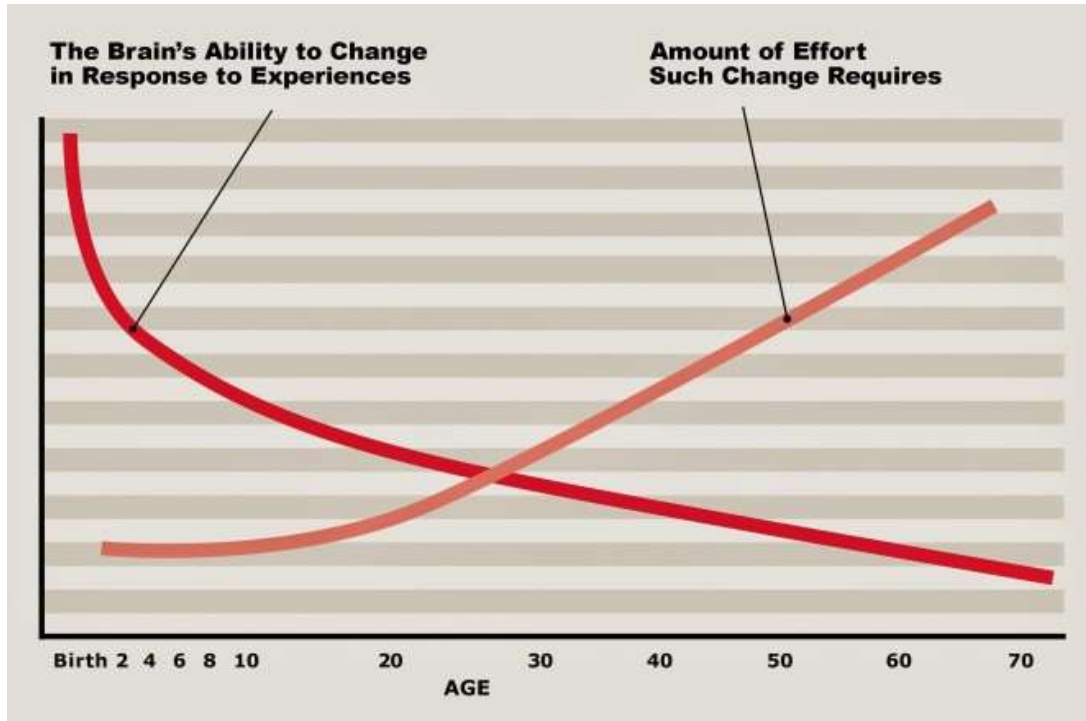
What do All Children Need ?

- Safety
- Food and Shelter
- Health
- Mental Health
- Education

Special Needs of Children with Disability (and at risk)

- Nurturing and Safe Environment
- Physical Health
- Good Nutrition
- Developmental Intervention Services:
 - Parent Training
 - Various therapies
 - Timing is important

Development Does Not Wait!



Obstacles

- Awareness /Willingness
- Resources
- Security
- Quickly gets deprioritized, funding cuts,
- Translation Obstacles