

Child Health Days: A One-Stop Shop for Services to Young Children and their Caregivers

Child Health Days are lively events with entertainment and messages given in song, dance and drama that attract community participation. The events include stations to monitor children's health and facilitate referrals and access to services.

Child Health Days



The Child Health Days has derived from the Station Days methodology. Station Days is a child-friendly and participatory day-long monitoring and evaluation field activity to assist project staff and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) to appreciate critical issues affecting the children's lives and to understand the impact of the project.

Child Health Days uses the Station Day model focusing on service provision to IECCD (Integrated Early Childhood Care and Development) aged children (between 3 and 6 years of age) and infants. Typically, the activity is held in the community at a location that is central and easily accessible for the children and their caregivers to participate. Child Health Days is a quarterly event.

Point of Entry

Most Child Health Days are hosted by a local preschool, community-based child care center or ECD space.

Integration



Household Health

- Simple health treatments
- Insecticide treated net distribution
- TB screening
- Maternal depression screening
- HIV counseling and testing
- Blood pressure screening and counseling on non-communicable diseases



Child Health

- Simple health treatments
- Deworming
- Growth monitoring
- Disability screening
- Immunizations
- PMTCT follow-up
- Counseling on exclusive breastfeeding



Nutrition

- Counseling and education
- Cooking demonstrations
- Gardening demonstrations
- Vitamin supplementation



Protection and Parenting Support

- Birth registration
- Counseling on domestic abuse
- Demonstrations of toys made with locally available materials



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Counseling and education
- Handwashing demonstrations
- Tippy Tap models

Examples of Monitoring Tools for Child Health Days

- Child health card for recording growth monitoring and immunizations
- Knowledge and practice assessment for caregivers
- Health referral register

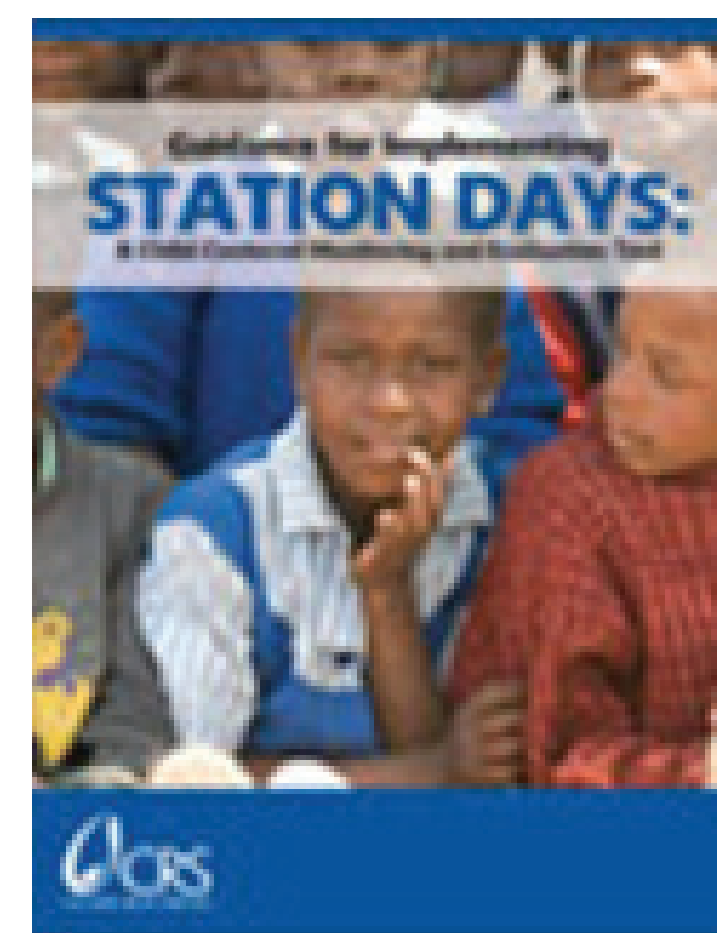
Challenges

- Bringing stakeholders together
- Informal linkages and referral networks
- Long distances to bring all supplies together
- ECD centers and preschools are not in all districts
- Shortage of disability specialists who can participate in Child Health Days
- Shortage of food supplies in vulnerable households

Opportunities for Child Health Days

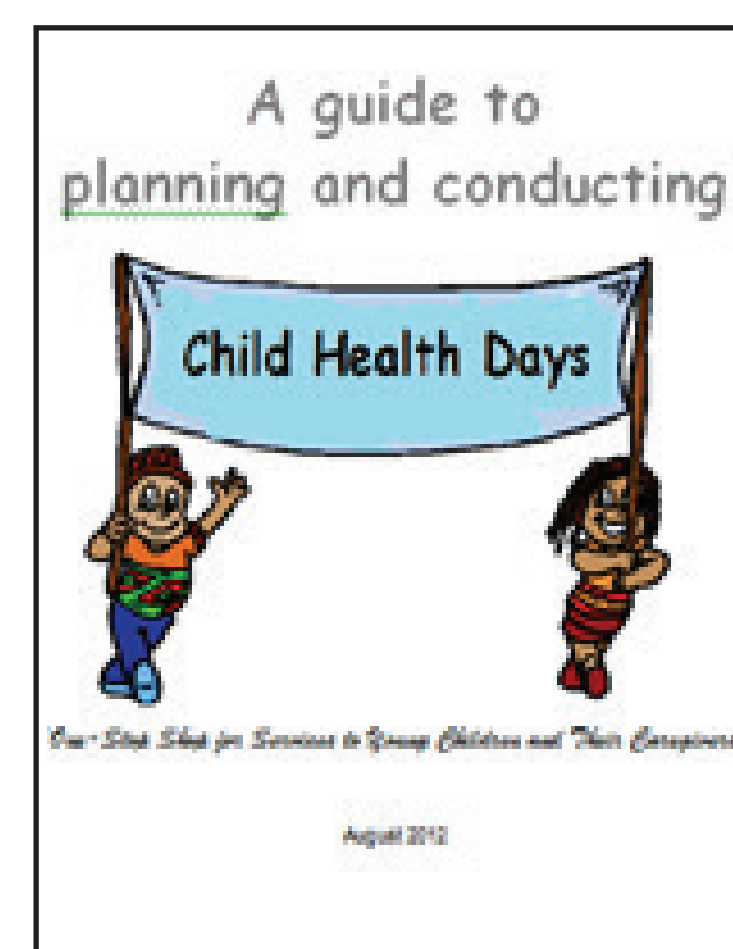
- Referrals
- Highlights the early childhood education center as a hub for children's services
- Monitoring
- Stigma reduction around issues such as disability and depression
- Linkages, networking and advocacy—bringing stakeholders together

Resources



Guidance for Implementing Station Days: A Child-Centered Monitoring and Evaluation Tool

Available at www.crsprogramquality.org



A Guide to Planning and Conducting Child Health Days