

TANZANIA HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION – PANEL DISCUSSION

Proposed Questions for Community-based Organizations:

- 1. What role would you like to see government play in facilitating integrated programming?**

Answers:

- Approving the Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy.
 - Ensure coordinated inter-sectoral approach to Early Childhood Development at Village, Ward and District level using the existing available mechanisms.
 - Increase resources to Early Childhood Development on basis of evidence and cost-effectiveness.
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- 2. What elements of support from or collaboration with government for - integration have you found most helpful? What have been some of the challenges and how might you suggest addressing those?**
- Working through ECD network at national level i.e. participation in the National processes in developing the IECD Policy, Consultation with ECD Stakeholders (both government and non-government) to inform the policy, sharing drafts of the policy, attending information sharing and capacity building sessions.
 - Challenges have been around
 - poor dissemination at local government levels (most districts in Tanzania are not aware of the National processes towards IECD Policy except those which were among the 8 Piloted districts whose results are not yet out)
 - ECD Concept (most stakeholders working with/ for young children still do not know the ECD concept, and integration needed in service provision)
 - Limited resources in popularizing the IECD policy processes towards integrated services at local levels where children are (i.e. Operational Guidelines and Minimum Standards for Integrated Early Childhood Development in Tanzania and IECD Training Modules which exist at national level and very informative and useful to the Service Providers for adoption awareness creation and capacity building)
 - **Suggestions to address the challenges:**

- The ministry of Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PMORALG) which reaches the lower levels where children are, should be taken aboard in the Team of Key Ministries which have been involved in IECD processes, namely Ministry of Community Development, Gender, and Children (the coordinating ministry), Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (All the 3 key ministries have ECD Focal Persons). Dissemination of the existing ECD resources can easily reach many stakeholders, taking into account that its structure reaches the lower level.

3. What are some of the opportunities for collaboration among NGOs and CBOs for integrated programming? What are some of the mechanisms in place that facilitate integration? What are some of the challenges? Is there a role for government to facilitate collaboration among NGOs and CBOs for integration? Where is the gap in government participation and/or leadership?

Opportunities:

- -Tanzania ECD Network which closely works with the key Ministries in most of the ECD processes is a golden opportunity for collaboration among NGOs and CBOs for an integrated programming.
- -The mechanism which is in place to facilitate integration, are the 17 Regional ECD Network Chapters in Tanzania Mainland and Isles which has members who are CSOs working with/ for young children whose network activities are coordinated at the national level. The Network is also responsible for capacity building and information sharing on all ECD processes happening at national level. The ECD Network has also developed an ECD Information Pack collaboratively with the government a resource which has details of what one should know about ECD.

Challenges:

- Inadequate Resources to strengthen the ECD Network at national level and its Regional Chapters for them to be able to facilitate collaborative activities in their locality.

Role of the Government to facilitate collaboration among NGO's and CBOs integration:

- To develop strategic partnerships for Early Childhood Development between the government, civil society organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Development

Partners, Private Donors and Foundations, Media, Academia, Research Institutions and Private sector.

The gap in the government participation and/ or Leadership

- Lack of approved Integrated Policy which puts in place costed and prioritized implementation plan that include a rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework which include outcomes for young children.
- Strengthening of inter-sectoral coordination on ECD at national level, among others, the establishment of a National ECD Coordinating Council.
- Dissemination of national guidelines and minimum standards for early childhood development interventions at all levels.
- Increased Budget for ECD at all levels.