

**Episcopal Relief & Development**  
*in partnership with the*  
**Zambia Anglican Council**

***Early Childhood Development Program with Families Affected by HIV/AIDs  
in rural Zambia***

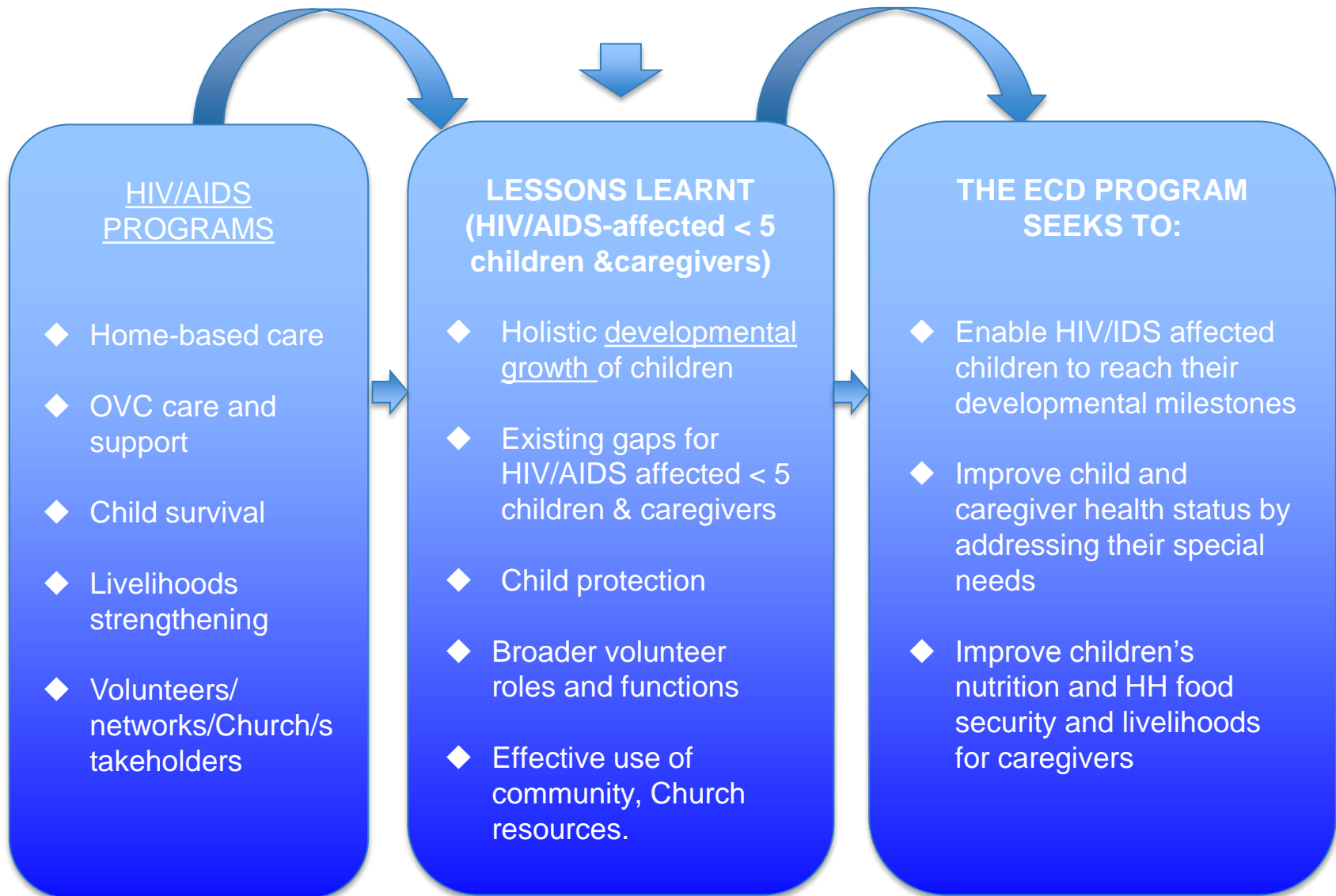


# Presentation Outline

- Evolution of the Early Childhood Development Program (ECD)
- Principal Activities
- The Volunteer & Community Centered Program Model in ECD
- The Essential Package: Framework for Action
- Linkages
- Quantitative and qualitative findings
- Indications of promise
- Challenges and barriers
- Addressing challenges and barriers
- Sustainability strategies



## Evolution of the ECD Program

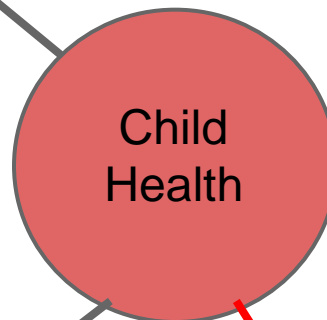
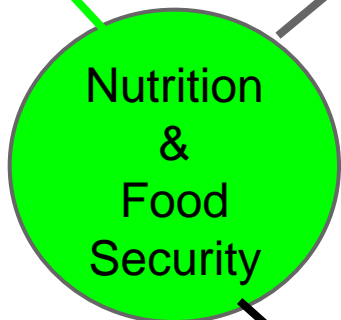
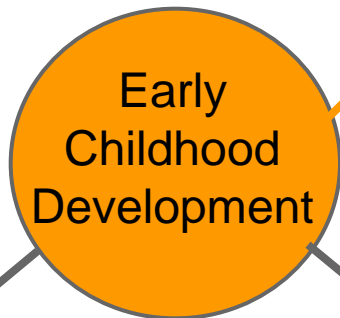


**INTERGRATING HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS WITH ECD**

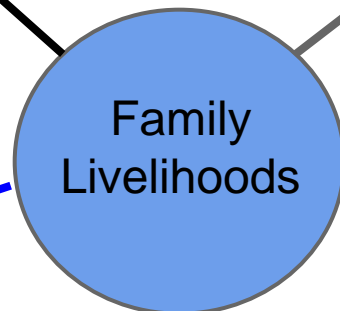
*Principal Activities*

- Nutrition Education & Support
- Horticulture & Agricultural Training

- Caregiver Support & Learning Groups
- Children's Playgroups
- Home Visits



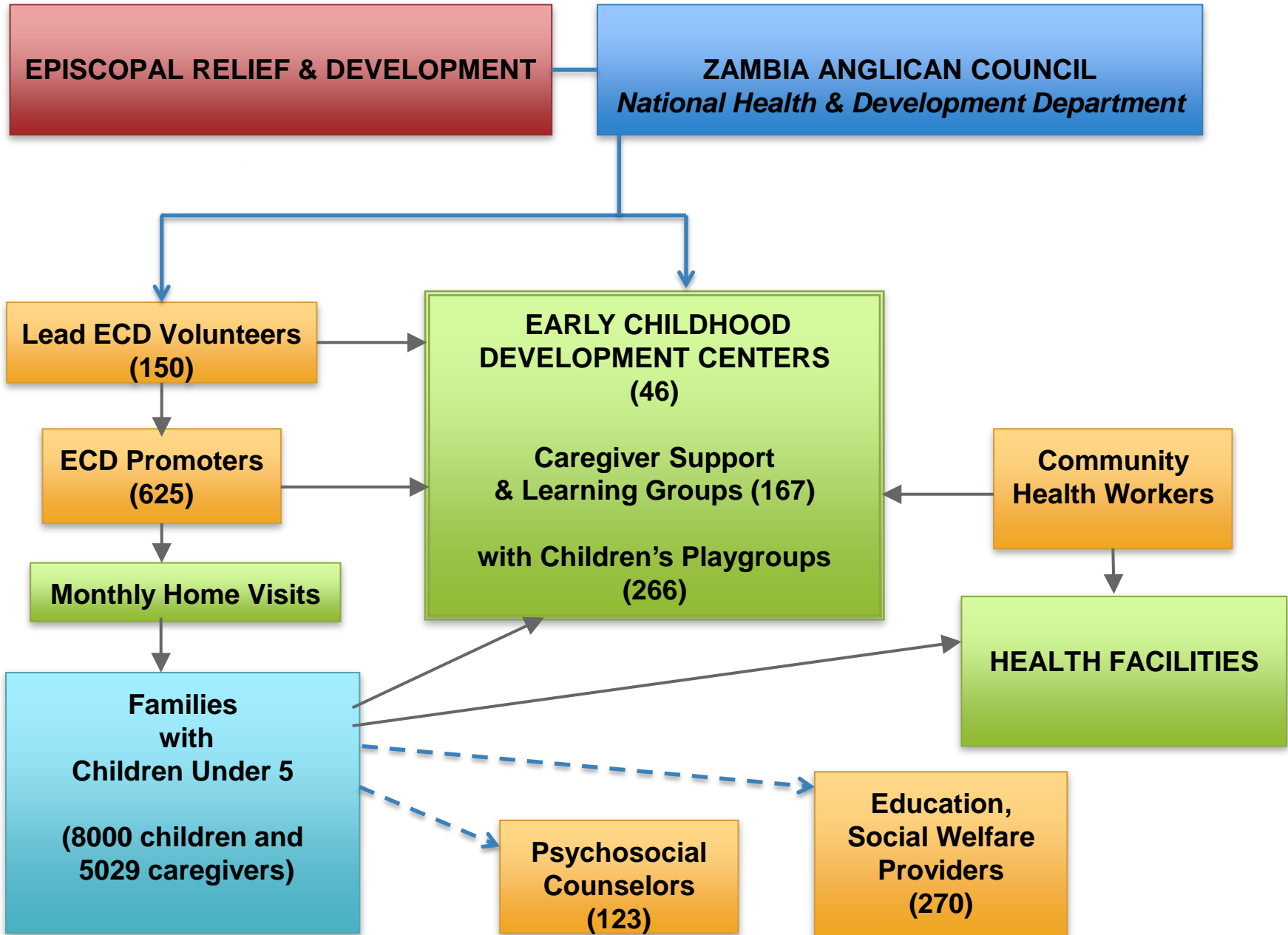
Children reach full developmental potential.  
Healthy caregivers that respond effectively to children's needs.  
Children live in safe, stable and consistent caregiving environments.



- Training**
- Savings Groups
  - Referrals to Adult Literacy and Microcredit

- Monthly growth monitoring & referrals
- WASH
- Malaria prevention & control

# The Volunteer-Led & Community-Centered Program Model in ECD



# Training Curriculum: Essential Package

## Age-Appropriate Action Framework for Young Children and their Caregivers Affected by HIV and AIDS

### The Essential Package (EP) seeks to:

- Eliminate barriers to care & support
- Foster positive caregiver-child interaction
- Support links to broad systems of integrated care
- Employ a developmentally appropriate approach

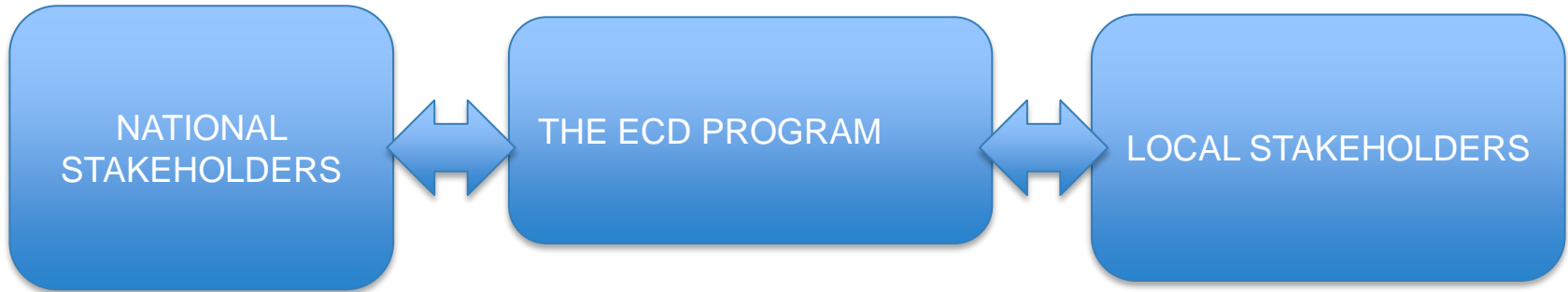
### 3 Critical Domains:

- ◆ Child Status: Health, nutrition and protection development and behavior
- ◆ Caregiver status and support
- ◆ Caregiving Environment

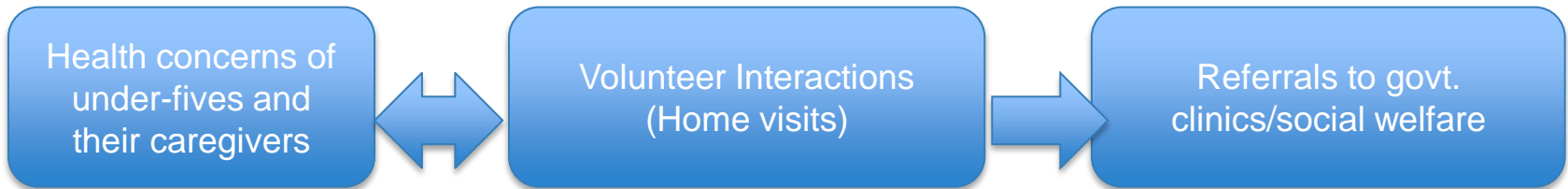
### Staff, Volunteers and Psychosocial Counselors trained in EP:

- ◆ Home visits carried out with the use of visual guides
- ◆ Promote interaction between caregivers and children during home visitation and during group meetings
- ◆ Data recorded/observations made per Comprehensive Checklist

## Stakeholder Linkages and Referrals



### Local Health Referral System



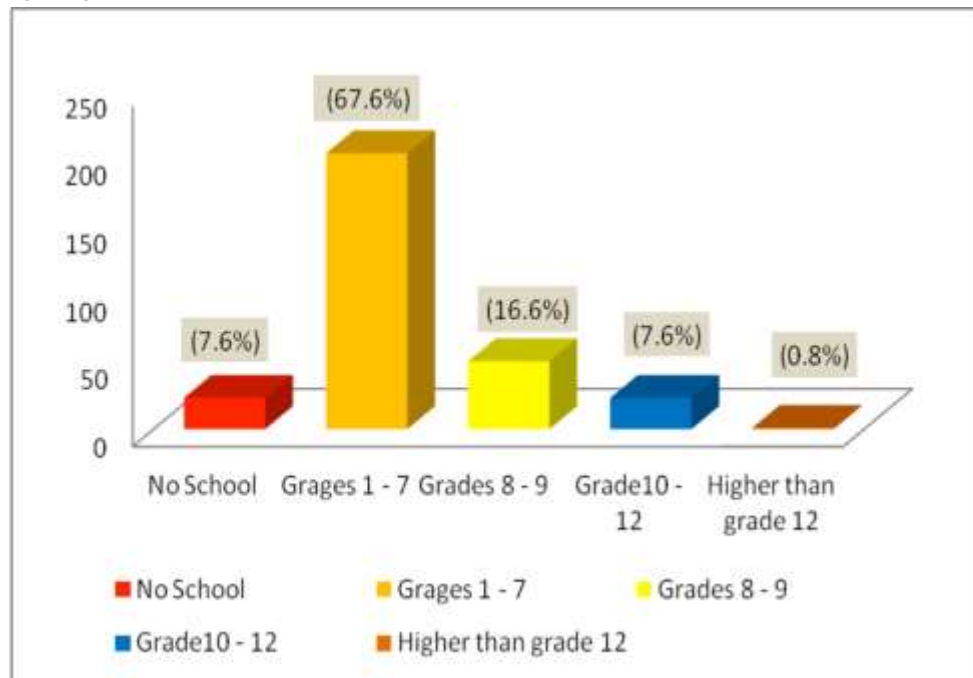
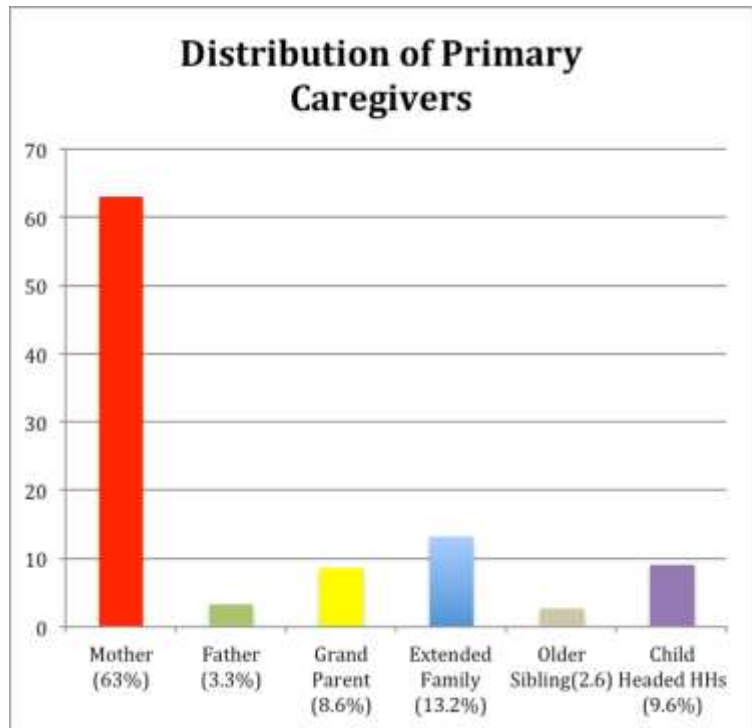
### Rural Adult Education Program



### Agricultural Extension Package



## QUANTITATIVE DATA – Baseline Survey\* – Highlights:



### Selected Baseline Data:

- ◆ 74% of children had not received ALL immunizations for age
- ◆ 47% of children did not have access to adequate, age-appropriate food
- ◆ 59% of children did not have birth records
- ◆ 70% of caregivers report feeling down or depressed

*\*300 HHs surveyed with Comprehensive Checklist*



## QUALITATIVE DATA: Participatory Tools

### Tools Used:

1. Focus group discussion
2. Resource mapping
3. Preference ranking
4. Seasonal calendars
5. Problem ranking

### Findings:

- ◆ HIV/AIDS status and cultural attitudes
- ◆ Volunteer performance
- ◆ Caregiver Knowledge
- ◆ 45% of volunteers are men
- ◆ Barriers to health services
- ◆ Seasonal variance in child nutritional intake



## Indications of Promise

- Thriving network of ECD Centers in rural areas.
- High local demand for the ECD Program
- Engagement with stakeholders at various levels
- Strong reliance on local knowledge and expertise
- High participation levels in ECD Center based activities
- Adoption of caregiver actions
- Dedicated and committed voluntary network
- Demonstrated commitment of the Church leadership:  
The ECD Program placed at the forefront in longer term strategy.
- Scaling up of the Program:
  - ◆ From 3 to an additional 4 provinces, from 46 to 53 Centers, 12,500 under six children with approx. 7,070 caregivers

## ***PROGRAMMING CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS***

- ◆ **Refining indicators to measure age-appropriate developmental milestones.**
- ◆ **Access to health services & treatment**
- ◆ **Increased demand for services because of raised awareness**
- ◆ **Graduating (transitioning) children to school.**
- ◆ **Sustaining the ECD Program**



*Male caregivers with children at an ECD Center*

## **CAREGIVER CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS**

- ◆ Not all caregivers benefit the same.
- ◆ Caregiver family size can affect developmental growth of under five children.
- ◆ Burden on older caregivers
- ◆ Child headed households (multiple responsibilities and education)
- ◆ Barriers in providing services to disabled children



*Monthly Growth Monitoring at an ECD Center*

## Policy Challenges

- ◆ Adoption of Zambian ECD Policy by Govt.
- ◆ Non-disclosure of health status – caregivers/health centers not obliged to provide information to promoters.



# Addressing Challenges and Barriers

- ◆ Focus on well-defined, limited, realistic, measurable and time bound outcome indicators.
- ◆ Increasing age group to under six to fill in transitory gap between preschool and school age children
- ◆ Incorporation of pre-school learning curriculum in center managed child playgroup activities.
- ◆ Training of volunteers to teach children as per government preschool curriculum.
- ◆ Quality improvements in service delivery (frequency in caregiver support group meetings, playgroup activities, home visits and interaction)

