

COMMENTS FROM Mr. Benedict Missani, Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children, Tanzania

- The government of the United Republic of Tanzania value children very much as its treasure. In due course we are strengthening the multi-sectoral collaboration to meet the huge demand of children.
- In Tanzania we have formed a National ECD Steering Committee comprised of Permanent Secretaries from sectorial ministries which work with and for children such as Education and Vocational Training, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Prime Minister's Office Local Government and Regional Administration and the coordinating ministry of Community Development Gender and Children.
- We have also Technical Committee comprised of Commissioners and Directors who over see ECD matters and give technical Advisor to the National ECD Secretariat.
- In all Structures the Civil Societies are represented by the umbrella organization called Tanzania ECD Net Work.
- It is through this network that the government has always used as an arm to reach the rural majority young children with HIV AIDS and provide services that ensures their optimal survival and thrive to their fullest potential.
- We have also Tanzania Junior Council which has been used as a tool of educating children in Primary schools children rights issues and HIV AIDS. We have formed school clubs in some of the schools for the children get opportunity to speak about their concerns and educate each other on matters related to their welfare.
- It is in this regard that now we are mainstreaming ECD matters in Focal Development Colleges to enable families and other special groups including parents with HIV AIDS to receive services that will increase their knowledge and have copying mechanisms of HIV situation to extend their life.
- In some of the FDCs these groups have received skills and knowledge such as tailoring skills and have managed to support their children with provision services such as food, school fees, clothes etc.
- The government is in its final stage to approve ECD policy which will enable different stakeholders to come together and provide support to young services in a more holistic manner.
- Currently we have developed 10 different manuals to guide ECD provisions including ECD National Guide Lines and Minimum Standards.
Challenges:
- We have a very big challenges of scaling down the services up to grassroots levels.

- Another challenges is inadequate resources to cover the whole country. We have also few ECD technical staff to manage ECD programs in the Country.

Opportunities:

- We have a very high political will to make ECD a National Priority.
- We have a department of Children Development with ECD Children and Family sections.
- At the Ministry level we have one ECD Specialist working as Assistant Director.

Children's National Agenda on HIV

The Goal: Eliminate transmission of HIV from mothers to infants by 2015. Reduce the prevalence of HIV among adolescents.

Under this goal the government in collaboration with different NGOs, CBOs and Development Partners have set the Priorities which I thought are critical for the Coalition to know and adopt as a case study for Tanzania.

Priorities are:

- 1.Safe births,
- 2.Early HIV diagnosis
- 3.Knowledge, Testing and Prevention
- 4.Delay sexual debut
- 5.Reduce HIV transmission risks
- 6.Confort stigma
- 7.Engage youth as partners