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PLAN International

4 CORNERSTONES

To secure a strong foundation for young children

1. Start at the beginning!

- Integrate, coordinate, and improve services that are responsive to the needs and desires of – and accessible to -- all young children and their families
- Promote more positive caregiver/child interaction, stimulating environments, good health and nutrition, and better child care
- Provide universal access to family support programmes that address holistic child development, with special attention to the most vulnerable young children and their families

2. Provide new opportunities for discovery and learning!

- Ensure access to at least two years of quality early childhood services in a range of informal, non-formal, or formal settings, both community and home-based
- Focus on the development of children's sense of self, their interactions with peers and adults, their confidence as learners, their language competence, and their critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Provide information and support to parents and caregivers, including fathers, through wide-ranging family support activities
- Prioritise the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children

3. Make schools ready for children!

- Ensure a welcoming, appreciative, and inclusive school environment which facilitates the transition from the family or pre-school environment and where every child feels safe and secure
- Train and appoint capable teachers to lower primary grades who understand the development needs and learning styles of young children
- Ensure smaller class sizes and a manageable teacher-child ratio in the early years of primary school

4. Address the development of policies on early childhood!

- Develop, implement, and evaluate policies and action plans in the context of a national vision and strategies for young children, expanded investment in their development, and stronger intersectoral coordination
- Guarantee adequate resources by ensuring that early childhood is integral to national development policies and macroeconomic planning and budgeting
- Address early childhood, across sectors, in all national and sub-national policies and plans
- Invest now in Early Childhood policies and programmes which will bring immediate and long term-returns to individuals, families, communities, and nations



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