

Mothers and Health Conference
Brussels, 7-8 March, 2016

Supporting Mothers on Early Childhood Development

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Evidence

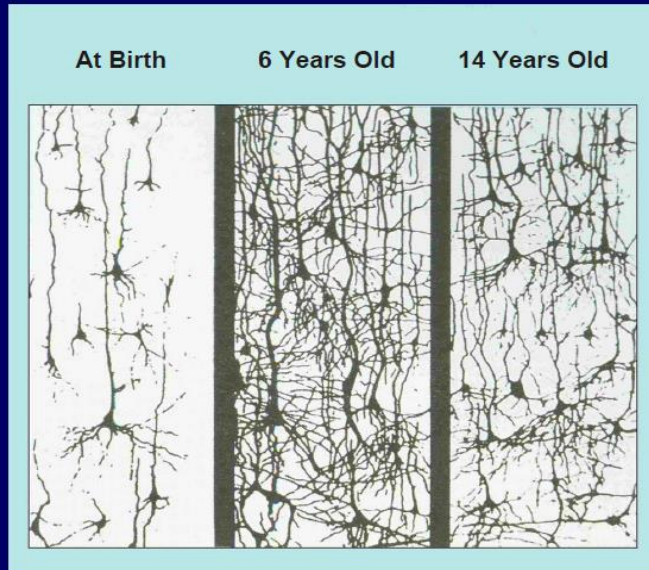
Healthy early development strongly influences:

- **Stunting, obesity**
- **Mental health**
- **Heart disease**
- **Competence in literacy & numeracy**
- **Economic participation**
- **Well-being**



Evidence: Yearly Years is the Foundation for Life-long Wellbeing

Synaptic Density



Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development,
Vaudreuil (Québec) April 28-29, 2008

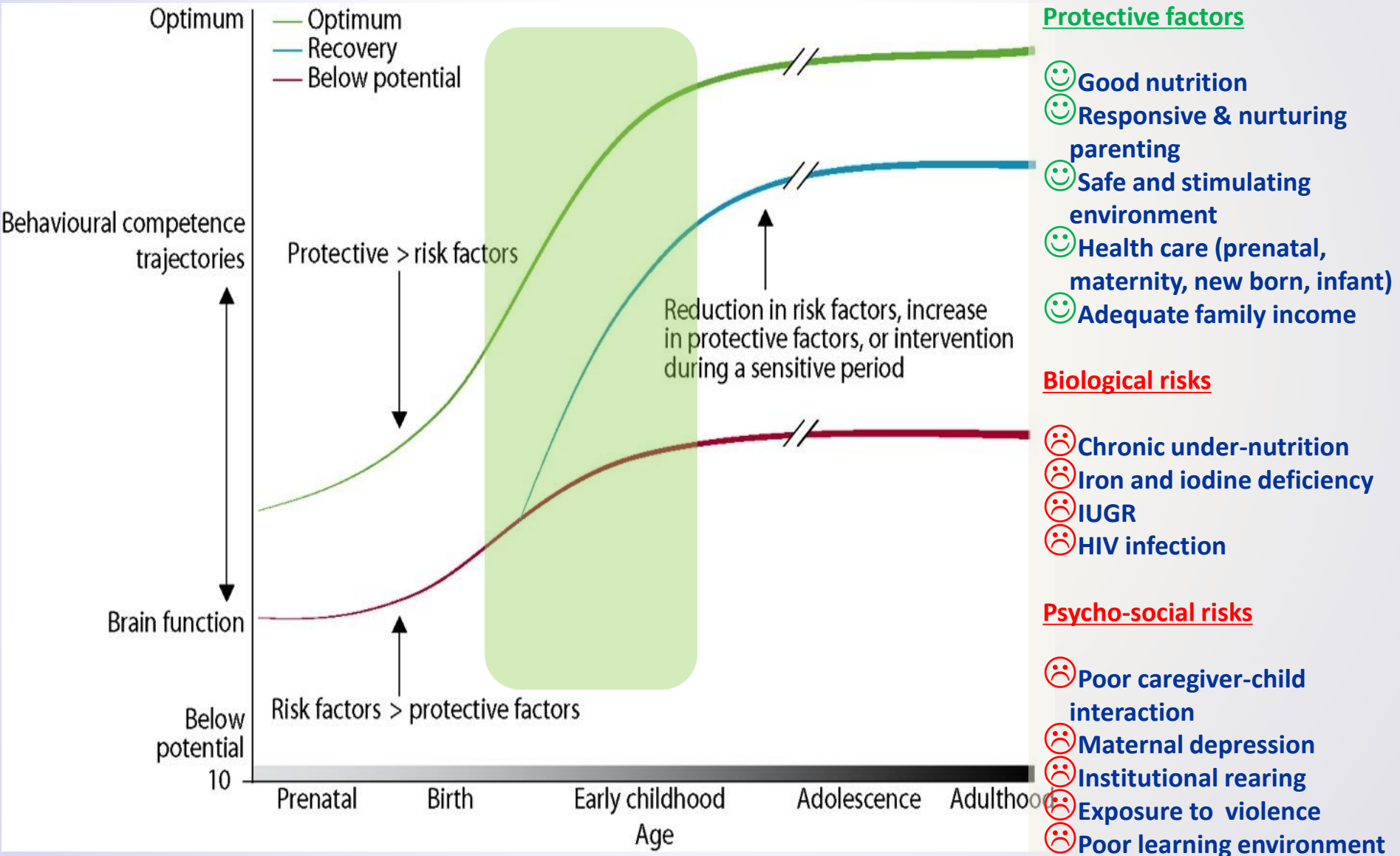
[Rethinking the Brain](#), Families and Work Institute, Rima Shore, 1997.

Brain architecture is built in a “**bottom up**” sequence: higher capacities are more difficult to develop if lower capacities have not emerged appropriately

Brain circuits stabilize with age, making them increasingly more difficult to alter

Good nutrition and rich experiences affect brain development

Evidence: Protective and Risk Factors in Early Years



Situation: Double Burden of Malnutrition

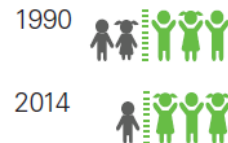
Stunting

The global trend in **stunting** prevalence and numbers of children affected is **decreasing...**



...but not fast enough.

Between 1990 and 2014, stunting prevalence **declined** from **39.6** per cent to **23.8** per cent...



- 96M



...and numbers affected **declined** from **255 million** to **159 million**.

Overweight

The global trend in **overweight** prevalence and numbers of children affected is **rising**.



Overweight prevalence has **gone up** slightly between 1990 and 2014, from **4.8** per cent to **6.1** per cent...



+ 10M



...and numbers affected have **risen** from **31 million** to **41 million**.

Wasting

In 2014, the global **wasting** rate was **7.5 per cent**.



Approximately 1 out of every 13 children in the world was wasted in 2014.



50M



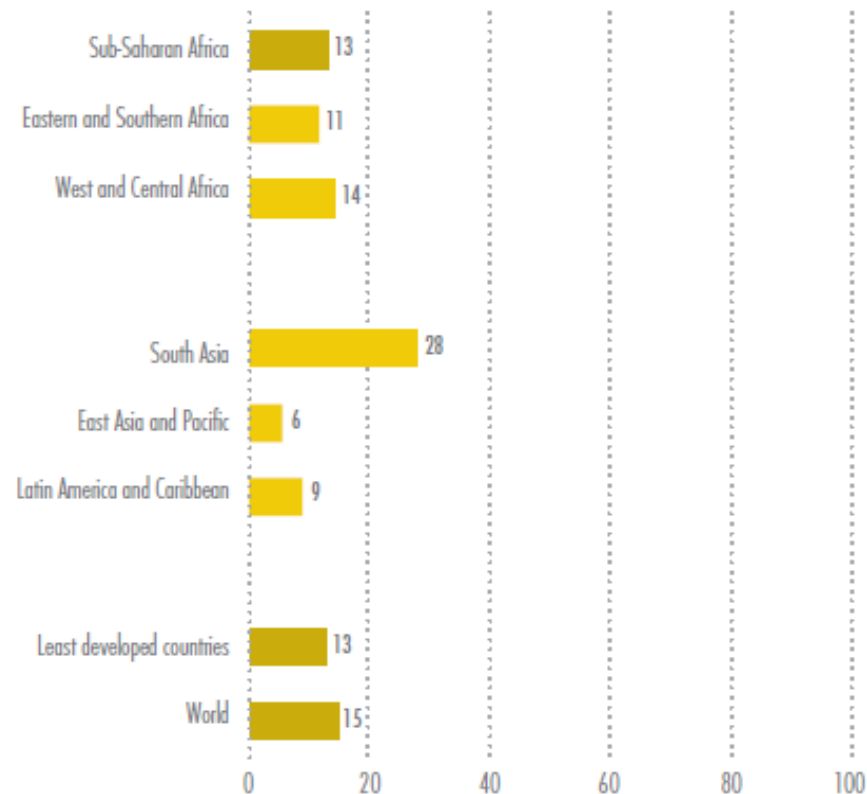
Globally, **50 million** children under 5 were wasted, of which **16 million** were **severely wasted** in 2014.

Nearly a third of all wasted children were severely wasted, with a global prevalence in 2014 of **2.4** per cent.

Situation: Regional Inequity

Low birthweight is highest in South Asia

Percentage of newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams at birth, by region



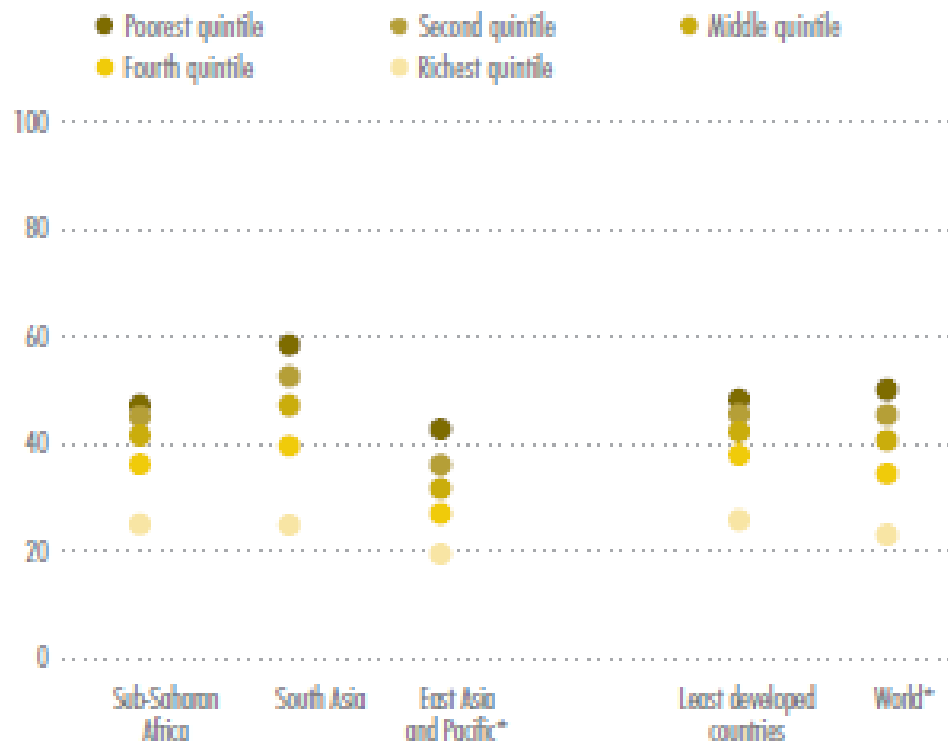
Notes: Estimates are based on a subset of 84 countries covering 65 per cent of the births worldwide. Regional estimates represent data covering at least 50 per cent of the regional population. Data coverage was insufficient to calculate regional estimates for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Middle East and North Africa.

Source: UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on MICS, DHS and other nationally representative surveys, 2008-2012, with the exception of India (2005-2006).

Situation: Country Inequities

Poorer children are far more likely than their richer counterparts to experience stunted growth

Percentage of children aged 0 to 59 months who are moderately or severely stunted, by wealth quintile



* Excludes China.

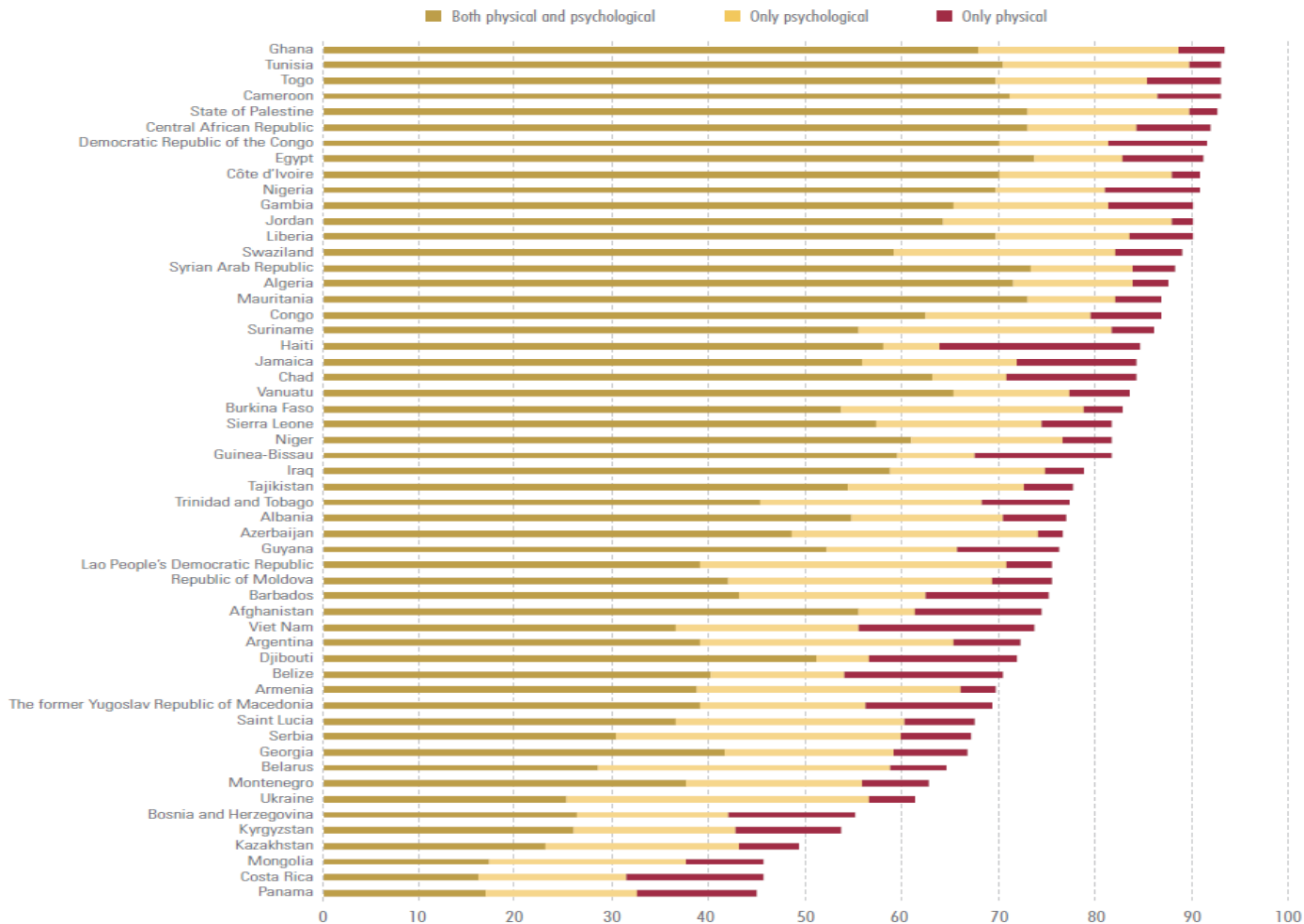
Notes: Estimates are based on a subset of 55 countries covering 95 per cent of the population of children aged 0 to 59 months worldwide. Regional estimates represent data covering at least 50 per cent of the regional population. Data coverage was insufficient to calculate regional estimates for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa.

Source: UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on MICS, DHS and other nationally representative surveys, 2007-2011, with the exception of India (2005-2006).

Situation: Violence against Children is Widespread

Most children experience a combination of violent disciplinary methods

Percentage of children aged 2 to 14 years who experienced both physical punishment and psychological aggression, percentage of children aged 2 to 14 years who experienced only physical punishment and percentage of children aged 2 to 14 years who experienced only psychological aggression in the past month

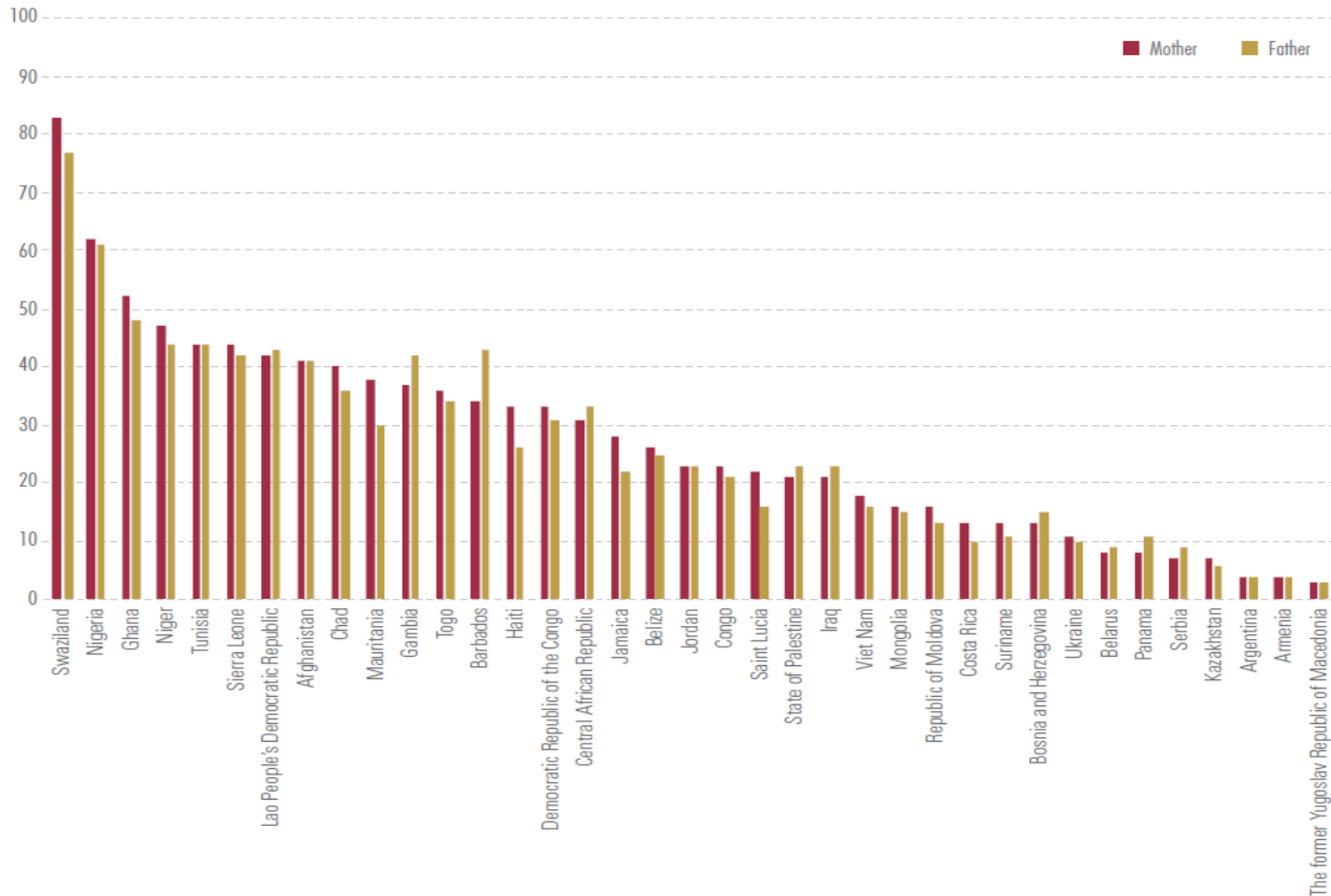


Notes: Data for Belarus differ from the standard definition. Data for Kyrgyzstan refer to children aged 3 to 14 years. Data for Panama refer to children aged 1 to 14 years. For Argentina, the sample was national and urban (municipalities with a population of more than 5,000), since the country's rural population is scattered and accounts for less than 10 per cent of the total.
Source: UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys, 2005-2013.

Situation: Violence Remains a Strong Social Norm

Mothers and fathers are equally likely to support the use of physical punishment of children

Percentage of adults who think that physical punishment is necessary to raise/educate children, by relationship to the child



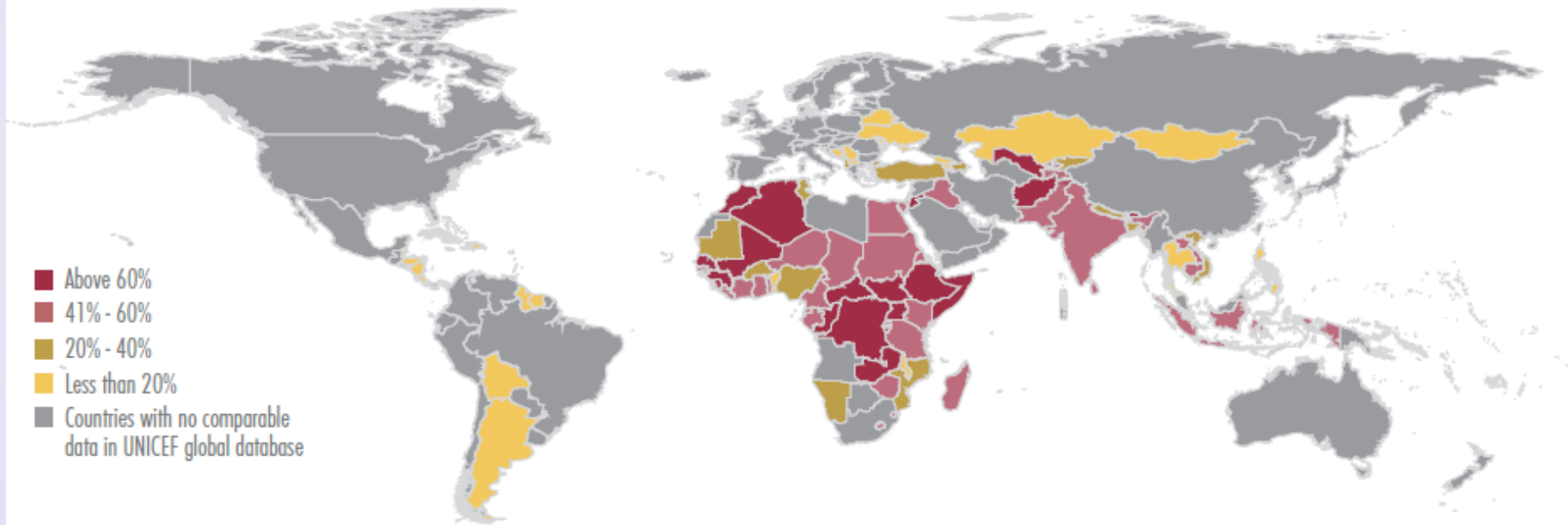
Notes: Data refer to any adult household member who responded to questions about child discipline. For Argentina, the sample was national and urban (municipalities with a population of more than 5,000), since the country's rural population is scattered and accounts for less than 10 per cent of the total.

Source: UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys, 2005-2013.

Situation: Social Acceptance of Violence Against Women

In a majority of countries, more than 4 in 10 girls think wife-beating is sometimes justifiable

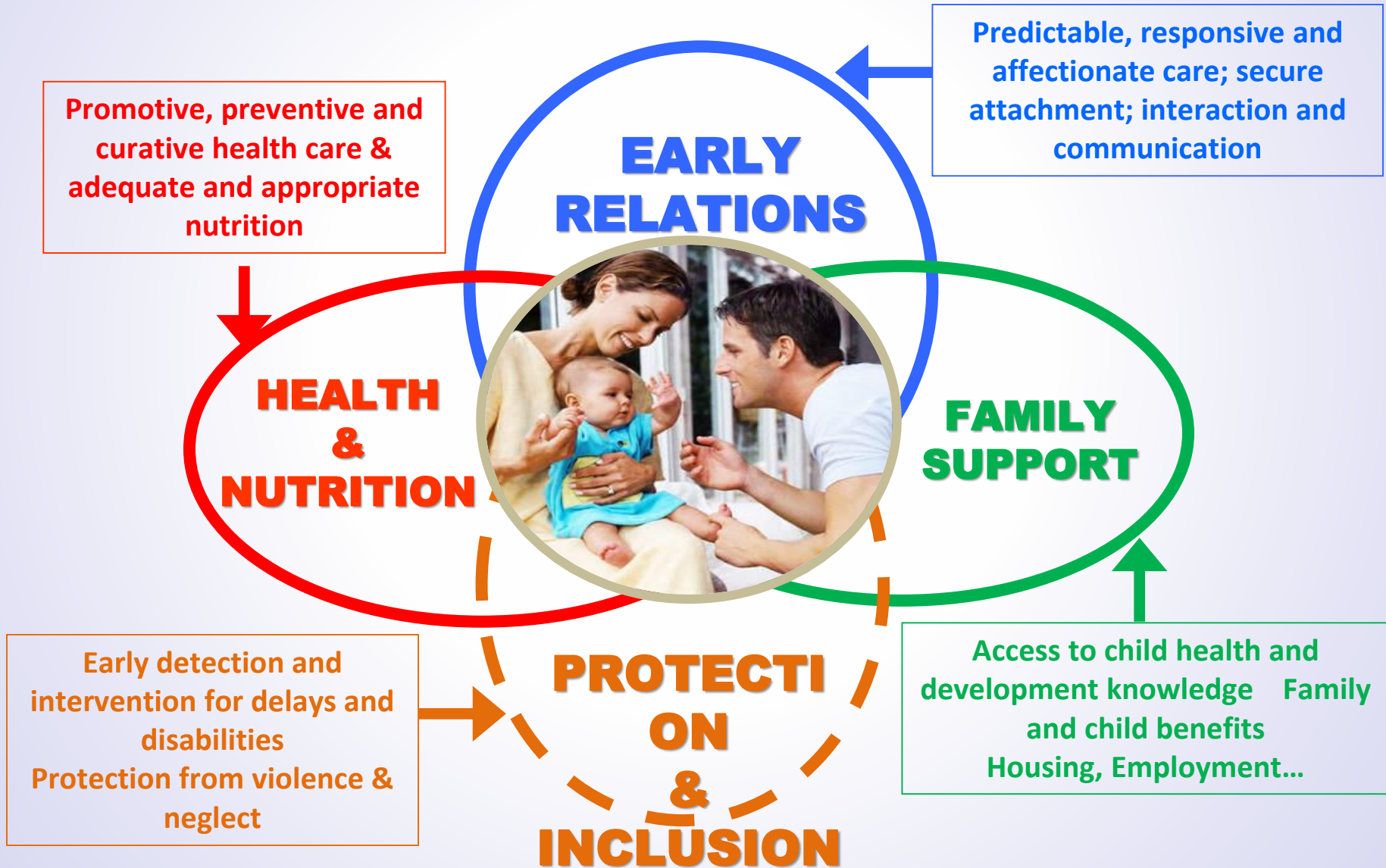
Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife or partner under certain circumstances, by country



Notes: This map is stylized and not to scale. It does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. The final status of the Abyei area has not yet been determined. For Argentina, the sample was national and urban (municipalities with a population of more than 5,000), since the country's rural population is scattered and accounts for less than 10 per cent of the total. Data for Lebanon refer to currently married girls. Data for Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Maldives, Pakistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka refer to ever-married girls. Data for the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Nicaragua and Turkey differ from the standard definition.

Source: UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS, MICS and other nationally representative surveys, 2002-2013.

ECD Strategic Approach

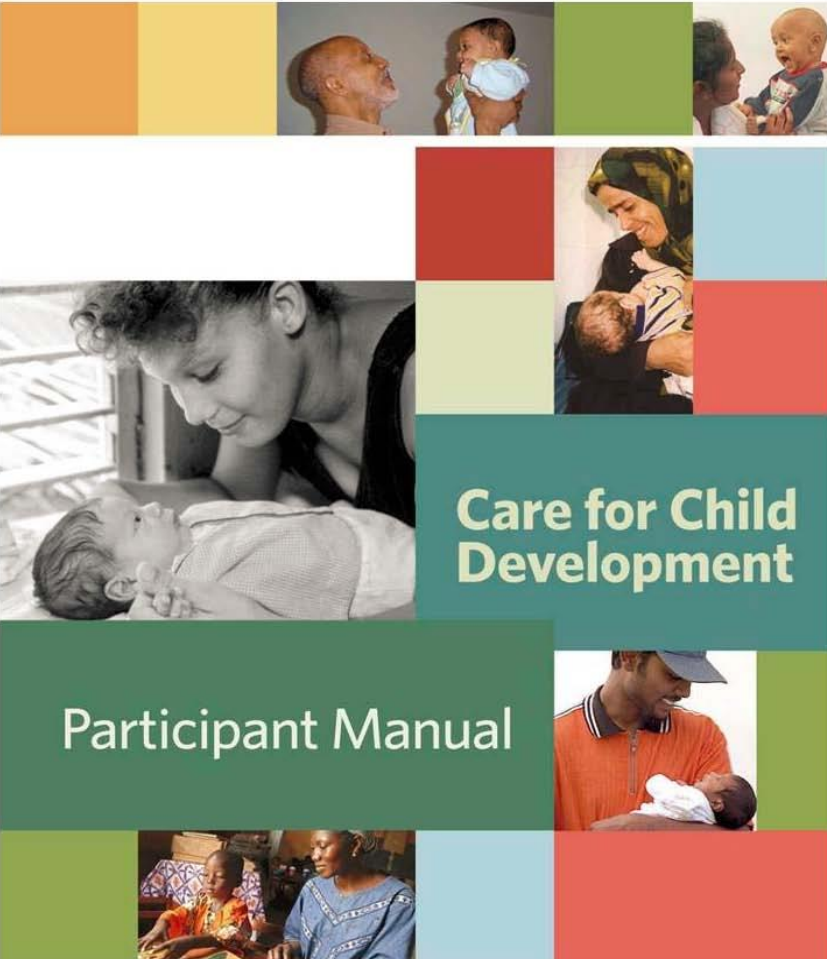


Mothers, Parents, Caregivers Play a Critical Role

- Mothers, parents and other caregivers play a critical role in determining children's chances for survival and development
- Primary Caregivers need basic skills to
 - Feed on demand, and feed responsively
 - Protect a child from imminent harm
 - Recognize and seek care when the child is sick
 - Help child see cause and effect in the environment and in social relationships
 - Help child learn: to speak, read, problem solve, and learn other life skills



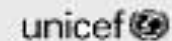
UNICEF & WHO developed two tools



Integrated Management of Childhood Illness

Caring for the child's healthy growth and development

A training course for community health workers



Key Encounters with MCH Services

(In patient)

FACILITY BASED

Child Birth; Illness

Almost universal hospital deliveries

Has role in providing information, preventing abandonment

Brief intervention, often significant culture/education gap between patient and provider

(Out patient)

FACILITY BASED

Antenatal Visits;

Immunization;

Sick Child

Relatively regular contact

Role in providing information, guidance

Disease and health-focused, culture gap, access and demand barriers for socially excluded groups

HOME BASED

Prenatal, post-partum, child/mother/father/family

Community Nurses, Patronage Nurses

Sees family in home environment

Seeks out child and family

Reaches socially excluded

Provides of continuum of care

Lady Health Workers Programme

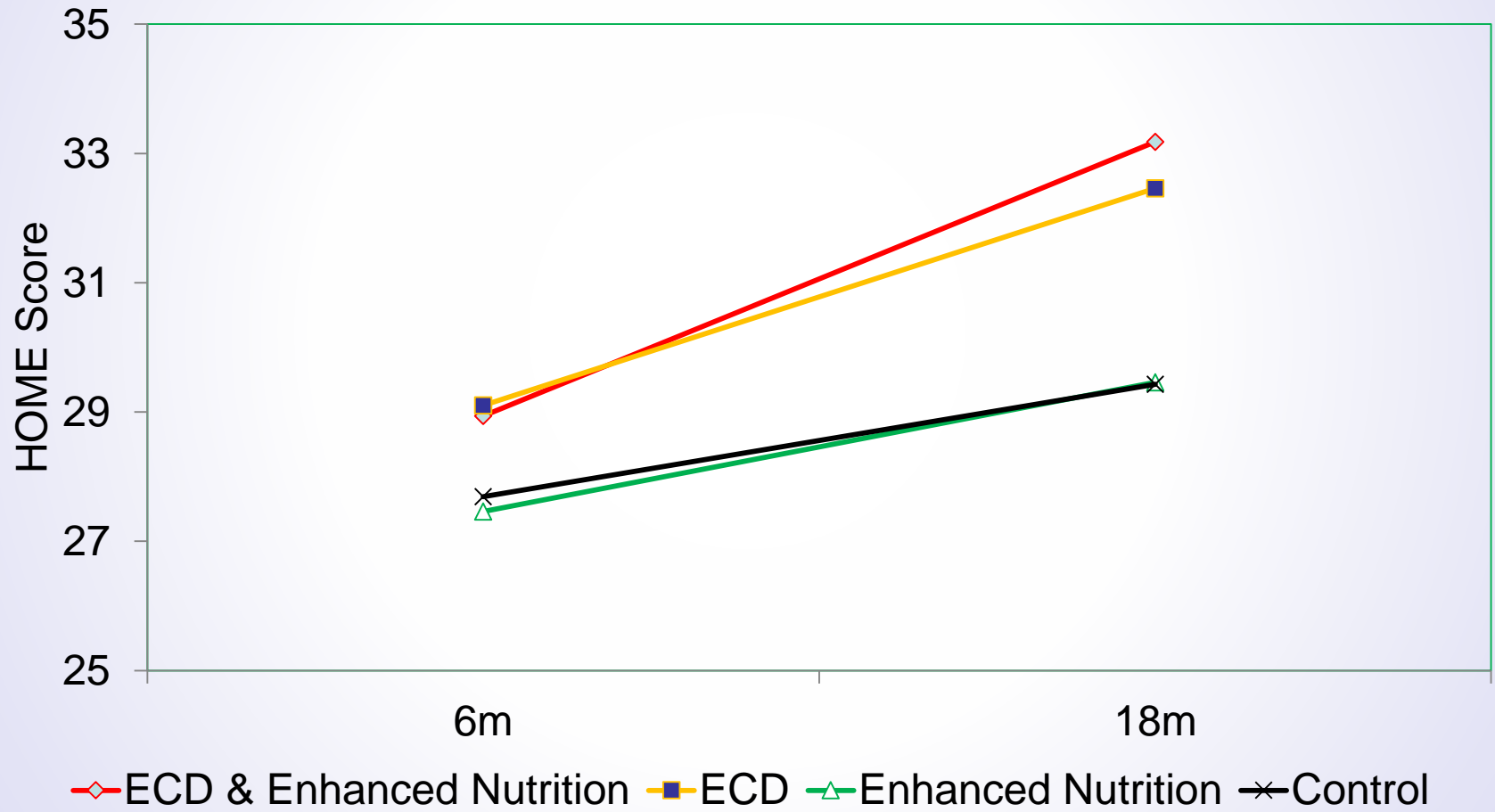
Cluster randomized control trial with 1,489 children recruited at birth into one of 4 intervention groups:

- 1. Standard LHW services (Control)**
- 2. Care for Child Development Package (ECD)**
- 3. Nutrition Education and Sprinkles (Enhanced Nutrition)**
- 4. Care for Child Development Package, Nutrition Education and Sprinkles (ECD and Enhanced Nutrition)**

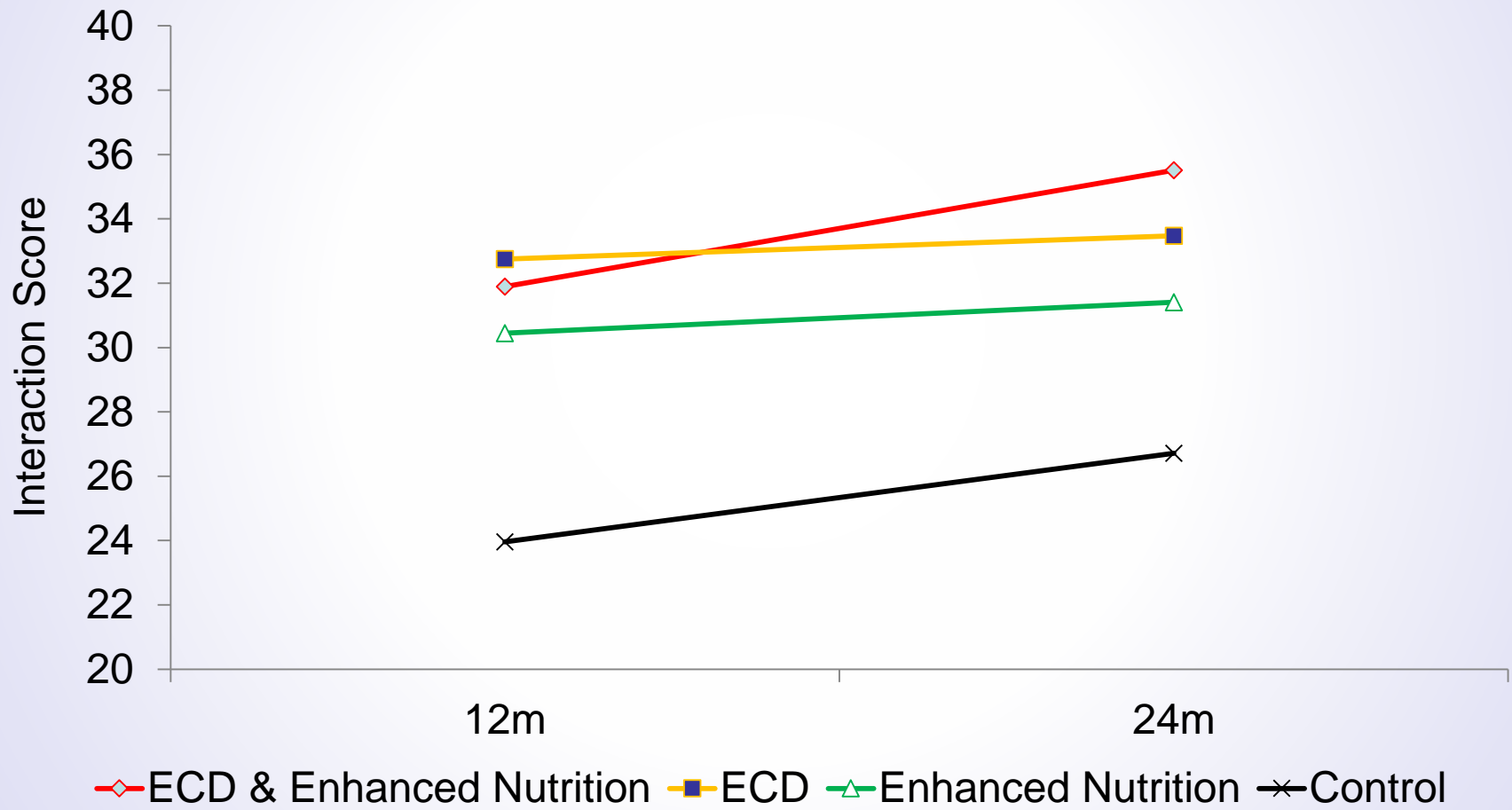


Development, growth and care outcomes assessed from birth to 24 months of age

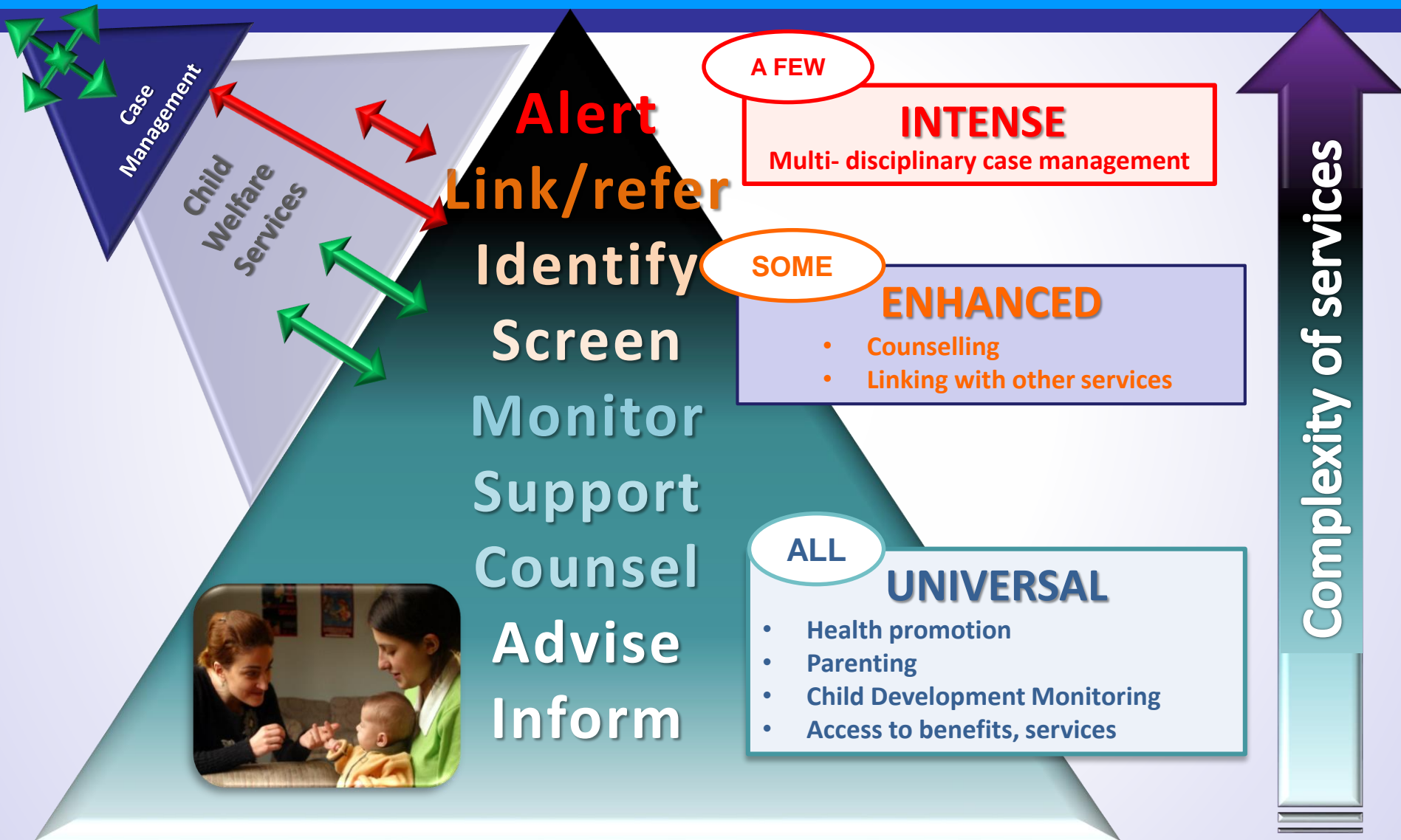
Home Environment



Mother and Child Interaction



Strengthening Home Visiting Services in Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Thank You!

