

Early Childhood Development and Disability Programs

The Ummeed eCDD program is delivered through onsite training modules for CHWs and Supervisors which is an amalgamation of didactic lectures and experiential learning.

After Module 1: Typical Child Development and Interacting with Families

- The CHWs are familiar with typical child development concepts such as role of a responsive caregiver and environment and developmental milestones.
- The CHWs demonstrate skills in using a strengths-based approach when working with families. They are trained in doing home visits in their communities to promote child development.

This module is adapted from the WHO/ UNICEF CCDI package with modifications made by Ummeed to meet the needs of our program.

After Module 2: Monitoring Child development and Identifying Delays Using GMCD

- CHWs are trained to administer the International Guide to Monitor Child Development (GMCD). This is a valid and reliable international tool to monitor child development in the 0-3 years' age group.
- They use skills of facilitation while administering the GMCD.

After Module 3: Interpreting GMCD and planning implementation

- This module closely follows and builds on skills from the previous module.
- CHWs are trained in interpreting GMCD results and identifying the developmental age of the child.
- They plan intervention visits following an algorithm and provide parent-mediated play-based recommendations to the family to promote child's development.
- They are able to provide additional support to those children identified with delays and families at risk.

After Module 4: Working with families of children with Delays

This module is mostly tailored to needs of the community.

- The CHWs are exposed to common developmental delays such as Motor delays, Hearing and Visual Impairment and Intellectual disabilities so that the health workers will be able to identify the symptoms and be equipped to provide home based suggestions to the families.

- The CHWs are supported in mapping existing resources in the community, and to aid the parents in accessing them.

Supervisor training

In addition to ECDD content training, the supervisors are mentored and will be able to:

- Use a 'strengths- based' approach in working with community health workers as well as families.
- Monitor skills of community health workers after each module of training through benchmarks developed for the same.
- Develop resource list of organizations in the community to provide support for medical and psychosocial risk factors.
- Follow the algorithm of intervention. This entails family visits, GMCD administration to best support development monitoring and optimizing intervention to children with delays.
- Use a data management system to document intervention and facilitate outcome measurement.

On-site training is supplemented with periodic mentorship visits and phone calls to support implementation of the program.

Through this program Ummeed expects to deliver a community health worker mediated, family based intervention program to monitor and promote early childhood development in children from 0-3 years of age. This program also looks at sustainability through stakeholder engagement and monitoring the impact and learnings that will help take this model to scale in the future.

RECOGNITIONS:

- 2015: National and Asian Awards for Forbes Marshall Pune, for "Innovative Practices in CSR" for a program designed by Ummeed and delivered in communities by Community Health Workers from Forbes Marshall trained in ECDD by Ummeed.
- Published as a best practice model in Textbook of Clinical Pediatrics
- (Authors: Elzouki, A.Y., Harfi, H.A., Nazer, H., Oh, W., Stapleton, F.B., Whitley, R.J);
- Published in: Early Childhood Matters, the Journal of the Bernard Van Leer Foundation
- Ummeed presented a poster entitled Ummeed Early Childhood Development and Disabilities (ECDD) Program at " Concerted Action for Enhancing Childhood " on November 7 and 8 2014 ,at TISS, Mumbai
- Presented as a 'best practice model' at the November 2015 meeting of the Forum on Investing in Young Children Globally, part of the Institute of Medicine, USA.

TESTIMONIALS:

From Community health workers (CHWs),

Gopikabai, Sakhi, ACF: "I wish I knew about ECD when my children were young.... Never mind... I feel satisfied that I can make a difference to other younger children in my village"

CHW, Forbes Marshall Pune: " Our work has spread word of mouth in the community. The newer mothers seek us out actively because they know what we do"