

Nutrition across the MNCH Continuum: ChildFund's Approach

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July 28, 2014



Who is ChildFund?

- ChildFund International is part of the ChildFund Alliance, which includes 12 member organizations
- Together, the Alliance serves over 15 million children– and their families– in 58 countries

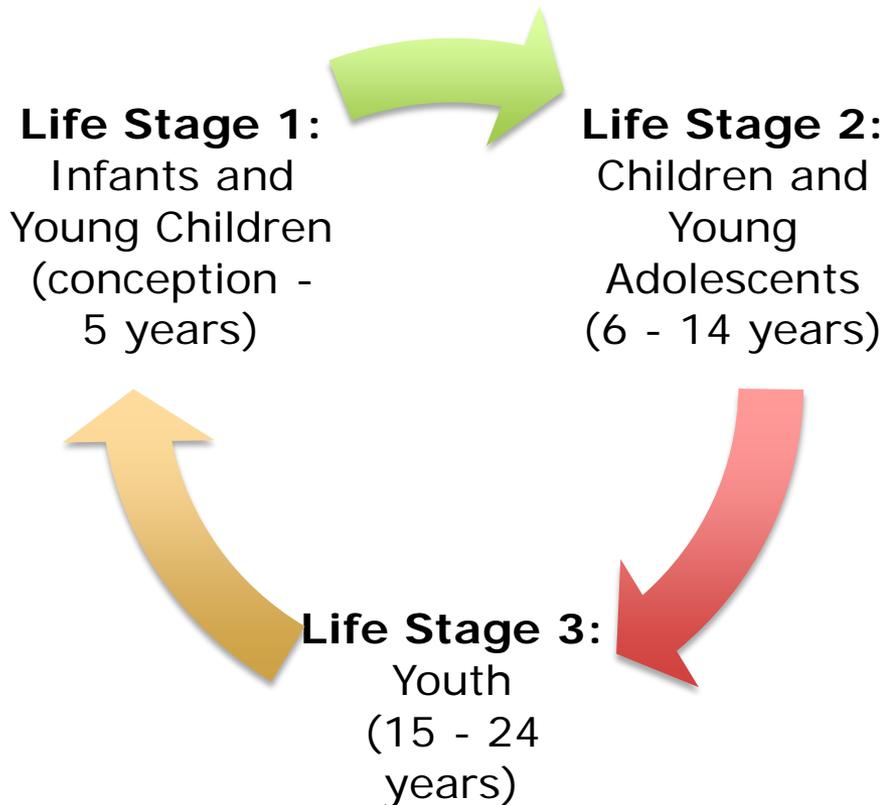
ChildFund International's mission:

To help deprived, excluded, and vulnerable children have the capacity to improve their lives and the opportunity to become young adults, parents, and leaders who bring lasting and positive change in their communities.

ChildFund's approach

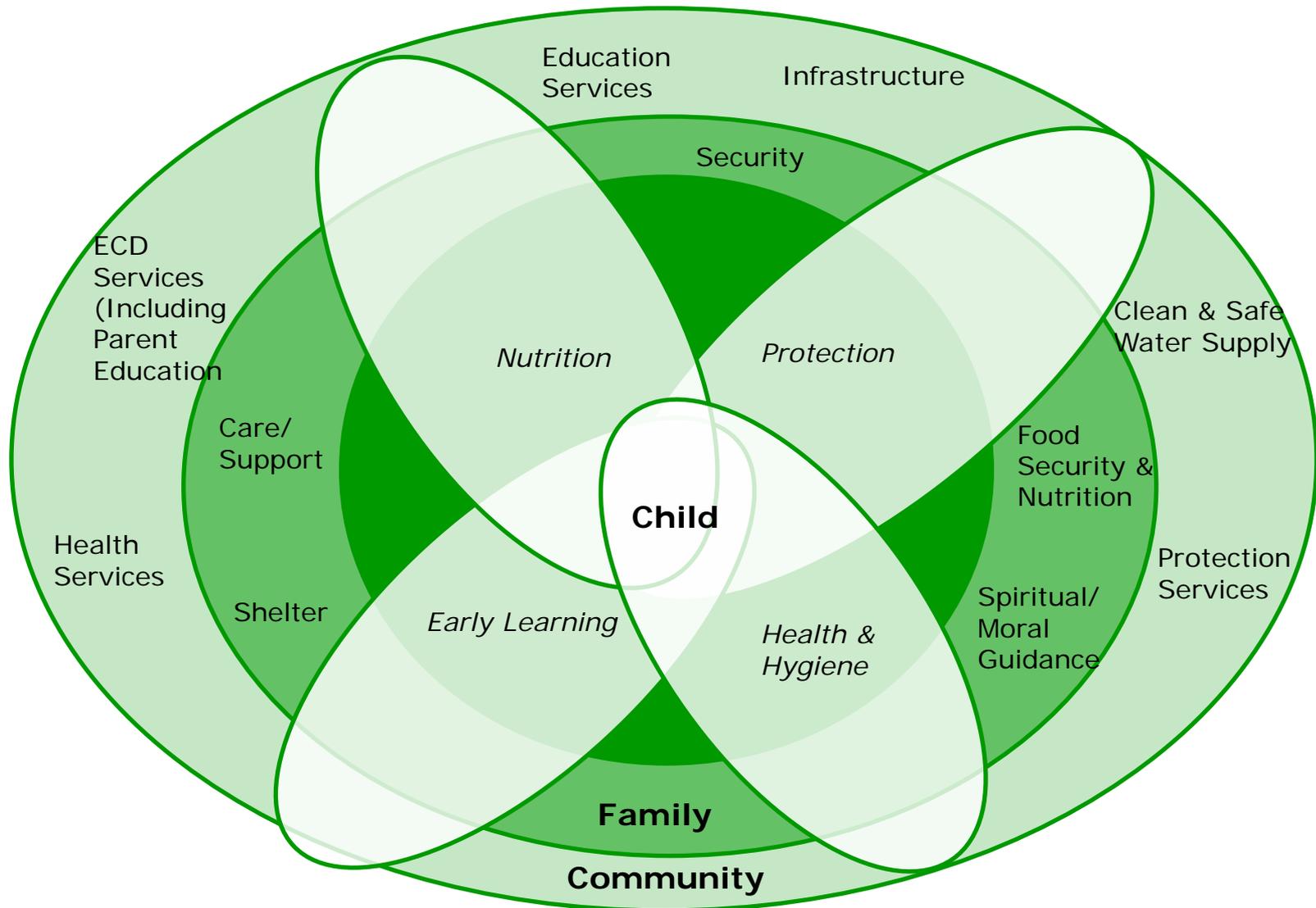
- We support local partners to create sustainable child-focused, community-based programs
- We apply a framework of evidence-based strategies that address the interconnected elements of change needed for a child's development and long-term well-being
- Our programs are supported through child sponsorship funds, as well as by institutional, corporate, and individual donors

ChildFund's approach



- We work across three **life stages**, from conception through young adulthood
- Each life stage has a **theory of change**, which addresses key domains and pathways that contribute to change
- We promote the roles of parents/caregivers, children, communities, and societies in supporting children in each life stage and during critical transitions

What do infants and young children need?



Life Stage 1 theory of change

Empowered,
responsive
caregivers

Safe and
caring
environments
for infants
and young
children

High quality
health care
and nutrition
for mothers,
infants, and
young
children

High quality
stimulation
for infants
and young
children

Children
develop to
their full
potential,
enjoy good
physical and
mental
health, and
live in stable
families who
interact in
non-violent
ways, within
supportive
communities

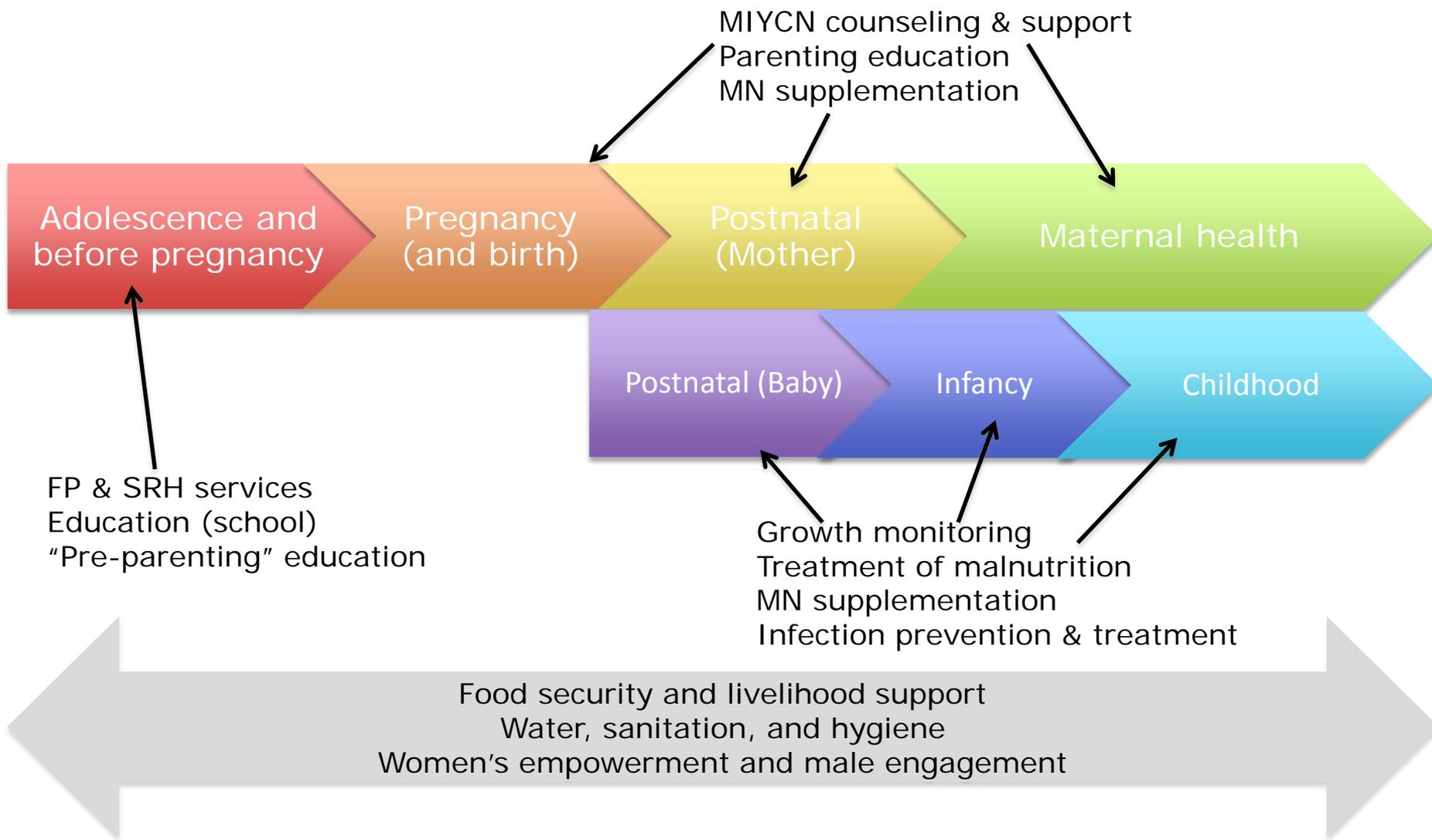
Why focus on caregivers?

- Empowered, responsive caregivers provide a foundation for healthy child development
- Maternal well-being has an impact on child health and development
 - Maternal nutrition before and during pregnancy
 - Maternal mental health and child nutritional status

What do caregivers need?

- Resources (including knowledge and skills)
 - Livelihood support
 - Food security
 - Parenting education and support
 - Health and nutrition services
- Decision-making power
 - Women's empowerment
 - Male/father engagement
 - Caregiver relationships/dynamics

ChildFund works across the MNCH and nutrition continuum



Senegal PSSC-II

- Programme Santé USAID / Santé Communautaire II (PSSC-II)
 - \$40 million, five-year USAID project implemented by ChildFund with Africare, Plan, WorldVision, CRS, Enda Graf Sahel, Enda Health
 - Builds on achievements of PSSC-I by expanding services and coverage, and promoting sustainability through community ownership
 - National-level engagement on policy development
- Integrated community health project with nationwide reach
 - All 14 regions (71/75 districts), at over 4,200 health huts/outreach sites
 - Rural and urban areas, serving over 9 million people
 - Target population: women of reproductive age, pregnant/lactating women, infants and young children (0-5), school aged children

Senegal PSSC-II

- PSSC-II works in close collaboration with national and local partners to support nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions
 - Programme de Renforcement de la Nutrition (PRN)
 - USAID/Yaajeende (Feed the Future food security initiative)
- Integrated package delivered at community level (health huts, outreach sites, home visits)
 - Nutrition-specific: Counseling and education on MIYCN; GMP (0-3y); iodine; iron and VitA for women; VitA for children; CCM of malnutrition; iron fortification of flour (at local bakeries)
 - Nutrition-sensitive: FP; WASH; women's empowerment; VS&L; ECD

Senegal PSSC-II

- Example nutrition-specific approaches
 - Pregnancy solidarity (support) groups discuss nutrition during pregnancy and lactation
 - Garden and cooking demonstrations teach families how to use locally available foods



Photo credit: S. Harris,
ChildFund

What's next?

- New USAID nutrition strategy highlights the importance of nutrition-sensitive interventions
 - Create “nutrition enabling environment”
- “Intentional integration” (cross-sectoral)
 - Do integrated interventions have a multiplier effect?
 - How to do integration well?
 - What affect do they have on caregiver practices and well-being?
 - How can we do them well without overburdening?
- Articulate and test approaches to ensure strong, healthy transitions between LS3 and LS1 (young adulthood into parenthood)
 - “Future parent” groups
 - Health and nutrition services for youth, particularly young women

Thank you!

Questions? Ideas? Suggestions?

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