



THE MINIMUM STANDARDS ON COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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Introduction

Establishment, Objectives and Mission of EAC

- REC /IGO of R. of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda
- EAC Treaty of 1999 and enforced in 2000
- Strengthen economic, social, cultural, political, technological, defense & security, legal & judicial affairs for sustainable development and jointly address sustainable development issues
- Widen and deepen integration to improve the quality of life of the people of EA through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investment

Introduction

Treaty Mandate, EAC Child Policy

Article 120 (c)

“the Partner States undertake to closely co-operate amongst themselves in the field of social welfare with respect to, among others, “the development and adoption of a common approach towards disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including children, the youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities through rehabilitation and provision of, among others, foster homes, healthcare, education and training.”

- EAC Child Policy adopted in March 2016
- To provide a functional regional framework to facilitate the development, coordination and strengthening of national efforts geared towards the realisation of children's wellbeing.

Brief Background – EAC Child Policy (2016)

The 10 Priority Areas and Policy Statements:

- A Regional approach to ratification, domestication and implementation of international instruments
- Harmonization of national laws and policies to the African Charter and the UNCRC and other key international Child Rights instruments
- The Right to Citizenship and Identity
- Addressing cross border Child Rights violations
- Strengthening of national child protection systems and community mechanisms within the EAC region
- An integrated approach to providing quality education, health and social protection to children
- Child protection in conflict and emergency situations
- Resourcing of Child Welfare Services and Institutions
- Regional mechanism for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of child rights
- Child Participation

Process

- Regional experts meeting (October 2016)
- Country consultations (November 2016)
- Regional Validation workshop (May 2017)
- Presentation of final draft for approval at the Sector Council meetings (August 2017)

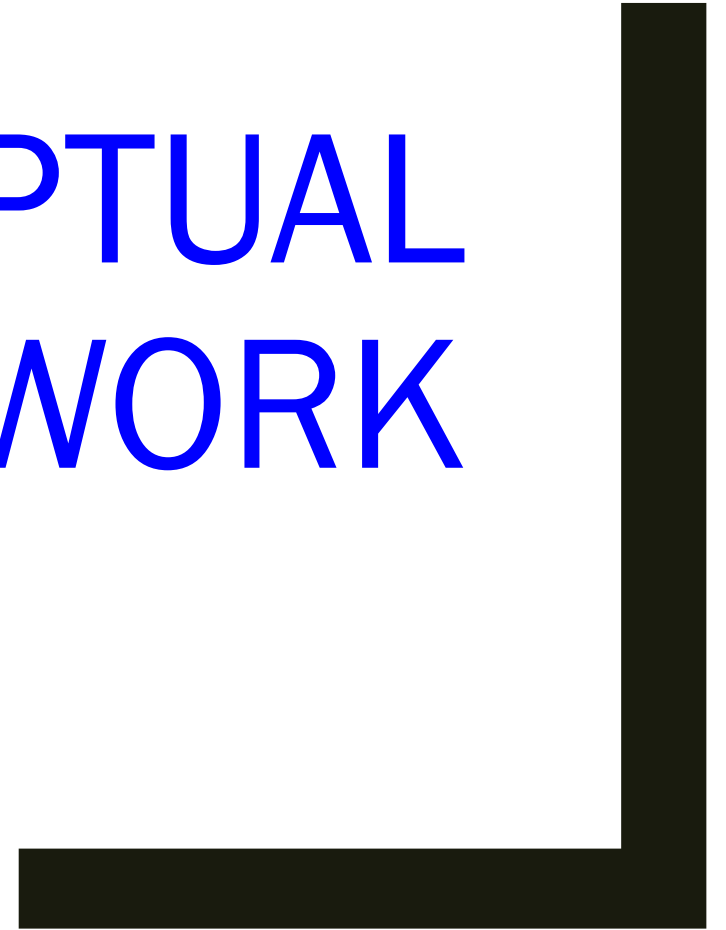
Rationale of the Minimum Standards

- To support Partner States to **strengthen the design, implementation and review of national level standards** or packages of services for children and young people;
- To develop contextually appropriate, evidence-informed, strengths-based, and feasible strategies for EAC and its Partner States to inform the **operationalization of the EAC Child and Youth Policies** at regional and national levels;
- To **raise awareness and understanding of psychosocial wellbeing** and how this lens can help strengthen understanding of the type of services that are needed for children, young people and their families, at the different levels;
- **Facilitates progress towards meeting global, Africa-wide, and regional goals** on human and social development

What are the Minimum Standards?

- Psychosocial wellbeing frames the understanding of who a 'well' child and young person is, and what services they need, to be holistically well.
- Five key strategies- S.C.A.L.E.:
 1. Social service workforce
 2. Coordination of services
 3. Availability and accessibility of appropriate services
 4. Long lasting positive impact of services
 5. Evaluation of services

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



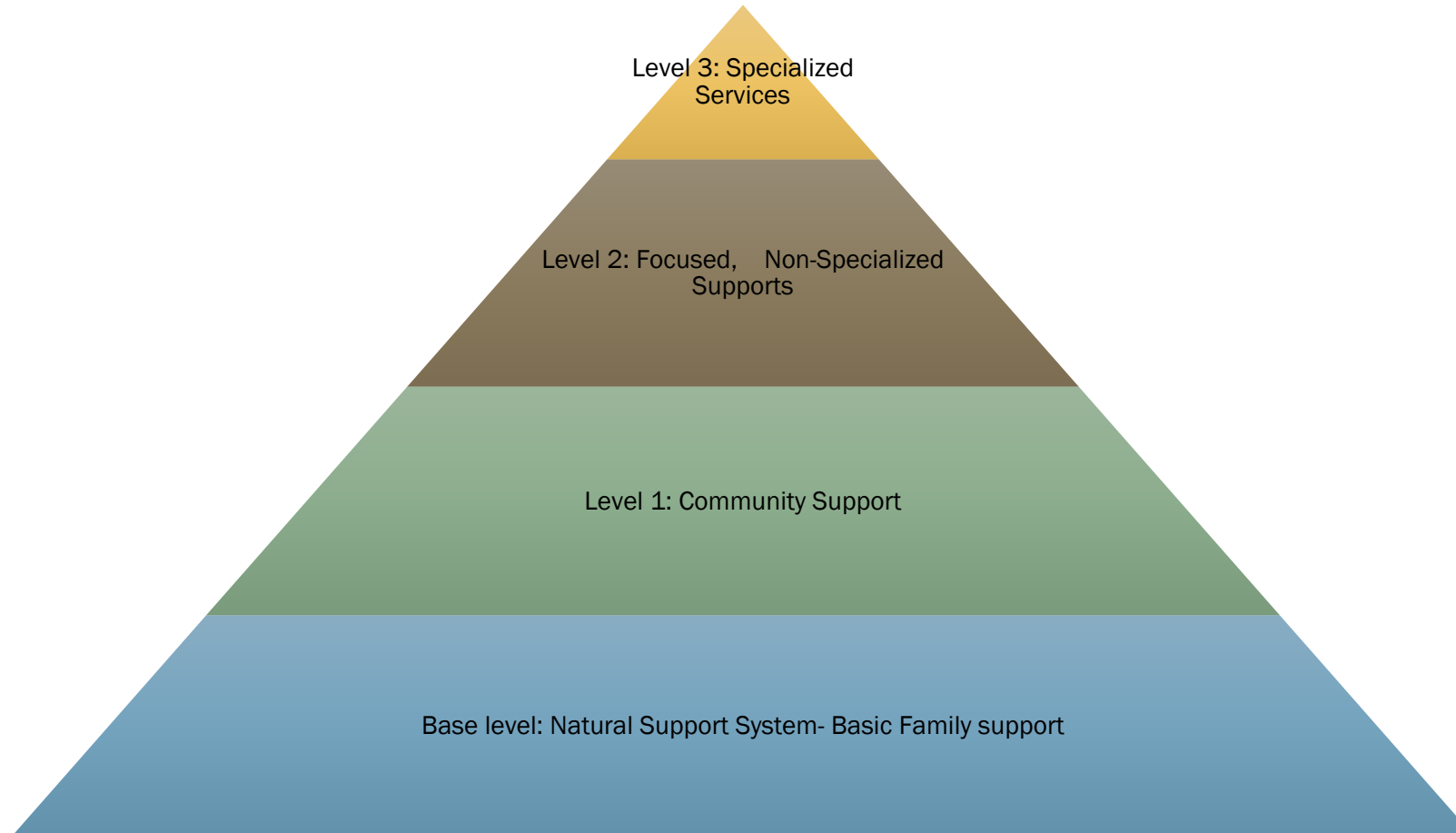
A psychosocial approach to wellbeing

- Takes into account the ***Stage of Development*** the child may be in: infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, adolescence and youth;
- Addresses the needs of children and young people within five ***Areas of Wellbeing***: physical, emotional, cognitive, relational and spiritual;
- Targets interventions to the various ***Circles of Support*** that may surround a child or young person: family, community and environment;
- Offers support at each different ***Level of Intervention***: basic services, community & family support, focused support, specialized services

Circles of Support



Levels of intervention



Implications for services

Any service targeting children should not be provided in a vacuum - it should be integrated into wider systems and linked to other relevant services, to address the comprehensive needs of the child at various stages and his/her family/caregivers.

SERVICES AND STANDARDS



Role of social service workforce

- Regular household **assessments** of vulnerable or marginalised households, such as through the Child Status Index or Household Vulnerability Assessment tools;
- Development and monitoring of individual and household **care plans**;
- Support the **monitoring and evaluation** of services and programmes relevant for children's and young people's wellbeing;
- **Provide services directly** to children, young people and their households, such as counselling, nutritional support, including in emergencies
- Initiate or participate in the **referral pathway** from household to service provider, including conducting counter referrals

STRATEGIES: S.C.A.L.E.



Strategies

- **S:** Social service workforce: A strong workforce in terms of quantity and quality
- **C:** Coordination of services: Coordinated services to ensure comprehensive and integrated service delivery
- **A:** Availability and accessibility of all appropriate services: All appropriate services are available and accessible to all children
- **L:** Long lasting positive impact of services: Services are sustainable
- **E:** Evaluation of services: Services are monitored and evaluated, and learning is generated to inform service delivery for children and young people

Inter-Agency Working Group



Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS
Foundation

*Until no
child has
AIDS.*