

# 4 CORNERSTONES

## To secure a strong foundation for young children

*Early childhood programs provide a strong foundation for good health, growth, and success in education and life.*

*Investing in young children saves money and pays off now and in the long term.*

### CORNERSTONE 1: Start at the beginning

Integrate early stimulation, child development, and parenting information into prenatal, early health, nutrition, and education services by:

- Providing access to parenting programs that address holistic child development, particularly for the most vulnerable families;
- Improving services for young children and families including early stimulation, health, nutrition and child care.

### CORNERSTONE 2: Get ready for success

Ensure access to at least two years of quality early childhood programs prior to formal school entry, beginning with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

### CORNERSTONE 3: Improve primary school quality

Increase investments and improve the transition from home or preschool to primary school and the quality of learning in Grades 1-3 by:

- Providing teachers with knowledge about early childhood, learning environments and styles, and methods for teaching early literacy and numeracy during pre/in-service teacher training,
- Giving children adequate learning materials, and
- Ensuring smaller sized classes.

### CORNERSTONE 4: Include early childhood in policies

Address Early Childhood in all national policies and plans across sectors, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Common Country Assessment's (CCA's), UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), One UN Plan documents, Education for All Plans (EFA), and Fast Track Initiative Plans (FTI). Assure adequate resources and multi-sectoral coordination by ensuring that Early Childhood is integral to development and macroeconomic planning and budgeting.



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