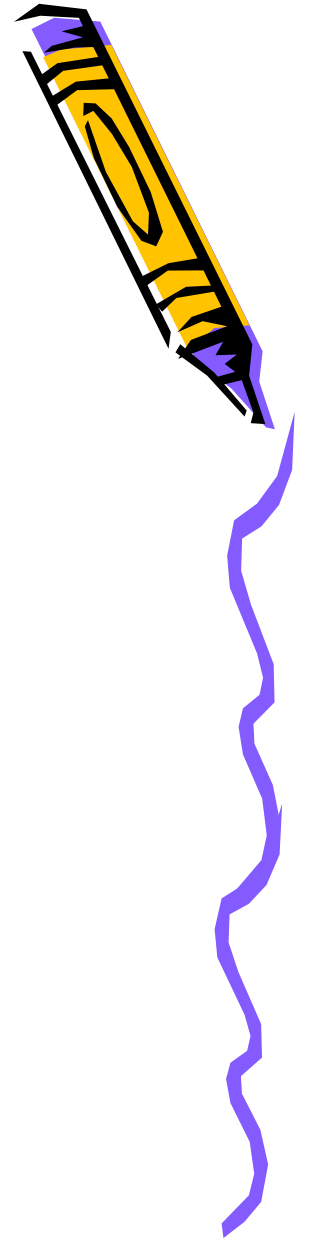


Strengthening National ECD Coordination

Bonita Birungi

Global Leader-Uganda

Global Leaders Program-World
Forum Foundation



Background

- ECD provision mainly sector based, different service types operate in different settings for different age groups
- ECD implementation guidelines developed by MOES not in full force.
- Lack of a functioning coordination system between Civil Service Organizations (CSOs) and Go'vt ministries

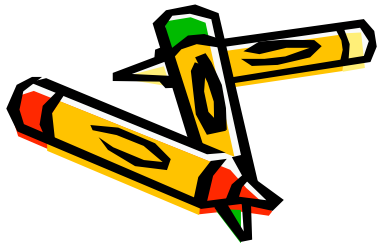
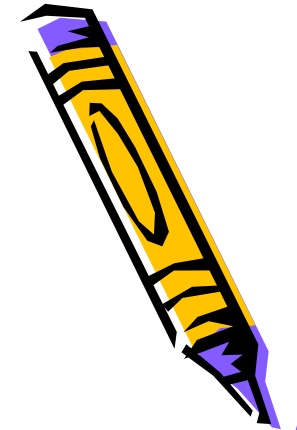


- **Project Goal:**

To Establish a Multisectoral National ECD Network for improved Coordination, Planning and Harmonized effort among stakeholders for improved ECD service delivery

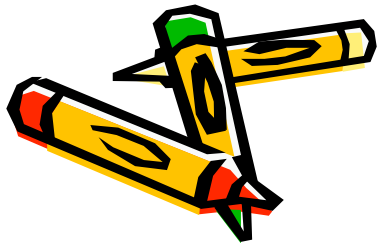
- **Rationale:**

Policy recommended a multi – Sectoral approach in addressing issues of ECD. This required an institutionalized coordination mechanism



Strategies:

- Technical Assistance, capacity building and leadership that facilitates better coordination across sectors
- Mobilize partners to provide financial and material support to facilitate the processes and activities



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What this meant:

Seek opportunities to further educate myself on the issue and related internal challenges

Build on existing structures, efforts and activities while filling a critical gap

Identify individuals who would support my project

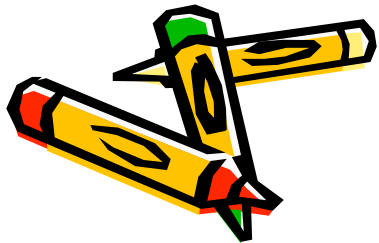
Share the project goal with potential 'gatekeepers'



Bridges: Building Momentum



- Individuals associated with the world forum
- Held a post Belfast meeting in Kampala
- Attended an ECD Conference in Dakar-Senegal
- Post Dakar meeting in Kampala





Activities: Preparing the Ground Work

- Held one-one meetings with the Assistant commissioners of Pre-primary in the MoE, MOH, Children and Youth(MOGLSD), NCC, UNICEF, NGOs
- Facilitated a national ECD implementers Consultation meeting
- Task force to develop the TOR established
- 2 Quarterly meetings with ECD working group



Outcomes:

Terms of Reference for the National Network finalized

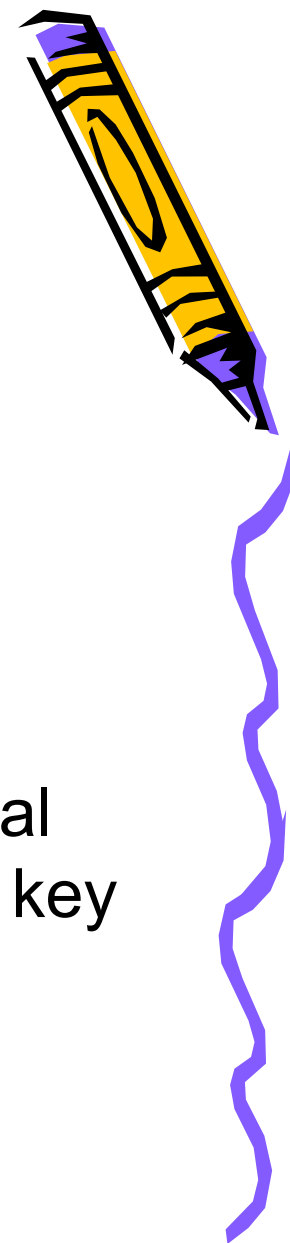
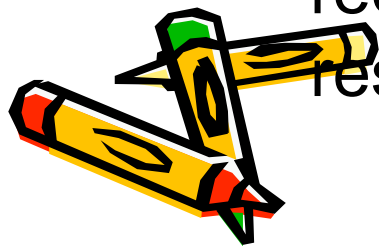
- to create synergies and deliver comprehensive ECD services
- to promote collaboration, partnership information and experience sharing.
- to improve/harmonize national, district and lower level ECD program interventions and management
- To clarify sector roles, minimize duplication of services and maximize synergies.



A Multi-sectoral ECD Network formed and chaired by the Commissioner for Children and Youth

-agreed framework for a multi-sectoral, well coordinated and effective ECD response

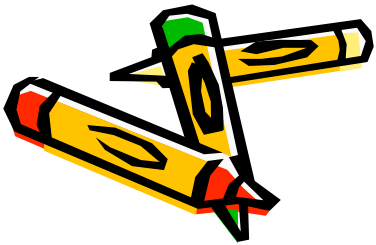
– effective procedure for provision of technical direction, strategy and advice outlining the key issues, concerns, challenges and recommendations on the national ECD response.



Technical Coordination Framework:

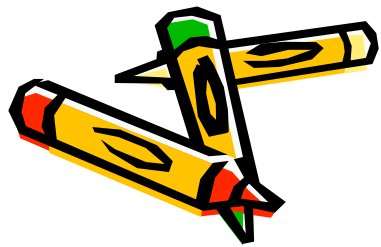
Select multi-sectoral Task Forces formulated to review the existing ECD Policy

- National ECD steering Committee (NESC).
- Technical Resource Committee (TRC)
- National ECD Network (NEN)

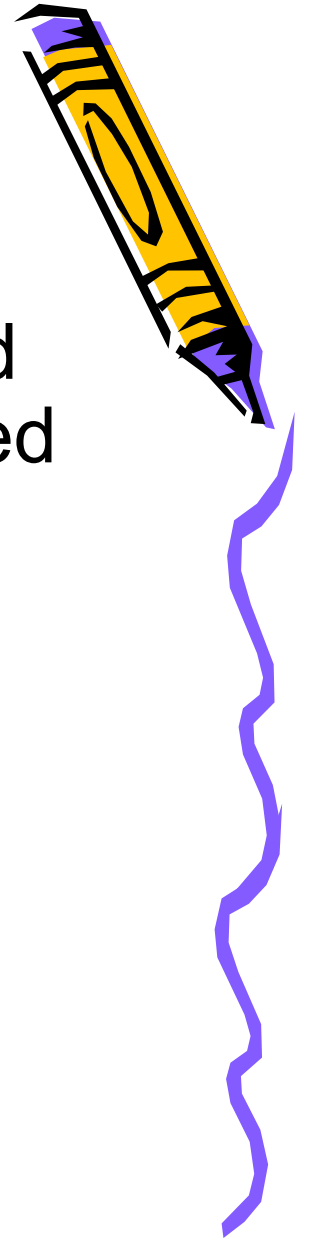
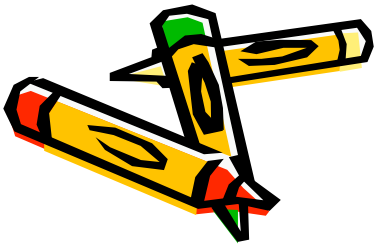


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Consultancy commissioned by MOGLSD supported by UCRNN to gather views of parents, implementers, local government structures to feed into the new multi-sectoral policy



- A reporting tool for all NGO's developed and currently used-September supported by Plan Uganda
- A quarterly newsletter commissioned to highlight the key issues



The Recipe

INTEREST

- Personal self-interest and/or social or professional obligation to change

+

EVIDENCE

- Clear evidence that change is desirable in relation to interests

+

RELATIONSHIP

- Persuaded by someone they respect

+

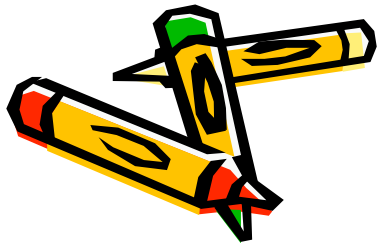
SOLUTION

- Know what change is desirable and how to do it.



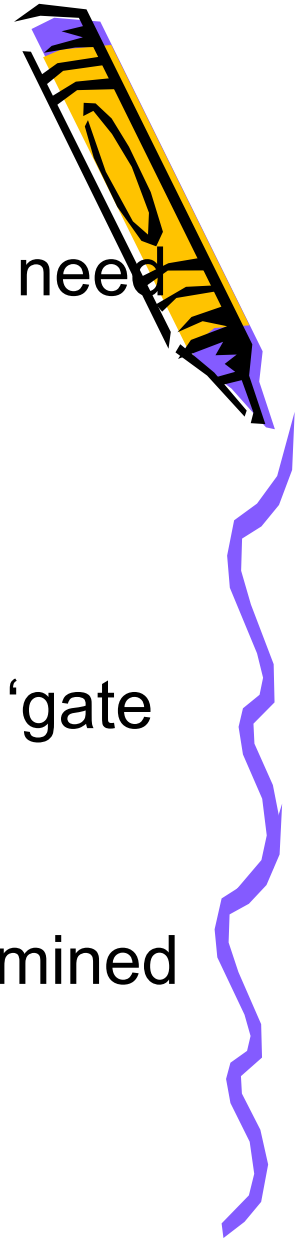
Challenges

- Very slow process bringing and building consensus among multiple ministries
- Continuity and sustainability of current Interest and efforts



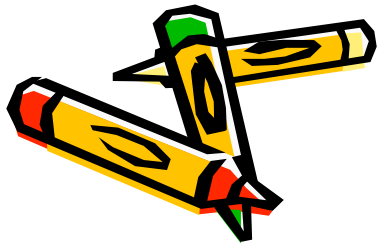
Lessons

- There is always someone willing to listen-just need to find that person
- Leadership is a shared responsibility
- The need to understand and reach out to the ‘gate keepers’, the visible and invisible powers.
- The role of donors/bilaterals cannot be undermined in determining the national agenda



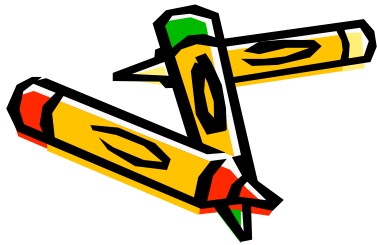
Hanging Fruit

- The African Union has adopted ECD as the 8th priority and therefore all countries are required to report on progress annually



Going forward

The overall purpose is to facilitate continuous and incremental actions by sustaining stakeholders interests



Thank You!

Global Leaders, Global Leaders Program,
World Forum Foundation



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