



# PEDIATRICIANS PROMOTING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA, TANZANIA, & MOZAMBIQUE

Nutrition and health. Protection from harm. Nurturing care and stimulation. These are the ingredients children need for a healthy start to life. The science behind early childhood development (ECD) is clear – a child’s brain is built, not born. The time between pregnancy and age three is the most critical period in shaping their lives during childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood. Unfortunately, 250 million of the world’s children under five are at risk of not reaching their full developmental potential. Almost 1 in 5 experience in stunting from malnutrition early in life. More than 300 million children under five have been exposed to societal violence. These conditions directly impact a child’s development today and their ability to contribute to society in the future.

In partnership with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Kenya Paediatric Association, Paediatric Association of Tanzania, and Associação Moçambicana de Pediatras, the American Academy of Pediatrics seeks to leverage the clinical expertise, patient experience, and expansive networks of pediatricians to ensure national and sub-national health care systems are responsive and inclusive of nurturing care for early childhood development.

**AAP’s approach recognizes the unique position of pediatricians and the health sector to provide well-timed support of nurturing care at many points of contact with pregnant people, families, and caregivers.**

## Child Health Providers & Nurturing Care

### Good Health

Antenatal & childbirth care | Essential care for newborns | Immunizations | Integrated management of childhood illnesses | Early detection of disabling conditions | Prevention & cessation of tobacco & alcohol use | Limit exposure to secondhand smoke

### Early Learning

Support early reading & play | Guidance on low-resource strategies to promote early learning | Monitor cognitive, physical, language, motor, social, & emotional development



### Adequate Nutrition

Support breastfeeding | Monitor weight and height | Management of malnutrition | Promote diet diversity

### Responsive Caregiving

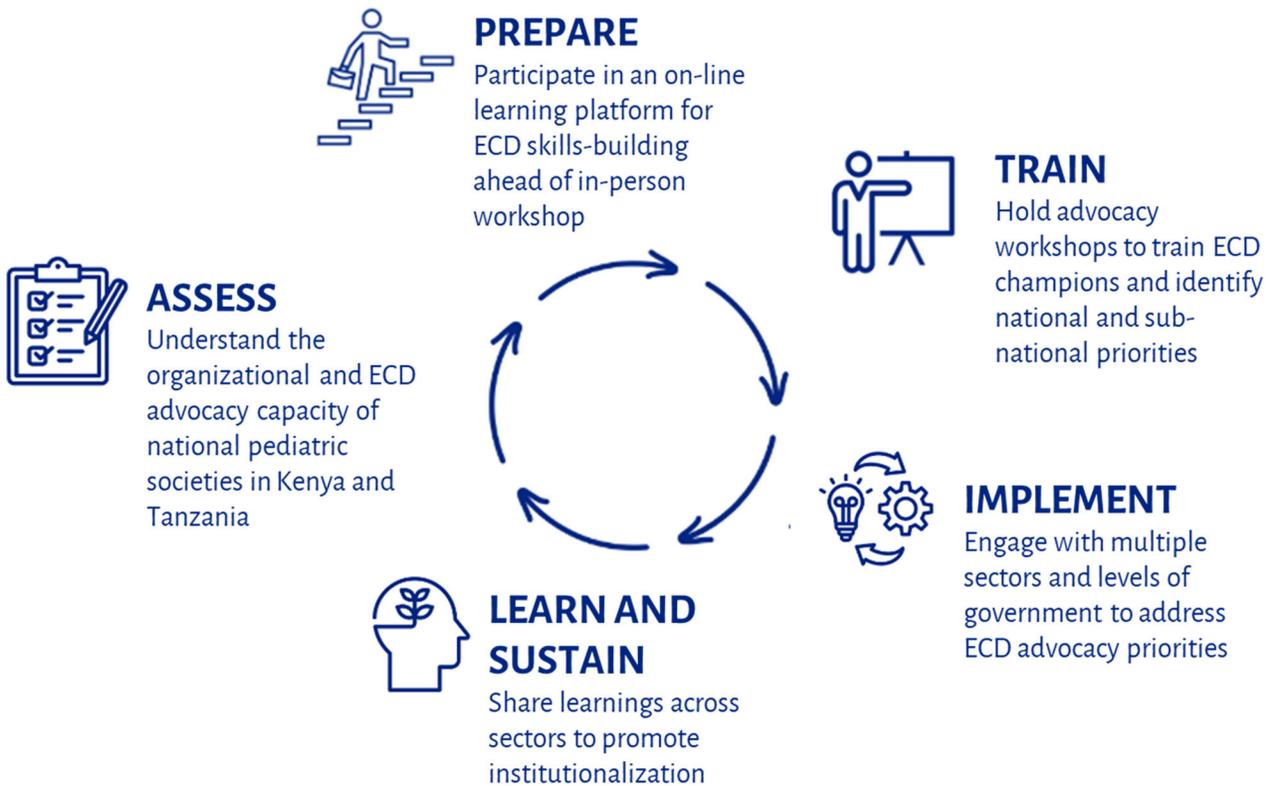
Skin-to-skin & Kangaroo care | Coach caregivers on play & responsive feeding | Milestone tracking

### Security & Safety

Birth registration | Good hygiene practices | Guidance to reduce exposure to air pollution | Advocate for safe family & play places | Ensure social care services understand ECD

# HOW WE WORK FOR IMPACT

AAP works to support **cross-sector engagement** and national **prioritization** of **appropriate ECD strategies**. We work with our partner pediatric societies to:



## COLLABORATING WITH PARTNERS TO ACHIEVE IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD



**Kenya Paediatric Association (KPA)**  
 2019—Present

- Recruited and trained **15 pediatric ECD champions**
- Trained **120 healthcare providers on developmental surveillance** and use of MOH registers
- Developed online course for health care workers reaching **221 health care works across 14 countries**
- Co-implementing a regional advocacy project with PAT to train providers and create caregiver messages



**Paediatric Association of Tanzania (PAT)**  
 2019—Present

- Recruited and trained **15 pediatric ECD champions**
- Trained **318 healthcare providers and 98 health care managers on ECD**
- Established **19 ECD corners/spaces**
- Engaged as **Strategic Partner for ECD in the country**
- Co-implementing a regional advocacy project with KPA to train more providers and create caregiver messages



**Associação Moçambicana de Pediatras (AMOPE)**  
 2022—Present

- Completed **ECD needs assessment engaging 11 external stakeholders in Mozambique**
- Recruited and trained **13 ECD champions**
- Became a **member of the national ECD Network of Mozambique**
- Secured two seats of on the **ministry of health technical working group on ECD**
- Currently implementing first country -level advocacy plan