*Promoting health, development and wellbeing of children on the move within and across borders**

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ECD **EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT** TASK FORCE

Overview of Talk

- Overview: Quantitative (the numbers) and Qualitative (the burden of suffering)
- Making Sense of It all
- A sample project

The Numbers

- **NEW YORK, 9 December 2016** – An estimated 535 million children – nearly one in four – live in countries affected by conflict or disaster, often without access to medical care, quality education, proper nutrition and protection, UNICEF said today.

  Sub-Saharan Africa is home to nearly three-quarters – 393 million – of the global number of children living in countries affected by emergencies, followed by the Middle East and North Africa where 12 per cent of these children reside.

- https://www.unicef.org/media/media_93863.html

More Numbers

- *Civilian fatalities in wartime have climbed from 5 per cent at the turn of the century … to more than 90 per cent in the wars of the 1990s.*
  - https://www.unicef.org/graca/patterns.htm

Children In War

- Vulnerable Population
- Loss of opportunity (school/nurturing/protective adults)
- Trauma
- Health (disease/malnutrition)
- Maltreatment
- Sexual violence
- War toxicity (chemical,biological,heavy metals,ballistics)

Children with/at Risk for Developmental Disabilities

- Interruption of normal support systems
- **Exacerbated by trauma, malnutrition, disease**
- Missed opportunities for intervention
- Long term downstream effects

Children with Developmental Disability

Who are they?

- 10-20% of children (estimate).
- Developmental delays in speech, motor, cognitive and social domains
- Includes communication disorders, autism, intellectual delays, learning disabilities, mobility problems
- Multiple Causality

What do they need?

- Nurturing and Safe Environment
- Physical Health
- Good Nutrition
- Developmental Intervention Services:
- Parent Training
- Various therapies
- Timing is important
-

My Personal Journey
making sense of it all

Zaatari Camp for Syrian Refugees 2014

Available Tool Kit

- Policies: CRC, CRPD
  Global Compact on Migration, Nurturing Care Framework
- Guidelines –UNHCR and other NGOs
- Training materials-MHGAP
- Caregiver Skills Training –WHO/UNICEF/Autism Speaks
- Textbooks-
  Where there is no child psychiatrist (Eapen, Graham, Srinath).
  Disabled Village Children (Werner).

International Mandate to Care

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities specifically calls attention to disabled people affected by humanitarian emergencies and requests more "inclusive and responsive humanitarian interventions."

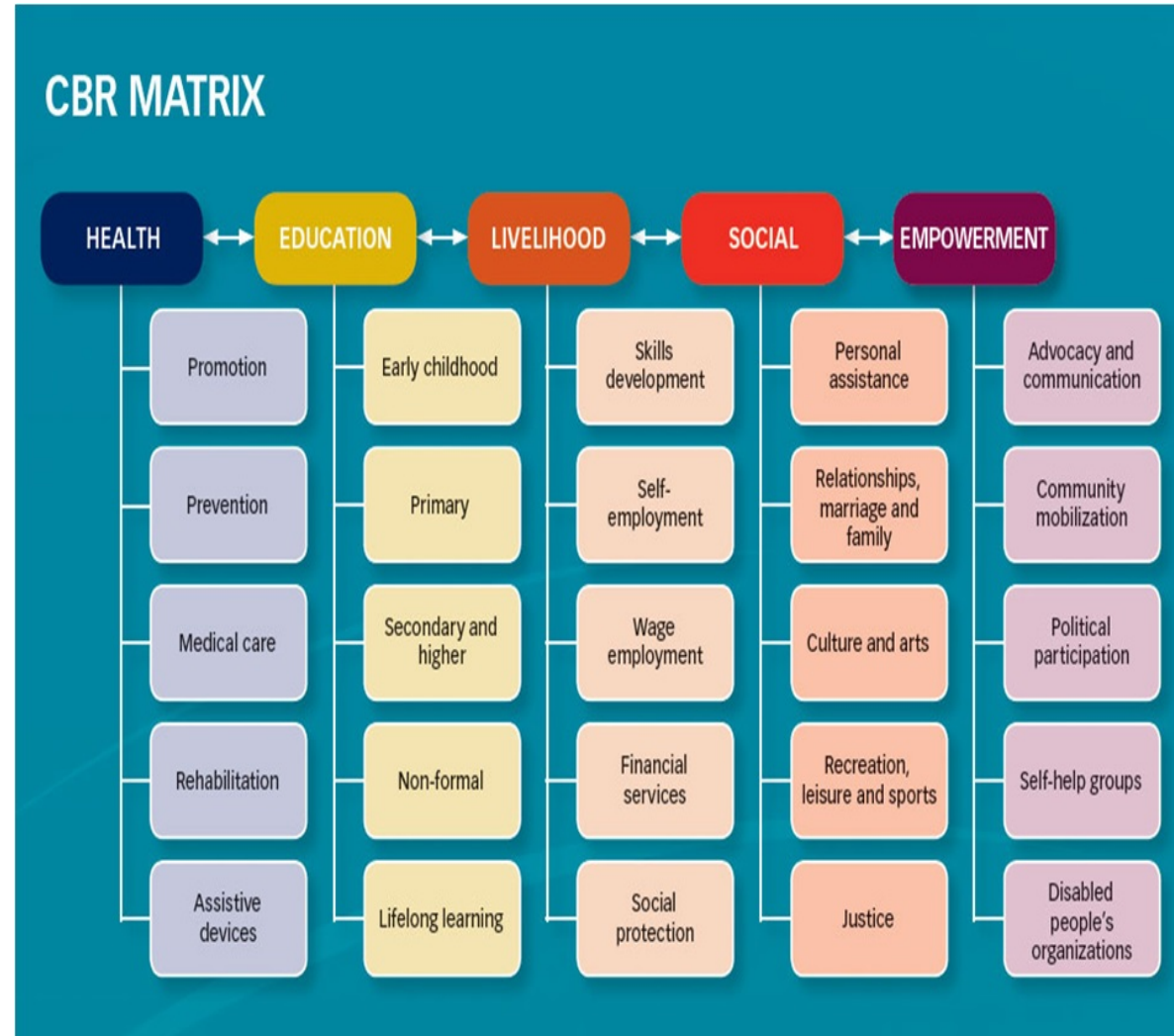- UNHCR: https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/64324/identifying-persons-with-specific-needs-pwsn

- WHO: http://who.int/disabilities/emergencies/en/

Delivery Models and Guidance

- Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)
- WHO emergency guidance
- Care for Child Development Package (Unicef, 2012):

Community Based Rehabilitation:

- first initiated in 1978 and
- Strategy to improve access to rehabilitation services for people with disabilities in developing countries.
- Over the past 30 years its scope has considerably broadened.
- Applies before, during and after humanitarian emergencies

WHO guidelines 2010 (including humanitarian settings).

http://who.int/disabilities/cbr/guidelines/en/

WHO Emergency Guidance 2013

Guidance Note on Disability and Emergency Risk Management for Health

http://who.int/entity/disabilities/emergencies/en/

ECD: UNICEF GUIDANCE 2014

Integrating ECD into Nutrition Programs in Emergencies (Unicef/WHO 2012)

- In famines and food shortage situations, providing food alone is not enough
- • Child growth and brain development depend on good nutrition AND stimulation and caretaker emotional responsiveness
- The brain is most responsive in the first three years of life. This is when it grows and develops fastest
- There is strong evidence that combined programmes improve growth and developmental outcomes in short and long term
- Early child development activities improve maternal mood if conducted using groups and home visits
- Regular mother and baby groups to do ECD activities build resilience and increase networks of social support. They provide a non-stigmatizing way of supporting vulnerable women and children exposed to violence

- http://www.who.int/mental_health/publications/emergencies_why_what_how/en/

Obstacles and Impediments:

- *Implementation research for early childhood development programming in humanitarian contexts: ECD implementation research-humanitarian settings*

- Katie Maeve Murphy,1. Hirokazu Yoshikawa,2 . and Alice J. Wuermli2.

- 1International Rescue Committee. 2New York University, Global TIES for Children. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, May 2018.

The scarcity of implementation research and high-quality evidence to inform early childhood programming in humanitarian settings relates to the current lack of political prioritization, funding, and practical actions..

What about Inclusive ECD ?

A Journey Into the Humanitarian World

MSF Collaboration

- Pediatric Days Stockholm 2016
- Online Teaching-2017
- Telemedicine Consultation-2017
- Proposal in Progress (sub-Saharan africa)-2018

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

- Children on the Move Task Force

- Text Book Chapter in Progress...
  Child, Adolescent & Family Refugee Mental Health

  Eds: Pieter Ventevogel (UNHCR)
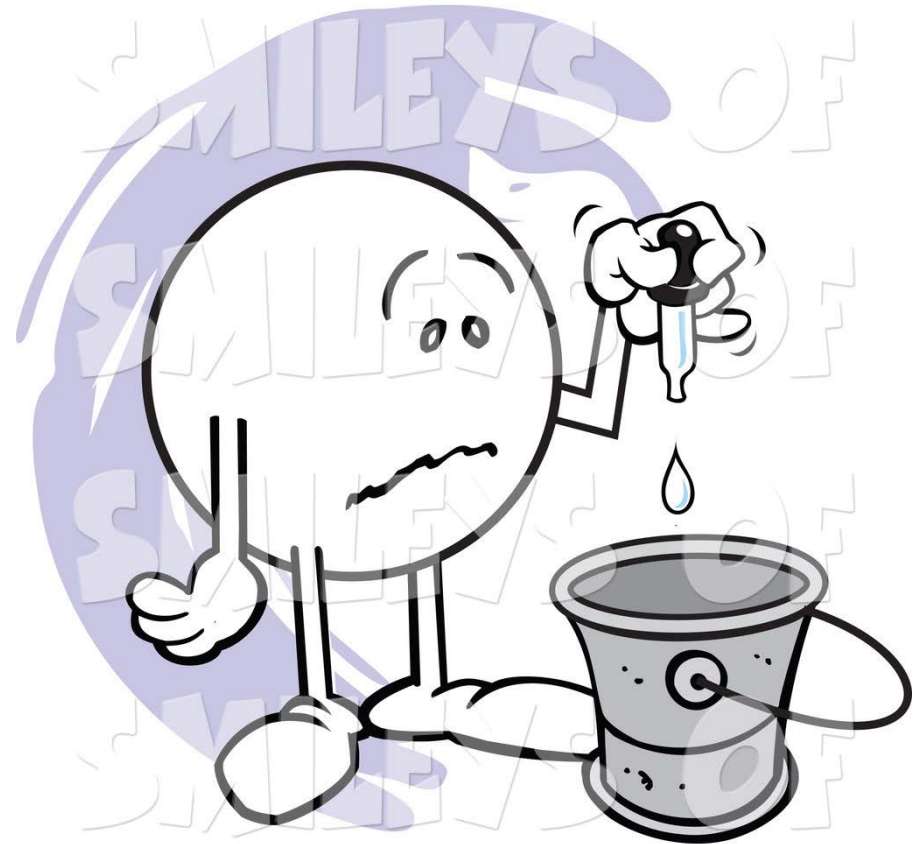 and Suzan Song (GW University Medical Center)-

  Children with developmental disabilities in emergency settings

  Vanessa Cavallera, Ramzi Nasir

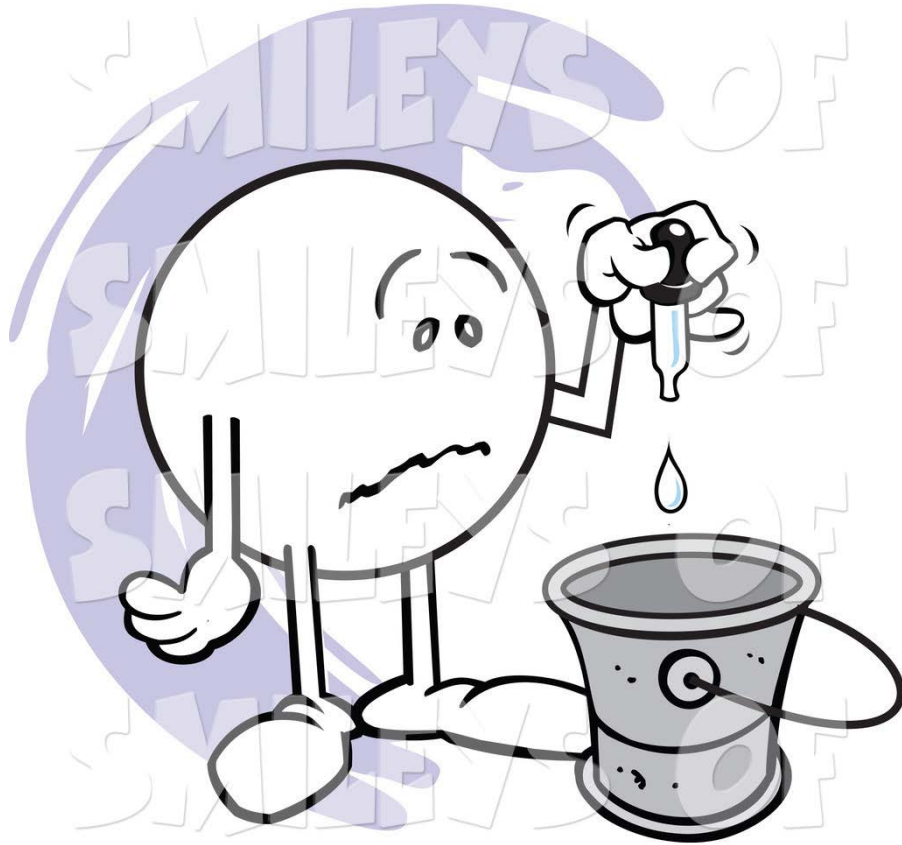 Judy Palfrey, Kerim Munir, Don Wertlieb

Lessons Learned and Looking Forward

- It's not about YOU and Me

- Leverage your strengths

- Build alliances

- Learn a new language

- Persistence and Focus

Additional Slides

Looking Forward

- Scaling up
- Collaborative Work
- Advocacy for a pediatric voice

Smaller Scale Projects

- Telemedicine (e.g. MSF, SAMA)

http://www.stmh.net/-lectures/

- http://www.aglobalvoiceforautism.org/
- Mobile Phone technology /cloud based EMR
- International Medical Corps-CST
- Many other small scale individual efforts

http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/partnerlist.php

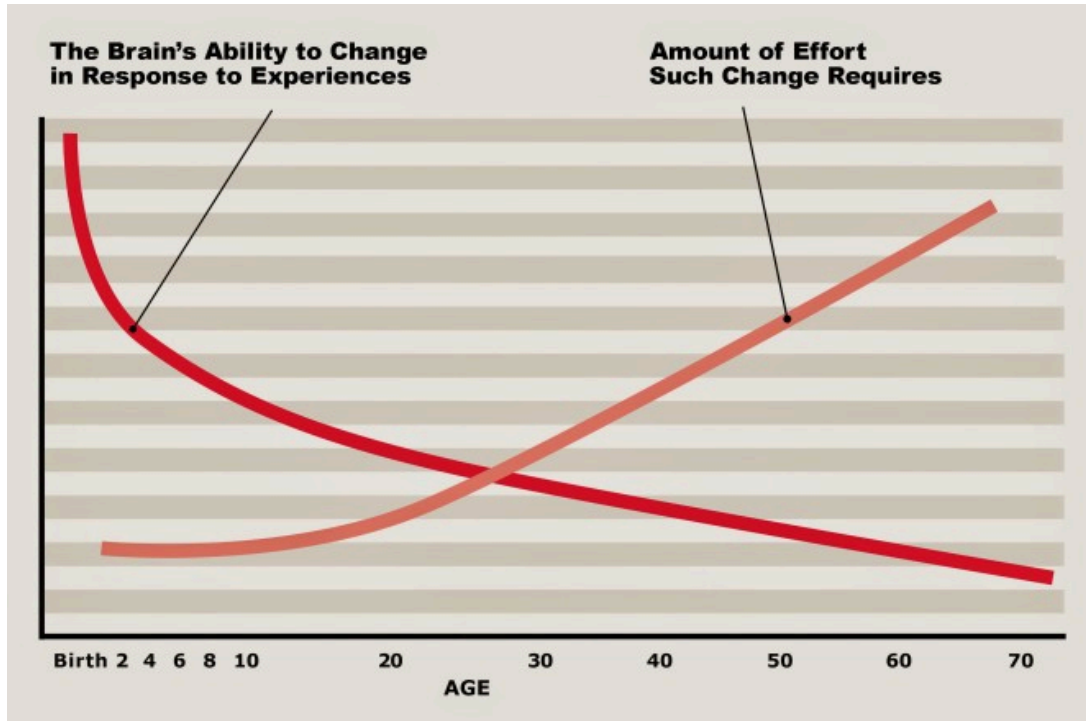http://www.unhcr.org/uk/non-governmental-organizations.html

What do All Children Need ?

- Safety
- Food and Shelter
- Health
- Mental Health
- Education

Special Needs of Children with Disability (and at risk)

- Nurturing and Safe Environment

- Physical Health

- Good Nutrition

- Developmental Intervention Services:

- Parent Training

- Various therapies

- Timing is important

Development Does Not Wait!

Obstacles

- Awareness /Willingness
- Resources
- Security
- Quickly gets deprioritized, funding cuts,
- Translation Obstacles