Challenges in evaluating ECD-focused interventions targeting at risk population groups (*Case study: Un villaggio per crescere*)

Francesca Vezzini<sup>1</sup> (*PhD*), Francesca Monti<sup>1</sup> (*PhD*), Fiorenzo Fantuz<sup>2</sup>, Giorgio Tamburlini<sup>2</sup> (*PhD*)



### The Human Safety Net – For Families



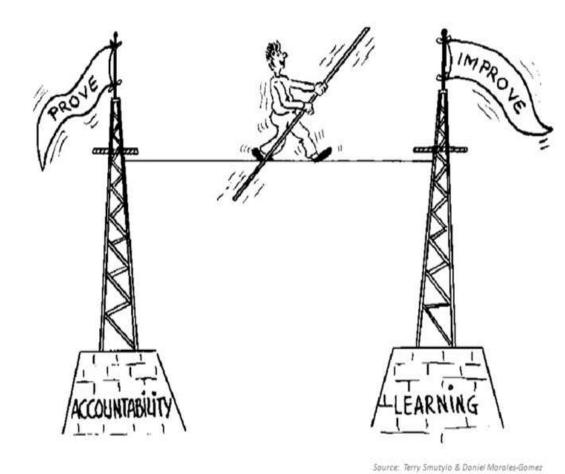


- The Human Safety Net is the new Generali flagship initiative for the community active on three programmes worldwide (For Families, For Refugees start-ups, For New-borns)
- The Programme For Families commits to the call for action of the Nurturing care framework (NCF), and invest to promote early child development (ECD) in vulnerable populations with children aged 0 - 6
- Partnerships are set with small/medium non profit organizations (NGOs) working where Generali operates, currently there are almost 15 countries active, and approx. 20 NGOs partnering



## Accountability & learning for the Programme For • Objective: to Prove, Improve and Share, what

- we do collectively, and as an NGO
- We developed a **Monitoring**, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework to standardize the evaluation process
- The MEL framework includes a set of **impact** dimensions related to changes that can occur to individuals, organizations and the society as a consequence of our programmes
- Comprehensive and flexible enough to balance the tension between standardization and local application.



### MEL framework – Impact on individuals

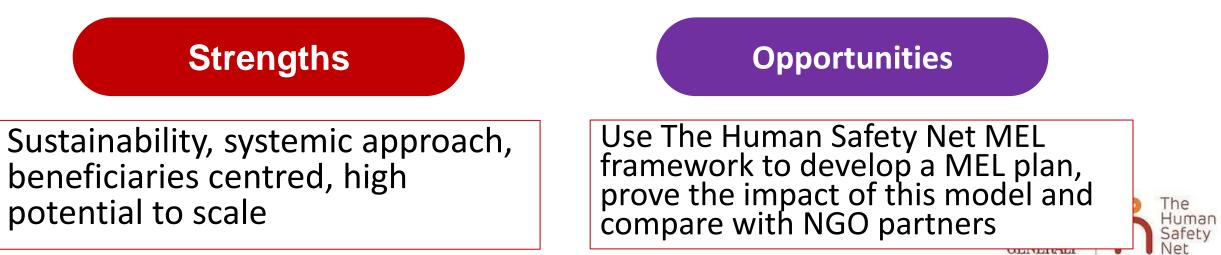
- Degree of impact: awareness, knowledge, practice (from connection, to transformation)
- Target: parents and children
- **Timeframe**: short-term and long-term impacts
- Impact dimensions: menu to guide NGOs, streamline language
- Impact selection: informed by evidence top down, and practice bottom up

<b>Connect:</b> Increased awareness of an issue and how to tackle it	Improve: Increased capacity of individuals to tackle an issue	Transform: Sustained change in circumstances of individual
Parents have better <b>awareness</b> of child's development needs & the importance of their parental role	Parents have increased <b>knowledge</b> , skills and/or ability to provide more nurturing care	Significant changes in family life (parents & children) as a result of acquired skills, knowledge, capacity
Parents have a better perception of their role and its value/importance	Parents have improved knowledge of early childhood development and	Parents and children experience positive changes in family life
Parents show intention/ commitment to make changes	Parenting strategies Parents better manage their own emotions	Children have access to quality pre- primary education
Parents know how to access support networks/resources	Parents have developed specific life skills enabling them to provide	Child's health development and well being evolve appropriately
Parents have better awareness of their own parenting ability (self-efficacy)	household stability for their children Parents have access to social and	Parent experience wider changes in personal circumstances
Parents have awareness of child's development needs	economic support network Parents are actively demonstrating new parenting behaviours using their learnings from the program	h The Hum Safe Net

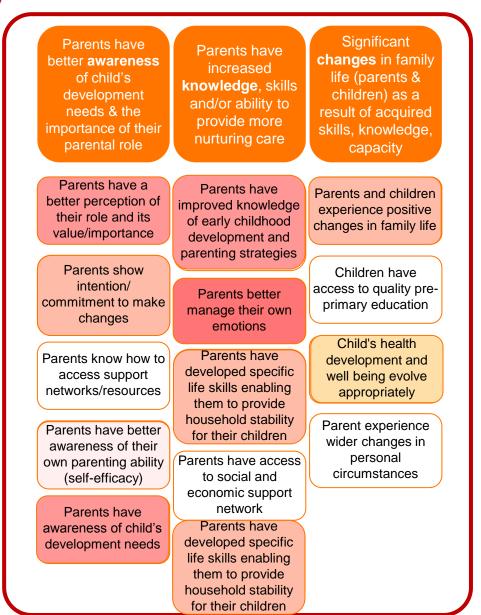


# Case study: Un Villaggio per Crescere, with Centro per la Salute del Bambino

- Organizational profile: small team, strong expertise on ECD, multidisciplinary team (*paediatricians, educators, academics*), familiarity with monitoring & evaluation
- Model: open hub in a disadvantaged community, embedded in the system (*location in public primary care facility*), outreach through local network, activities based on demand



#### Case study: MEL plan



- **Degree of impact**: all degrees from connection, to transformation
- Target: parents and children
- **Timeframe**: short-term and long-term impacts
  - Tools:
    - Self perception of parental role questionnaire
    - Family routine questionnaire
    - Perceived self efficacy questionnaire
    - Parental stress questionnaire
    - GMCD







### Case study: MEL plan roadmap and challenge

#### Actions / opportunities

- <u>translation</u> and <u>validation</u> of tools locally
- training of staff and educators
- redistribution of <u>time management</u> between activities and evaluation
- engagement of <u>beneficiaries</u>
- use of validated tools in Italy
- organizational strengthening

#### Challenges

- limited budget and human resources
- tension of focus (*research vs. activities*)
- definition of target group (fixed cluster vs. open hub; control group collect and not act seen as unethical)
- short term engagement (child development vs. development due to the intervention).



## Lessons learnt from The Human Safety Net MEL framework

- **Testing innovative interventions** to promote nurturing care for early childhood development is a recognized **global priority**
- Evaluations should be valid, driven and owned by implementers
- Evaluation methods require a shift from traditional experimental designs towards real life, dynamic quasi-experimental, mix methods approaches

Design	
-Target	

 Controlled, blinded and rigid approaches vs. intrinsically open, inclusive nature interventions

Tools
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- Easy (non skilled professionals), combine developmental assessment with promotion and evaluation (*care for attrition and sensitive data*);
- Sensitive to transformation in target population independently from the intervention

