



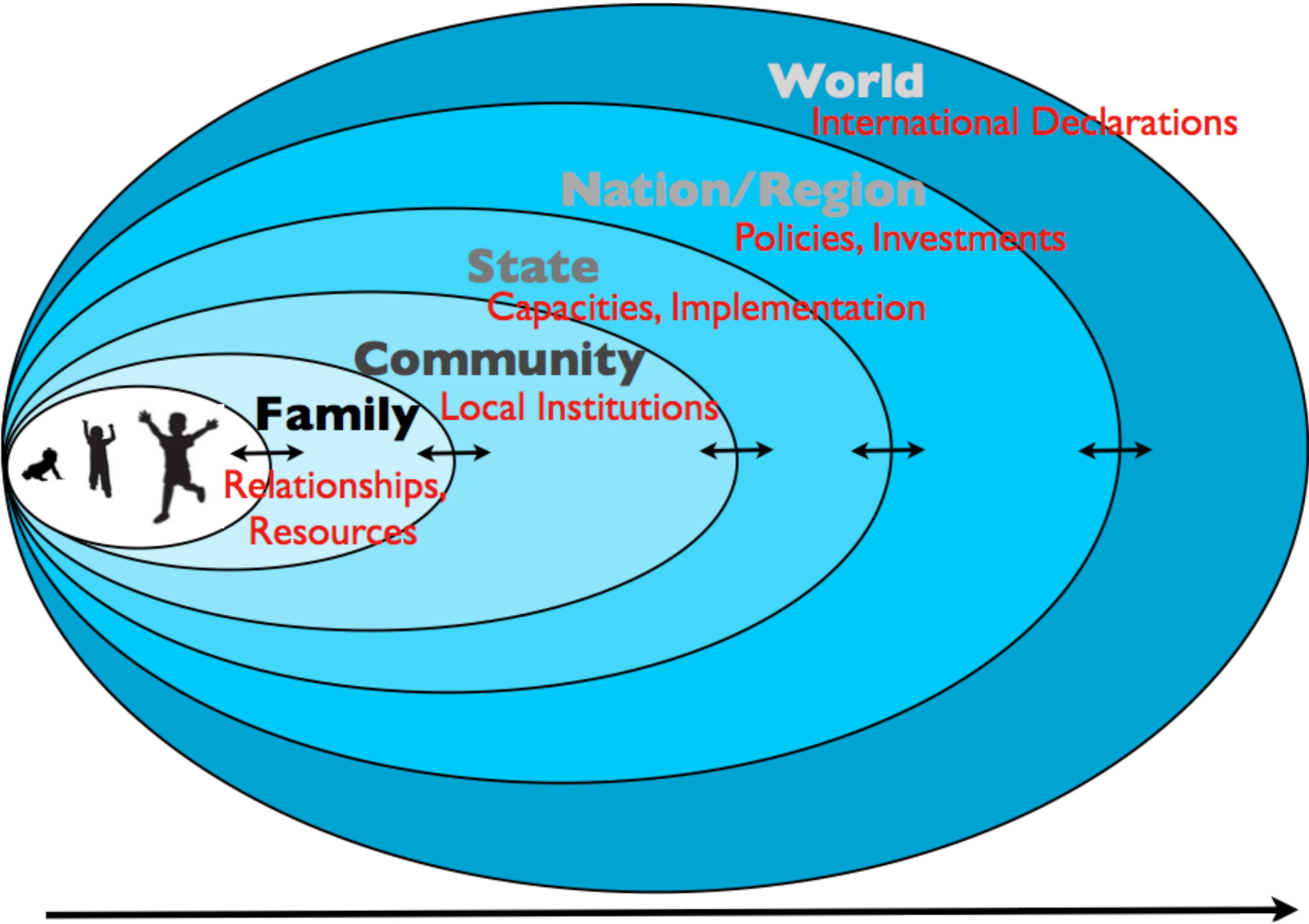
# Measuring Contextual Influences on Early Child Development

Patricia Kariger

April 17, 2014

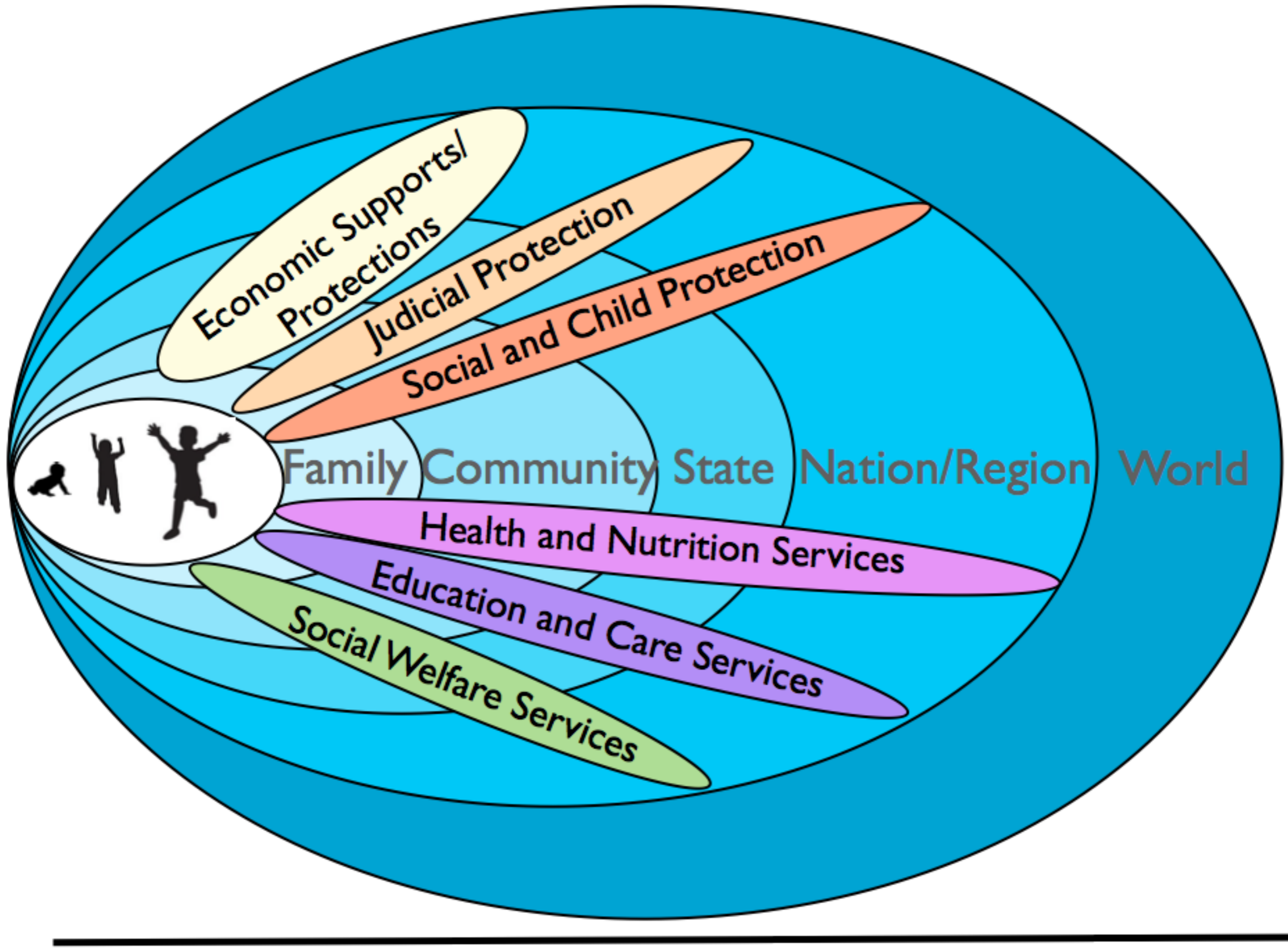
Investing in Young Child Children Globally

# Contextual Influences on Early Development



Adapted from Bronfenbrenner, 1986

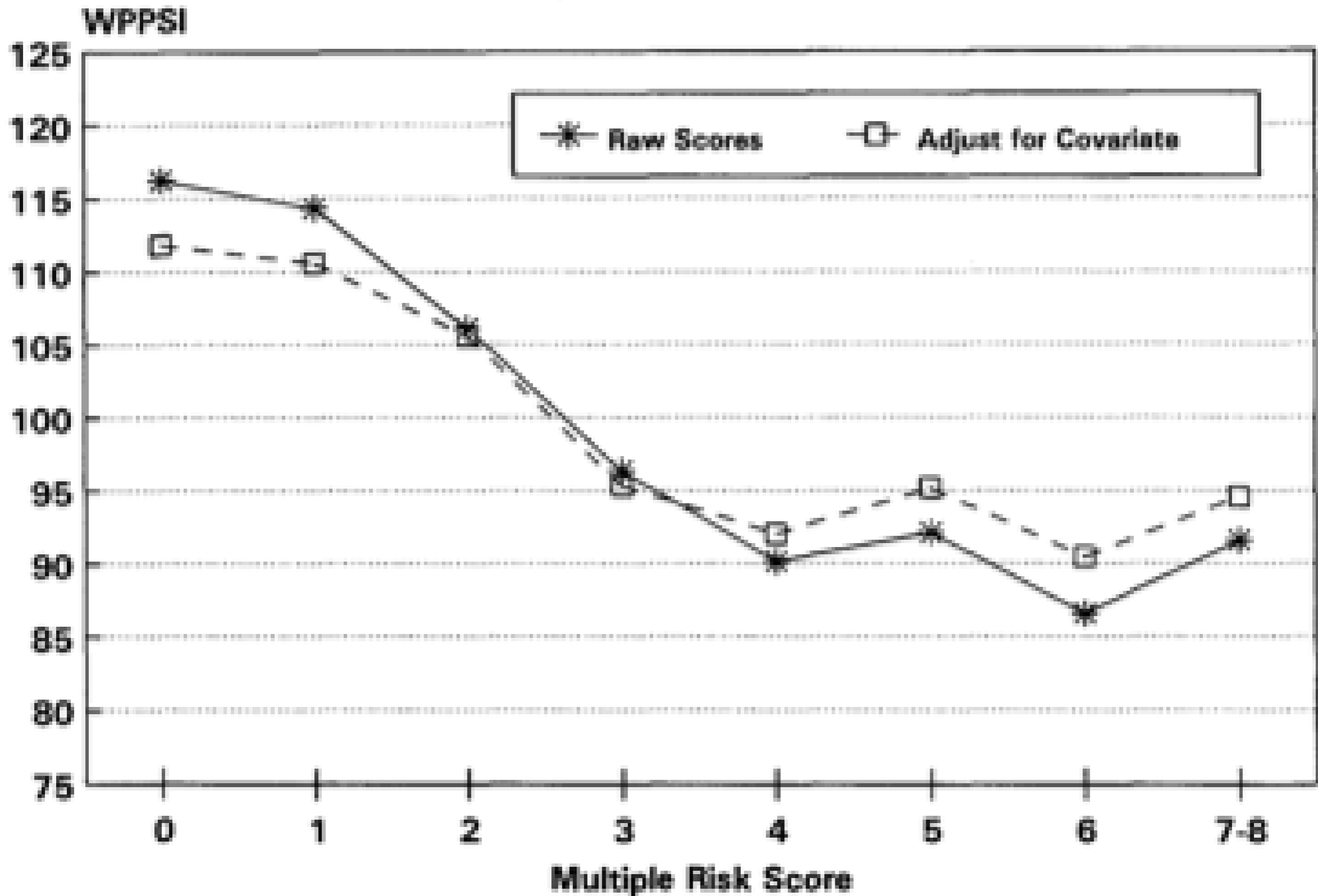
# Contextual Influences on Early Development



# Use of Indicators to Assess Children, Family and Environment

- Population-level measures help nations prioritize investment in various sectors, evaluate programs
- Data can be collected via parents, clinicians, teachers or government representatives
- Imperative to use well-defined, evidence-based, reliable and valid indicators that are also:
  - Universally meaningful
  - Easy to measure and interpret
  - Malleable; capable of showing change
  - Presented in a format easily understood by stakeholders who can make a difference

# Cumulative Environmental Risk and Cognitive Development at Age 4



# Which Indicators Currently Exist?

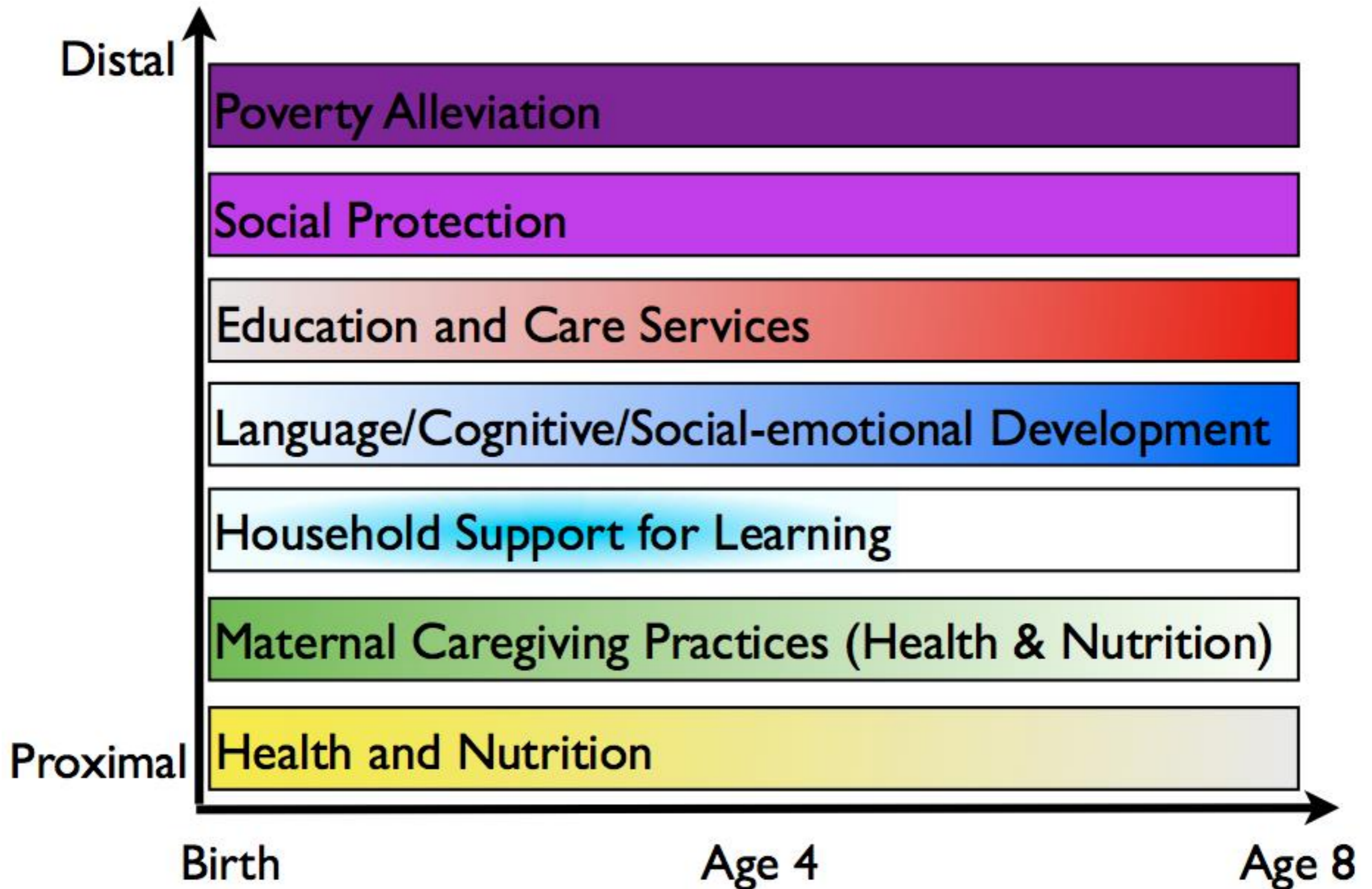


<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/strengthening-education-systems/early-childhood/monitoring-and-evaluation/holistic-ecdindex/>

# Examples of Indicators Used by Organizations

	USAID	UNICEF	UNESCO	WHO
Poverty/Wealth Index	X	X	X	
Child Protection	X	X		X
Education/Early Care	X	X	X	
Early Development		X		X
Household Support for Learning		X		
Child Health/Nutrition	X	X	X	X

# Measurement Across Indicators by Age





# How Can Measurement be Improved?

- More comprehensive measurement of children across 0-8 years?
- Measures on responsive parenting spanning age range, including responsive feeding and support for early primary students
- Understanding the quality of care provided by multiple caregivers or home-based care providers



# How Can Measurement be Improved?



- Screening for specific disabilities
- Exposure to environmental toxins
- Monitoring exposure to domestic violence, abuse, community violence and war/unrest
- Efforts to link measures and indicators across sectors

# Recent Advancements and Efforts to Improve Measurement of Early Indicators

- UNESCO's Holistic Early Child Development Index
- USAID's Center on Children in Adversity
- Guide for Monitoring Child Development. *I. Ertem; B. Forsyth*. Turkey, India, South Africa, Argentina.
- Malawi Development Assessment Tool. *M. Gladstone et al.* Malawi, Mali, The Gambia, Burkina Faso.
- Developmental Milestones Checklist. *A. Abubakar et al.* Kenya, West Africa.
- Global Child Development Group. Exploring creation of 0-3 child development tool.

# Conclusions

- Great interest and energies directed at ECD indicators
- Cross-organizational efforts should be shared, coordinated
- Creation of single source for accessing indices and indicators?
- Agreement and support on core set of indicators, with optionals

