

Looking Beyond COVID-19: Strengthening the role of Family support Services

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Since the onset of the COVID pandemic, greater needs of family support services

**Higher levels of
child poverty &
inequalities**

**Greater need for
support among
already-
vulnerable
groups of
children**

**Greater need for
mental health
supports**

**Higher levels of
family stress**

**Learning loss &
school
disengagement**

What scope of family support services?

“Services and supports provided to help parents improve their child rearing capabilities and to make parenting behaviour and family functioning more conducive to good child outcomes”.

Five key areas:

- *Basic material needs*
- *Health care services*
- *Family functioning services*
- *Parenting support and early intervention*
- *Specialised services to address **specific or complex needs***



OECD Questionnaire on Family Support Policies

Policy Priorities and Governance

Programmes, Characteristics, and Use

Policies to enhance family support services

Costs and funding

Monitoring and Knowledge Sharing

OECD Questionnaire on Family Services Providers

Location, population & service content

Delivery of services

Strategies to reach families

Best service delivery practices

Monitoring and knowledge sharing

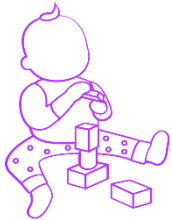
Funding and costs

Training of Practitioners

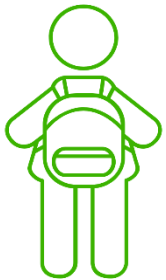
Main findings & recommendations



Ensure a continuity of family support services throughout childhood



- Address families needs emerging in early childhood
=> “first 1000 days” approach

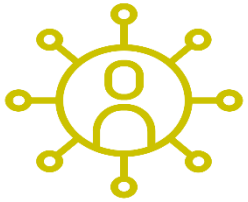


- Make good use of schools and community centres for the delivery of school meals, health screenings or psychological assistance.



- Consider introducing conditional cash transfers (CCTs) linked to family service use.

Promote high quality family support services



- Enhance practitioners' skills, by conditioning renewal of licencing and accreditation to participation in training and professional development programmes.



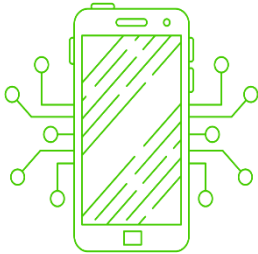
- To address complex needs, put families at the centre of co-ordinated service delivery.
- Collect feedback from service users and use it to identify needs and gaps in service delivery.



- Use outcome evaluations to identify ways to deliver services effectively

Better use digital tools to enhance service delivery (and limit their costs)

The use of digital tools is key to:



- Engage service users
- Swiftly match the local supply of services with families needs.
- Improve service providers internal working practices.



But required legal safeguards and control by family service workers.

Key partners



- Bernard van Leer Foundation & German and Japanese governments.
- COFACE, European Social Network, Families Canada, International Step by Step Association, and the International Federation for Family Development, TUSLA (Ireland).
- All OECD delegates for the Working Party on Social Policies and contacts in OECD capital cities.



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