

Methodological Guide: RESEARCH FOR NATIONAL SITUATION ANALYSES ON EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

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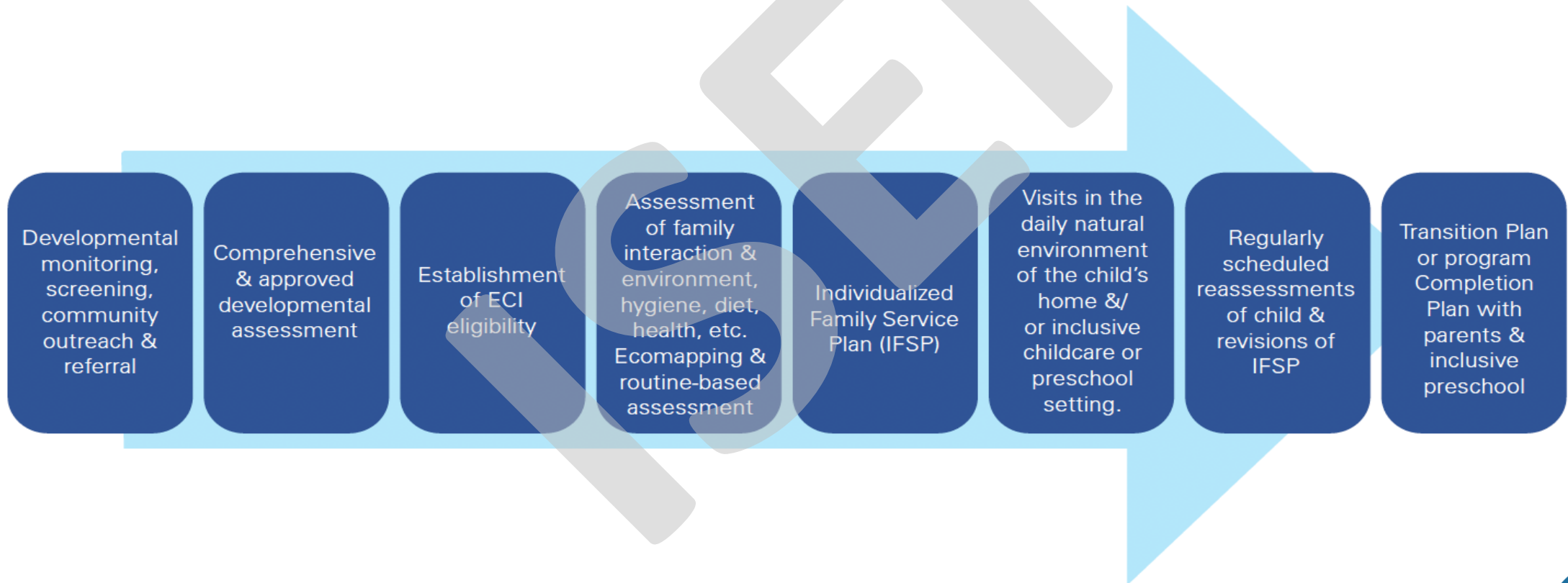
Benefits of ECI services

- Identification infants and children with developmental difficulties **early**
- Notable improvements in family and child development.
- 65% of children make greater than expected growth, with many moving closer to or functioning like same-aged peers
- Improved child developmental capacity leads to reduced school attrition, grade repetition, poor grades and remedial and special education services
- Essential for enabling the national deinstitutionalization of young children

Core concepts of contemporary ECI services

- ECI is a social model
- ECI is family-centred
- ECI is early and continuous
- ECI is individualized
- ECI is intensive
- ECI services are evidence-based and outcomes-driven
- ECI is interdisciplinary and usually transdisciplinary, integrated and team-based
- ECI provides services in the natural environment of the child
- ECI is community-based

Contemporary ECI service process



Guiding Framework to the *Methodological Guide*

Methodological Guide for National Situation Analysis

Purpose:

The guide helps policymakers, researchers, service providers, and civil-society partners to:

- Map and assess existing ECI systems in a standardized way
- Identify gaps and opportunities for improvement
- Lay the foundation for evidence-informed policy and program design
- Plan an evidence-based and sustainable National ECI System

Methodological Guide for National Situation Analysis

Objectives:

- **Standardization of Research Methods:** To ensure every country's situation analysis uses comparable definitions, instruments, and quality controls.
- **Actionable Outputs:** To generate clear, policy-relevant recommendations and realistic pilot designs that stakeholders can adopt immediately.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Replicability:** To build a community of practice—so that lessons from different countries can inform one another.

Conceptual Framework for ECI Situation Analysis

Sources of Knowledge:

External Sources

Literature Review

Internal Sources

Policy context

Social context

Resource context

Research Strategies

Systemic Enquiry:

- Mapping Study
- Interviews
- Cost & Finance Sub-Study

Service Enquiry:

- Surveys
- Focus Group Discussions
- Cost & Finance Sub-Study

Beneficiary Enquiry:

- Surveys
- Focus Group Discussions



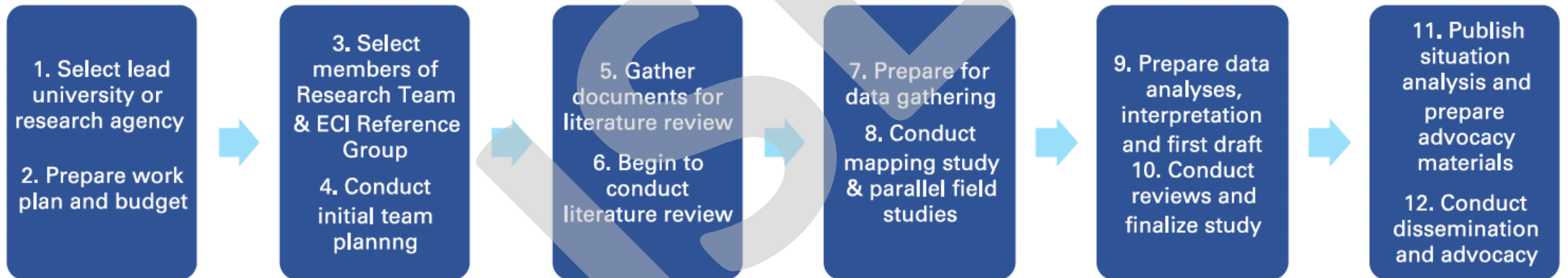
Conceptual Framework for ECI Situation Analysis

Analytic Framework for Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis: Conclusions & Recommendations

- ECI Strategy and/or legislation & organizational development
- ECI Service Guidelines & Procedures
- ECI services & personnel standards
- Pre- & in-service training & supervisory systems for quality assurance
- M&E and research system for accountability
- Pilot programme for qualitative improvement & revision
- National Coalition of ECI Organisations & Community of Practice
- Phased expansion of services



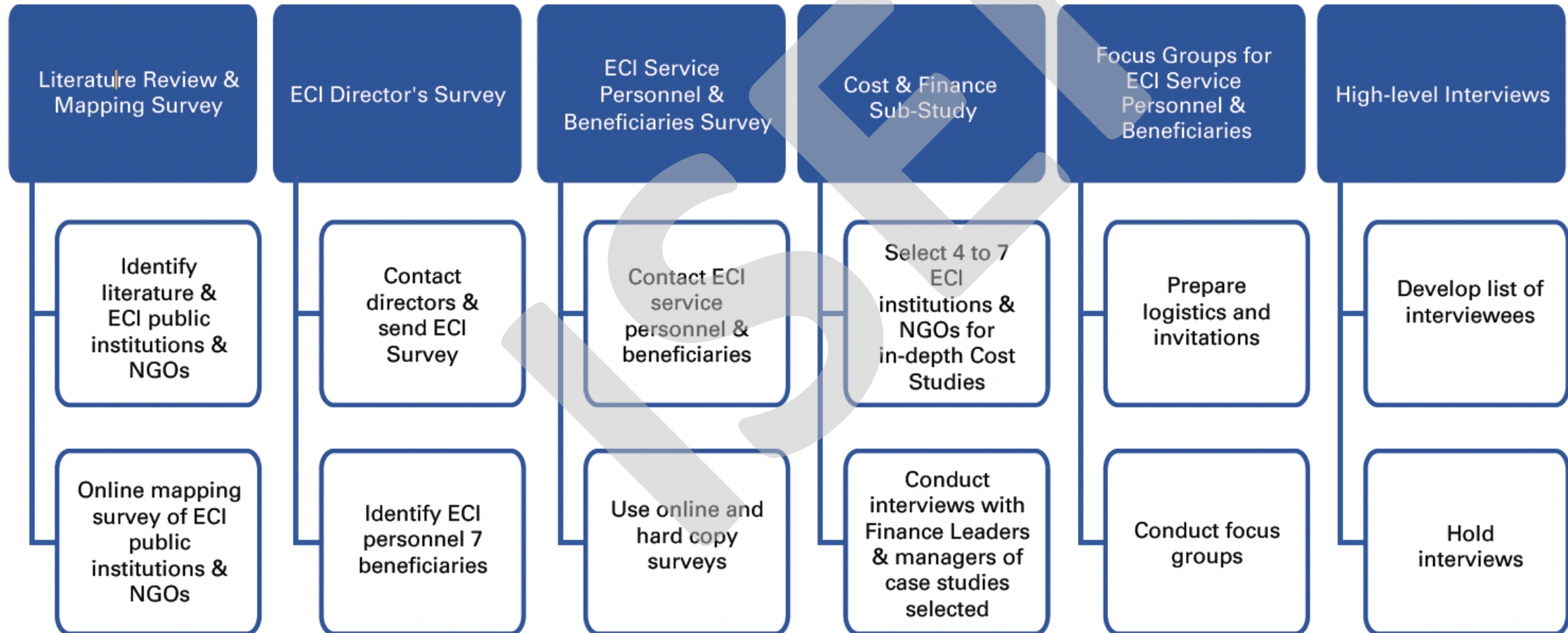
Research process:



Research instruments:

1. Literature review
2. Mapping survey
3. Survey of ECI directors
4. Survey of ECI service personnel
5. Survey of ECI beneficiaries
6. Cost and Finance Sub-Study
7. Focus Groups of ECI service personnel
8. Focus Groups of ECI beneficiaries
9. High-level interviews

Sequence of Research Activities:



Research Ethics and Cultural Dimensions:

In order to adhere to the rules of the **GDPR** and of **UNICEF** regarding confidentiality, consent and research ethics:

- Prepare consent forms and instructions for our research instruments
- Translate to local languages
- Sampling methods for should be revised to fit national needs.
- Include programmes representing rural, mixed rural/urban and urban areas, as well as minority populations or other under-served groups.
- Adapt the wording of instruments to each country's values, institutions, and child caregiving behaviours.
- All participants, including representatives of organisations, will be assured their responses will be kept strictly confidential and anonymous.
- Their rights to end or withdraw from participation, request access, and correct or delete any of the information they provided will be explained
- All data gathered with the surveys will be protected and kept under the supervision of one of the national researchers.



Tools and Templates:

- Terms of Reference for the National ECI Reference Group
- Suggestions for the Adaptation of Research Instruments
- Guidance for the Literature Review
- ECI Mapping Survey
- Survey of ECI Directors
- Survey of ECI Service Personnel
- Survey of ECI Beneficiaries
- Cost and Finance Sub-study Instruments
- Focus Group Discussions with ECI Service Personnel
- Focus Group Discussions with ECI Beneficiaries
- High-level Interview Format
- Generic Outline for National ECI Situation Analyses

Methodological Guide

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Thank you!

