

Supplement 1.

Methods for developing the German case study

A country working group, led by Germany's National Centre for Early Prevention (Nationales Zentrum Frühe Hilfen; NZFH), and including the authors of this article, was established to analyse the critical factors supporting implementation of the ECI programme and cross-sectoral collaboration. A first meeting of the working group was held in Cologne, Germany in April 2018.

Quantitative and qualitative data collection was structured around the conceptual framework and semi-structured questionnaire in the PMNCH methods guide.¹ Relevant programme data, reports, and evaluations, and other peer-reviewed and grey literature were used as data sources.

Additional inputs were gathered through 21 purposively sampled key informant interviews conducted in May 2018 in four municipalities, which represent two large cities and two rural districts (though are not necessarily representative of nationwide implementation). Interview partners from the health sector and the child and youth welfare sector were suggested by the respective ECI network coordinators. Qualitative data were coded according to a priori and emergent themes. Data were triangulated with the ECI programme reports and presentations, published and grey literature, monitoring and evaluation data, and through direct correspondence with NZFH staff and partners. These data were used to develop a working paper on the collaborative process.

The working paper was shared with key stakeholders and a multistakeholder review meeting was held in June 2018 with nine participants (representing various agencies and programmes involved in the collaboration at national and municipal levels) to appraise and refine the report's content and suggest additional sources of data. During the meeting stakeholders were invited to comment on, debate, and elaborate on the key points in the working report and indicate whether they agreed with key findings. The multistakeholder meeting together with the semi-structured questionnaire ensured that the case study was evidence-based, with triangulation of information and perspectives, and that it was representative of a collaborative exercise.

Following the meeting, the core writing group finalized the analysis. From April to July 2018, they completed the working report of the case study. The authors subsequently used the findings of the working report to develop this BMJ manuscript for the PMNCH series.

¹ PMNCH. Methods guide for country case studies on successful collaboration across sectors for health and sustainable development. 2018. <http://www.who.int/pmnch/knowledge/case-study-methods-guide.pdf>.