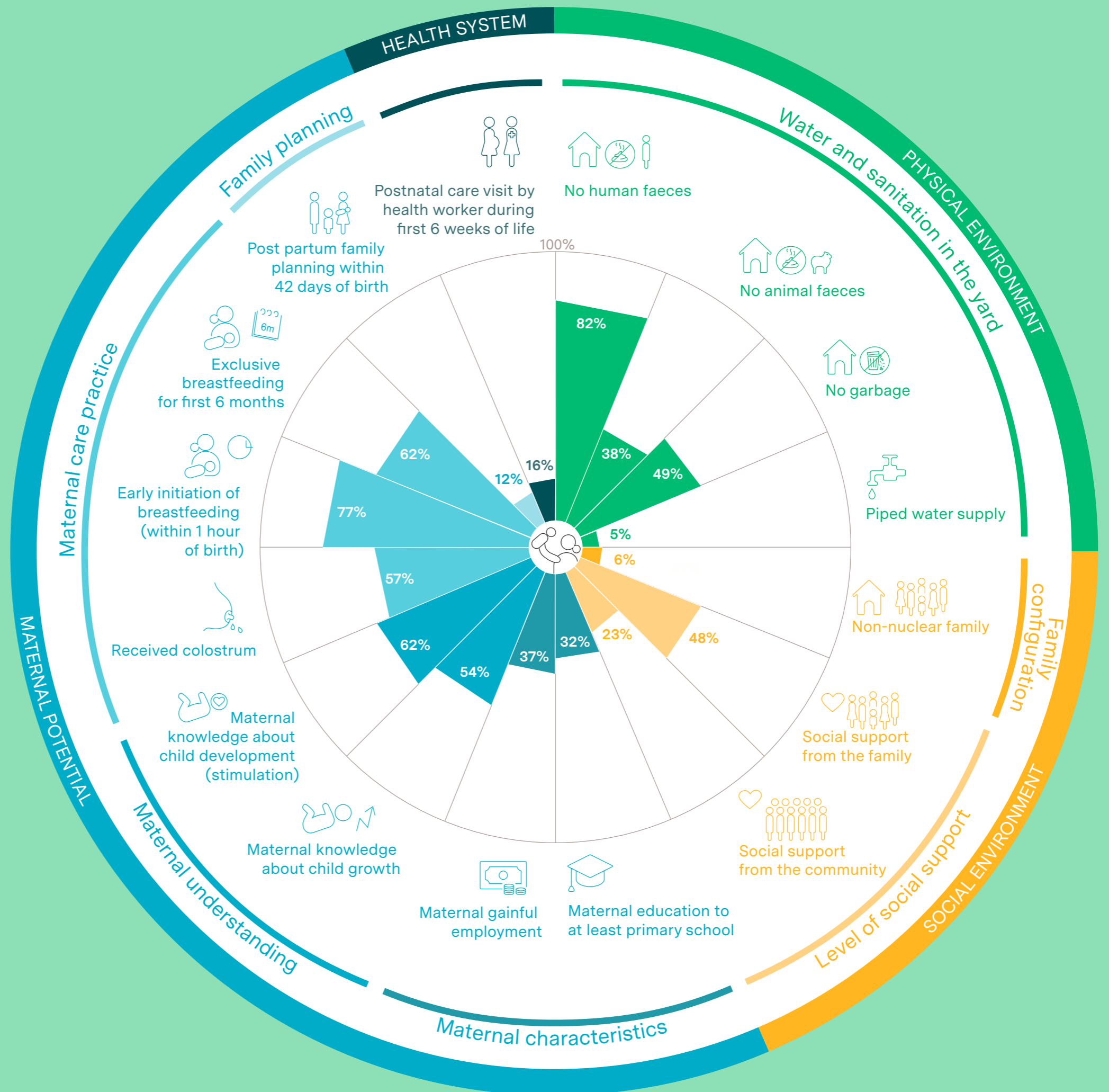


Contextual Opportunities for Optimal Growth and Development of Young Children in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian country profile of some key indicators across four contextual categories:

- Health system
- Physical environment
- Social environment
- Maternal potential



All indicators are based on maternal interviews and household observations, and are Standard Demographic Health Survey Indicators (<http://dhsprogram.com>), with the following exceptions:

- Level of social support (0-100) assessment was based on Duke Social Support Inventory. (<https://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/testinstruments/duke>)
- Level of maternal knowledge (range 0-100) assessment was based on adopted short version of Knowledge of Infant Development Inventory (<https://friendsnrc.org/jdownloads/attachments/kidi.pdf>)

Data source: Community Based Newborn Care Programme Evaluation 2018. London: IDEAS, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Context Matters: Early Childhood Growth and Development in Ethiopia

Early childhood, especially the first three years of life, provides a critical foundation for adult performance, which in turn determines a nation's social and economic standing. Assessing deprivation and needs is central to the development of effective programmes and services to support the early years of life.

A wide range of factors influences this critical period of early childhood. Understanding these factors helps us to better address young children's needs, and create a nurturing environment so that they can achieve their optimal growth and developmental potential.

The environmental context in the early years of life broadly refers to physical surroundings, social relationships, caregivers' abilities and community resources.

In order to assess opportunities and challenges from the perspective of lower- and middle-income countries, the environmental context of a young child in their early phase of life can be described operationally as:

- **Physical environment:** hygienic and sanitary household provides safe and protected opportunities to explore;
- **Social environment:** family and neighbourhood support ensures trusting relationships and learning;
- **Maternal potential:** primary caregiver's presence, socio-economic status, and understanding and practice of child-rearing, ensure that the child's nutritional, emotional and stimulation needs are met in order for them to thrive; and finally
- **Health system:** community-level service delivery safeguards optimal health conditions and opportunities to survive.



Photo: A mother and son in Ethiopia with the Health Extension Worker who helps them to follow proper health, nutrition, and household practices. © 2013 SPRING Project, Courtesy of Photoshare

About this evaluation

Information on the Ethiopian contextual profile for early childhood growth was based on data collected in 2017 as a part of the overall evaluation of the Community Based Newborn Care (CBNC) programme, conducted by the Informed Decisions for Actions (IDEAS) group at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, in collaboration with JaRco Consulting, Ethiopia. The CBNC evaluation was conducted between 2013-2017 across four regions covering over 100 districts of Ethiopia. Data was collected from about 10,000 households.

Citation

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Further information

CBNC program evaluation: ideas.lshtm.ac.uk/research/community-based-newborn-care

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The IDEAS project aims to improve the health and survival of mothers and babies through generating evidence to inform policy and practice. IDEAS uses measurement, learning and evaluation to find out what works, why and how in maternal and newborn health programmes. The IDEAS project is funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

www.ideas.lshtm.ac.uk

