

# Invest in Childcare

## June 2024 Stakeholder Update



This note shares progress from across the [Invest in Childcare](#) initiative, including:

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# General updates on key workstreams

## Grants

### Catalytic country grants (“Bank-Executed” grants):

- ◆ \$13 million of funding has been approved to 75 grant proposals so far:
  - \$4.5 million approved to 26 proposals in the first funding round in December 2022 (summary available [here](#)).
  - \$8.5 million approved to 49 proposals in the second funding round in June 2024 (summaries to be available soon).

### Match funding<sup>1</sup> (“Recipient-Executed” grants):

- ◆ \$31.4 million in Recipient Executed (RE) match funding has been awarded to nine countries to date: Cote D’Ivoire (\$5m); Jordan (\$5m), Kosovo (\$2m); Moldova (\$5m); Rwanda (\$4m); Senegal (\$1.9m); Somalia (\$2m), Tanzania (\$4.5m) and Uzbekistan (\$2m).
- ◆ Six countries are in discussions about RE match funding.

### Grant summaries:

- ◆ Information on the two types of grants available and funds awarded can be accessed on the Invest in Childcare website [here](#).

## Global analytical work

### Data collection:

- ◆ Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) childcare module to integrate into national household surveys is developed and under external review. The module will initially be piloted in Nigeria and Malawi in 2024 and additional countries in 2025.

### Evaluations:

- ◆ Fourteen impact evaluations have been awarded funding to date. Each evaluation will assess the quality of childcare provision being implemented and the relative impacts on child development, women’s economic empowerment, and other outcomes where possible.

### Tools and guidance:

- ◆ An initial set of priority tools and guidance has been developed on key topics.
  - Package of sample instruments for childcare situation assessments is being piloted with selected WB teams.
  - Guidance note on the essential elements of quality has been circulated for feedback with a group of external peer reviewers.
  - Package of suggested childcare indicators and tools for conducting impact evaluations is being revised following internal review.
  - Draft government brief on the rationale for investing in childcare has been circulated with selected WB teams for review.
- ◆ Products will be made publicly available and shared on the [Invest in Childcare website](#) once they have gone through WB formal review processes.

<sup>1</sup> Match funding is programmed through World Bank operations and typically flows to governments (Recipient-Executed funding). Funds are available to country teams from all sectors on a 1:1 match basis for IDA and IDA/IBRD Blend countries and 1:2 match basis for IBRD countries (leveraging IDA, IBRD, domestic or other resources), up to a maximum of \$10 million per country.

Capacity  
building,  
knowledge  
exchange and  
technical  
assistance

- ◆ Since launching in September 2023 to bring together WB teams working on childcare, over 200 staff have joined the **internal Community of Practice (CoP)** and five CoP sessions have been held so far on priority topics including quality, workforce development and situation assessments.
- ◆ The [Invest in Childcare Policy Academy](#) launched in May 2024 with a cohort comprising of WB country teams and over 110 policymakers from [13 countries](#).
- ◆ Course content for the **self-paced online course** for the **Early Childhood Education Policy Academy** platform is being finalized and uploaded onto the platform. The course builds on content from an [Early Years Fellowship](#) training on childcare in February 2023 and introduces some key topics and issues around childcare and showcases a variety of different childcare models in diverse contexts.

Looking ahead

**Priority activities over the coming months include:**

- ◆ **Developing and disseminating priority tools and guidance for World Bank teams:** Additional tools and guidance under development include guidance on supporting childcare through Development Policy Loans (DPLs); guidance note on workforce development; and a report on how governments can harness the power of communities and other nonstate sector actors in childcare.
- ◆ **Externally facing events, including regional events and events with partners.** With all major work launched and progressing well, identifying further opportunities to support and elevate the childcare is an increasing priority, and the team are developing a strategy for hosting regional events to share examples of promising approaches and emerging evidence on childcare, as well as co-organizing [events](#) with partners (including an [upcoming webinar series on quality](#) in partnership with ECDAN in June and July).
- ◆ **Developing courses for the first phase of the [Invest in Childcare Policy Academy](#).**

## Spotlight on a few activities

### Invest in Childcare Policy Academy

***Engaging policymakers to strengthen knowledge and expertise to expand access to quality childcare***

The “Invest in Childcare Policy Academy” launched in May 2024 with a highly cross-sectoral cohort of World Bank country teams and policymakers from thirteen countries (see table below). This 18-month program has three objectives: to deepen policymakers’ knowledge on childcare; to improve application of knowledge to reach country goals; and to share knowledge across countries and promote South-South learning to improve countries’ childcare programs and policies.

Over 110 policymakers will participate in the 18-month program to advance the childcare agenda in countries through training, cross-country exchanges, and access to bespoke technical assistance (TA). Country delegations were selected following a call for proposals in October 2023 which received 24 applications (which is double the capacity for the cohort). Delegations comprise of cross-sectoral technical staff, managers with responsibility for childcare, and high-level decision-makers.

Throughout June, the program kicks off with the “Introduction to Investing Childcare” course which provides a taster of the key issues and policy considerations which will be explored in depth through the program. Program courses and topics are informed by consultations between World Bank country teams and policymakers in order to respond to cohort needs and will include courses on the elements of quality childcare and building effective childcare systems.

*Countries participating in the Invest in Childcare Policy Academy cohort*

Region	Countries	Lending group
AFE	Madagascar, Rwanda, Tanzania	IDA
AFW	Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Republic of Congo	IDA and Blend
ECA	Georgia	IBRD
LAC	Argentina, Mexico	IBRD
MENA	Jordan, Morocco	IBRD
SAR	Bangladesh	IDA

### World Bank Group Gender Strategy

Following consultations with over 1,000 representatives from CSOs, governments, academia, the private sector, philanthropies, and development partners in more than 100 countries, the *World Bank Group Gender Strategy 2024-2030: Accelerate Gender Equality to End Poverty on a Livable Planet* is now available on the [gender strategy website](#), along with [summaries of the consultations](#) and statements, comments and insights on how the consultation process informed the Strategy.

## Examples of recently approved Recipient-Executed (RE) grants

### Kosovo Early Childhood Education and Care (P179656)

#### *Improving the quality and equitable access of childcare for vulnerable families*

The objective of the [Kosovo Early Childhood Education and Care](#) project is to improve the quality and equitable access to early childhood education and care services in Kosovo. Invest in Childcare has invested \$2 million (matched by \$2 million IDA) to support improving in-service and pre-service teacher training programs; training of ECEC professionals; creating new childcare spaces in public schools; and piloting a vouchers scheme to enroll children ages 3 to 5 from vulnerable families in full day childcare.

### Jordan Enhancing Women's Economic Opportunities (P180508)

#### *Expanding access and take up of childcare through set up grants, subsidies for low-income households, and an online service platform*

The objective of the [Enhancing Women's Economic Opportunities in Jordan](#) operation is to address constraints that women face to enter and stay in the labor force related to the workplace conditions, financial inclusion, transportation, and childcare. Invest in Childcare is supporting the Government of Jordan to expand access to affordable quality childcare services through: providing grants and in-kind support to establish center-based nurseries and home-based-nurseries; subsidizing the cost of childcare for children aged 0-5 among social safety net recipients who demonstrate an interest in participating in the labor force; and establishing a government owned and operated online platform that brings together providers and families, which is also linked to the National Unified Registry of families seeking social assistance. Invest in Childcare has invested \$5 million (matched by the \$4 million IPF component for piloting childcare grants and subsidies and \$92.5 million from the Performance for Results (PforR) component associated with childcare policy reforms).

### Tanzania Project for Advancing Gender Equality (PAMOJA) (P178813)

#### *Expanding access to childcare in the Mainland and Zanzibar through establishment of community-based childcare centers and developing a national practitioner framework*

The objective of [Project for Advancing Gender Equality in Tanzania](#) is to increase access to economic opportunities for women and Gender-Based Violence prevention and response services, in targeted areas of the United Republic of Tanzania. Invest in Childcare has invested \$4.5 million (matched with \$4.5 million IDA funding) to operationalize 200 community day care centers (CDCCs) in the mainland and Zanzibar; train caregivers for the CDCCs; developing a national practitioner framework; and develop a digital quality assurance system to support monitoring and adherence to quality standards.

### Uzbekistan Innovative Social Protection System for Inclusion of Vulnerable People (INSON) Project (P504420)

#### *Improving quality and access of childcare services for vulnerable children including children with disabilities*

The objective of [INSON](#) is to improve access to and quality of social services and benefits for vulnerable people in Uzbekistan. Invest in Childcare has invested \$2 million (matched by \$3 million IDA) to support the development of the legal and regulatory framework to offer and improve the quality of day care

services for children with disabilities, including the development of a quality and cost standards framework, legislation for provider licensing and accreditation and a concept for alternative financing models for private provision. Funding will also support the pilot and gradual scale up of full day childcare services for vulnerable children including children with disabilities in at least 30 Territory Social Services Center (TSSCs) and will support their transition to mainstream education system.

## Recent World Bank publications on childcare

### The Effects of Childcare on Women and Children: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation in Burkina Faso

Download [here](#)

This paper studies whether providing affordable childcare improves women's economic empowerment and child development using data from a sample of 1,990 women participating in a public works program in Burkina Faso. Of 36 urban work sites, 18 were randomly selected to receive community-based childcare centers. One in four women who were offered the centers used them, tripling childcare center usage for children aged 0 to 6 years. Women's employment and financial outcomes improved and additionally, child development scores increased, however, the analysis finds no significant effects on women's decision-making autonomy, gender attitudes, or intrahousehold dynamics, suggesting the importance of considering multiple dimensions of childcare impacts.

### Policy Lessons on Access to and Uptake of Childcare Services

Download [here](#)

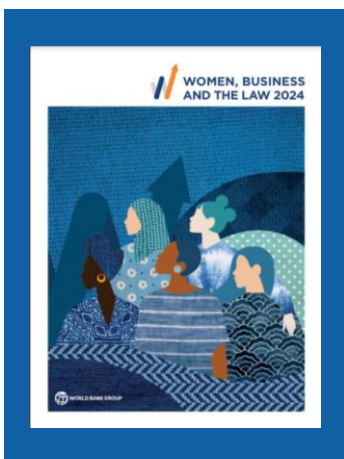
Unpaid care work and the lack of access to affordable childcare constitute key barriers to women's participation in labor markets. A pilot study by the Middle East and North Africa Gender Innovation Lab (MNAGIL) in Egypt finds that, on average, mothers spent 11 hours per day on childcare and seven hours per day doing household chores. The East Asia and Pacific (EAP) GIL reviewed causal evidence on the effects of childcare interventions on maternal labor market engagement in low and middle-income countries and found positive impacts for 21 out of the 22 studies considered.

### Government Financial Support for Childcare Services: A Study Of Regulations in 95 Economies

Download [here](#)

This brief presents new data collected by the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law project on childcare legislation in 95 economies around the world and focuses on government measures aimed at making childcare more affordable. Data used in this brief are based on a conceptual framework that considers both demand and supply-side constraints of the childcare market that limit the uptake and provision of childcare services and indicates that only 41 of these economies have policies to encourage the use of childcare by reducing its costs for parents, either through direct financial support to parents, support for private providers, or both.





## Women, Business and the Law 2024

Download [here](#)

Women, Business and the Law 2024 is the 10th in a series of annual studies measuring the enabling conditions that affect women’s economic opportunity in 190 economies. To present a more complete picture of the global environment that enables women’s socioeconomic participation, this year Women, Business and the Law introduces two new indicators—Safety and Childcare—and presents findings on the implementation gap between laws and how they function in practice. This study presents three indexes: (1) legal frameworks, (2) supportive frameworks (policies, institutions, services, data, budget, and access to justice), and (3) expert opinions on women’s rights in practice in the areas measured. The study’s ten indicators (including childcare) are structured around the different stages of a woman’s working life.

## Events

### List of childcare events with World Bank participation

#### 2024:

Month	Event
January	Hosted “Invest in Childcare Stakeholder Update Meeting” [ <a href="#">event recording</a> , <a href="#">slides</a> , <a href="#">update briefing</a> circulated before the meeting].
February	Co-hosted “It’s About Time: Addressing Women’s Unpaid Work – Barriers and Promising Interventions in Childcare” event with the Africa Gender Innovation Lab.
February	Panelist in “Growing pains: the economic case for investing in childcare” event with Economist Impact and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation [ <a href="#">Event recording</a> ].
March	Speaker at the Eastern Africa Regional Early Childhood (AfECN) Conference.
April	Speaker at the World Bank Europe and Central Asia “Quality learning for all: Improving quality through systems and innovation conference”.
April	Delivered briefing on request to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
June	Co-hosted “Quality Matters: ensuring children are in safe, quality, childcare settings” with ECDAN. [ <a href="#">Event website and registration</a> ]
September	Upcoming: Co-hosting “Quality Matters: building and strengthening systems to promote quality childcare” with ECDAN.