UPDATE ON THE INVEST IN CHILDCARE INITIATIVE

December 2022
Introduction

This brief provides an update on the Invest in Childcare initiative’s activities between January-December 2022. The months of January to April 2022 were largely focused on refining the work program with internal and external stakeholders and engaging with potential funders. The initiative was formally announced in April 2022 as part of the U.S. Government Build Better Back World launch. Since April 2022, the team has focused on staffing and advancing various pieces of work across the different workstreams. Key achievements include: launching our first round of catalytic country grants; defining the approach to evaluations and approving an initial evaluation portfolio; drafting various tools and guidance notes; building out plans for capacity building; and engaging with external partners.

List of Abbreviations

World Bank Global Practice Abbreviations
AGR Agriculture
EDU Education
FCI Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation
HNP Health, Nutrition, and Population
SSI Social Sustainability and Inclusion
SPJ Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice

Other Abbreviations
BE Bank-executed country grants
CoP Community of Practice
DEC Development Economics Vice Presidency
DIME Development Impact Evaluation
ECD Early Childhood Development
ELP Early Learning Partnership
GIL Gender Innovation Lab
HCP Human Capital Project
IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDA International Development Association
IFC International Finance Corporation
LSMS Living Standards Measurement Study
RE Recipient-executed country grants
SIEF Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund
WBG World Bank Group
WBL Women, Business, and the Law

Regional Abbreviations
AFR Africa
ECA Eastern Europe and Central Asia
LAC Latin America and the Caribbean
MENA Middle East and North Africa
SAR South Asia
### Background

In March 2021, the Early Learning Partnership (ELP) team at the World Bank launched the white paper, *Better Jobs and Brighter Futures: Investing in Childcare to Build Human Capital*. The paper makes the case that investments in childcare are central to building human capital, with substantial potential benefits for women, children, families, businesses and economies, and presents a series of policy goals and potential solutions to expand access to quality, affordable childcare. In the process of writing the paper, a group of staff from across the World Bank Group (WBG) worked together to identify constraints and opportunities to expand investments in childcare and to develop a work program across operations, research and global partnerships to help move forward the childcare agenda, taking a whole-of-WBG approach. This work attracted attention from stakeholders and funders in both the Early Childhood Development (ECD) and gender communities and a total of $102 million has been committed from foundations and bilateral funders to support the launch of *Invest in Childcare*. The work program aims to expand the size, and improve the quality, of WBG investments in childcare, building off the Early Learning Partnership (ELP) model, to improve women’s economic empowerment and child development outcomes and yield broader benefits for families, businesses and economies. This work program will be key to deliver the IDA20 policy commitment on childcare.$^{1}$

At the country level, activities will focus on making the case for childcare and supporting countries to design and implement quality projects, as well as to build capacity. At the global level, analytical work and the development of tools and guidance will contribute to the global evidence base and global public goods as well as support country work. The work program is grouped into two streams of complementary funding, which work together to drive quality investments in childcare at the country level and contribute to the global evidence base and public goods: (1) Bank-Executed (BE) funding for country and global work to gather data and evidence, make the case for childcare, develop quality approaches, and build capacity; and (2) Recipient-Executed (RE) funding for project finance to incentivize countries to invest and scale implementation.

*Figure 1: Two funding streams to drive quality investments in childcare*

An overview of the core activities for the Invest in Childcare initiative is provided in Annex 1. This brief provides an update on the Bank-Executed Funding (catalytic grants to countries, global analytical work, capacity building) and the Recipient-Executed Funding.

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1 IDA 20 announced a new policy commitment on childcare through the Gender Special Theme, which is to support at least 15 IDA countries to expand access to quality, affordable childcare, especially for low-income parents.
Bank-Executed Funding

I. Catalytic grants to countries
Invest in Childcare launched a funding round for BE country grants in May 2022. The round received a total of 38 proposals,² requesting $8.9 million in funding. This overwhelming response from country teams suggests high appetite in countries for childcare work. Due to this strong demand, we increased the available funding to $4.5 million³ from the $2-3 million initially envisaged for this round.

All applications were judged on the following criteria:
1. Access and potential for large-scale change in childcare
2. Presence of adequate quality assurance mechanisms
3. Potential to leverage additional funding through the World Bank and external sources
4. Contribution to the evidence base, including both qualitative and quantitative analysis
5. Focus on equitable access to childcare with considerations for income, geography, disability, gender, etc
6. Level of government engagement
7. Engagement of country-level stakeholders, including civil society, women’s rights organizations, and researchers

Twenty-five proposals were approved for funding under this BE round, totalling $4.37 million across multiple sectors and from five regions.
- Sectors: 10 Cross-Sectoral, 5 Social Protection and Jobs (SPJ), 5 Education (EDU), 3 Social Sustainability and Inclusion (SSI) and 1 Agriculture (AGR)
- Regions: 14 from Africa (AFR), 4 from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), 2 from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), 3 from South Asia (SAR) and 1 from Europe and Central Asia (ECA)

Figure 2 summarizes the 25 awarded BE grants showing the countries covered, grant title and the amount awarded by country and region. For the complete list of grants approved and key activities, please see Annex 2.

² This is the highest number of proposals received under any ELP thematic funding round (typically 12-15 proposals are received).
³ The Invest in Childcare initiative will conduct at least one more BE funding round for childcare, likely in early 2024, and respond to urgent requests from teams on a rolling basis.
Figure 2: Global distribution of approved Bank-Executed country grants in 2022

### Africa West ($1,142,650)
- **Benin** ($150,000): Childcare services to promote women's empowerment and improve child development outcomes in Benin
- **Cabo Verde** ($217,000): Expanding access to quality childcare in Cabo Verde
- **Cote d'Ivoire** ($100,000): Enhancing childcare interventions in Cote d'Ivoire
- **Liberia** ($228,000): Childcare and empowerment of women in Liberia
- **Sierra Leone** ($249,000): Improving access to childcare and women's engagement in income-generating activities

### East & Central Europe ($90,000)
- **Moldova** ($90,000): Expanding access to ECD services provision for Ukrainian refugee and host population through incentivizing the private sector

### MENA ($156,250)
- **Jordan** ($100,000): Scaling up access to childcare in Jordan
- **Lebanon** ($56,250): Pilot for home-based childcare in Lebanon for the first time

### South Asia ($628,000)
- **Bangladesh (1)** ($175,000): Improving access and quality of child daycare services in Bangladesh
- **Bangladesh (2)** ($203,000): Enhancing design for community-managed childcare support for not in education or employment

### Latin America & Caribbean ($649,000)
- **Argentina** ($250,000): Tailoring childcare options for agri-food system workers through productive alliances
- **Colombia** ($300,000): Paving the road for an improved and gender transformative ECD system in Colombia
- **El Salvador** ($125,000): Promoting access to affordable, quality childcare in El Salvador
- **Mexico** ($120,000): Support to the implementation of the Early Childhood Care and Education National Policy in Mexico

### Africa East ($1,490,850)
- **Kenya** ($100,000): Childcare services for vulnerable youth and families
- **Madagascar** ($170,000): Community-based childcare for Women's Productive Inclusion
- **Malawi** ($210,000): Understanding young women's access to quality childcare in Malawi
- **Rwanda** ($150,000): Enhancing quality of childcare and ECD services for the poorest

### East Asia & Pacific ($120,000)
- **Indonesia** ($120,000): Support for childcare services in Indonesia

### Regional Proposals
- **Regional Proposal (1)** ($250,000): Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania: Catalyzing knowledge and investment on childcare in Eastern and Southern Africa
II. Global Analytical Work

a. Data Collection
Invest in Childcare is funding the expansion of collection of data on childcare across a range of different approaches. The work with two WBG teams has started: (i) Women, Business, and the Law (WBL), focusing on laws and regulations affecting women’s economic opportunities in 190 countries, and (ii) Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) focusing on improving microdata quality for evidence-based policymaking. More specifically:

- The Invest in Childcare Initiative is collaborating with the WBL team to scale data collection on the legal and regulatory frameworks related to the availability, affordability, and quality of childcare in 150 countries and to ensure the inclusion of a childcare module in the next WBL index. These efforts will build on the first dedicated chapter on childcare (covering legal and regulatory frameworks in 95 countries) that was launched in the 2022 WBL report.
- The Invest in Childcare initiative is collaborating with the LSMS team to collect nationally representative data on demand for childcare and on time use in household surveys and test the integration of childcare modules with national household surveys in 6-8 countries.

b. Evaluations
We are taking a portfolio approach, working with various research units at the World Bank Group across regions (in particular the Gender Innovation Labs and the Development Research Group) and focusing the initial body of work on producing robust evidence on the impact of childcare on outcomes for children, women, and men, and the relative impacts of different types of provision. Annex 3 highlights the ten proposals have been selected for this round of funding. All the evaluations will assess the impact of the provision of childcare on women's economic outcomes as well as child development. In addition, many of the proposals aim to assess the time use of caregivers, men's economic activities, and caregivers' willingness to pay for childcare. For collecting information on a broader set of indicators, we are in discussion with all the teams to include in their assessment the quality of childcare centers and the impact of the childcare interventions on other household members.

c. Tools and resources
The Invest in Childcare team is developing tools and guidance on key topics including the rationale for childcare investments, addressing the enabling environment, designing interventions and conducting evaluations. Priority pieces of work that have started over the last few months focus on topics include: initiating dialogue with government counterparts on investing in childcare; responding to gender and social norms in childcare provision; ensuring quality; and engaging the nonstate sector in childcare and early learning. The team is also developing tools and guidance on situation assessments, return on investment analysis, and quantitative and qualitative evaluations that will guide country teams in understanding the landscape and generating evidence on childcare provision.

III. Capacity-building and knowledge exchange

a. Events
The Invest in Childcare team has hosted and participated in and organized a range of different events, including the following:
• Hosted “Investing in Childcare to Build Human Capital” to launch the Better Jobs and Brighter Futures: Investing in Childcare to Build Human Capital white paper (March 2021)
• Convened representatives from 14 county governments in Kenya at the 1st National Policy Conference on Early Childhood Care, Education and Development (March 2022)
• Participated as a panelist in the UN Women and ILO conference “Who cares? Spotlight on Gender Equality and the Care Economy in international cooperation” in Berlin (April 2022)
• Convened a series of technical workshops with the Center for Global Development to discuss the initiative’s research agenda and operations, with a focus on return-on-investment related to childcare (June 2022)
• Participated as a panelist in a WB-IMF Civil Society Policy Forum event “How can the World Bank engage with civil society and care workers to build stronger national care systems?” hosted by ECDAN and Oxfam (October 2022)
• Delivered briefings on request to the USAID pre-primary working group (October 2022) and the Thrive Coalition (November 2022)
• Co-hosted childcare panel with the Hilton Foundation at the World Conference on ECCE in Uzbekistan, profiling government and civil society approaches from India, Morocco and Liberia (November 2022)
• Participated as a panelist in the Center for Global Development’s 8th Annual Birdsall House Conference “Global Childcare and ECD Investments: Forging a Shared Agenda” (December 2022)

b. Community of Practice
In an effort to build the capacity of World Bank Group staff, a community of practice (CoP) is being established to support country teams through sharing available resources, facilitating peer learning activities and brainstorming on challenges, and bringing in external support from partners on specific topics. Knowledge exchanges planned for 2023 will cover topics such as implementing entrepreneurship models, building the policy environment, designing solutions for women working in the informal sector, developing the childcare workforce, implementing diagnostics (situation assessment approaches, return on investment and costing), implementing evaluations, etc. External partners will be brought in to provide expert resources as needed.

Recipient-Executed Funding
Invest in Childcare started accepting applications for RE funding in May 2022 and will continue to receive applications on an ongoing basis. We awarded our first grant to Somalia for $2 million. For an overview of Somalia’s Rajo Kaaba project, please see Annex 4.
ANNEX 1: Overview of the core activities for the Invest in Childcare initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Stream #1: Bank-Executed Funding ($25 million)</th>
<th>WBG Teams Involved</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Catalytic grants. <strong>Competitive ELP funding rounds for demand-driven activities in countries that are designed to generate more and better-quality activities for childcare. Catalytic grants will be $100,000-250,000 per grant. Funding is used in various ways by teams based on their needs but typically includes one or several of the following: conducting upstream analytical work that generates knowledge or helps to make the case for childcare, designing quality operations, providing technical support for implementation, strengthening the enabling environment or evaluating interventions.</strong></td>
<td>ELP coordinates, call designed with multi-Global Practice (GP) steering committee, funding will be open to all WBG</td>
<td>$6 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>ii. Global analytical work to make the case, generate data, evaluate impacts and build evidence, find solutions and develop tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) <strong>Data</strong> - Gathering cross-country and within country data on childcare, including country-specific costing and Return on Investment (ROI) analysis</td>
<td><strong>Data:</strong> ELP, WBL, LSMS, Poverty, IFC, ECD Measurement</td>
<td>$4 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) <strong>Evaluations</strong> - Building the evidence base through evaluations of childcare that comprehensively consider benefits for children, women, families and productivity</td>
<td><strong>Evaluations:</strong> ELP, SIEF, GIL, DEC, DIME, IFC</td>
<td>$8.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) <strong>Tools</strong> - Preparing tools for country teams and clients that could also be used as global public goods (or inputs to broader collaborations)</td>
<td><strong>Tools:</strong> ELP leads, working with technical teams of Gender, IFC &amp; other units</td>
<td>$2.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>iii. Capacity building</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) <strong>Building external capacity</strong> through recruiting Early Years Fellows focused on childcare to work with World Bank (WB) teams and governments in strategic countries, developing content on childcare to reach policymakers within the Engaging Policymakers in Early Childhood Program (15 countries involved) and convening childcare related events for the Human Capital Champions.</td>
<td>External capacity: ELP and HCP, working with other relevant GPs</td>
<td>$1.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) <strong>Building internal capacity</strong> through facilitating technical support to teams, disseminating tools and products and organizing knowledge exchange opportunities.</td>
<td><strong>Internal capacity:</strong> ELP, working with the cross-sectoral working group to identify opportunities and leverage channels</td>
<td>$0.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv. Program management**</td>
<td>ELP coordinates working with the Childcare Advisory Group</td>
<td>$2 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinating the work program, formalizing the Childcare Advisory Group to operationalize childcare within the WBG and mapping the WB portfolio to identify opportunities to integrate childcare into existing / pipeline projects.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Bank-Executed funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$25 million</strong></td>
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| Funding Stream #2: Recipient-Executed Funding ($80-$150 million) | | |
| These funds will be available to country teams from all sectors on a 1:1 match basis (leveraging IDA, IBRD, domestic or other resources), up to a maximum of $10 million per country. $80 million should reach 10-20 countries. Activities within operations are likely to include: strengthening the enabling environment to promote quality and sustainability (including policy reform, quality assurance and institutional capacity) and scaling up access to childcare through various interventions and conducting evaluations. | ELP coordinates, call for proposals designed and awarded by multi-GP committee | **$80-130 million** |
| **TOTAL Recipient-Executed funding** | | **$80-130 million** |
## ANNEX 2: Complete list of approved Invest in Childcare Bank-Executed country grants in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Name of grant</th>
<th>Key activities</th>
<th>Grant amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Argentina   | AGR    | Tailoring Childcare Options for Agri-food System Workers through Productive Alliances            | • Assess constraints in agricultural communities  
• Survey childcare design options through community and global input  
• Develop a toolbox and design method to pilot in agricultural communities                                                                                                             | $250,000     |
| Bangladesh (1) | SPJ | Improving access and quality of child daycare services in Bangladesh                            | • Design a child daycare pilot  
• Technical analysis to support drafting of rules and regulations under the Child Daycare Act 2021  
• Engage stakeholder through dissemination of results from the pilot design and the drafting of rules and regulations under the Child Daycare Act                                                                 | $175,000     |
| Bangladesh (2) | EDU | Enhancing design for community-managed childcare support for not in education or employment (NEET) youth | • Review landscape to understand constraints of existing childcare support and opportunities available for not in education, employment or training (NEET) youth  
• Identify models of community-managed childcare and prepare detailed intervention design  
• Design an impact evaluation, M&E capacity building, and baseline survey for Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET Youth Project (EARN)  
• Share knowledge and advance policy advocacy on childcare support                                                                                                                                  | $203,000     |
| Benin       | SPJ    | Childcare services to promote women’s empowerment and improve child development outcomes in Benin | • Conduct a technical analysis for Community Childcare Spaces (CCS) implementation (under Youth Inclusion project)  
• Conduct process evaluation for Community Childcare Spaces (CCS)  
• Conduct a technical analysis for childcare as income-generating activity and policy dialogue (under Safety Nets project)  
• Design an impact evaluation and baseline supervision for childcare as income generating activity                                                                                                   | $150,000     |
| Cabo Verde | EDU, SPJ | Expanding Access to Quality Childcare in Cabo Verde                                               | • Carry out a diagnostic of childcare services in Cabo Verde  
• Support the design and implementation of a cash transfer pilot to increase access to childcare services  
• Administer a beneficiary survey and operational review of cash transfer pilot to inform future investments in childcare                                                                                         | $217,000     |
<p>| Colombia    | SPJ, EDU | Paving the road for an improved and gender transformative ECD system in Colombia                | • Carry out an assessment to document the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for improving financing, access, quality and equity of the Colombia Institute for Family Welfare’s (ICBF, acronym in Spanish) ECD services in the mid-term                                         | $200,000     |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Congo, Rep.   | SPJ    | Empowering Women ECD Entrepreneurs in Republic of Congo                       | • Provide technical assistance and policy options for improving access, quality, financing and the integration of the National Care System in the short and mid-term  
• Carry out a research study for understanding preferences for childcare attributes from local and refugee caregivers | $202,650|
| Cote D'Ivoire | SPJ    | Enhancing Childcare interventions in Cote d'Ivoire                           | • Activities to be further defined                                                              | $100,000|
| El Salvador   | EDU, SPJ| Promoting access to affordable, quality childcare in El Salvador ($125,000) | • Design a rapid assessment and design of ECD training for women entrepreneurs  
• Identify and train of women ECD entrepreneurs  
• Pilot coaching and mentorship for implementation of ECD businesses  
• Conduct an impact evaluation and dissemination of ECD entrepreneurship pilot lessons learned | 125,000|
| India         | EDU    | Skills for Creating a Childcare Workforce in India                           | • Design research study including stakeholder consultation  
• Collect primary and secondary data on childcare in India  
• Analyze data analysis and write report  
• Organize dissemination workshop with stakeholders | $250,000|
<p>| Indonesia     | SSI    | Support for Childcare Services in Indonesia                                  | • Identify of operational models and public engagement for childcare provision in Indonesia | $120,000|
| Jordan        | SPJ, other sectors | Scaling up access to childcare in Jordan                                      | • Activities to be further defined                                                              | $100,000|
| Kenya         | SPJ, other sectors | Childcare provision for vulnerable youth and families                        | • Activities to be further defined                                                              | $100,000|
| Lebanon       | SPJ    | Piloting home-based childcare in Lebanon for the first time                 | • Develop legal framework and licensing requirements to formalize the home-based model         | $56,250|</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</table>
| Liberia | SSI     | Childcare and empowerment of women in Liberia | - Develop a training program for childminders that includes a certification upon completion  
- Conduct childcare situation assessment (including time allocation)  
- Advance policy dialogue and disseminate of findings  
- Pilot a lower cost version of Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (EPAG) childcare training | $228,000 (an additional $56,250 co-financed through the FCV round) |
| Madagascar | SPJ | Community Childcare for Women's Productive Inclusion | - Conduct a feasibility study for integrating community childcare in project  
- Develop standards and training materials  
- Develop monitoring and evaluation, GRM systems and dissemination | $170,000 |
| Malawi | EDU | Understanding young women's access to quality childcare in Malawi | - Carry out a diagnostic household survey of families with young mothers  
- Develop a report on access to community and formal childcare and related barriers to school access for young mothers, and on at-home and community ECD activities in communities without ECD provision and recommendations for support  
- Design for pilot of improved childcare/ECD provision for children on young mothers to support re-enrollment in school | $200,000 |
| Mexico | EDU | Support to the implementation of the Early Childhood Care and Education National Policy in Mexico | - Support state-specific activities to implement the Initial Education Policy (PNEI, acronym in Spanish) | $120,000 |
| Moldova | EDU, Gender, IFC | Expanding access to ECD services provision for Ukrainian refugees and local population through incentivizing the private sector | - Assess current public and private ECD services provision in Moldova, including for refugees  
- Estimate cost of providing ECD services, including per child financing formula  
- Simulate effects of different packages of per child allocation on expansion of ECD provision, including private provision | $90,000 (an additional $90,000 co-financed through the FCV round) |
| Rwanda | SPJ, EDU | Enhancing quality of childcare and ECD provision for the poorest | - Improve curriculum for parental engagement in home-based ECD sites  
- Expand early learning/cognitive development through use of new tools and materials  
- Enhance monitoring of home-based ECD sites  
- Foster home-based-ECD peer to peer learning | $150,000 |
<p>| Sierra Leone | SPJ | Improving Access to Childcare and Women's Engagement in Income-Generating Activities | - Activities to be further defined | $245,000 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| South Sudan             | SSI    | Support to Enabling Environment for Childcare and Women’s Economic          | • Carry out a diagnostic of supply and demand of childcare  
• Develop a curriculum and training package for potential childcare service providers and Program to build community and women-led Childcare Workforce  
• Develop a survey instrument and collect data on ECD outcomes, women’s economic outcomes and family welfare  
• Support the government to develop Childcare Quality Monitoring framework | $206,500 |
|                         |        | Empowerment Activities in South Sudan                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |          |
| Uganda                  | SPJ, EDU, Gender, FCI | Enabling Childcare Services for Women Entrepreneurs in Uganda (ENCAWE-Uganda) | • Carry out a policy, regulatory, and institutional framework diagnostic  
• Develop an inventory of childcare services in Uganda  
• Conduct a deep dive assessment into childcare services (demand/supply survey) for low-income female entrepreneurs in peri-urban areas | $200,000 |
| Regional proposal (1) – Eastern and Southern Africa | SPJ, EDU, HNP, SSI | Catalyzing Knowledge and Investment on Childcare in Eastern and Southern Africa | • Organize a regional workshop on childcare arrangements for low-income families  
• Organize a crowdsourcing campaign on childcare in Eastern and Southern Africa  
• Conduct situation assessments in two Countries in Eastern/Southern Africa | $250,000 |
| Regional proposal (2) – East Africa | SSI    | Understanding maternal employment and inclusive childcare for mothers of children with disabilities | • Strengthen the understanding of factors associated with the employment of mothers of children with disabilities  
• Examine supply-side factors for inclusive childcare- evidence of good practice  
• Development country specific analytical briefs based on a global literature review | $211,700 |
| **Total**               |        |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                          | **$4,320,100** |
### ANNEX 3: Portfolio of selected evaluation ideas for funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>WBG Lead</th>
<th>Type of Intervention</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>AFR GIL</td>
<td><strong>Childcare entrepreneurship</strong>&lt;br&gt;The evaluation will examine the impact of training women as public and then private providers on women’s (and men’s) economic activity, time use and ECD outcomes; and test how willingness-to-pay updates once women have experienced public and/or private provision.</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Congo</td>
<td>DEC/DIME</td>
<td><strong>Childcare entrepreneurship</strong>&lt;br&gt;This study will examine the impact of privately provided, low-cost, quality ECE/childcare services for vulnerable women and families on the productivity of mothers, child development, and children’s primary school preparedness, in a way also expanding the set of livelihoods streams of productive economic inclusion programs.</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>AFR GIL</td>
<td><strong>Community-based childcare</strong>&lt;br&gt;The funding will cover the second round of data collection of assessing the impact of establishing community-based childcare centers on women’s and men’s engagement in commercial activities, productivity and household income, and early childhood development (ECD).</td>
<td>$96,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>LAC GIL</td>
<td><strong>Community-based childcare</strong>&lt;br&gt;The team will implement and evaluate the impact of a pilot intervention called Communities of Care (CC) (that will provide in-house care services for children within poor and vulnerable households) on unpaid work, women’s employment and labor market participation, and well-being of young children.</td>
<td>$230,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>EAP GIL</td>
<td><strong>Community-based childcare</strong>&lt;br&gt;The team aims to understand why demand for subsidized but not free childcare services is low; the impacts of childcare services on children, mothers, and other family members; and the scope for alternative modalities conducive to improving children’s development outcomes.</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco and Tunisia</td>
<td>MNA GIL</td>
<td><strong>Relaxing binding constraints in childcare utilization and women’s employment</strong>&lt;br&gt;The team proposes to address the financial constraint, social norms, information asymmetry on the quality of childcare facilities benefits, and access to jobs in understanding its impact on women’s employment and/or childcare utilization.</td>
<td>To be confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>SAR GIL</td>
<td><strong>ECCD models (integrated ECCD center and mobile or home-based model)</strong>&lt;br&gt;The main purpose of this impact evaluation is to assess the impact of the ECCD interventions on children’s learning and development outcomes and shifts in women’s economic empowerment.</td>
<td>To be confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>DEC/DIME</td>
<td><strong>Center-based (Vouchers to childcare centers near women’s home vs. at the markets)</strong>&lt;br&gt;The team will use this funding to add an alternative treatment group - providing vouchers for use at childcare centers near women’s homes (instead of at the markets) - to an existing evaluation assessing the impacts of market-based childcare centers targeting lower income women working in the informal sector.</td>
<td>$244,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>LAC GIL</td>
<td><strong>Guaranteeing preference-based childcare spots</strong>&lt;br&gt;The team aims to conduct an RCT that guarantees childcare spots based on preferences. They aim to take advantage of the large influx of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia over the past decade to study the differences in preferences and outcomes between local and refugee populations.</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>DEC/DIME</td>
<td><strong>Center-based childcare</strong>&lt;br&gt;The team will evaluate the impact of nursery school construction near the hillside irrigation schemes in Rwanda to understand the impacts of center-based childcare on parents’ and caregivers’ labor supply and whether these impacts mediated, or cause, broader effects on wellbeing and empowerment.</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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ANNEX 4: Overview of Somalia’s Rajo Kaaba project

The objective of Rajo Kaaba is to improve literacy and numeracy skills of women in selected areas and to prepare women for leadership roles. The project is comprised of three components: (1) skills for life and labor market success, which will support adolescent girls and women to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills, cross-cutting socio-emotional and life skills, and skills to improve their livelihoods; (2) higher skills development for women’s leadership which will create a consortium of women’s colleges and women’s development centers to expand women’s higher education access and leadership development opportunities; and (3) technical assistance and project management which will support systems’ strengthening efforts, including on data systems, policy, and strategy development, remote delivery of services, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building at federal and state levels.

Childcare will be integrated in the project through several activities, including: (i) offering childcare as a training option in the Component 1 skills training programs along with support for women entrepreneurs; (ii) ensuring childcare is available to women participating in project activities across all components; (iii) working with institutions engaged in the project (universities, training centers, employers) to support provision of childcare to employees/beneficiaries on an ongoing basis; (iv) developing quality standards and implementation support to ensure childcare quality is good provision; and (v) diagnostics and evaluation to understand childcare needs and the impact of provision.

The project is expected to benefit at least 28,500 young women and up to 3,000 disadvantaged young men aged 15-35 from primarily marginalized and vulnerable populations, including Internally Displaced Persons, in a set of target districts across Somalia, including Somaliland.