

# World Bank Investments in Early Childhood Education

*In response to the overwhelming evidence of impact, unmet need and growing demand, the World Bank is working closely with our clients to increase investments in quality early childhood education (ECE). We work with global and country-level partners in academia and civil society, as well as multilateral development agencies. We partner with bilateral organizations and foundations through our innovative Early Learning Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund.*

## The Human Capital Project and Investing in the Early Years

We have an unprecedented opportunity to capitalize on high-level institutional commitment within the World Bank, as well as from country clients. The World Bank's corporate commitment to Investing in the Early Years and the launch of the Human Capital Project will open the doors to policy dialogue and new investments in early learning as part of a Bank-wide effort to prioritize the link between investing in people and economic growth, which recognizes investments in the early years as a key foundation to build human capital.

### Investing in ECE can help countries:



Improve children's cognitive and socioemotional skills



Reduce repetition and drop-out rates and increase system efficiency



Promote equality



Build the skilled workforce needed for the 21st century and beyond

### How big is the World Bank's early childhood education portfolio?

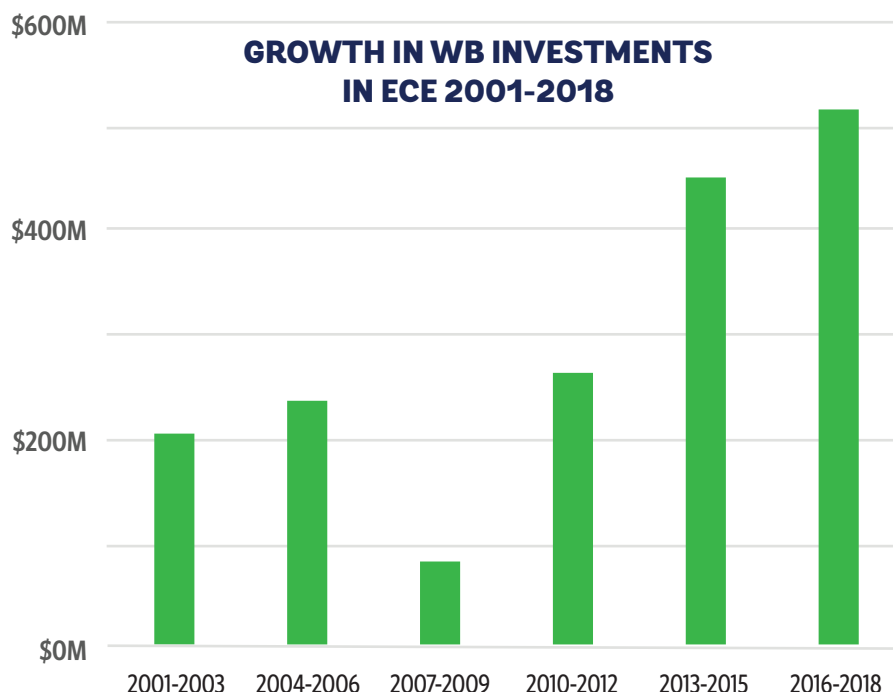


**50 active projects in 39 countries totaling \$1.1 billion**, accounting for 7% of WB's total \$16 billion education portfolio

**200+ research and other analytical activities** to support early childhood education



Our investments have more than doubled in the last five years



*Figures reflect annual project approvals amounts, grouped into three-year periods to show the trend over time.*

## World Bank Portfolio with Active Early Childhood Education Activities\*

### The Senegal Investing in the Early Years for Human Development

**Project** is a \$75 million investment to build an integrated approach to support young children and their families that will:

- Reach 2.5 million parents and young children by integrating parenting education and early stimulation within community-based nutrition services (increasing coverage from 19% to 65% in targeted regions)
- Enroll 210,000 children in formal preschools with improved quality standards and teacher training and launch 3,000 community-based preschools in partnership with Koranic schools and parent-teacher associations (doubling the current enrollment rate in targeted regions)
- Register 600,000 births to ensure children have access to essential services (increasing the rate from 46% to 60% in targeted regions)



**The Nicaragua Alliance for Education Quality Project** is expanding access to preschools and will:

- Certify 5,500 preschool teachers in new in-service preschool training
- Measure quality and outcomes of preschool classrooms
- Distribute developmentally appropriate teaching and learning materials

**The Liberia Getting to the Best in Education Project and the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project** will integrate ECD into skills training programs that will:

- Train teachers' aides and caregivers through 3 months of classroom training and 3 months of job placement
- Provide business skills training and start-up funding to help women entrepreneurs establish their own childcare centers

**\*This map highlights the countries with active early childhood education activities, with profiles of a few specific projects**



**The Third Punjab Education Sector Project in Pakistan** includes a \$33 million investment to expand access to preschool and will:

- Increase the number of ECE classrooms from 1,000 to more than 7,000 in three years, eventually reaching a total of 20,000 classrooms in five years
- Establish minimum quality standards and a new system of monitoring and continuous professional development to support teachers to improve
- Use results-based financing, with funding disbursed to the Government on an annual basis, once agreed upon targets are met and verified by a third party



**The Jordan Education Reform Support Program** is expanding access to quality early learning for Jordanian and refugee children and will:

- Enroll 30,000 Jordanian and refugee children in preschools
- Train 100% of preschool teachers on integrating play-based learning into the classroom, preventing gender stereotyping and promoting socioemotional development
- Support the development and rollout of a new quality assurance system for public and private preschools

## PRIORITY AREAS FOR INVESTMENT

We are scaling up our investments in early childhood education in every region through:

- **Building capacity:** We work closely with current and future policymakers to build capacity and champions. Our Early Years Fellowship program is building a cadre of highly motivated professionals to serve as the next generation of leaders in their countries. Our first cohort of 20 young African professionals (selected out of 3,000 applicants) are embedded within cross-sectoral World Bank teams and governments, while enrolled in an extensive professional development program.
- **Measuring ECD outcomes and the quality of ECE settings:** To build effective systems, countries need information on children's development and the quality of early learning environments. We are scaling up our efforts to help countries measure these outcomes and generate globally comparable data to help improve early learning systems.
- **Innovating through research and implementation:** We are experimenting with operational and financial innovations, including: new technologies, public-private partnerships and results-based financing. We are also testing new operating models such as linking ECD to women's empowerment, employment and skills programs to build a qualified workforce and expand access to childcare. And we are working with countries to identify solutions to support children and families in conflict and fragile settings.
- **Championing quality, not just access:** All of our projects include activities to improve the quality of service delivery, so we ensure quality remains paramount while scaling. We are working with countries to develop approaches that recognize children's natural motivation to learn and provide children with developmentally appropriate, play-based learning opportunities, even when resources are constrained.

## PORTFOLIO OF ACTIVE WORLD BANK-FINANCED PROJECTS WITH ECE ACTIVITIES

	COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ESTIMATED ECE AMOUNT (\$m)
1	Argentina	AR Secondary Rural Education Improvement Project	12
2	Armenia	Education Improvement Project	2
3	Bangladesh	Quality Learning for All Program	N/A (P4R)
4	Brazil	Recife Education and Public Management Project	100
5	Burkina Faso	Education Sector Support Project	2.5
6	Cambodia	Early Childhood Care and Development for Floating Villages Project	3
7	Cameroon	Basic Education Performance Project	10
8	China	Yunnan Early Childhood Education Innovation Project	74.62
9	Cote d'Ivoire	Education Service Delivery Enhancement Project	7.92
10	Democratic Republic of Congo	DRC Education Quality Improvement Project	2.2
11	Dominican Republic	Support to the National Education Pact Project	5
12	Ecuador	Supporting Education Reform in Targeted Circuits Project	45
13	Egypt	Education Quality Improvement Project	100
14	Ethiopia	Ethiopia General Education Quality Improvement Project II	0.85
15	Ethiopia	Ethiopia Education Results Based Financing Project	5
16	Ethiopia	AF* to General Education Quality Improvement Program – Phase II	2
17	Ethiopia	General Education Quality Improvement Program for Equity	60
18	Gambia	Results for Education Achievement and Development Project	0.825
19	Gambia	AF to Results for Education Achievement and Development Project	1
20	Gambia	Gambia Education Sector Support Program	3
21	Guinea	Guinea Pooled Fund for Basic Education Project	0.177
22	Guyana	Guyana Early Childhood Education Project	1.7
23	Guyana	Guyana Education Sector Improvement Project	0.9
24	Jamaica	Jamaica Early Childhood Development Project	15
25	Jamaica	AF to Early Childhood Development Project	12
26	Jordan	Jordan Education Reform Support Program	44.3
27	Lao PDR	Early Childhood Education Project	28
28	Lao PDR	Second Global Partnership for Education Project	1.68
29	Liberia	Liberia: Getting to Best in Education Project	3.8
30	Madagascar	Basic Education Support Project	8.7
31	Mexico	MX School Based Management Project	83.1
32	Mexico	MX Reducing Inequality of Educational Opportunity Project	95
33	Moldova	Moldova AF to Education Reform Project	0.24
34	Mozambique	MZ First AF to Education Sector Support Project	40
35	Mozambique	MZ Third AF to the Education Sector Support Project	7
36	Nepal	Nepal School Sector Development Program	17.81
37	Nicaragua	Alliance for Education Quality Project	8.25
38	Nigeria	Nigeria Partnership for Education Project	1.5
39	Pakistan	Third Punjab Education Sector Project	33
40	Sao Tome and Principe	STP AF to Quality Education for All Project	1.1
41	Senegal	Senegal Investing in the Early Years for Human Development Project	75
42	Serbia	Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care Project	50
43	Sierra Leone	Revitalizing Education Development Project	1
44	Sierra Leone	AF to Revitalizing Education Development Project	0.095
45	Sri Lanka	Early Childhood Development Project	50
46	Togo	Education and Institutional Strengthening Project	1.7
47	Tunisia	Strengthening Foundations for Learning Project	19.6
48	Uganda	Teacher and School Effectiveness Project	4.5
49	Uruguay	Improving the Quality of Initial and Primary Education Project	6.56
50	Uzbekistan	Improving Pre-Primary and General Secondary Education Project	20.45
TOTAL (AS OF SEPTEMBER 2018)			1069.08

\*AF indicates Additional Financing projects