

Invest in Childcare

January 2024 Stakeholder Update



This update

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

1. [General updates on key workstreams](#)
2. [Spotlight on a few activities](#)
 - a. [Cote d'Ivoire Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Project](#)
 - b. [Thematic brief on care for the World Bank Gender Strategy Update](#)
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General updates on key workstreams

Grants

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

- ◆ \$4.5 million of funding was approved in the first funding round to 26 proposals in December 2022.
- ◆ The second funding round closed in December 2023 and received a record 57 proposals totaling \$12.6 million in requests for funding. Proposals will be evaluated during the next 2-3 months and details of grants awarded will be released once they are approved.
- ◆ Reminder: Up to \$250,000 is awarded per grant to support country work. Funding is used in various ways based on country needs but may include conducting analytical work to make the case for childcare, designing quality operations and improving the enabling environment (policies, training, etc).

Project match funding¹ (“Recipient-Executed” grants):

- ◆ \$17.9 million in Recipient Executed (RE) match funding has been awarded to five projects to date: Cote D’Ivoire (\$5m); Moldova (\$5m); Rwanda (\$4m); Senegal (\$1.9m); and Somalia (\$2m).
- ◆ Discussions are ongoing with another 8+ countries and grants will be announced once the projects have gone through WB Board approval.

Grant summaries:

- ◆ Find summaries of catalytic country grants and project match funding awarded to date [here](#).

Global analytical work

Data collection:

- ◆ The [Women, Business and the Law](#) (WBL) data collection on legal and regulatory frameworks related to the availability, financing and quality of childcare services has been scaled up to 190 countries. The dataset is being finalized and analysis from it will feature in the 2024 WBL report.
- ◆ Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) is developing a childcare module to integrate into national household surveys which will initially be piloted in Nigeria in 2024 and additional countries in 2025.

Evaluations:

- ◆ Initial work is focused on producing robust evidence on the impact of childcare on outcomes for children, women, families, and the relative impacts of different types of provision. Six evaluation proposals have been awarded so far, with several more in the pipeline.
- ◆ In addition, all teams that have been awarded project match funding are preparing impact evaluations of the childcare interventions.

Tools and guidance:

- ◆ An initial set of priority tools and guidance has been developed and drafts have been circulated internally with selected WB teams. The set includes: a

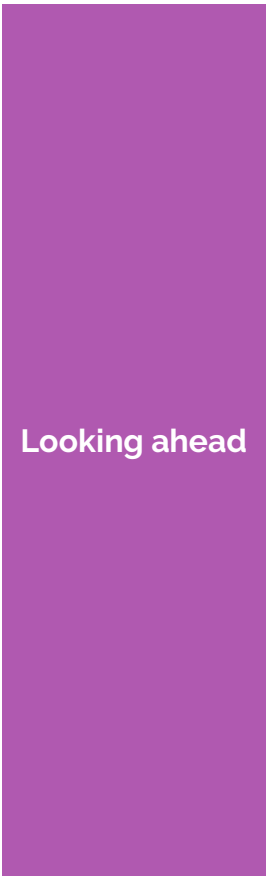
¹ Project match funding is programmed through World Bank operations and typically flows to governments (Recipient-Executed funding). Funds are available to country teams from all sectors on a 1:1 match basis for IDA and IDA/IBRD Blend countries and 1:2 match basis for IBRD countries (leveraging IDA,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



package of sample instruments for childcare situation assessments; a guidance note on the essential elements of quality; and suggested childcare indicators and tools for conducting impact evaluations. Products will be made publicly available once they have gone through the WB formal review processes and will be shared on the Invest in Childcare website once ready.



- ◆ In September, we launched an **internal Community of Practice (CoP)** to bring together World Bank teams working on childcare with knowledge exchange opportunities and learning events on priority topics for analytical and operational work on childcare.
- ◆ 24 applications were received from country teams and government counterparts for the **“Engaging Policymakers to Invest in Childcare”** program. This is an 18-month program to advance the childcare agenda in countries through training, cross-country exchanges, and access to bespoke technical assistance (TA). 10-12 country teams and client counterparts are expected to be selected. Applications are being reviewed, and details on the cohort will be made available once selections are finalized.



- Priority activities over the coming months include:**
- ◆ **Finalizing grant awards:** Applications for the second round of catalytic country grant funding closed in December 2023 and will be reviewed and evaluated against seven criteria (listed on page 4 of the [December 2022 update](#)). Shortlisted teams will be interviewed during February and March with final decisions expected in April.
 - ◆ **Developing and disseminating priority tools and guidance for World Bank teams:** Various other tools and guidance are under development including guidance notes on initiating dialogue with government counterparts and supporting childcare through Development Policy Loans (DPLs), a report on how governments can harness the power of communities and other nonstate sector actors in childcare, a quality assessment tool, and repositories of materials on key topics.
 - ◆ **Launching the Engaging Policymakers to Invest in Childcare Program:** Following the selection of country teams, the 18-month program will launch by April 2024.
 - ◆ **Launching a self-paced online course for the Early Childhood Education Policy Academy Platform:** the course provides an introduction into the rationale for investing in childcare and explores the links between quality childcare and women’s economic empowerment outcomes, child development outcomes, family welfare, business productivity and economic growth. The course is being finalized and will be made publicly available once ready.
 - ◆ **Updating the [Invest in Childcare](#) website.**

Spotlight on a few activities

Cote D'Ivoire: Leveraging a community nutrition platform to provide quality early childcare services

In 2022, \$5 million in Recipient-Executed (RE) matched by \$5 million IDA funding was awarded to the [Cote d'Ivoire Health Nutrition, and Early Childhood Development](#) project.

The Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development Project is phase 1 of a 10-year program which aims to improve the utilization of quality health, nutrition, and early years development services - particularly for women, children, and poor populations - in targeted regions in Cote D'Ivoire.

Invest in Childcare invested US\$5 million (matched by \$5 million in IDA funding) to support community nutrition centers (known as FRANCS) to offer improved childcare services through increasing the days and hours that childcare services will be available and improving the quality of childcare provision.

Funding will be used to:

- ◆ Develop quality standards and implementation guidance for the childcare provision.
- ◆ Train practitioners.
- ◆ Modify existing FRANC community spaces to safely provide quality childcare for very young children (including breastfeeding spaces for mothers) and procure materials.
- ◆ Fund an impact evaluation to look at the impacts of childcare provision on women's empowerment and productivity, child outcomes, and family outcomes.

The project is expected to benefit at least 580,000 children through early learning and development activities (including childcare) which are delivered through these community services.

Thematic brief on care for the World Bank Gender Strategy update

The Invest in Childcare team collaborated with the World Bank Gender Group on a thematic brief on care, which provides an analytical foundation for the [World Bank Gender Strategy 2024-2030](#). [“Addressing Care to Accelerate Equality”](#) takes a broad framing of care and considers childcare, elder care, and disability inclusion. The brief reviews key thematic issues related to the care economy, summarizes evidence on promising solutions and operational good practices, and highlights promising areas for future engagement to promote gender equality and empowerment.

Although the focus of the Invest in Childcare initiative is on childcare specifically, this thematic brief helps to lay out ways the World Bank can more actively engage in the broader care economy.

Women, Business and the Law data collection on childcare laws and regulation

Women, Business and the Law (WBL) measures laws and regulations affecting women’s employment and entrepreneurship in 190 economies and produces an annual index. Recognizing the importance of the provision of childcare services for women’s economic opportunity, the WBL team piloted a first round of data collection on childcare legal and regulatory frameworks in 95 countries in 2021. The [pilot data](#) was primarily collected through desk research, with the preliminary analysis and findings being published in [Women, Business and the Law 2022](#) edition. The data allowed the team to generate [global evidence](#) showing a positive impact that the enactment of childcare laws has on maternal labor force participation (Anukriti et al. 2023).¹ In addition, being guided by existing evidence on high childcare costs that pose a major challenge for both families and providers and affect the demand and supply of childcare services, the team produced a [policy brief](#) exploring government support options in 95 economies.

In 2022 and 2023, in partnership with the World Bank’s [Invest in Childcare](#) initiative, the WBL team scaled up the childcare module to 190 countries and launched data collection through questionnaires administered to the WBL legal experts in the field. The WBL will introduce a fully-fledged standalone indicator on childcare in its upcoming 2024 report edition that will be fully integrated into the *Women, Business and the Law 2.0* index and updated on an annual basis. The new childcare indicator will assess the legal frameworks governing childcare provision for children from birth to 2 years and 11 months. Further, in recognition of the pressing gaps between the law and its implementation, the WBL will publish data around the childcare supportive frameworks in 190 countries. The supportive frameworks data will shed light on implementation of legal frameworks by answering questions around how well governments address information asymmetries amongst parents, streamline application procedures for financial support, and adhere to quality assurance.

Recent World Bank publications on childcare



Addressing Care to Accelerate Equality

Download [here](#)

This thematic brief provides an analytical foundation for the update to the [World Bank Group Gender Strategy 2024-30](#). The brief:

- ◆ Reviews key thematic issues related to the care economy.
- ◆ Summarizes evidence on promising solutions and operational good practices.
- ◆ Highlights promising areas for future engagement to promote gender equality and empowerment.



Filling the Gaps: Childcare Laws for Women's Economic Empowerment

Download [here](#).

This study:

- ◆ Provides global evidence on the links between the attributes of laws which govern the provision of childcare services and their effects on women's labor market outcomes.
- ◆ Finds the enactment of childcare laws increases women's labor force participant by 2 percent on average, that this effect increases over time (reaching up to 4 percent five years after an enactment), and this effect is driven by women who are married, have completed less than primary education, and are between the ages of 35 and 44.

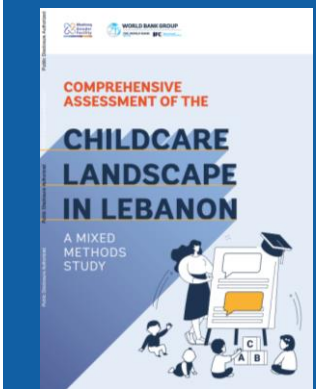


Designing and Implementing Low-Cost Childcare Solutions: Lessons from the Africa Gender Innovation Lab

Download [here](#)

This publication:

- ◆ Presents lessons learned from pilots of different models of low-cost childcare provision across four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ◆ Shares findings from qualitative research conducted to inform the design of a new community-based childcare pilot in Cameroon.



Comprehensive Assessment of the Childcare Landscape in Lebanon: A Mixed-Methods Study

Download [here](#)

This study analyzes the support and demand of formal childcare services for children aged 0-3 in Lebanon. It:

- ◆ Reviews Lebanon's institutional framework around childcare.
- ◆ Maps out the current supply of services including cost and quality aspects and deepens understanding of households' childcare needs.
- ◆ Proposes measures for an inclusive expansion of quality and affordable childcare services.

Events

List of childcare events in 2023 with World Bank participation

- ◆ **February** Co-hosted panel on “Comprehensive Care Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean” with the Latin America and Caribbean Gender Innovation Lab.
- ◆ **February** Hosted “Invest in Childcare – Intersection of Gender and Childcare” discussion with civil society stakeholders.
- ◆ **February** Co-hosted “Leveraging Development Policy Operations (DPOs) to accelerate care policies” session with the World Bank Gender Group.
- ◆ **March** Hosted high-level “Investing in Childcare to Build Human Capital” plenary session at Human Development (HD) Week.
- ◆ **March** Hosted Invest in Childcare booth for World Bank staff as part of International Women’s Day.
- ◆ **March** Panelist at the “International Labor Organization (ILO) Launch of the New Care Policy Investment Simulator” launch hosted by ILO as a side event of CSW67. [[Webpage and event recording](#)]
- ◆ **March** Panelist in the “Supporting Public Investments in the Care Economy” plenary discussion hosted by ILO and UN Women.
- ◆ **April** Co-hosted “Unlocking job opportunities and closing the gender gap” webinar with Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE). [[Get the event recording](#) or [download the presentations](#)]
- ◆ **June** Co-hosted “Childcare: A Strategic Investment for Brighter Futures” with MCC.
- ◆ **June** Hosted “Invest in Childcare Stakeholder Update Meeting”. [[Event recording](#)]
- ◆ **July** Panelist in “Recognizing, Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Care Work in the MENA Region” hosted by the IRC and University of Beirut’s Arab Institute for Women.
- ◆ **September** Panelist in “Promoting Women’s Economic Empowerment Through Early Childhood Care Programming” as part of the USAID Women’s Economic Empowerment Community of Practice series. [[Event recording](#)]
- ◆ **November** Panelist in the roundtable hosted by DFAT on the intersection of climate and childcare in the Indo-Pacific.

ANNEX: Invest in Childcare summaries of country grants

At the country level, the activities of the [Invest in Childcare initiative](#) will focus on making the case for childcare and supporting countries to design and implement quality projects that can maximize the benefits for women and children. Two types of competitive grants are available to World Bank country teams:

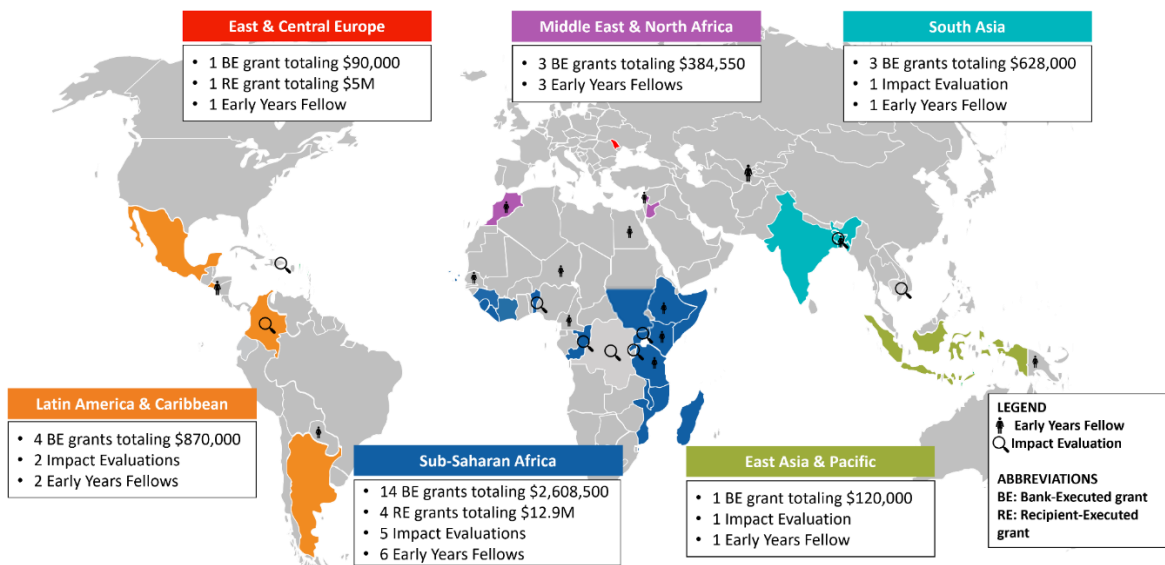
- Catalytic grants (up to \$250,000) executed by World Bank teams in collaboration with governments (Bank-Executed grants)
- Match funding (up to \$10 million) for World Bank-supported country operations, which are implemented by governments directly (Recipient-Executed grants)

In 2022, 26 Bank-Executed proposals were approved, totaling \$4.5 million. The portfolio of Bank-Executed grants is highly cross-sectoral and includes a mix of income-levels, regions, and types of activities. Summaries of the Bank-Executed grants can be found on pages 2 to 8.

For Recipient-Executed grants, as of November 2023, \$17.9 million in match funding has been awarded to five projects: Cote D'Ivoire (\$5 million); Moldova (\$5 million); Rwanda (\$4 million); Senegal (\$1.9 million); and Somalia (\$2 million). Summaries of the Recipient-Executed grants can be found on pages 9 to 10.

The map below provides an overview of the global distribution of the Invest in Childcare activities at the country level, including Bank-Executed and Recipient-Executed grants, as well as impact evaluations and capacity building programs.

Global distribution of Invest in Childcare country activities



Summaries of Bank-Executed grants awarded in 2022

Country and grant information	Microsummary of the activities supported
<p>Argentina <i>Designing childcare options for agri-food system workers through productive alliances in Argentina</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Agriculture</p> <p>GRANT: US\$250,000</p>	<p>In Argentina, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support the design of childcare options for agricultural workers through: (i) a diagnostic of social norms, constraints and barriers faced by women in agricultural communities through focus group discussions; (ii) a series of consultations with public agencies, CSOs, firms and parents to identify feasible and relevant childcare models, including public private partnerships; and (iii) the design of an approach to deliver childcare in the agricultural communities surveyed, including the design of a curriculum that is meaningful for the agricultural context (e.g. green activities and children's gardens). The team also plan to disseminate the findings at a regional level to promote policy discussion on rural childcare provision.</p>
<p>Bangladesh (1) <i>Designing childcare for vulnerable women in urban areas of Bangladesh and drafting regulations for registration and provision</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$175,000</p>	<p>The Government of Bangladesh passed the Child Daycare Center Act in 2021 to standardize the quality of childcare by mandating registration and defining types of childcare provision. Building on this, Invest in Childcare funding will be used firstly, to support the government to draft the rules and regulations under the 2021 Act and secondly, to identify and design childcare models to support vulnerable women in urban areas through supply and demand-side assessments and modelling the cost of provision. These models could be piloted and scaled up via a forthcoming World Bank-financed operation. Funding will also support a communications strategy and dissemination of lessons learned.</p>
<p>Bangladesh (2) <i>Designing a community-based childcare model in Bangladesh for women not in education, employment or training (NEET).</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Education, Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$203,000</p>	<p>Invest in Childcare funding will be used to design a community-managed childcare model in Bangladesh to promote the participation of young women that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Four activities will be financed: (i) situation assessment of supply and demand focusing on rural areas; (ii) design of a tailored community-based childcare model; (iii) design of an impact evaluation, project monitoring framework, and tools; and (iv) knowledge sharing and policy guidance. This model would be piloted through a new World Bank-financed operation.</p>
<p>Benin <i>Piloting childcare in Benin through community childcare spaces and childcare entrepreneurship</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$150,000</p>	<p>Invest in Childcare funding will be used to introduce childcare models across two projects in Benin. Firstly, under the Youth Inclusion Project, grant funds will be used to support: (i) technical assistance to community childcare spaces (CCSs) pilot (including support to revise existing regulation on establishing childcare centers); and (ii) a process evaluation. Secondly, grant funds will support the design of childcare provision as an income generating activity that will be piloted in a forthcoming World Bank operation linked to the national productive safety net program. Under the new productive inclusion program, funding will be used to support: (i) women beneficiaries with tailored training, a start-up grant, and other supports to establish</p>

Country and grant information	Microsummary of the activities supported
<p>Cabo Verde <i>Defining cost-effective childcare models to expand access in Cabo Verde and piloting cash transfers to use for childcare</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Education, Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$217,000</p>	<p>childcare; and (ii) the design of an impact evaluation to assess the impact on mothers, children and the women providing the service.</p> <p>The Government of Cabo Verde approved a National Care Plan in 2017 and made a commitment to provide universal childcare but further analysis is needed to understand the current system and identify options to expand services. Invest in Childcare funding will support: (i) an in-depth diagnostic of the current system and draw upon global best practices to provide recommendations for a cost-effective model; (ii) the design and implementation of a pilot cash transfer program to provide access to childcare services for women participating in a productive inclusion program; and (iii) an operational review and beneficiary survey to inform a potential expansion of the cash transfer pilot.</p>
<p>Colombia <i>Identifying policy and system improvements for gender transformative childcare services in Colombia</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Education, Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$200,000</p>	<p>Colombia has one of the largest publicly funded childcare programs in Latin America led by the Colombia Family Welfare Institute (ICBF, acronym in Spanish). Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support: (i) a comprehensive assessment to document the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for improving financing, access, quality, and equity of childcare and ECD services by ICBF; (ii) the identification of financially and operationally feasible policy actions informed by best practices to expand coverage, promote quality, ensure adequate delivery, and integrate childcare and ECD services within the National Care System for women’s economic inclusion; and (iii) a research study focused on understanding childcare preferences of Venezuelan migrants.</p>
<p>Congo, Rep. <i>Supporting women entrepreneurs to start or grow childcare businesses</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$202,650</p>	<p>In the Republic of Congo, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to pilot an approach to support women to start childcare businesses as an income generating activity within a women’s empowerment project. Start up grants will be provided through the project and Invest in Childcare funding will support: (i) a rapid assessment of the demand and supply of home- and community-based childcare services for vulnerable households in urban and peri-urban areas; (ii) the identification and training of childcare entrepreneurs interested in starting or growing a childcare business; (iii) ongoing coaching and mentoring for the childcare entrepreneurs and (iv) the monitoring and dissemination of lessons learned, development of an implementation manual and sharing a pilot report and a case study to foster government dialogue around childcare.</p>
<p>Cote D’Ivoire <i>Improving the quality and coherence of childcare interventions in Cote d’Ivoire</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$ 100,000</p>	<p>Cote D’Ivoire has a number of World Bank operations that include childcare activities. Invest in Childcare funding will be used to improve the quality of these activities and ensure consistency and coherence across projects through supporting: (i) the adaptation of quality standards for mobile creches and community-based centers; (ii) the development of a training curriculum for childcare practitioners; and (iii) just-in-time technical assistance during the implementation and operationalization of the quality standards and training curriculum.</p>

Country and grant information**Microsummary of the activities supported****El Salvador**

Promoting access to affordable, quality childcare in El Salvador by developing quality standards and conducting costing analysis

SECTOR: Education

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$125,000

In El Salvador, the World Bank education team previously used funding to extend the early childhood development learning standards (ECDLS) to apply to children ages 0 to 6. Building on this work, Invest in Childcare funds will support: (i) the design of a harmonized quality standards framework applicable for all models of childcare and early learning provision; (ii) a costing exercise for the expansion of childcare and early learning; and (iii) the development of a dashboard that collects reliable inter-institutional data on childhood development and service provision to inform decision-making on expansion.

India

Defining models for a skilled childcare workforce in India

SECTOR: Education

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$250,000

In India, the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act of 2017 which mandated employer supported childcare, raised concerns around how to build a quality workforce to support childcare expansions. Building on a study funded by a previous grant around the market and demand for skilled labor force in early childhood development, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support: (i) an in-depth analysis of the childcare workforce to understand the current context; (ii) the identification of the skills needed to provide quality childcare; and (iii) recommendations for potential models for short- and long-term skills training to develop the workforce for quality childcare.

Indonesia

Identifying models for childcare in Indonesia

SECTOR: Social Sustainability & Inclusion

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$120,000

In Indonesia, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support the continuation of the dialogue on childcare in Indonesia by identifying cross-sectoral solutions. Funding will support: (i) a desk review of rigorously evaluated policies and programs proven to work in different contexts; and (ii) the engagement of civil society, government, private sector, domestic workers organizations, and childcare service providers to identify specific models that can be adapted to the country context.

Jordan

Promoting multi-sector collaboration and designing childcare modalities for a new project

SECTOR: Social Protection, other sectors

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$100,000

In Jordan, the government recently launched the Economic Modernization Vision 2030, which prioritizes women's economic participation. This is currently hindered by limited access to childcare; however, the government has made recent progress on the legal and policy framework for childcare and a forthcoming World Bank-supported project is intended to expand the access and quality of childcare. Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support the design of the project components for childcare, including: (i) conducting a mapping of the childcare sector in Jordan to identify potential synergies, redundancies, and gaps in governmental functions; (ii) identifying opportunities for multi-sectoral collaboration in developing the childcare sector and designing childcare modalities to be piloted in the project.

Kenya

Integrating childcare into a youth employment program to enable

In Kenya, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support the identification of cost-effective, scalable childcare models to provide access to children of women participating in the National Youth Opportunities Towards Advancement Project (NYOTA) to improve their employability. Funding will

Country and grant information	Microsummary of the activities supported
<p><i>participation and as a training/employment track</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$75,000</p>	<p>support: (i) the identification and documentation of available childcare models suitable for vulnerable youth that could be piloted and later scaled up through the project; (ii) the preparation of guidelines and recommendations for integrating childcare in NYOTA; and (iii) exploring options to support childcare employment both as a training track within NYOTA and through provision of childcare to NYOTA participants.</p>
<p>Lebanon <i>Formalizing home-based childcare in Lebanon and training providers</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$56,250 <i>(An additional US\$56,250 is co-financed through an ELP grant for ECD in FCV contexts)</i></p>	<p>In Lebanon, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support: (i) the formalization of home-based childcare, including laying out the legal framework and the licensing requirements; and (ii) the training of individuals interested in establishing home-based childcare services. This work will inform potential pathways for piloting and scaling home-based childcare, including through community-based organizations.</p>
<p>Liberia <i>Exploring pathways for childcare employment and entrepreneurship in Liberia</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Social Sustainability & Inclusion</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$228,000</p>	<p>Since 2016, the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (EPAG) program has been using skills training opportunities to build the childcare and early learning workforce in Liberia. Building on previous grants for this work, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to integrate this approach with the Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP) and create pathways for employment and entrepreneurship in childcare services. The funding will support: (i) a situation assessment to identify the needs and preferences around childcare in rural areas; (ii) the dissemination of findings and efforts around policy dialogue across line ministries to advocate for inclusion of childcare when implementing policies, projects and programs that aim to empower women and girls; and (iii) the pilot of a lower cost version of the EPAG training that may offer higher potential for scale up.</p>
<p>Madagascar <i>Designing and piloting sustainable childcare models for beneficiaries of safety nets project</i></p> <p>SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs</p> <p>GRANT AMOUNT: US\$170,000</p>	<p>In Madagascar, under the Safety Nets and Resilience project, Invest in Childcare funds will be used to support the identification and integration of a sustainable childcare model for beneficiaries. This work will build on the learnings from an earlier social safety nets project, which piloted a mobile creche model supported by a previous grant. Funding this time will support (i) a feasibility study to take stock of existing childcare initiatives, analyze capacity of community associations, review affordability, and explore different operating modalities suitable for urban and rural areas; (ii) the development of quality standards for community-based childcare, a training curriculum for childcare providers, and materials for activities around child stimulation, nutrition and school readiness; and (iii) the development of the monitoring and evaluation capacity of the government to ensure quality childcare under the project.</p>

Country and grant information**Microsummary of the activities supported****Malawi**

Exploring childcare options to support young mothers to re-enroll in school in Malawi

SECTOR: Education

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$200,000

In Malawi, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to explore the potential for childcare services to support school-aged mothers to re-enroll in schools and continue their education. Activities supported will include: (i) a diagnostic on formal and informal childcare provision and their availability to enable young mothers to re-enroll in school; (ii) a report with recommendations for how to support these young mothers through childcare; and (iii) the design of a childcare pilot to support re-enrollment in school and the dissemination of the findings to inform policy dialogue.

Mexico

Supporting the implementation of the Early Childhood Care and Education National Policy in Mexico

SECTOR: Education

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$120,000

The Government of Mexico published the Initial Education Policy (PNEI, acronym in Spanish) in March 2022, reaffirming its commitment to provide quality universal early childhood care and education (ECCE). As a next step, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to provide technical support for work across six states to support implementation towards achievement of the PNEI. The work will vary according to each state's context and needs but will include one or more of the following: (i) a demand and supply side analysis; (ii) quality assessments of existing Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) provision; (iii) a costing analysis; and (iv) the identification of the training needs of practitioners.

Moldova

Conducting diagnostics and simulations around different childcare modalities and incentives to expand provision in Moldova, including for Ukrainian refugees.

SECTOR: Education, Gender, IFC

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$90,000

(An additional US\$90,000 is co-financed through an ELP grant for ECD in FCV contexts)

In Moldova, amendments to the education and labor laws allow employer to provide childcare services to increase labor market participation, including that of Ukrainian refugees but, employer-supported childcare is still very limited in Moldova. Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support: (i) a situation assessment of the demand, supply and regulations surrounding childcare provision and consultations with private sector employers; (ii) a costing exercise of childcare provision under different modalities; and (iii) simulations of the effect of different packages of per child allocation on the expansion of childcare provision, including private sector provision.

Morocco

Exploring opportunities to expand childcare through analytical work, cross-country exchanges and policy dialogue.

SECTOR: Education

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$200,000

The Kingdom of Morocco has a highly effective program to support early childhood development and expand access to preschool and recently announced new commitments to improve women's economic empowerment. Available data suggest that the limited availability of quality, affordable childcare is a binding constraint impacting female labor force participation. Invest in Childcare funding will be used to explore opportunities to expand access to childcare through: (i) delivering a series of workshops on women's economic empowerment and childcare with Government and other stakeholders; (ii) conducting assessments on the supply and demand for childcare (including social norms); (iii) scoping the potential to leverage nonstate sector financing to support childcare expansion; and (iv) coordinating cross-country exchanges to learn from other countries on applicable approaches and models for the Moroccan context.

Country and grant information**Microsummary of the activities supported****Rwanda**

Enhancing quality of home-based childcare to support beneficiaries of public works programs

SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs, Education

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$150,000

Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support quality improvement to home-based childcare services. Funding will be used to support: (i) the improvement of training curriculum for home-based childcare; (ii) the development of childcare materials to enhance stimulation and care practices of home-based childcare providers; and (iii) the drafting of a note on innovative practices, which the government will use as a foundation for arranging peer to peer learning sessions. Improvements will be rolled out through the Rwanda Social Transformation Project, which integrates childcare to support the beneficiaries of public works programs.

Sierra Leone

Piloting community-based childcare to support beneficiaries of public works programs

SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$245,000

In Sierra Leone, Invest in Childcare funding will be used to support: (i) a diagnostic and mapping of childcare providers (including quality) and a review of international examples of community-based childcare; (ii) the development of training materials for community-based caregivers; and (iii) a pilot of community-based childcare services for public works and economic inclusion beneficiaries of the Productive Social Safety Net and Youth Inclusion project (PSSNYE), including caregiver training, materials, development of quality standards, and monitoring of activities.

South Sudan

Supporting the implementation of childcare services within economic community centers and safe-houses for survivors of gender-based violence

SECTOR: Social Sustainability & Inclusion

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$206,500

In South Sudan, the Women's Social and Economic Empowerment project will integrate childcare to allow women to engage in livelihood opportunities through Women Economic Community Centers as well as set up childcare within safe houses for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Invest in childcare funding will be used to support: (i) a diagnostic to better understand supply and demand of center-based childcare in this Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) environment; (ii) the development of curriculum and a training package for potential childcare service providers (iii) the development of a survey instrument and data collection on outcomes; and (iv) the establishment of a quality assurance and monitoring framework.

Uganda

Enabling Childcare Services for Women Entrepreneurs in Uganda

SECTOR: Social Protection & Jobs

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$200,000

The Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises in Uganda (GROW) project supports the government to establish an integrated program of services, including childcare, to empower women entrepreneurs to grow their businesses and improve productivity. Invest in Childcare funding will be used to inform the development of a childcare model to support women entrepreneurs in peri-urban markets through: (i) a diagnostic of legal, regulatory, and institutional environment surrounding childcare including quality standards; and (ii) a deep dive assessment into childcare services (demand/supply survey) for low-income female entrepreneurs in peri-urban areas (including developing an inventory of childcare services) to understand accessibility, affordability, and quality of service provided and the needs and constraints, including gender norms, faced by low-income female entrepreneurs.

Country and grant information

Microsummary of the activities supported

Regional East and Southern Africa

Catalyzing knowledge and investment on childcare in Eastern and Southern Africa

SECTOR: Social Protection, Education, Health, Nutrition & Population, Social Sustainability & Inclusion

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$250,000

Invest in Childcare funding will be used for analytical work to support the preparation of a regional women's economic empowerment operation in a number of East and Southern African countries. The funding will be used to support: (i) a regional workshop on childcare arrangements for low-income families; (ii) a crowdsourcing campaign to identify key local players, raise awareness and highlight promising childcare solutions in the region; and (iii) supply and demand side situation assessments in at least four countries building on the tools and analysis developed for a similar situation assessment implemented in Mozambique with funding in FY20-21.

Regional East Africa

Understanding maternal employment and inclusive childcare for mothers of children with disabilities

SECTOR: Social Sustainability & Inclusion

GRANT AMOUNT: US\$211,700

Invest in Childcare funding will be used to deepen the understanding of childcare options for mothers of children with disabilities and develop guidance for policies and projects. The analysis will be based on a global literature review as well as deep dive studies in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The funding will support: (i) demand side analyses to understand how parenting demands and the availability of childcare impact the employment of mothers of children with disabilities; (ii) supply side analyses on the inclusivity of childcare centers; and (iii) the development of a global guidance/toolkit that encourages investments in disability-inclusive childcare and identifies promising practices and key considerations for policies and projects. Results from the study and the country briefs will be disseminated amongst stakeholders via webinars and workshops at the global and country level.

Summaries of Recipient-Executed grants to date

[Cote d'Ivoire Health, Nutrition, and Early Childhood Development Program for Universal Health Coverage \(UHC\) \(P179550\)](#)

Leveraging a community nutrition platform to provide quality childcare services

The objective of the Cote d'Ivoire Health, Nutrition, and Early Childhood Development project is to improve the utilization of quality services. Invest in Childcare has invested \$5 million (matched by \$5million IDA) to support community centers to offer improved childcare services through increasing the days and hours that childcare services will be available for and improving the quality of provision. Funding will be used to develop quality standards and implementation guidance for the childcare provision, to train practitioners, and to modify existing community spaces to safely provide quality childcare for very young children.

[Moldova Education Quality Improvement Project \(P179363\)](#)

Expanding access to childcare for vulnerable populations and Ukrainian refugees and training practitioners

The objective of the Moldova Education Quality Improvement Project is to improve the learning environment of education institutions (including early education and care centers (ECEC)) and to better support vulnerable Moldovan families and refugees from Ukraine. Invest in Childcare has invested \$5 million (matched by \$10m IBRD), to expand childcare access especially for vulnerable and refugee families (with a focus on full day services) and to strengthen workforce capacity through in-service training.

[Rwanda Stunting Prevention and Reduction Project \(P179499\)](#)

Expanding and improving the quality (and convenience) of established ECD services

The objective of the Stunting Prevention and Reduction project is to contribute to the reduction in the stunting rate among children under five years of age. Early Childhood Development (ECD) settings in Rwanda serve children from zero to six years old with a special emphasis on nutrition and other interventions to reduce stunting, alongside offering early learning and childcare. Invest in Childcare has invested \$4 million (matched by at least \$10 million IDA funding) to expand this approach and improve the quality of childcare through training caregivers and other stakeholders, providing tools and materials to newly established settings and supporting peer-peer learning among childcare providers to promote learning and innovative practices.

[Senegal Higher Education Project "Espoir-Jeunes" \(P178750\)](#)

Developing childcare as a training track in public TVET institutions

The objective of the Espoir-Jeunes project is to increase equitable access to market-relevant short-term vocational tertiary education programs. Invest in Childcare has invested \$1.9 million (matched by \$1.9 million IDA funding) to develop a new approach to strengthen the childcare workforce by integrating

childcare training tracks into the country's technical and vocational education institutions. The funds will also be used to ensure childcare is offered at TVET institutions to enable women's participation in training. Several other activities will take place to strengthen the knowledge base and the enabling environment for childcare in Senegal including: preparatory studies on the supply and demand of childcare in Senegal; an impact evaluation of the childcare services and the training programs; and support to finalize quality standards for childcare models in Senegal.

[Somalia Empowering Women through Education and Skills Project "Rajo Kaaba" \(P176898\)](#)

Developing childcare as a training track within skills training programs and offering childcare to project beneficiaries

The objective of Rajo Kaaba is to improve literacy and numeracy skills of women in selected areas and to prepare women for leadership roles. Invest in Childcare has invested \$2 million (matched by \$2 million IDA funding) to integrate childcare within the project, including through: offering childcare as a training track within the skills programs; supporting childcare entrepreneurs; ensuring childcare is available to women participating in training programs and higher education; and developing quality standards for the childcare services supported by the project.