



THE LANCET

Early Childhood Development and the Next 1,000 Days

UNICEF
March 2025

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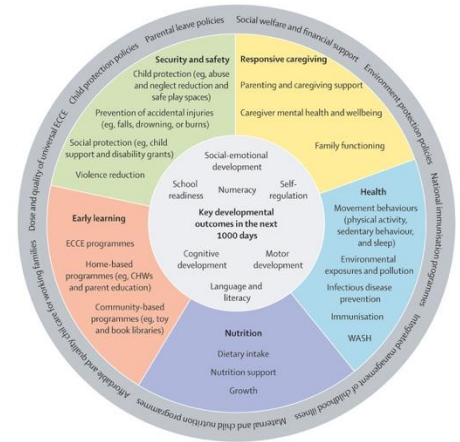


The next 1,000 days

Building on early investments for the health and development of young children

Why the next 1,000 days matter?

- Period of significant growth of skills.
- Sensitive window of opportunity to mitigate environmental risks, promote protective factors, and establish healthy developmental and behavioural trajectories.
- Chance to sustain and build on gains in the first 1,000 days, and recalibrate trajectories where opportunities were lost in previous 1,000 days.





Environments that shape young children's development: *Biological, Family, ECCE & Climate*

1. Build on parenting investments from the first 1,000 days to the next 1,000 days
2. Access, equity and quality to care and early learning outside of the home matter
3. Advance multi-sector actions
4. Pay more attention to developmental disabilities, and impacts of climate change and pollution



Estimates of young children's access to nurturing care and development:

- Only 1 in 4 children (3-4y) receive adequate nurturing care in LMICs
- Children who have received early learning support and responsive care are ~2 years ahead in development
- Most ECD interventions from high-income western countries

Conclusions

- Development in the next 1,000 days:
 - Multidimensional, cumulative and continuous.
- More evidence needed:
 - Environments influencing development in the next 1,000 days.
 - Disaggregation of findings salient to next 1,000 days.
 - More from LMICs, vulnerabilities to climate change, etc.
- Leverage partnerships across platforms.
 - Shift from health platforms, shift in stakeholders.

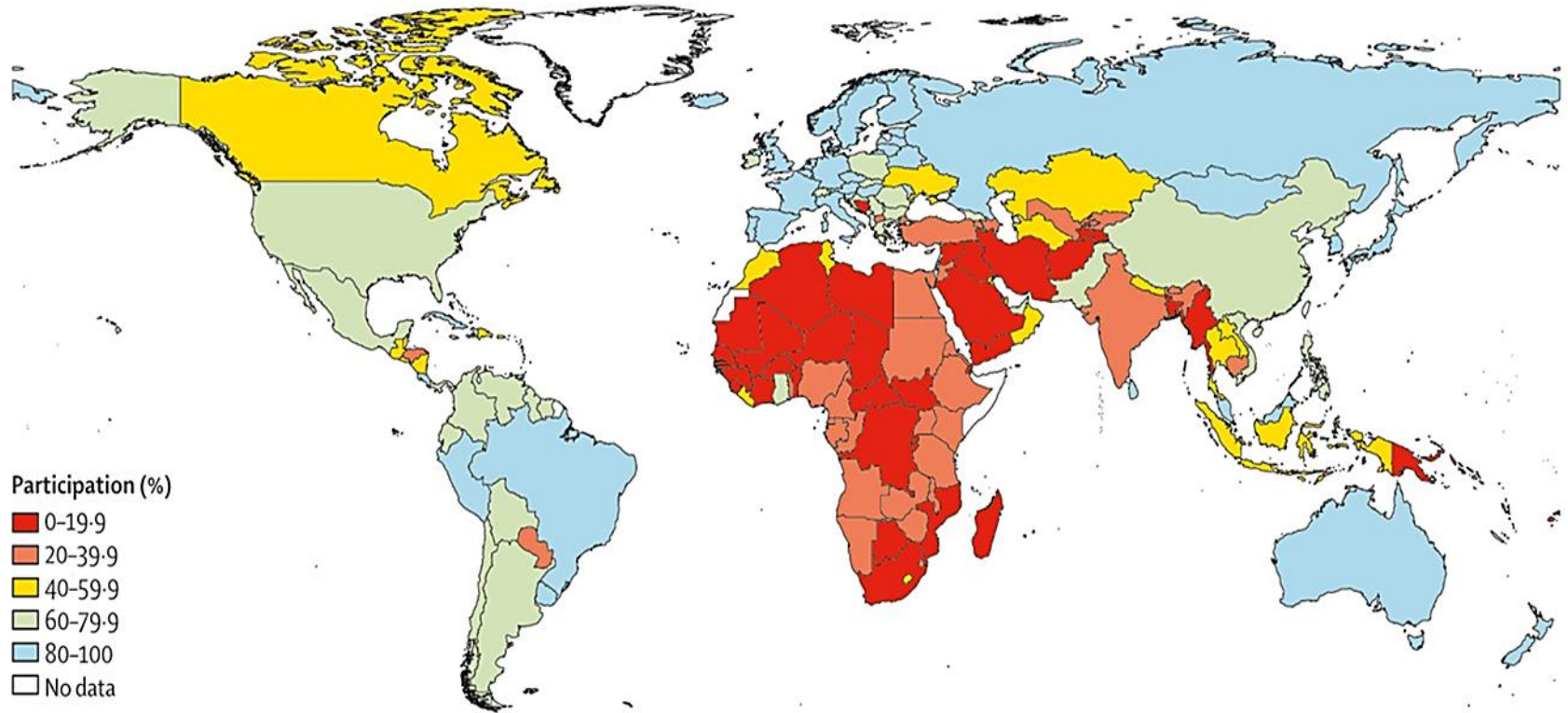
Paper 2: The cost of not investing in the next 1000 days: implications for policy and practice



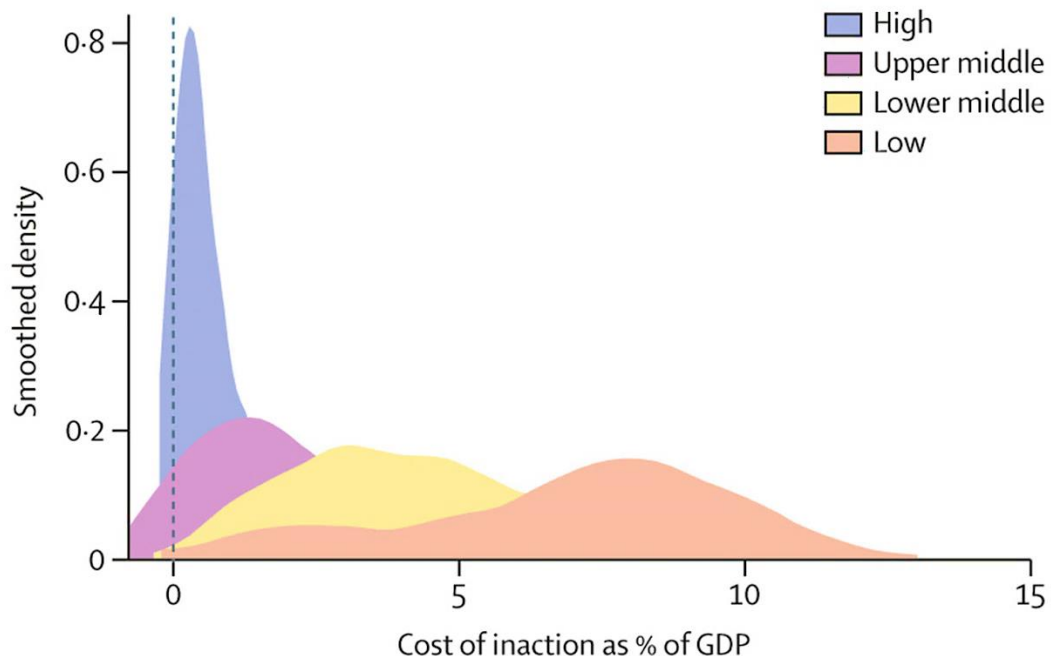
What works for children in the next 1000 days?

- Effectiveness studies primarily focus on: cash transfers, ECCE, nutritional interventions, parent interventions & multicomponent ones.
 - Comprehensive review: 100 studies (951 impact estimates) across the globe.
 - Strong impacts on children's development.
 - Positive Impacts observed across regions of the world & across multiple child development domains & long-term outcomes.
- New publicly available datasets increasingly also allow assessing ECCE long-term effectiveness across countries: PISA & Young Lives.
 - In PISA, children with at least one year of ECCE had higher scores for mathematics & reading.
 - In Young Lives, children exposed to ECCE had higher math scores at age 15 & age 19 and were 6%pts less likely to consume alcohol at ages 15 & 21.
- We also find consistent associations between executive function and socioemotional skills in early life and adolescent school test performance in a review on long-term outcomes.

Current global ECCE participation rates ages 3–5 years



Global distribution of the cost of *inaction*



The estimated cost of inaction is:

- 0.7% of GDP in HICs,
- 2.4% of GDP in UMICs,
- 4.1% of GDP in LMICs,
- 6.8% in Low-Income countries.

Large variation due to:

- # of children currently enrolled,
- Different cost of provision,
- Different age of labor market entry.

Key messages...

- The next 1000 days are a key period for children's development and to build on the first 1000 days.
- Robust and rapidly growing evidence highlight short-term & long-term benefits of interventions specific to the next 1000 days.
- ECCE services can serve as key platform for promotion of healthy behaviours, growth & developmental monitoring, as well as nutritional supplementation.
- Access to ECCE remains globally low, particularly in low-income countries.
- Providing one year of ECCE to all children costs on average less than 1% of GDP.
- The benefits of providing this one year of ECCE to all children are on average 8–19x larger than the cost of implementing these across LMICs.
- Most Critically, Increased attention on the next 1000 days is imperative for the achievement of the SDGs, and the time for global action is **NOW!**



Acknowledgements

- Co-authors for their contributions (unfunded!).
- Assistance with reviews/analyses: Nafisa Insan, Dr. Lily Bliznashka, Kristen Hinckley, Kathleen Donovan, Dr. Thach Tran, Dr. Tomoko Honda, Sally Popplestone, Dr. Richa Sharma, Santiago Perez and Douglas Newball Ramirez.
- Dr Sabine Kleinert for her editorial guidance.
- **Advisory group:** Prof Zulfiqar Bhutta, Prof Linda Richter, Prof Fiona Bull, Dr Chemba Raghaven, Professor Alan Stein.
- ECDAN for partnering with us for this launch.



Links and resources

Paper 1: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01389-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01389-8/fulltext)

Paper 2: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01390-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01390-4/fulltext)

ECDAN webinar: <https://ecdan.org/event/new-lancet-series-early-childhood-development-and-the-next-1000-days/>

Article in The Conversation: <http://theconversation.com/africa>

Video links: www.youtube.com/@ConversationEDU



Thank you

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