



## **Design Workshop to Catalyze Locally-led Childcare Advocacy**

Date: March 15, 2024

Time: 08:30am – 17:00pm

Location: Serena Hotel (Kivukoni 2 Conference Room), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

### **Overview**

ECDAN, in collaboration with AfECN, BRAC, the Center for Global Development, Nurture First, and WIEGO, will host a design workshop with partners working on the care agenda to strengthen and catalyze locally led advocacy campaigns to increase awareness, build political will, and generate public demand for investing in an affordable, high-quality and accessible childcare system.

In our engagement with a wide range of partners through our [Childcare4All Campaign](#), we have observed that there is a critical gap in resources dedicated to supporting local civil society partners working on childcare through the lenses of young children and their caregivers, gender equality, women's economic empowerment, and the childcare workforce to come together to develop and implement shared, coordinated advocacy strategies. Despite a significant amount of momentum at the global level around the care agenda, particularly childcare, the uptake of new policies and increased investments at the country-level has been limited. Advocacy activities have been siloed within specific sectors, which has limited its impact, and public demand for policy change and more investments has not been sufficiently mobilized.

### **Stakeholder Consultation and Design Meeting**

To address this gap, ECDAN is interested to consult with partners in the region working across the care agenda on how to mobilize more support and resources for coordinated and locally-led advocacy campaigns focused on increasing investments in childcare to promote gender equity and women's economic empowerment along with improving early childhood outcomes. During this design workshop, we will seek to build bridges across movements, develop a mutual understanding of the childcare system, agree on a theory of change and co-design implementation and financing options, including establishing a dedicated fund to support locally-led advocacy campaigns.

### **Meeting Objectives and Structure**

We seek to achieve the following objectives through this design workshop:

- Deepen our collective understanding of the childcare ecosystem and develop a shared systems map.
- Align on a common vision and theory of change for supporting and catalyzing locally-led, coordinated advocacy campaigns to strengthen childcare systems that advance outcomes for women and young children together.
- Answer strategic questions posed by donors on how to effectively and efficiently drive policy change through grassroots advocacy and movement building.
- Forge local partnerships amongst civil society organizations working across gender equality, women's economic empowerment, early childhood development, labor, and the childcare workforce.

This consultation will leverage the expertise and experiences of local partners by organizing a series of strategic discussions to inform the fund's design, including:



- **A systems approach to increasing access to quality childcare services:** Collect input on a childcare systems map in development that highlights factors that influence the system's capacity to provide accessible, equitable, developmentally appropriate and empathetic care for children, their families and caregivers.
- **A theory of change:** Align behind a shared vision and what is needed to achieve it.
- **Structural Framework and Governance:** Engage stakeholders to provide insights into the equitable and transparent structuring and governance of the fund.
- **Establishment of Guiding Principles:** Collaboratively define the fundamental principles that will underpin the fund's operations, ensuring alignment with its mission and goals.
- **Identification of Fund-Supported Activities:** Determine and outline the specific activities and initiatives that the fund should support.
- **Country Prioritization and Grantee Selection Criteria:** Establish transparent criteria for prioritizing countries and defining selection criteria for potential grantees to ensure fairness and impact.

### **Speakers and Facilitation**

This meeting is designed as a consultation where we will discuss key concepts and strategies and collect input from partners. As a result, it will be highly interactive with small group work and participant-led discussions.

Partners will be asked to contribute to each phase of the consultation by sharing experiences, needs and ideas. The input gathered during these sessions will guide the development of an operational plan to catalyze childcare advocacy, which will then be shared with potential donors.