



Counting Down to ECD 2030

From Data to Action

Global trends in early childhood development
from country-comparable data



HARNESSING
GLOBAL DATA

TO ADVANCE YOUNG
CHILDREN'S LEARNING
& DEVELOPMENT



Global trends in ECD

- Over the last couple of years, a great deal of progress has been made bringing attention to ECD, including making ECD a priority in the 2030 (SDGs) in 2015

ECD is included in the SDGs – 4.2

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

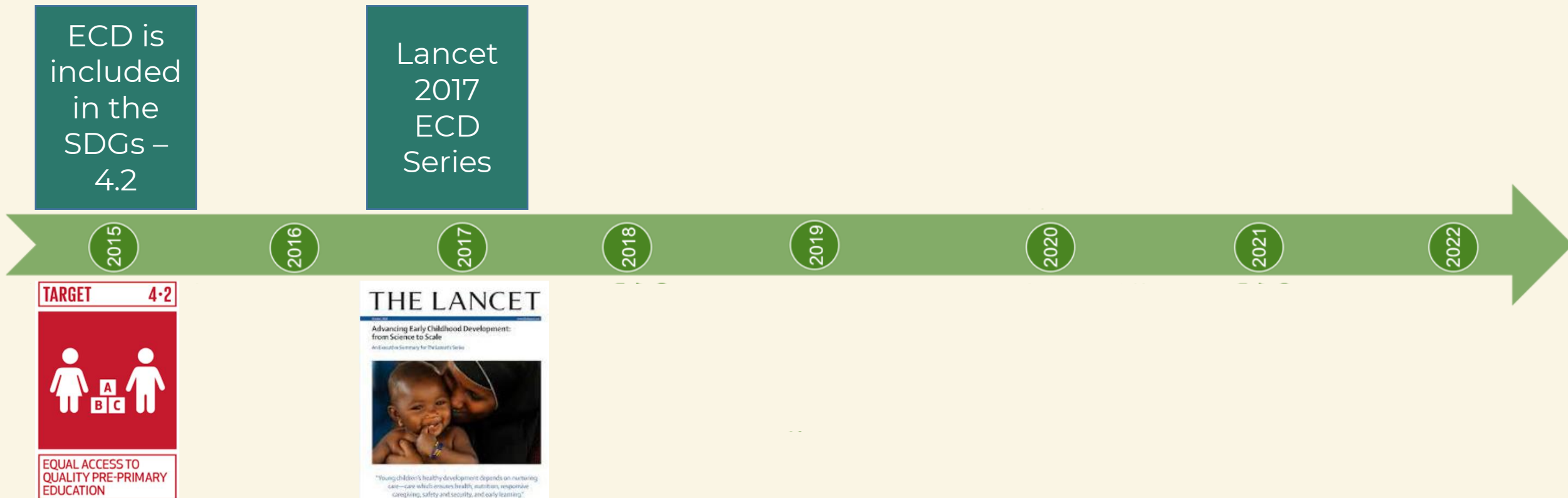
TARGET 4-2



EQUAL ACCESS TO
QUALITY PRE-PRIMARY
EDUCATION

Global trends in ECD

- The Lancet series in 2017, [Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale](#), offered new scientific evidence and introduced the concept of “nurturing care” as a package of interventions that could be delivered at scale.



Global trends in ECD

- In May 2018, the adoption of the [Nurturing Care Framework](#) (the Framework) at the 71st World Health Assembly offered “a roadmap for action,” articulating how a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach can help children survive and thrive, thereby transforming their own potential and that of their societies.

ECD is included in the SDGs – 4.2

Lancet 2017 ECD Series

Nurturing Care Framework

2015

2016

2017

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2020

2021

2022

TARGET 4.2



EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

THE LANCET

Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale
An Executive Summary for The Lancet's Series



"Young children's healthy development depends on nurturing care—care which ensures health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, safety and security, and early learning."



Global trends in ECD

- [ECD country profiles](#) are developed. Each country profile fills a critical gap by making evidence on threats to early childhood development and coverage of policies and services easily accessible. This also represents the first step in creating a global monitoring and accountability system for ECD.

ECD is included in the SDGs – 4.2

Lancet 2017 ECD Series

Nurturing Care Framework

ECD Country Profiles

2015

2016

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2018

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2022

TARGET 4-2



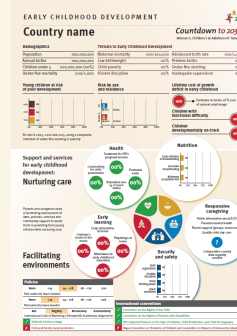
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Expansion of the ECD Country Profiles 2018-2021

2018

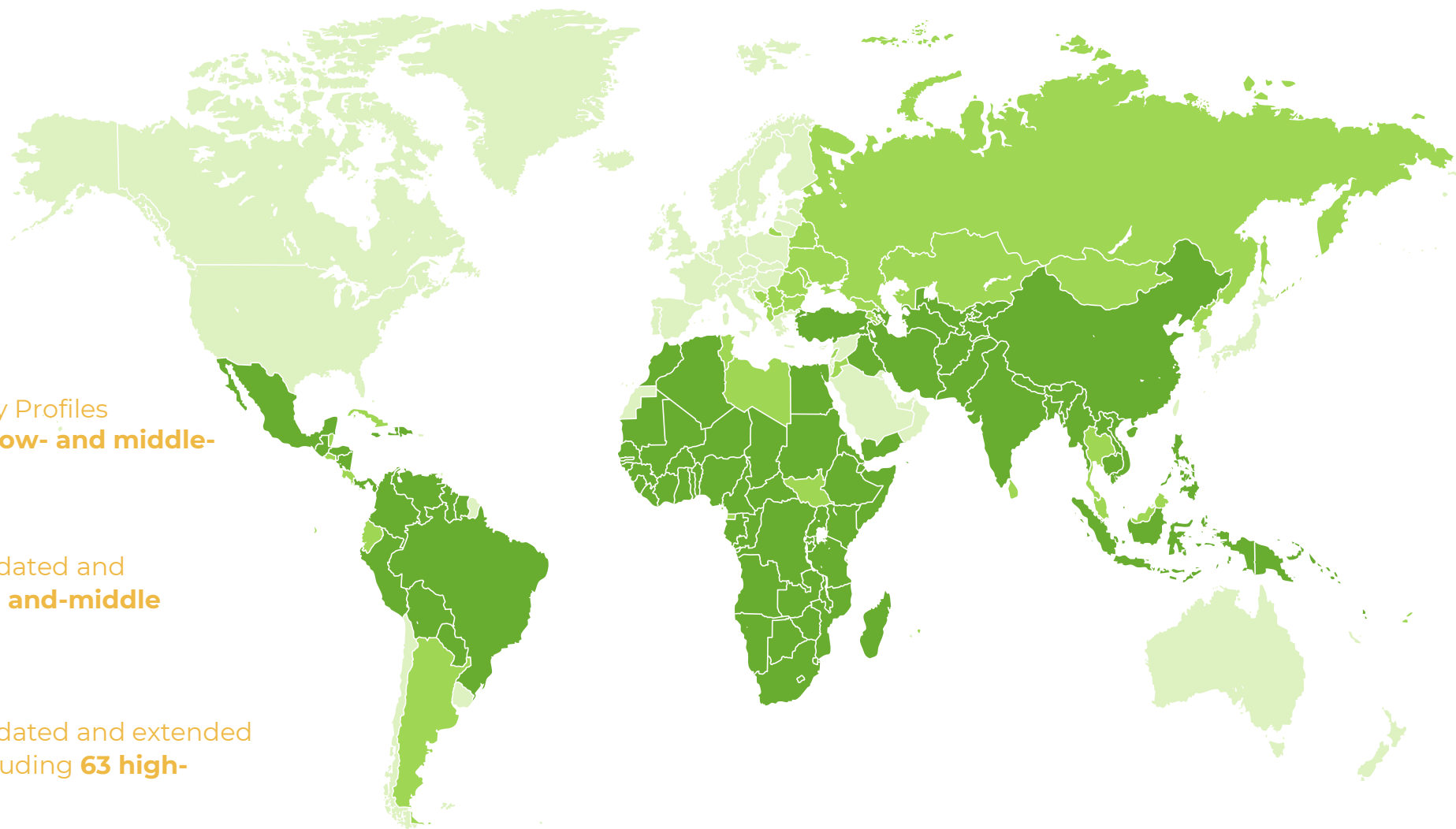
The first ECD Country Profiles included data for **91 low- and middle-income countries**

2019

The Profiles were updated and extended to **138 low- and middle income countries**

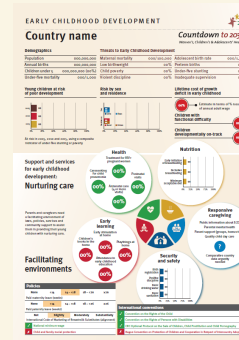
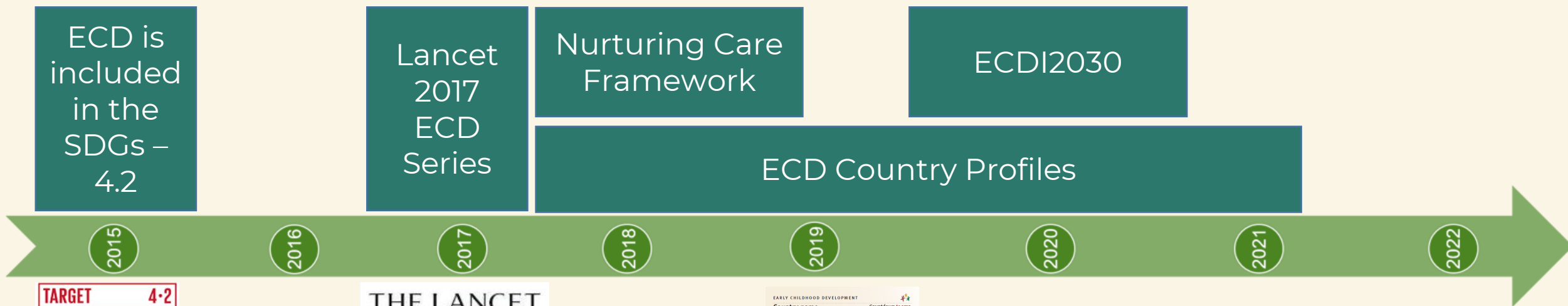
2020

The Profiles were updated and extended to **197 countries**, including **63 high-income countries**



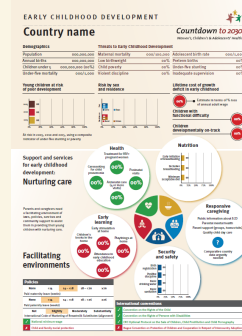
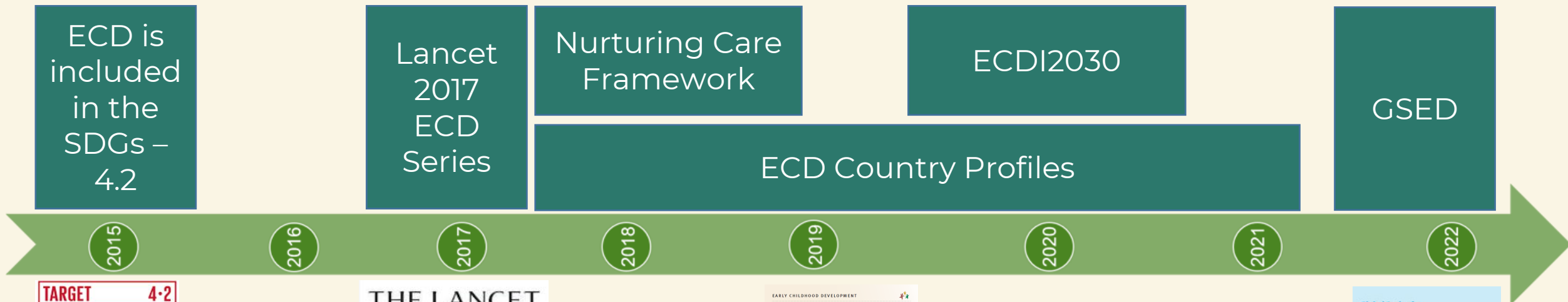
Global trends in ECD

- The Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI2030) is launched and addresses the need for nationally representative and internationally comparable data on early childhood development, collected in a standardized way.



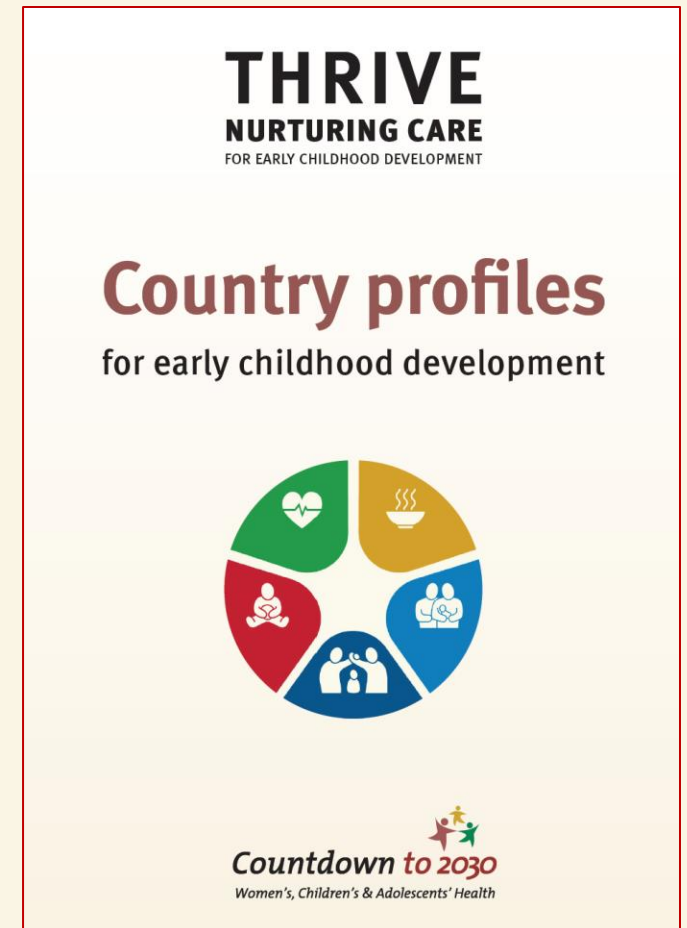
Global trends in ECD

- The Global Scales for Early Development are launched, contributes a new methodology and package of measures and implementation materials to monitor the holistic development of children at population level in the critical first three years of life.



COUNTDOWN TO 2030 ECD Profiles

- Data from DHS, MICS & representative national surveys
- 2019, 2020 and 2021 variations
- 2021 country profiles
 - 42 ECD indicators
 - 197 countries
 - Incl. 60 high-income countries
 - Encompass 99.8% of the world's children <5 years
 - Include child disability & 'on-track' development
 - Arabic, French, Russian & Spanish.



42 INDICATORS

Demographics – 4
Threats to ECD – 8
Facilitating environment

- Policies – 5
- International conventions – 4

Impact

- Children on track ECDI
- Functional difficulty
- 2005–2015 trend in children at risk

5 components of nurturing care

- Health – 4
- Nutrition – 3
- Security and safety – 4
- Early learning – 4
- Responsive caregiving – TBD

- Gender and residence differences
- Lifetime cost of early growth deficits

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



Country name

Countdown to 2030

Women's, Children's & Adolescents' Health

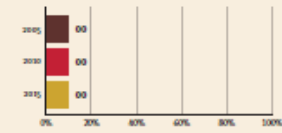
Demographics

Population	000,000,000
Annual births	000,000,000
Children under 5	000,000,000 (00%)
Under-five mortality	000/1,000

Threats to Early Childhood Development

Maternal mortality	000/100,000	Adolescent birth rate	000/1,000
Low birthweight	00%	Preterm births	00%
Child poverty	00%	Under-five stunting	00%
Violent discipline	00%	Inadequate supervision	00%

Young children at risk of poor development

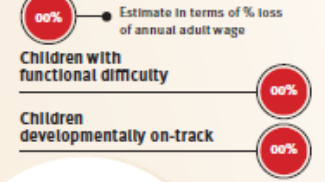


Risk by sex and residence



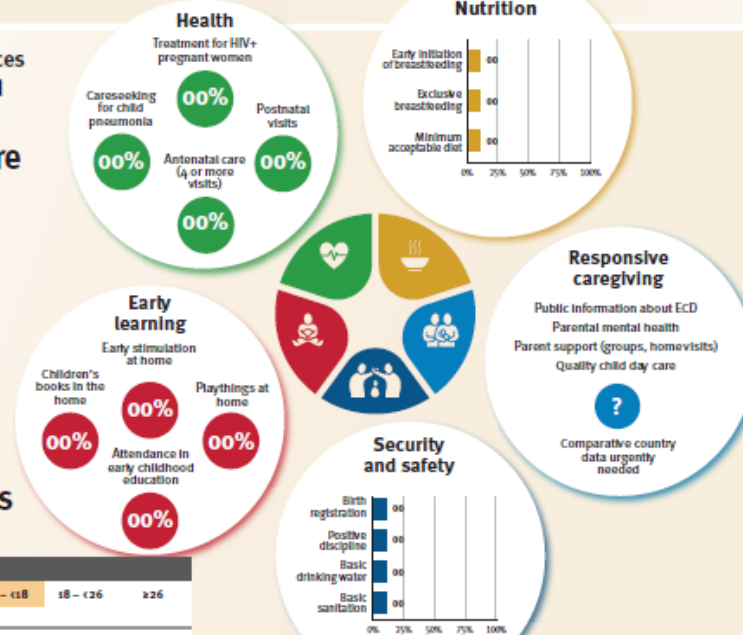
At risk in 2005, 2010 and 2015, using a composite indicator of under-five stunting or poverty

Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood



Support and services for early childhood development: Nurturing care

Parents and caregivers need a facilitating environment of laws, policies, services and community support to assist them in providing their young children with nurturing care.



Facilitating environments

Policies	None	<14	14 – <18	18 – <26	≥26
Paid maternity leave (weeks)					
Paid paternity leave (weeks)					
International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (alignment)	Not	Slightly	Moderately	Substantially	
National minimum wage	✓				
Child and family social protection	✗				

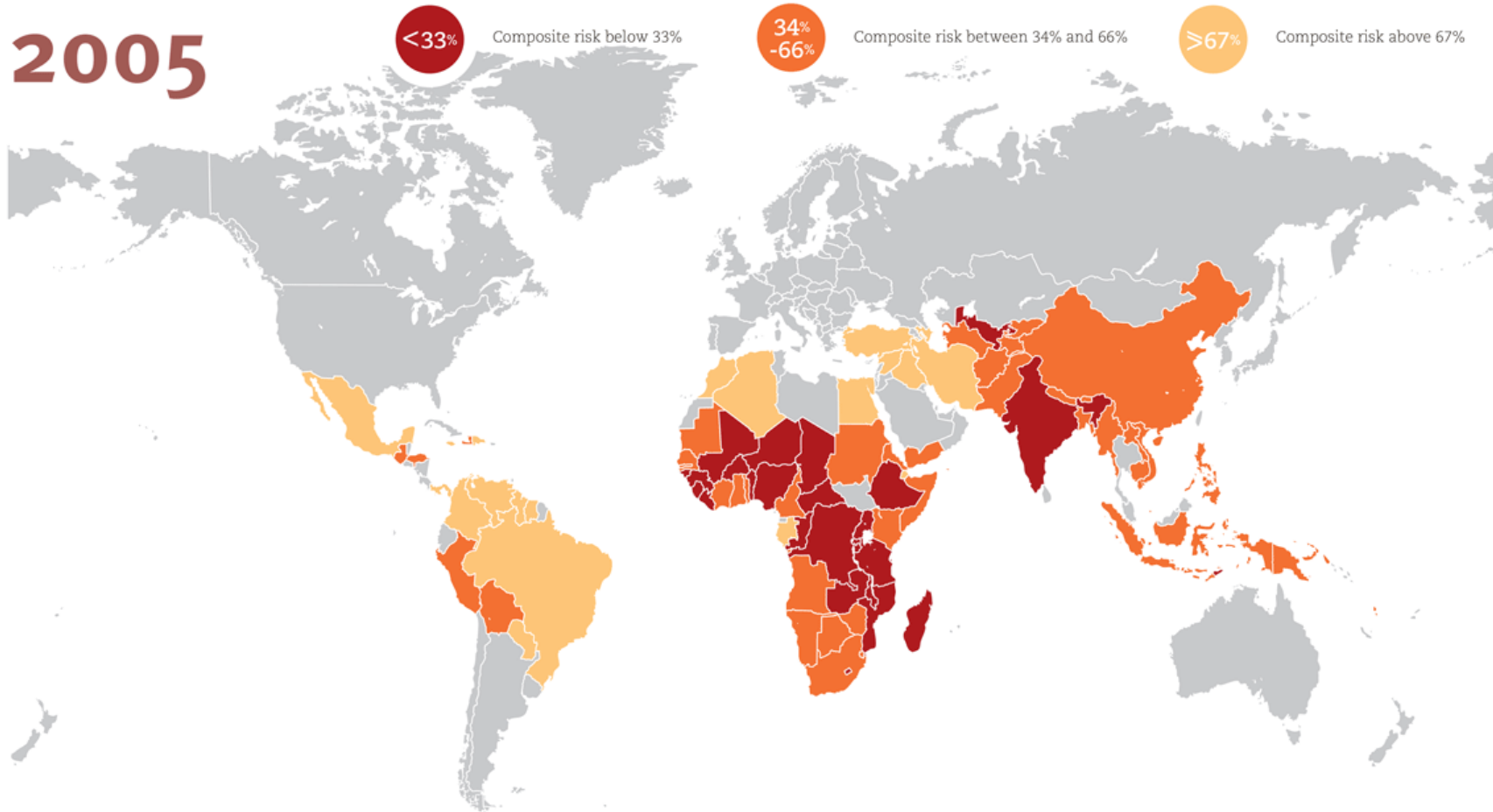
International conventions	
Convention on the Rights of the Child	✓
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	✓
CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption	✗

Young children at risk: 2005–2015

Composite Risk

Between 2005 and 2010, countries with two-thirds of young children at risk (>67%) declined in both central Europe and South-East Asia. There was little change in countries with high proportions of young children at risk in sub-Saharan Africa during this period, and by 2015 countries with the highest proportion of children at risk were in Central and Southern Africa.

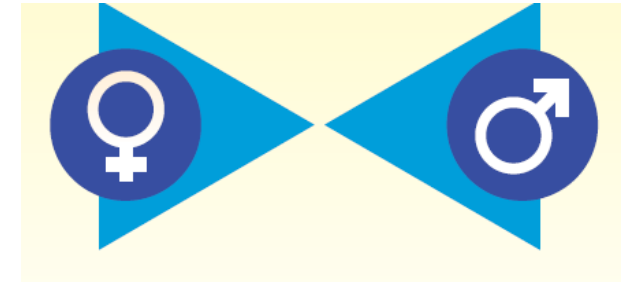
2005





On average rural children doing worse than urban children

Children from poorer households do worse than children from richer households



Negligible differences between young girls and boys

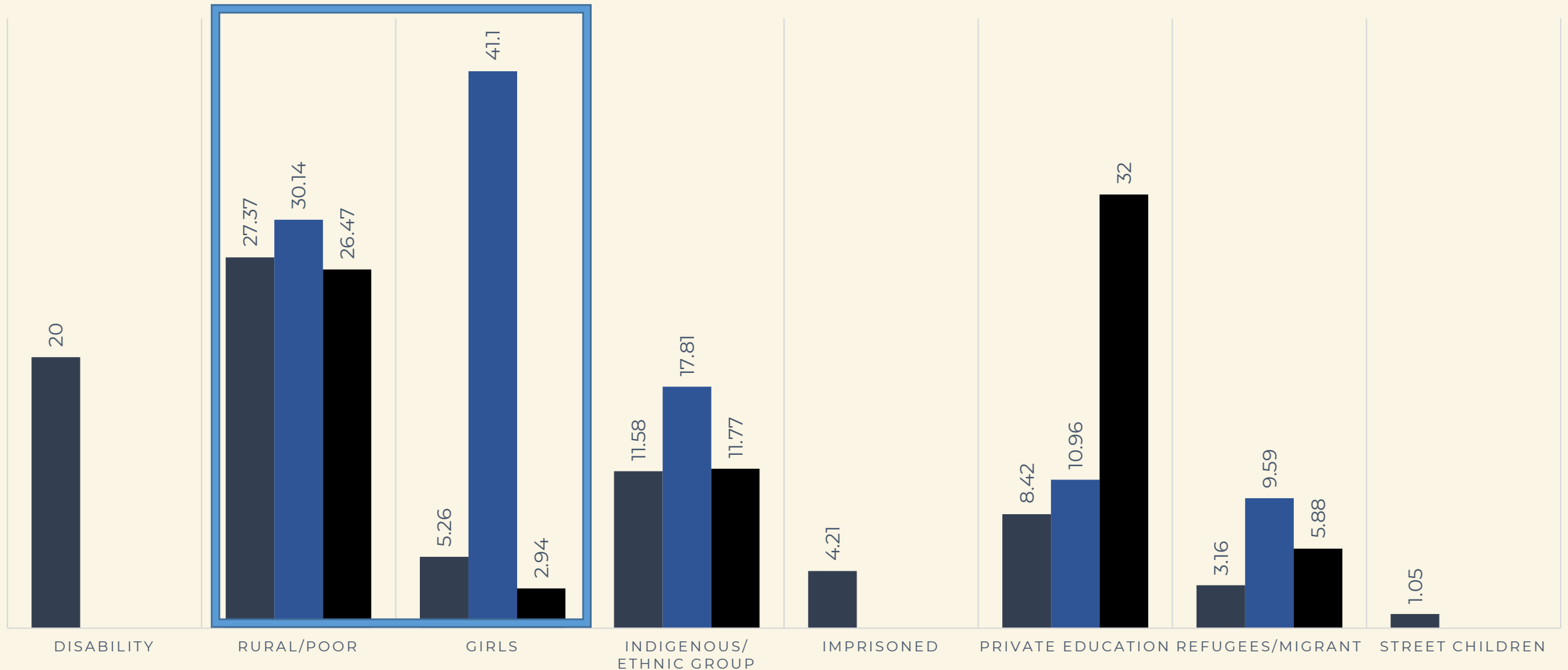
SSA needs most assistance to prevent early loss of critically important human capital

Increase focus on poor, rural children in SSA

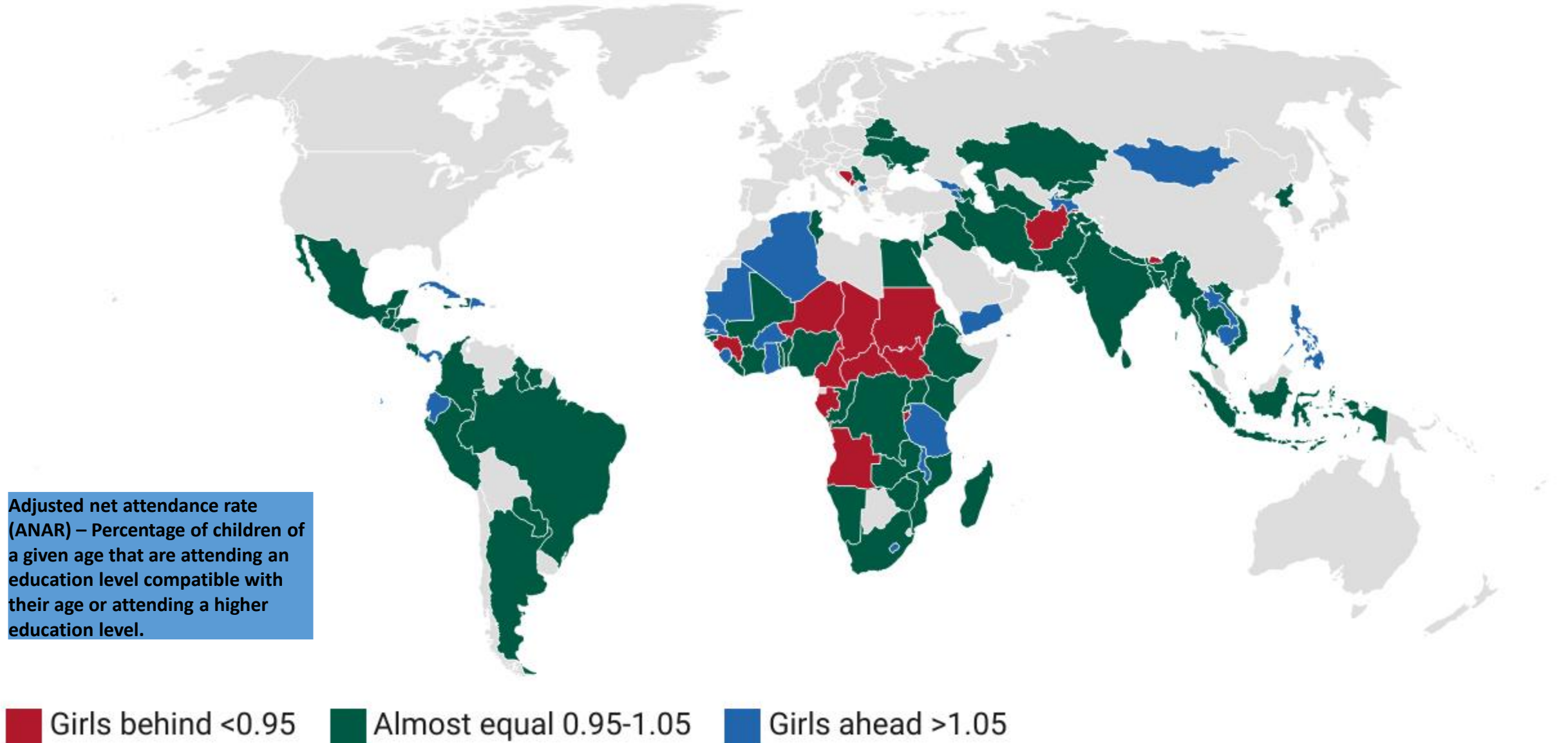
ECE and the right to equality

MARGINALISED GROUPS IN ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

■ CCRC (%) ■ CESC (%) ■ CCRPD (%)



Gender ratio: Pre-primary attendance



COVID-19 Pandemic

- The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed and amplified the vast inequalities in the provision of education to children throughout the world.
- This clearest in case of early childhood education and development.
- Mass closure of pre-school facilities
- Highlighted the key role for both formal and informal early learning programmes



1

Assessing the prevalence of young children living in households prepared for COVID-19 in 56 low- and middle-income countries

Using data from nationally representative household surveys in 56 low-middle-income countries since 2016, we estimated the percentages of young children under the age of 5 living in households prepared for the pandemic.

Preparedness was defined as space for quarantine, adequate toilet facilities, hand hygiene, mass media exposure, and phone ownership.

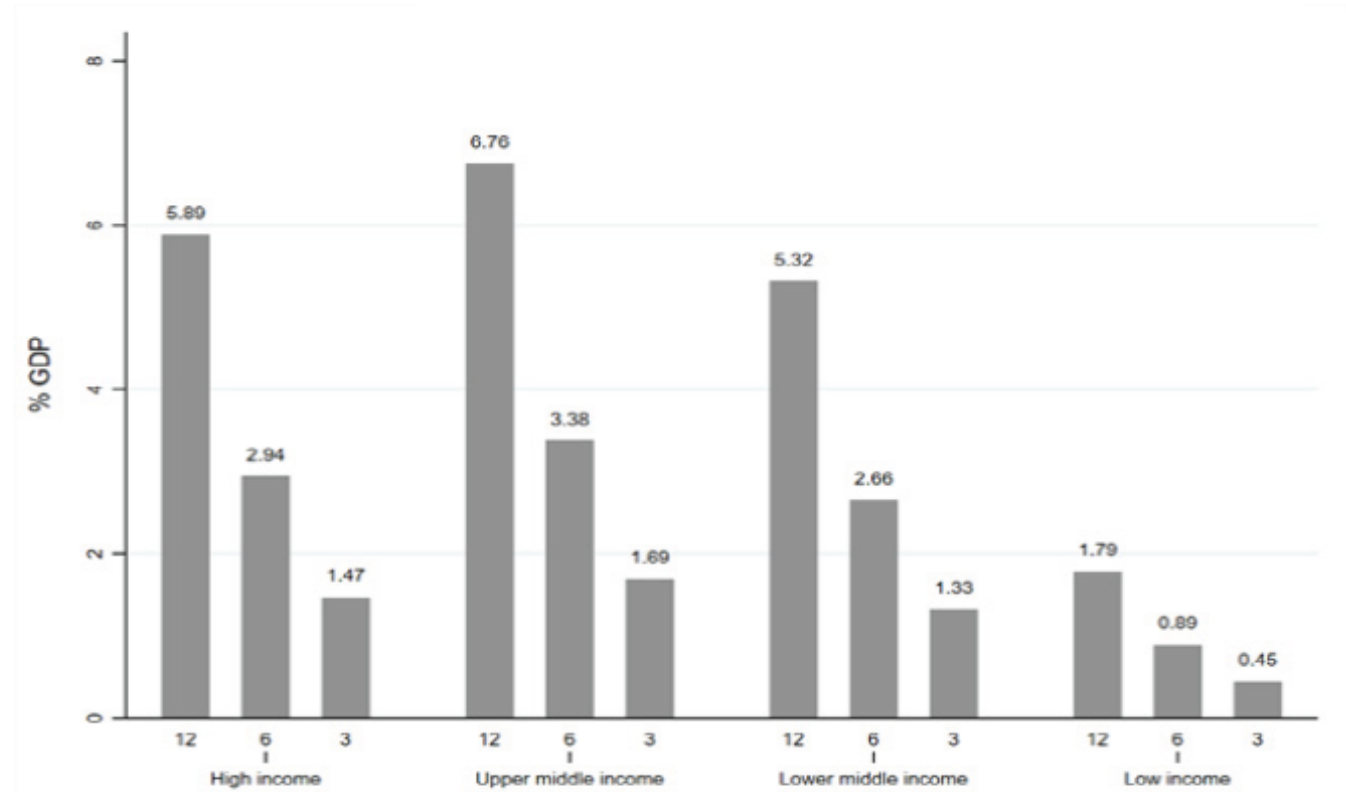
- On average, 19.4% of young children in the 56 countries lived in households prepared for COVID-19. This ranged from 0.6% in Ethiopia in 2016 to 70.9% in Tunisia in 2018.
- In close to 90% of the countries, fewer than 50% of young children lived in prepared houses.

2

Economic costs of preprimary program reductions due to COVID-19 pandemic

Using data for 140 countries, we simulated the economic losses from preschool closures for children 3-5 years old.

Given a 6-month cut in preschool participation, high-income countries are estimated to lose 2.94% of GDP compared to 2.66% in lower-middle income countries and 0.89% in low-income countries. Smaller losses in low-income countries reflect low rates of pre-pandemic preschool participation.



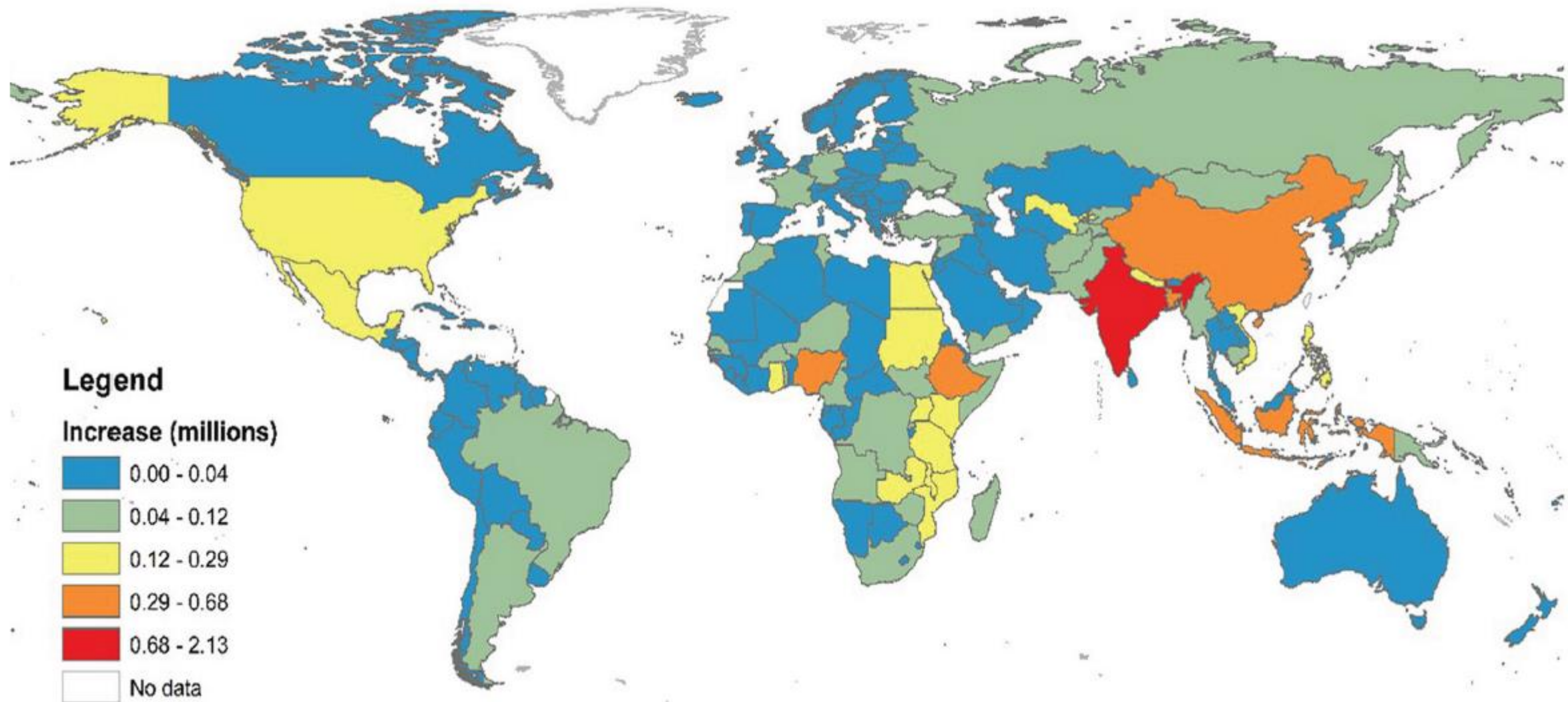
3

Global estimates of the implications of COVID-19-related preprimary school closures for children's instructional access, development, learning, and economic wellbeing

Using data collected between 2004 and 2019, we simulated the potential consequences of early childhood care and education (ECCE) service closures on the estimated 167 million preprimary-aged children in 196 countries who lost ECCE access between March 2020 and February 2021. We estimate that:

- 10.75 million additional children fell “off track” in their early development
- 19.1 billion person-days of ECCE instruction were lost
- 14.18 million grades of learning were lost by adolescence

Predicted increase in the number of children off track in their early childhood development due to COVID-19-related ECCE closures between March 2020 and February 2021



Key trends

- The COVID-19 pandemic may exacerbate inequitable ECD. Children from socio-economically disadvantaged families continue to be at a disadvantage. In addition, although enrolment of children under age 3 in ECD is increasing, it is still more variable than participation of older children.
- There is more variability in approaches to ECD governance, oversight and funding than at most other levels of education. An OECD policy questionnaire with 26 countries reported on 56 different curriculum frameworks and data across more than 120 different types of ECD settings.
- Despite growing ECE enrolment and recognition of the value of high-quality ECE, investments in this sector remain below public spending for later stages of education.

Key trends

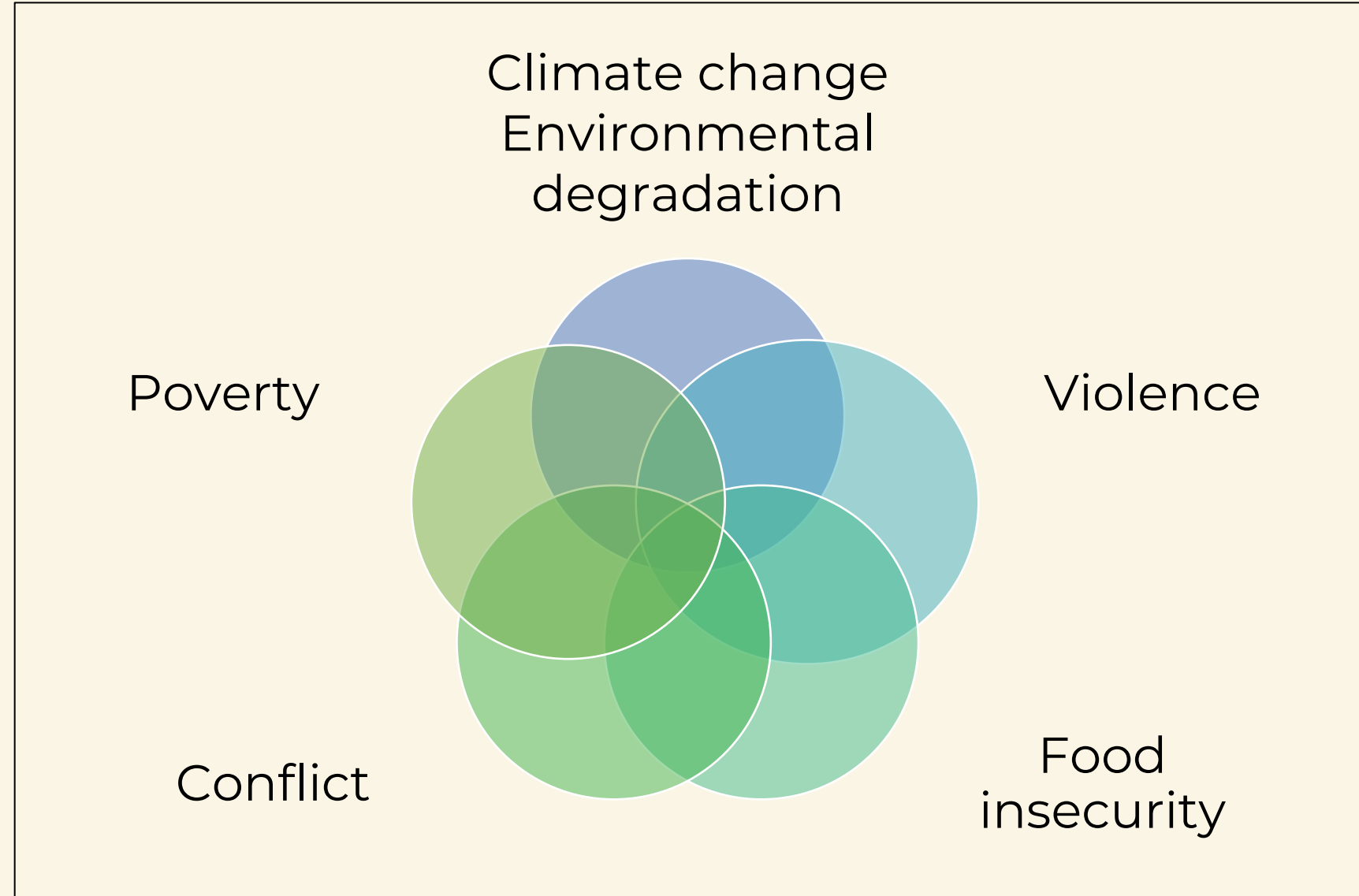
- Move away from bias towards centre-based ECD services. Recognizing that the concept of quality ECD is multidimensional. **Children's daily interactions with their families and the wider community, their ECD settings, including with other children, staff and teachers, space and materials, reflect the quality of ECD they experience.**
- Together, these interactions come together to supporting children's learning, development and well-being.

Key trends

Multidimensional
crises affecting
children

Very few children
not at risk in some
way or other

How do we respond
in holistic ways

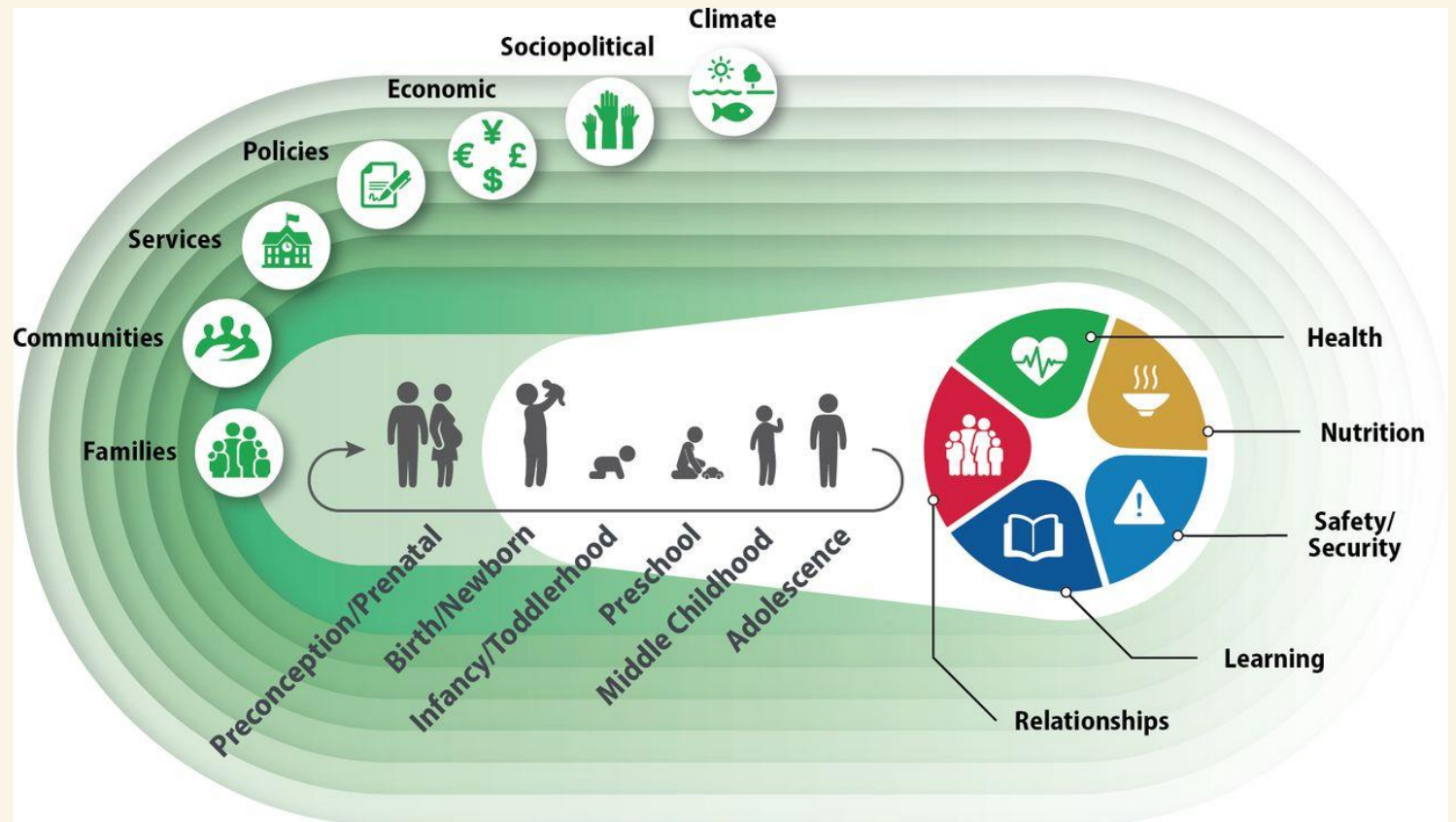


Key trends

Building on the return on investment argument fuelled by the Heckman curve – more economical angle – to looking towards building human capital

NCF extended from preconception through to adolescence, a framework that endorses a **life course** approach, emphasizing **equity** and **human rights**.

Human capital = expanding the richness of human life rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live.



View and download the Country Profiles, Data Sets, Sources and Methods of data collection from the following web pages



<https://nurturing-care.org/resources/country-profiles>



<https://www.countdown2030.org/early-childhood-development-profiles%20>



<https://www.ecdan.org/countries.html>



<https://data.unicef.org/resources/countdown-to-2030-ecd-country-profiles/>

For more information visit our website at globaldata4kids.com and follow us @GlobalData4Kids

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