



# Overview of Multisectoral ECD Policies in Eastern and Southern Africa

Day 1

National Multisectoral and Sector-Specific Policies for ECD

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**Nurturing the Future**  
**Technical Meeting to Enhance Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development in the Health Sector**

25-28 February  
Nairobi, Kenya



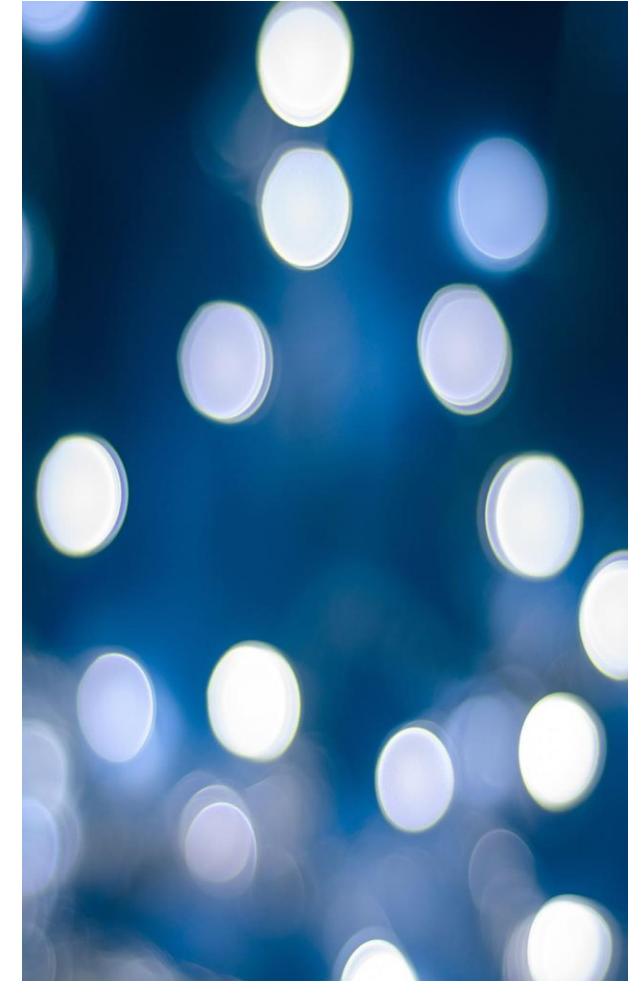
# Multisectoral ECD policies are growing

**Definition:** ECD policy and action plans that are national in scope, multisectoral, including health, nutrition, education, and protection, cover the period from pregnancy to 5-8 years of age and are officially adopted by the national government

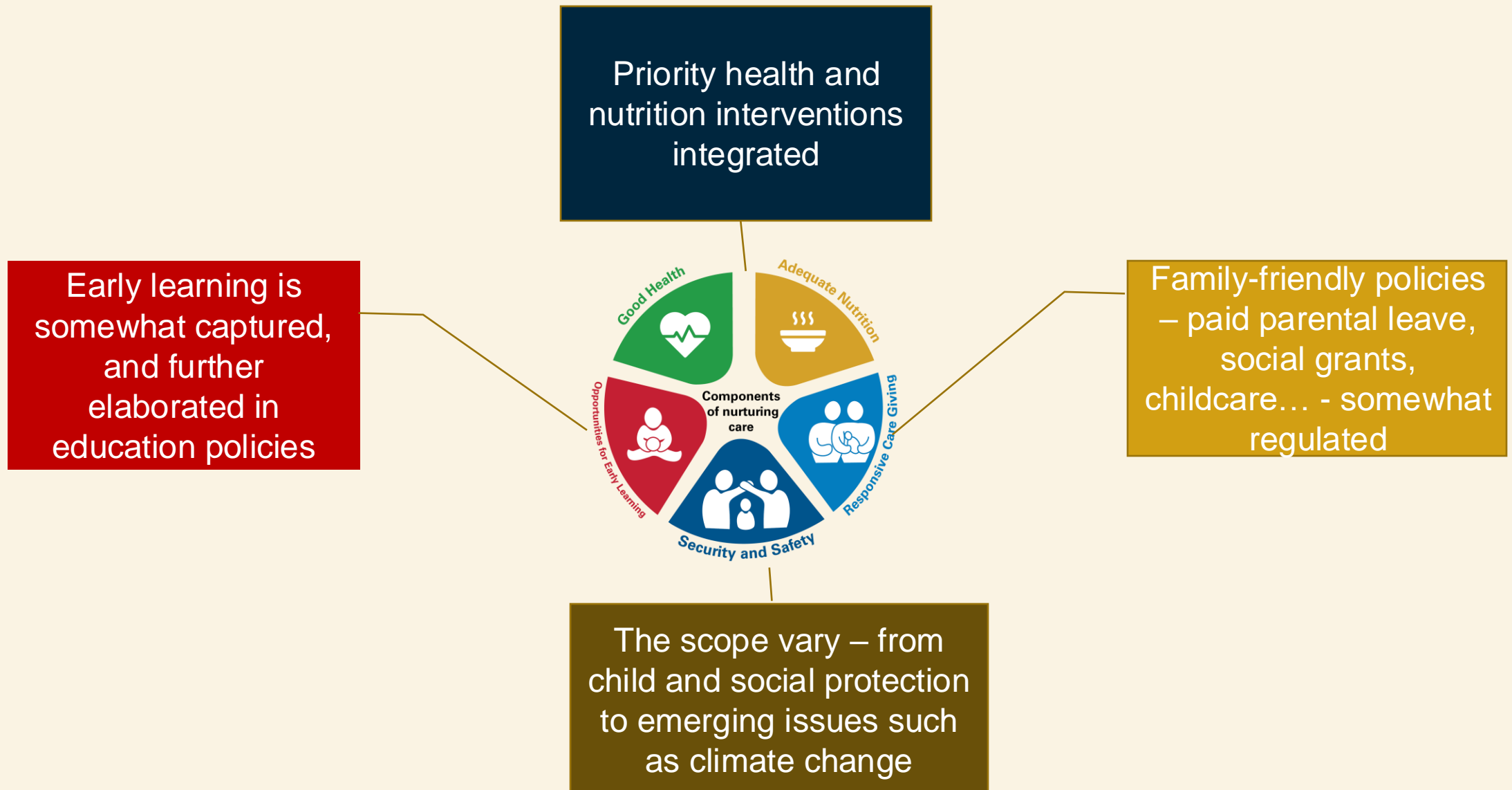
In 13 out of 21 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa multi-sectorial policies were developed/adopted (however, in 7 countries ECD policies are 10+ years old)

## Growing momentum:

- In 2024, new ECD policies or Action Plans developed/adopted in **Angola, Burundi, and Kenya**
- In 2025, the new ECD policies in **Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, and Zambia** are being finalized



# Main components of ECD policies

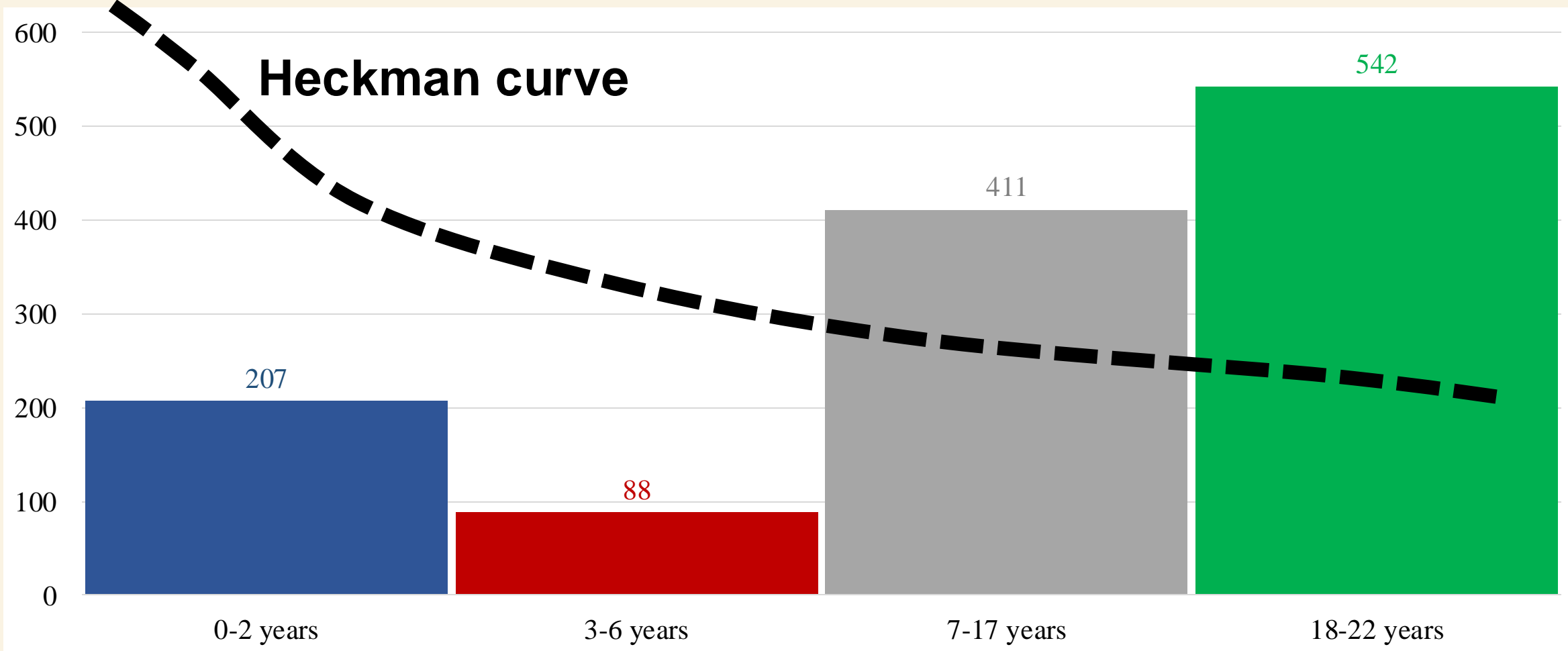


**Some  
critical  
gaps**



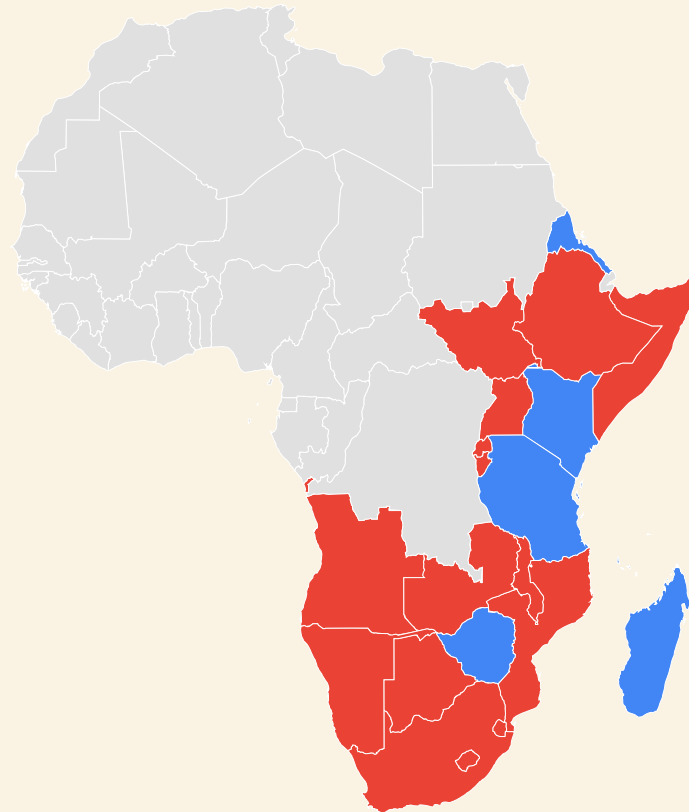
# Less investment in early years

Avg per capita government and donor spending on human capital sectors by age group in ESA, 2019 (in US\$)



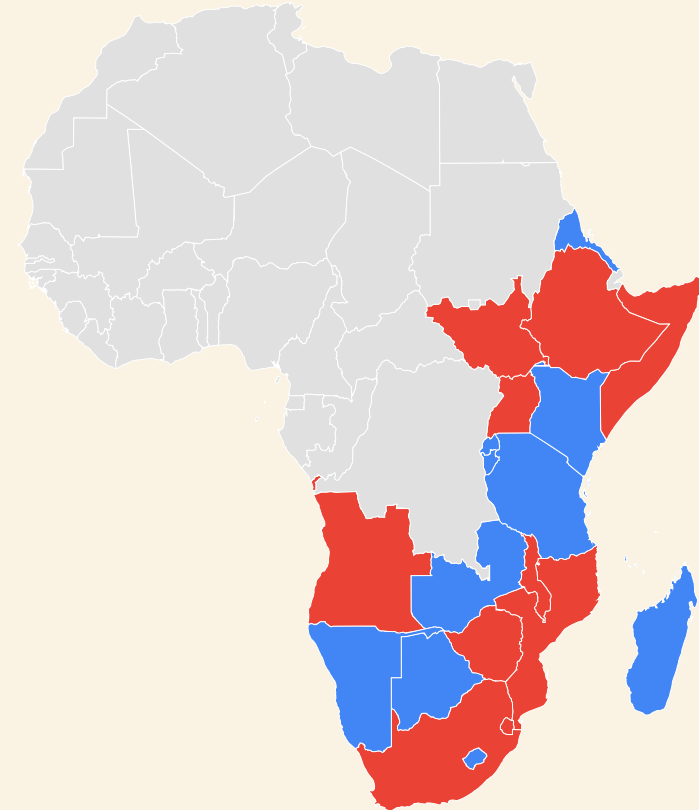
# An example of a critical gap in early learning: pre-primary still not mandatory, and not free of charge

Pre-primary is compulsory



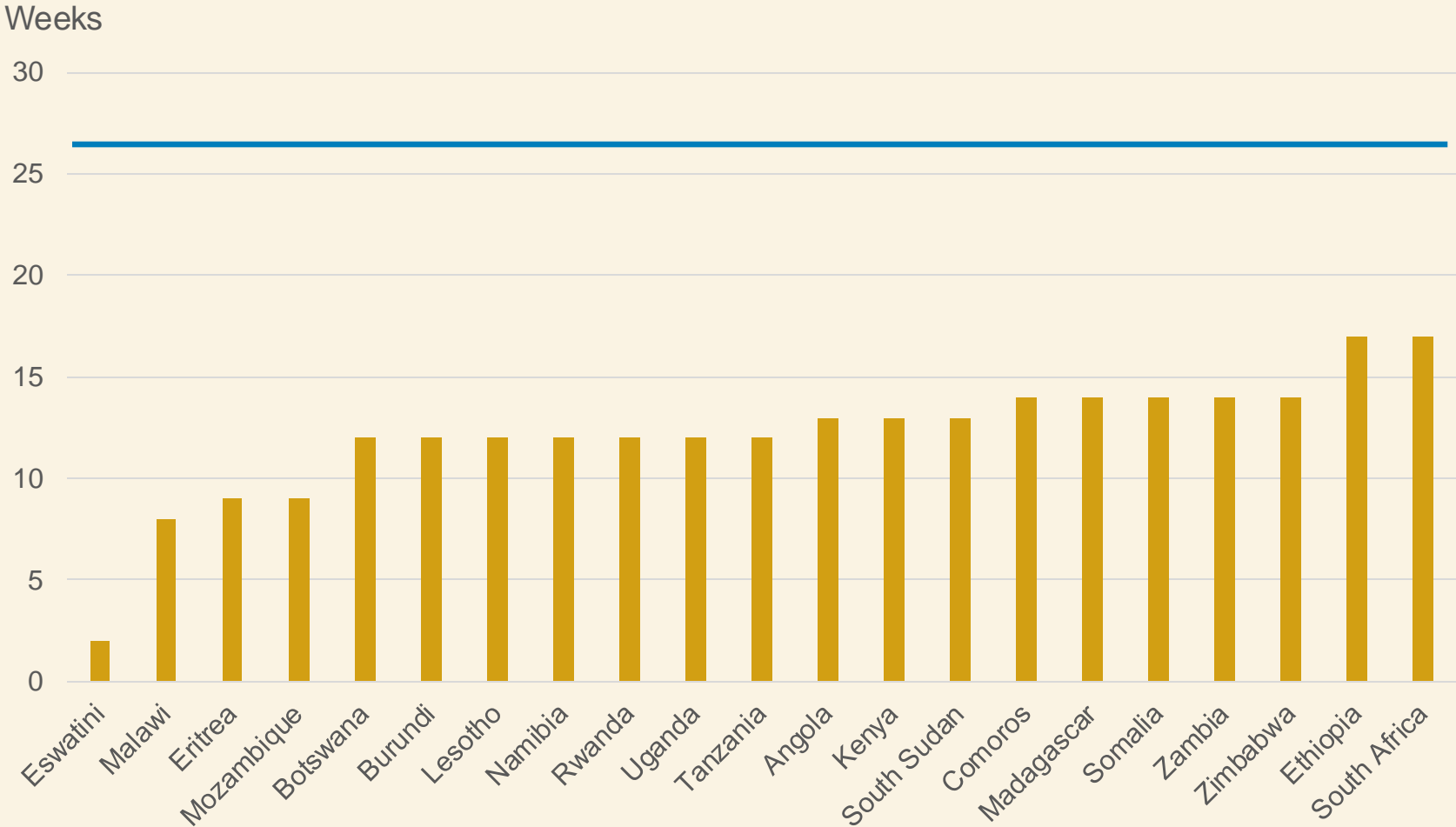
■ Yes  
■ No

Pre-primary is free



■ Yes  
■ No

# An example of critical gap to responsive caregiving: the duration of paid maternal leave



# REFLECTIONS ON THE NEW ECD POLICIES

- **Well-structured**
- **Solid coordination (under the prime minister, cross-sectoral ministry, presidential office, ministry of education, assigned governmental body)**
- **Solid monitoring framework, with ECDI2030 incorporated to assess the impact**
- **The public investment in ECD has grown by 3% annually in the last three years**
- **All new policies are costed – Burundi is investing \$ 123 m in early childhood in the next four years**





# PRIORITIES IN 2025 & BEYOND

- 
- Provide support to **Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe** to finalise and validate the ECD policies/action plans
  - Specific focus on coordination, financing, results and monitoring framework
  - Ensure that ECD-specific interventions are well embedded in new policies
  - Support the implementation (capacity building), including at decentralised levels

# Thank you

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## For more information:

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Increase investment in early  
childhood development,  
starting with the youngest and  
the most deprived

*If we change the beginning of  
the story, we will change the  
whole story!*