



Strategic action 1

Lead and invest



NURTURING CARE
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



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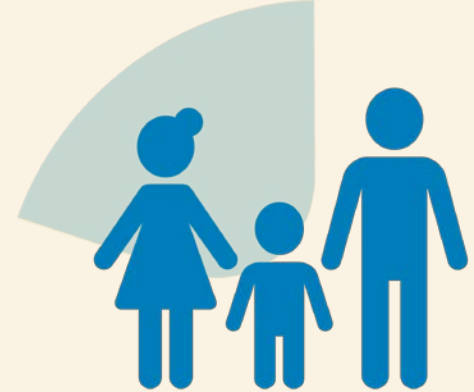
The five strategic actions

1



**LEAD
AND INVEST**

2



**FOCUS ON FAMILIES AND
THEIR COMMUNITIES**

3



**STRENGTHEN
SERVICES**

4



**MONITOR
PROGRESS**

5



**USE DATA AND
INNOVATE**





Lead and invest

Governance

How to coordinate decision-makers, at national and local levels, as they try to develop and achieve national policy objectives.

Planning

How to translate policy objectives into concrete activities.

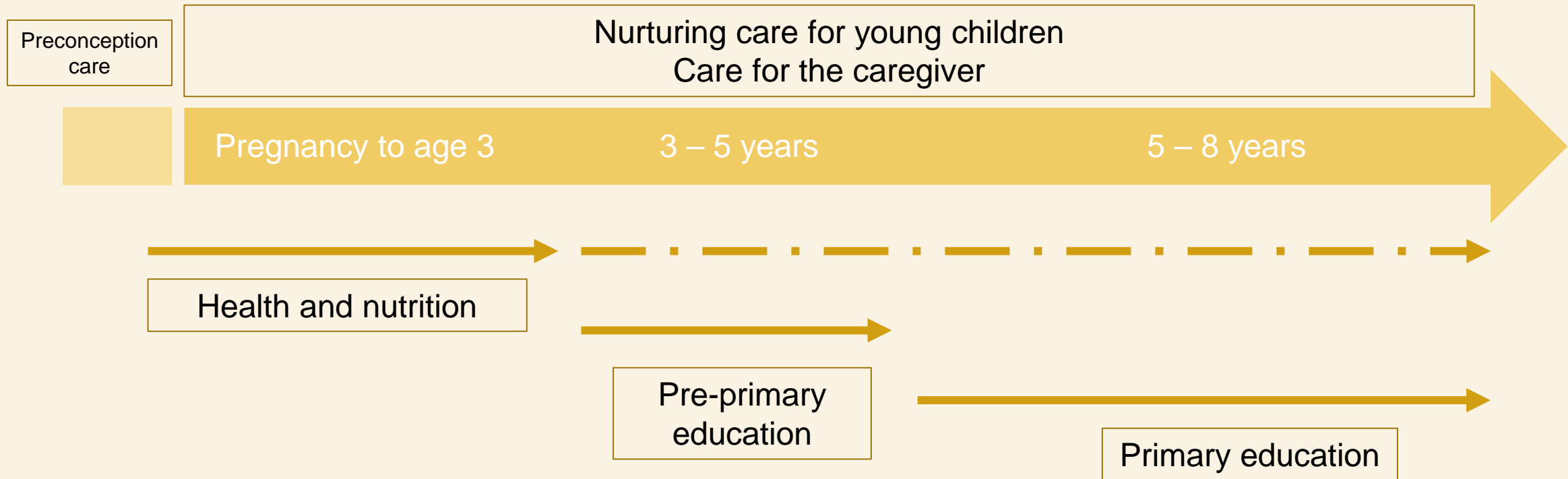
Finance

How to fund the expansion and strengthening of services, and how to add interventions in an equitable and sustainable way, working through the appropriate ministries.



The continuum of care

Early childhood development:
children's cognitive, physical,
language, motor, social and
emotional development
between conception and age 8





Governance

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- How to create political will
- How to facilitate multisectoral collaboration
- Is there need for one policy or many policies
- How to generate investment
- How to sustain momentum



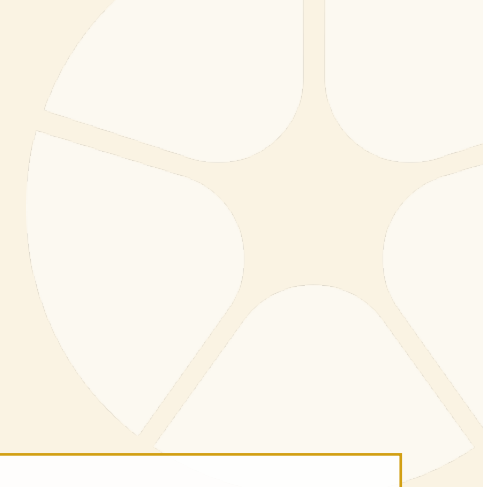
STEPS THAT HAVE SHOWN TO BE EFFECTIVE

- Engage all relevant stakeholders in dialogue
- Discuss scientific advances
- Use national commitments to justify investment
- Find evidence about the current situation in the country
- Discuss practical policy options
- Discuss existing policies and strategies
- Develop a common vision, goals and targets
- Formulate and update policy





Three ways to coordinate sectors and stakeholders



High level leadership

- Coordination at level of the President's or Prime Minister's Office for a whole-of-government approach

Intersectoral leadership

- Leadership in one sector to coordinate actions across multiple sectors

Sector specific leadership

- Leadership within a sector to demonstrate results and facilitate engagement of other sectors





Planning

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Is there need for one plan or many plans
- Who is responsible
- What is the role of the national level
- What is the role of the local level
- What are attributes of a good plan

STEPS THAT HAVE SHOWN TO BE EFFECTIVE

- Do not wait for a national policy
- Plan together, implement by sector
- Know your current situation
- Build consensus of what needs to be done
- Set realistic and measurable targets
- Work in cycles and make adjustments
- Keep everyone accountable



Three principles

Remember

In all countries, activities that support nurturing care are already underway, in health, nutrition, education, child and social protection. **Remember** to continue to invest in them.

Strengthen

Existing policies and interventions may not be implemented with equitable coverage or adequate quality. **Strengthen** services so that they reach the whole of the population, especially the most vulnerable families and children.

Add

Services commonly do not support all components of nurturing care. **Add** interventions, such as for responsive caregiving or opportunities for early learning, for more holistic support for young children and their caregivers.

SDG targets and country commitments



Goal 1 (target 1.2)

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.



Goal 2 (target 2.2)

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.



Goal 3 (target 3.2)

By 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1 000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1 000 live births.



Goal 4 (target 4.2)

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.



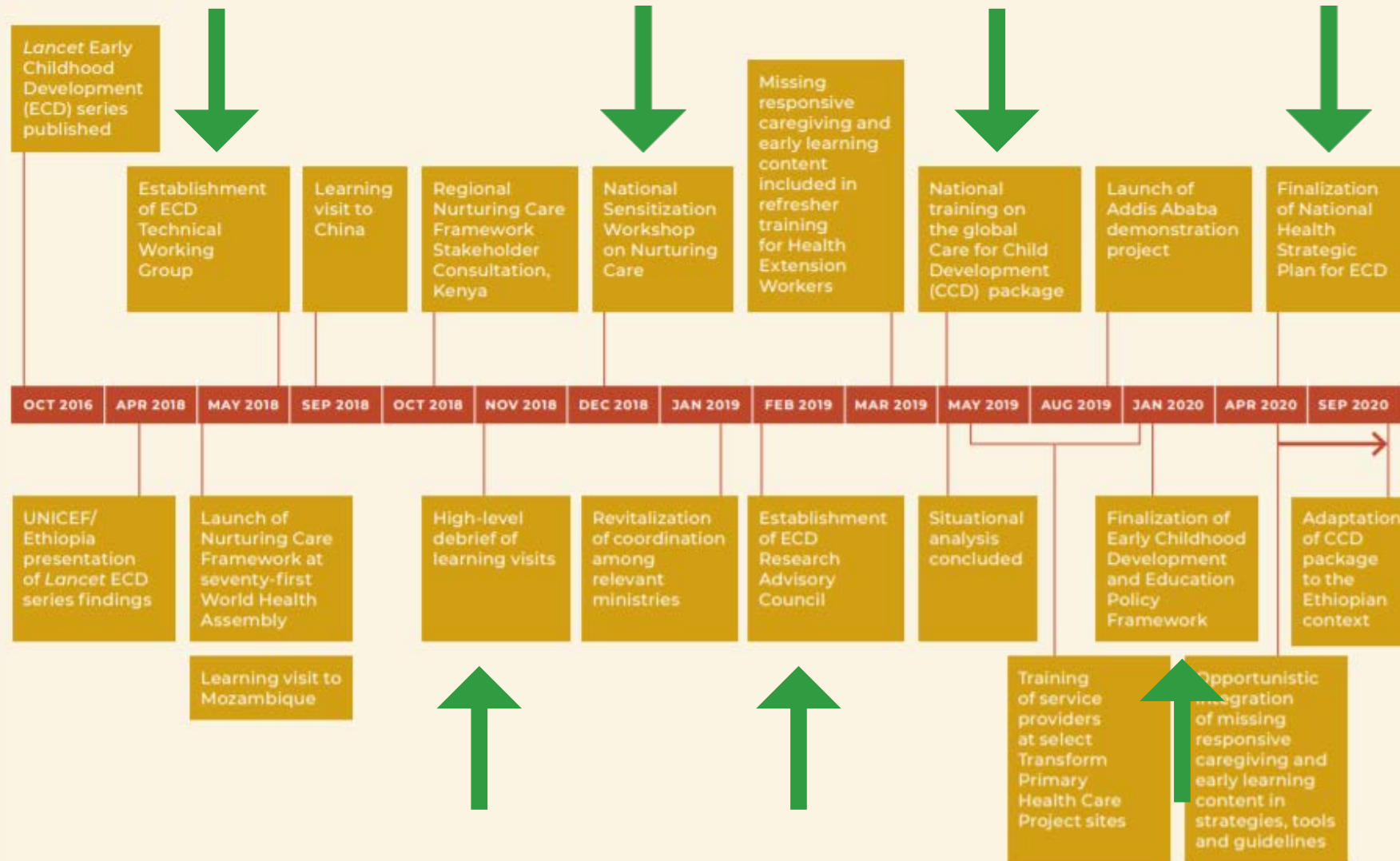
Goal 16 (target 16.2)

By 2030, end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.



Example of a country process and timeline

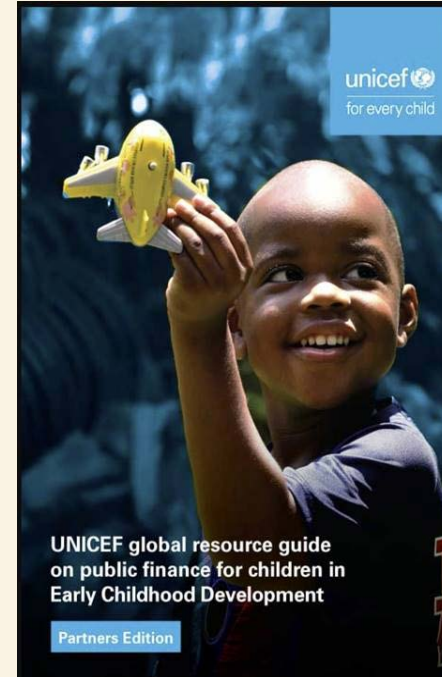
Ethiopia



Financing

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- How to estimate costs
- What does it cost
- How to increase domestic funds
- How to share funds between different sectors
- How to optimize use of donor funds
- How to spend efficiently



UNICEF's Global Resource Guide on Public Financing for ECD provides additional information and country examples



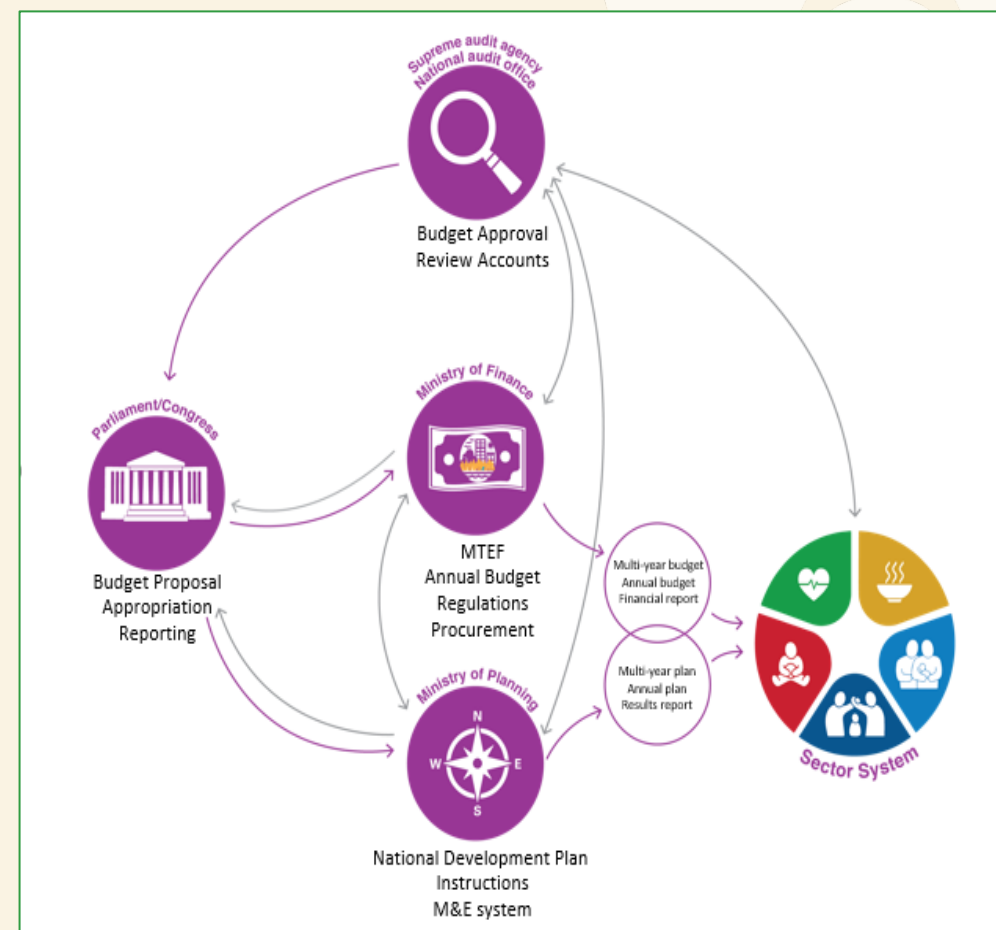
Steps that have shown to be effective

Understand the politics of financing for ECD - public financial management obstacles

- Understand the political economy/fiscal space around ECD; How is the ECD budget formulated?; Who are the influential decision makers and champions for change?; What is feasible?

Conduct evidence based and targeted advocacy

- Using the right evidence and language to win 'buy-in' from public finance decision makers
- Public expenditure tracking serves as baseline information for advocacy efforts
- Options for gradual expansion is helpful for financial decision makers



Mapping public financial management systems and budget actors





Steps that have shown to be effective

Strengthen financing across all levels of the system (devolved/decentralized services)

- Support subnational budgeting processes and build understanding on importance of NC among local government finance staff (demand more resources; effective utilization of resources)

Ensure that sectoral budget plans include NC-related services and 'add-ons' needed to make services more 'nurturing'

- Identify type of ECD services for which financing is needed (coverage; quality standards),
- Cost 'add-ons' needed to make existing services more 'nurturing' (additional staff time, schedule changes; new job aids; training costs)
- Assess how much has been spent – including budgetary and non-public spending
- Determine how to fill the financing gap – considering all sources of funding

Strengthen budget coordination across sectors and levels of government

- Identification of gaps or overlaps in spending – which can lead to efficiency gains

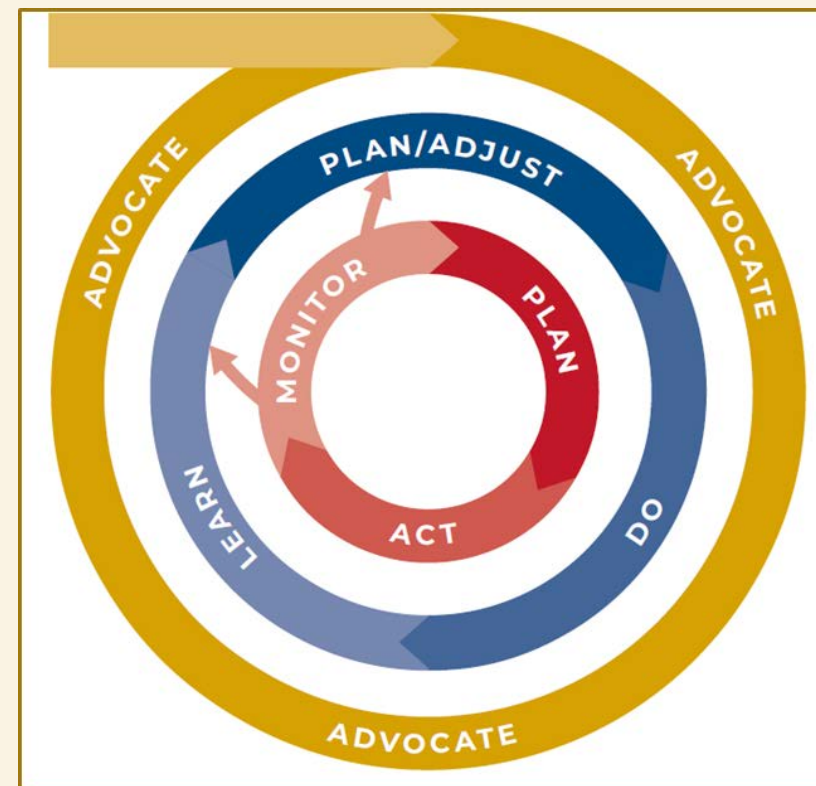


Advocacy is essential

Advocacy toolkit



Iterative programme cycle



<https://nurturing-care.org/advocacy-toolkit>



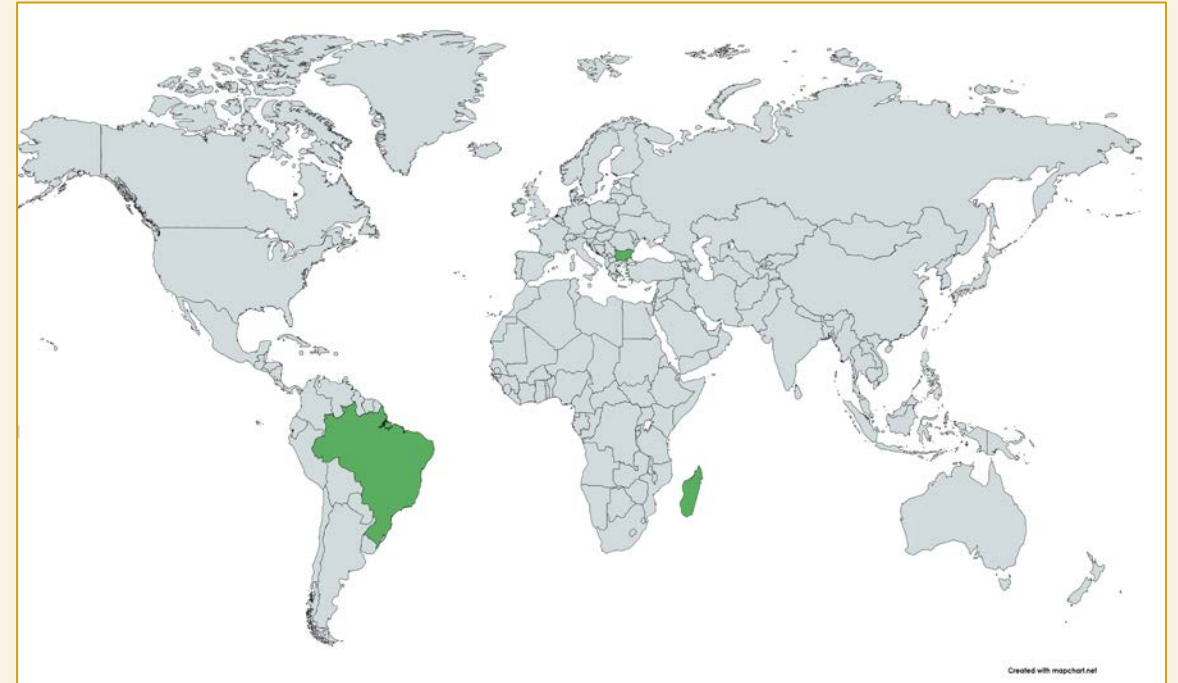
Upcoming global goods to support evidence-based advocacy

Cost of Inaction Online Plug & Play Tool

- Collaboration between UNICEF and ECDAN
- Online tool with plug-and-play format to test different scenarios
- Calculates what the cost of not investing in ECD services will be in terms of future earnings

Cost of Inaction pilot countries

Brazil, Bulgaria & Madagascar





Signs of progress

- ✓ A **national coordination mechanism** is in place
- ✓ There are **champions** for nurturing care in **multiple sectors**
- ✓ **Comprehensive policy objectives** have been adopted and address the early years
- ✓ A **national roadmap or strategy** for early childhood development has been developed and costed
- ✓ **Sector-specific plans** have been updated and costed, fostering adequate and efficient spending
- ✓ **Government spending and action** is equitable and properly tracked, leveraging planning and budget coordination for efficiency gains



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Thank you

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ecdan.org

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