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PHILANTHROPY  
CIRCLE



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ONLINE LAUNCH

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# Regional Early Childhood Development (ECD) Landscape Research

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6 July 2023  
3.00 – 6.00 PM

[asiaphilanthropycircle.org](https://asiaphilanthropycircle.org)





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# Welcome and Introduction



**Stacey Choe**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Asia Philanthropy Circle



## PROGRAMME

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- 3.00 PM **APC Welcome and Introduction**  
Stacey Choe, Asia Philanthropy Circle
- 3.05 PM **Background on the Development of the Regional ECD Research**  
Dr. J. Satrijo, Tanoto Foundation
- 3.10 PM **Presentation of Research Findings**  
Maryanna Abdo and Esther Goh  
Centre for Evidence and Implementation  
*Followed by Q&A*
- 3.50 PM **How to improve Early Childhood outcomes through Parenting and Transforming Cities**  
Rushda Majeed, Van Leer Foundation  
*Followed by Q&A*
- 4.30 PM **From Evidence to Policy to Practice: Translating evidence to create better impact**  
Assoc Prof Robyn Mildon, CHILD  
*Followed by Q&A*
- 4:50 PM End of Main Session

- 4:55 PM BY-INVITATION ONLY  
**Country Breakout Groups:**  
**China, Indonesia**  
**Philippines, Singapore**
- 5:40 PM Share Back
- 5:55 PM Wrap Up by APC



## HOUSEKEEPING

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- Please have your Name and Organisation name as your Zoom name
- Please mute yourself to reduce noise distractions until discussion and breakout sessions
- For any questions that you might have:
  - "Raise your hand", or
  - Type question into the chat function
- Recording restricted to presentations—no recording for breakout group discussions



## A platform by philanthropists for philanthropists

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Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC) is a community of philanthropists collaborating to chart a fairer, more prosperous, and sustainable future for Asia. Founded in 2015 by Asia-based philanthropists to encourage peer exchange, APC has grown to over 50 members across 13 markets.

We are home to a diverse network of philanthropists—across generations and interests—seeking collective impact together.

# Our Members

APC is home to a diverse network of philanthropists across Asia—across generations and interests, with a shared vision of philanthropy as a tool for bettering society.

58

Members

13

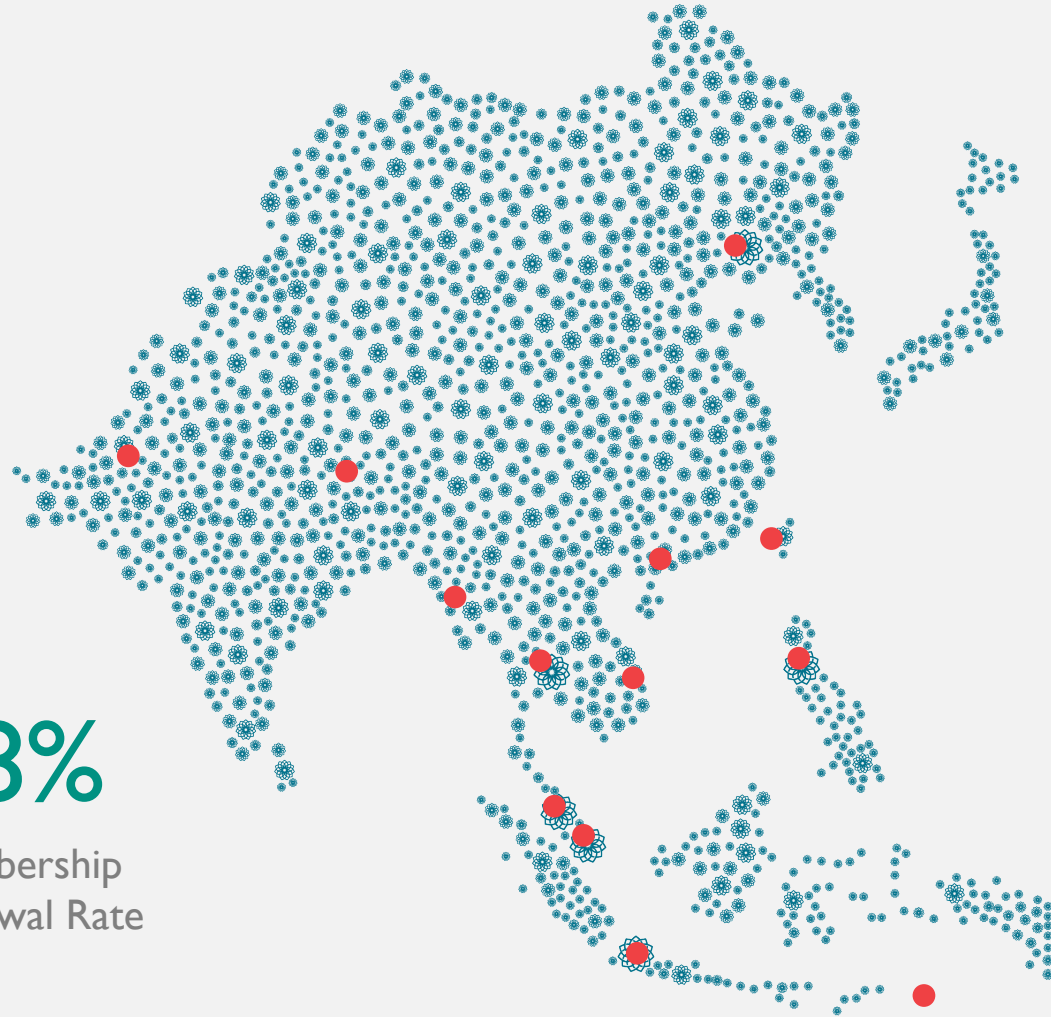
Markets

Over  
US \$100B

Combined  
Family Wealth

98%

Membership  
Renewal Rate



- Australia
- China
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam



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# Supporting philanthropists working in Asia



01

MEMBERS



Connecting members with peers, partners, and projects

APC helps members take action by supporting learning, sharing new opportunities and best practices, and facilitating connections with peers, experts, and best-in-class implementing organisations.



02

PROJECTS



Catalysing innovative and best-in-class collaborations

APC convenes all players, from philanthropists, to NGOs, INGOs, multilateral agencies, and governments, to collaborate and find solutions to social issues. That way, we stand a better chance of overcoming long-standing problems.



03

ECOSYSTEM



Strengthening the philanthropic ecosystem

APC helps strengthen the practice of philanthropy in Asia by convening philanthropists across the region, providing thought leadership that address key issues in the sector, and contributing an Asian voice to pressing global issues.





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# Development of the Regional ECD Landscape Research

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**Dr J Satrijo Tanudjojo**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tanoto Foundation





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# Regional ECD Landscape Research: Key Findings

*Comparative findings by country and  
Key Recommendations*

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**Maryanna Abdo**  
Managing Director  
Centre for Evidence and  
Implementation



**Esther Goh**  
Advisor  
Centre for Evidence and  
Implementation

# Regional ECD Landscape Study

## Study launch

Key findings and recommendations

6 July 2023

# Our focus today



**Introduction to the study**

**Key findings in each country and across the region**

**Diving deeper into a set of cross-cutting recommendations**

# Introductions

## Authors here today:



**Esther Goh**  
*Advisor*  
*Lead Author*



**Mary Abdo**  
*Managing Director*  
*Contributing author*

## Authors and contributors not in attendance

- Dr Gayatri Kembhavi-Tam (Associate Director, Study Lead)
- Dr Vanessa Rose (Director)
- Baoyi Tan (Research Assistant)
- Rachael Tham (Junior Research Assistant)
- Jieying Lean (Junior Research Assistant)

# CEI is a global, social purpose organisation that helps generate, find, translate, use, and implement evidence to improve lives



## A global, not-for-profit evidence intermediary:

- CEI is a social purpose organisation that helps generate, find, translate, use, and implement evidence to improve people's lives
- Specialist expertise in using evaluation, evidence, and implementation in practice and policy to improve outcomes



## Established in Australia in 2016, now has:

- A multi-disciplinary team of 50+ staff, with offices in Australia, Singapore, UK, Norway
- A global network of 40+ like-minded partner organisations



## Successful track record in evidence and implementation projects:

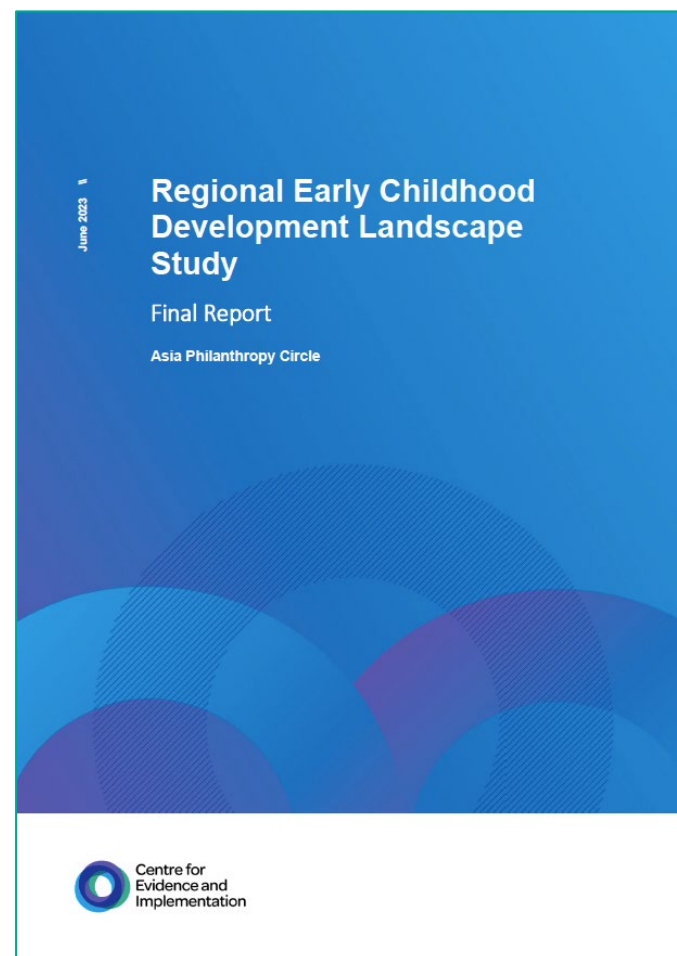
- Completed/currently working on 250+ projects with over 100 partners
- Partners include government agencies, service providers, philanthropic funders, and research institutes



## Some background on the research

- There have been significant improvements in policies and programmes supporting the needs of young children, parents, and their families in the East Asia and Pacific region
- However, there are still gaps in understanding of full landscape
- This can hinder collaboration as well as appropriate action and investment
- Study made possible through a collaborative project led by Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC) and the NUS Centre for Holistic Initiatives for Learning and Development (CHILD), with an Advisory Group of 11 organisations:

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Ayala Foundation             | • Nomura                           |
| • Bakti Barito Foundation      | • Quantedge Advancement Initiative |
| • Djarum Foundation            | • Ramon Aboitiz Foundation         |
| • Ishk Tolaram Foundation      | • Tanoto Foundation                |
| • Knowledge Channel Foundation | • Zuellig Family Foundation        |
| • Li Foundation                |                                    |





# Why is a landscape study in ECD in these four geographies important?



China



Indonesia



Philippines



Singapore

- Even strong ECD systems can have service, programme and policy gaps, meaning children and families may not be able to access effective interventions to address their needs
- There is no existing, similarly comprehensive research in any of the four countries
- Findings of the study will support the work of funders and stakeholders by identifying strategic opportunities for system strengthening, capacity building, and implementation and evaluation of evidence-based programme delivery
- Will support stakeholders to work in more collaborative, better-informed ways



# The study took a systematic approach to data collection based on a set of guiding questions

## Guiding Questions

- What parenting and ECD programmes, services and policies are currently being implemented across each country aimed at families with children between the ages of 0 to 6 years?
- What gaps currently exist in the ECD programme provision in each country when mapped against international frameworks?
- What evaluations have been undertaken of ECD programmes and services?

## Activities over 12 months

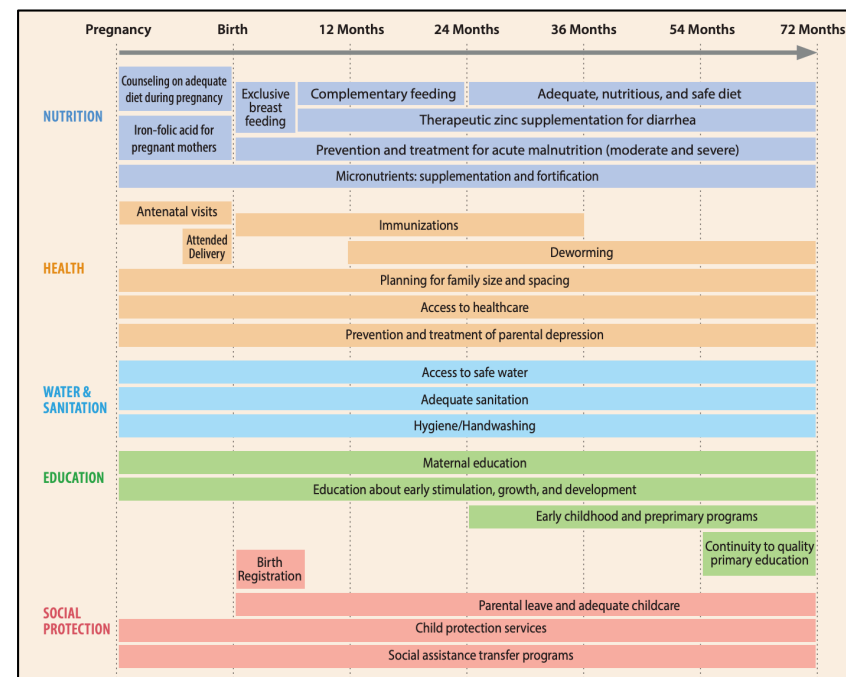
- **Expert interviews** — With 50+ key government experts, academics, and community stakeholders
- **Desktop search** — Following a systematic process to identify ECD policies, programmes and services
- **Evaluations** — Identification of available evaluations for each programme
- **Expert review and feedback** — Each chapter was reviewed by the Advisory Group and additional expert reviewers

# The study was guided by two comprehensive, global ECD frameworks

## Nurturing Care Framework



## World Bank 25 Key ECD Interventions



# Findings



# The study found strengths across the region



**Strong focus on children, families and the community around them**



**Increasing attention to positive parenting and responsive caregiving**



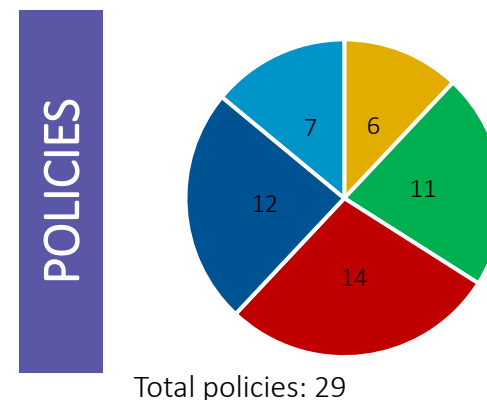
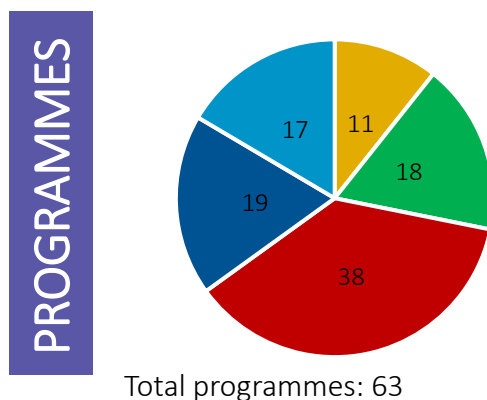
**Upward trend of public and private investment in early childhood**

**There were  
also some  
common needs  
across the  
region**



# China – Context and overview

- In recent years, China has increased its commitment to the early childhood landscape
  - Consistent progress in addressing nutrition, stunting and wasting
  - Comprehensive policies to promote basic maternal and child healthcare (including immunisations)
  - Increasing early learning programmes from both government and NGOs
  - Generous maternity leave provisions
- There is a comprehensive policy foundation in the country
- The challenge now lies in ensuring that these national policies are implemented well through programme delivery to support young children, families and the ECD workforce



■ Adequate Nutrition ■ Good Health ■ Opportunities for Early Learning ■ Security and Safety ■ Responsive Caregiving

# The most urgent needs in China are centred around nutrition, health and safety and security



## Reduce the double burden of over- and under-nutrition

- Support the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding
- Work with community partners to increase access to physical activity opportunities



## Support caregiver mental health and wellbeing

- Conduct research on the state of maternal mental health
- Collaborate with existing service providers to support mental health needs



## Improve protection of migrant and left-behind children

- Improve and facilitate access to birth registration
- Identify the needs of vulnerable children and coordinate the provision of added support

# There are also cross-cutting opportunities for action that affect the ECD sector as a whole



## Retain and train the EC workforce

- Understand the barriers and facilitators to workforce retention
- Work with local partners to develop evidence-based training content



## Improve coordination across sectors

- Work with community-based providers and families to identify ways to improve service coordination
- Work with local government on resource gaps and overlaps



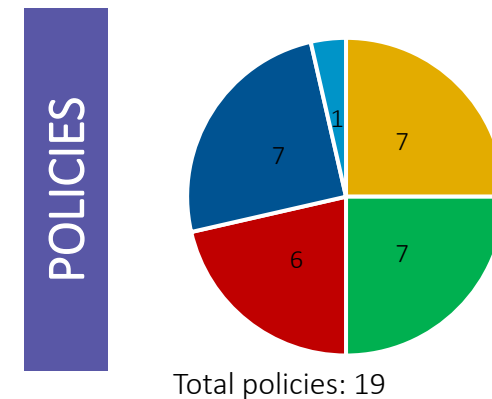
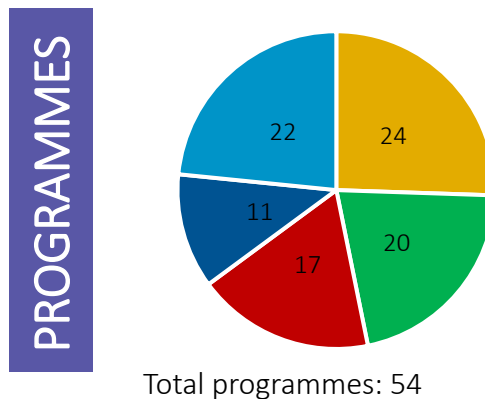
## Strengthen data-driven decision making

- Ensure funded programmes have strong monitoring and evaluation frameworks and data collection plans
- Work with researchers to identify priority areas



# Indonesia – Context and overview

- Indonesia's government has demonstrated a commitment to ECD development
  - Strong policy focus and many programmes for vulnerable families in nutrition, health and caregiving
  - Presence of a funded national health insurance system (with provisions for families, women and children)
  - Across national and local levels, early learning is strongly encouraged with formal and non-formal settings, with government support/funding
  - Child protection programmes are made more accessible by bundling with other areas of support
- The challenge now is that more resources and capacity are required to ensure that local implementation meets the ambitious goals reflected in the national policy agenda



■ Adequate Nutrition ■ Good Health ■ Opportunities for Early Learning ■ Security and Safety ■ Responsive Caregiving

# The most urgent needs in Indonesia are centred around nutrition, early learning and caregiving



## Continued support toward stunting reduction

- Examine existing interventions, identify and scale up what works
- Consider how to address local barriers to accessing healthy foods



## Enhance the home environment

- Use existing touchpoints to equip parents with appropriate caregiving knowledge
- Identify and advocate for population-level data collection to understand the home environment



## Focus on fathers

- Encourage maternity and paternity leave utilisation
- Support research activities to further understand the role fathers play in Indonesian society

# There are also cross-cutting opportunities for action that affect the ECD sector as a whole



## Expand workforce training across service types

- Work with local partners to develop evidence-based training content
- Work with national partners to increase large-scale access to training



## Coordination of civil society

- Consider how provincial-level coordination might allow for concerted discussions and collaborations
- Support the inclusion of district governments to strengthen public-private partnerships



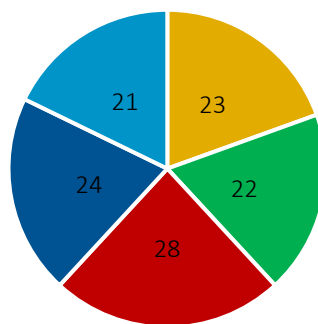
## Targeted support to local governments

- Support local governments to develop in-house capacity in relation to ECD

# Philippines – Context and overview

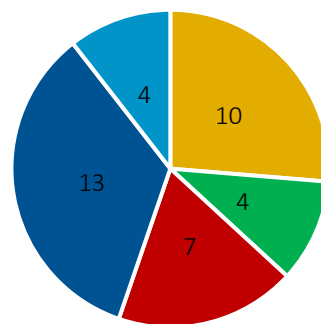
- The government of the Philippines has provided clear and consistent central support
  - The country is on track to meeting the SDG targets for exclusive breastfeeding by 2030
  - Universal health coverage is prioritised by the government, with the lowest income group receiving more support
  - Educators are being trained and best practice in early learning is being disseminated across local government units
  - There are programmes focused on equipping mothers and fathers with relevant knowledge and parenting skills
- Notably, the national government demonstrated its commitment to the early years through various pieces of legislation and the formation of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council
- However, more needs to be done to build on the knowledge of what is working for young children and how this can be scaled to areas that are most in need

## PROGRAMMES



Total programmes: 76

## POLICIES



Total policies: 30

- Adequate Nutrition
- Good Health
- Opportunities for Early Learning
- Security and Safety
- Responsive Caregiving

# The most urgent needs in the Philippines are centred around nutrition, health and caregiving



## Reduce the double burden of over- and under-nutrition

- Support caregivers to access and prepare healthy foods
- Work with community partners to increase access to physical activity opportunities



## Address barriers to accessing immunisations

- Work with existing service providers to identify ways to re-imagine routine immunisations
- Work with local government to increase health campaigns



## Promote positive and responsive caregiving practices

- Work with local researchers to understand the barriers to positive parenting.
- Incorporate these findings to existing programmes and consider content delivery

# There are also cross-cutting opportunities for action that affect the ECD sector as a whole



## Build local knowledge base

- Work with, and support, local academic institutions to conduct research



## Build local government capacity

- Work with LGUs to understand their capacity and needs in implementing national policies
- Support LGUs to develop in-house capacity in relation to ECD



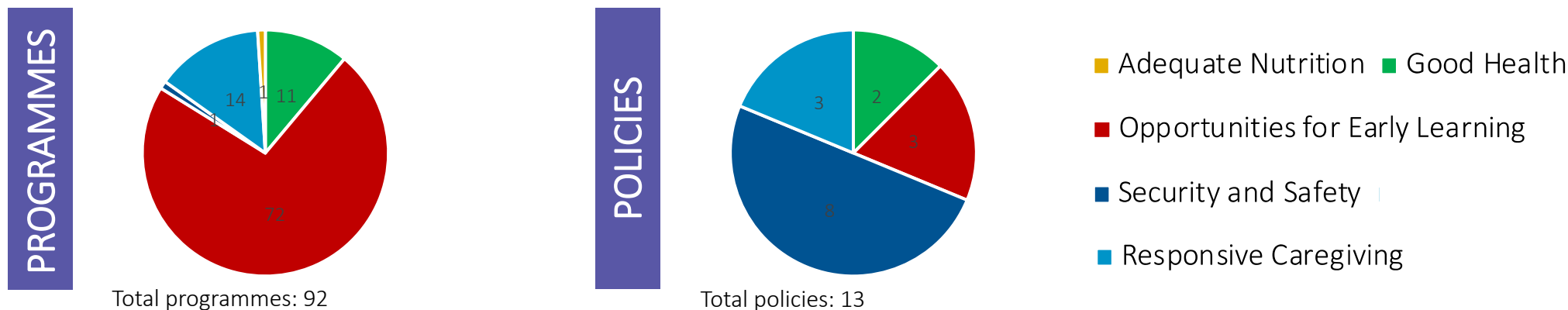
## Strengthen data-driven decision making

- Ensure funded programmes have strong monitoring & evaluation frameworks and data collection plans
- Work with researchers to identify priority areas



# Singapore – Context and overview

- In the past 60 years, Singapore has made consistent progress and growing investments to the early childhood sector.
- There is broad coverage and service provision across ECD sector for families and children with multiple needs
- The last decade has also seen sustained funding to improve access to and quality of childcare and formal early learning opportunities
- There are high quality, rigorous local research, including more than 6 ongoing cohort studies
- There is a comprehensive universal healthcare system with easy access to services, at low or no cost
- Singapore has very strong policy and service provision across the NCF components
- A key opportunity now is in understanding what works and how to bring valuable insights to enhance programmes and policies for all families and young children



# The most urgent needs in Singapore are centred around nutrition and caregiving



## Reduce childhood obesity and increase breastfeeding

- Examine the causes for child obesity and increase appropriate programme provision
- Promote exclusive breastfeeding through community and corporate support



## Focus on non-maternal caregivers

- Work with community partners to equip fathers/grandparents with evidence-based caregiving practices
- Work with employers to increase awareness of the benefits of parental leave

# There are also cross-cutting opportunities for action that affect the ECD sector as a whole



## Coordination across systems and providers

- Work with community partners to develop 'navigation aides' to support families
- Support the work to simplify pathways



## Retain and train the EC workforce

- Support research to understand the barriers and facilitators to workforce retention
- Work with local organisations to support various ECD professionals



## Strengthen data-driven decision making

- Support work to develop a long-term outcome monitoring system
- Ensure funded programmes have strong monitoring & evaluation frameworks and data collection plans

# Cross-cutting Recommendations



**Several cross-cutting  
recommendations emerged  
across the study geographies**



# Support the generation and use of data that is accurate, linked, and readily available to stakeholders and system actors

## Issue

A lack of up-to-date, accurate, and/or comprehensive data, that is readily available and accessible to various stakeholders

## Why it matters

The collection and analysis of large datasets allow decision-makers to cut through potential distortions, such as personal bias, hype, or beliefs, to discover what really works for the population

## Strategic Opportunities

- (1) Support system actors to improve data collection and management systems
- (2) Implement consistent data collection and monitoring across funded programmes





# Enhance effective coordination among stakeholders and system actors

## Issue

There is a need across countries to ensure collaboration and coordination across sectors on-the-ground

## Why it matters

Improving coordination across stakeholders would not only benefit families in ensuring easy access to services, but would lead to systemic improvement by reducing inefficiencies and wasted resources

## Strategic Opportunities

- (1) Encourage cross-sectoral dialogue
- (2) Support coordination across the ECD sector on the ground



# Grow a sufficient and well-trained workforce that is recognised by the community

## Issue

Low retention rates have been observed across the countries. Additionally, the ECD workforce is often not recognised or valued by the community

## Why it matters

A stable workforce across a variety of sectors allow for consistent, quality support to be available to work directly with children and their families

## Strategic Opportunities

- (1) Support regional exchange on best practices in workforce training
- (2) Encourage and support communities of practice across practitioners



# Support strong, independently conducted evaluations to contribute to the evidence base both locally and regionally

## Issue

Too little is understood about what works, for whom, and under what conditions. A critical gap across the four countries is the lack of publicly available, high-quality evaluations of programmes

## Why it matters

The lack of regionally specific research is concerning because context affects programme effectiveness and implementation – what works in urban London or rural India may not work as well in the countries included in this study

## Strategic Opportunities

- (1) Support independently conducted evaluations for local and regional programmes
- (2) Support regional evidence synthesis research on specific topics



# Enhance a policy and regulatory environment that centres around the needs of children and families

## Issue

While there has been an increase in policies, there is still a crucial gap related to the implementation of these policies and related programmes at the local level

## Why it matters

By centring policies and regulatory frameworks around the needs of children and their families, governments move away from siloed structures towards considerations on what is needed to support the whole child's development

## Strategic Opportunities

- (1) Support the exposure and introduction of ECD research to policymakers
- (2) Engage policymakers and stakeholders in regional dialogue on specific ECD topics

# Questions / Comments

# What's next?

- Read the report on CEI's website:  
<https://www.ceiglobal.org/work-and-insights/report-regional-early-childhood-development-landscape-asia-philanthropy-circle>
- Get in touch with us and others in the room!

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# How to improve Early Childhood outcomes through Parenting and Transforming Cities

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**Rushda Majeed**  
Chief Programme Officer  
Van Leer Foundation



Van Leer  
FOUNDATION

# Scaling for impact:

How to improve early childhood outcomes  
through parenting and transforming cities

Van Leer Foundation  
6 July 2023





# **Our mission is**

To contribute to inclusive  
societies where all children  
and communities can flourish



# A good start

Giving all children a good start in life sets the foundation for inclusive societies. We work globally to improve the wellbeing of babies, toddlers and their caregivers.

We provide investment and knowledge to help leaders develop and scale effective policies and services with a focus on the period from pregnancy to age 5.



**Trust.**

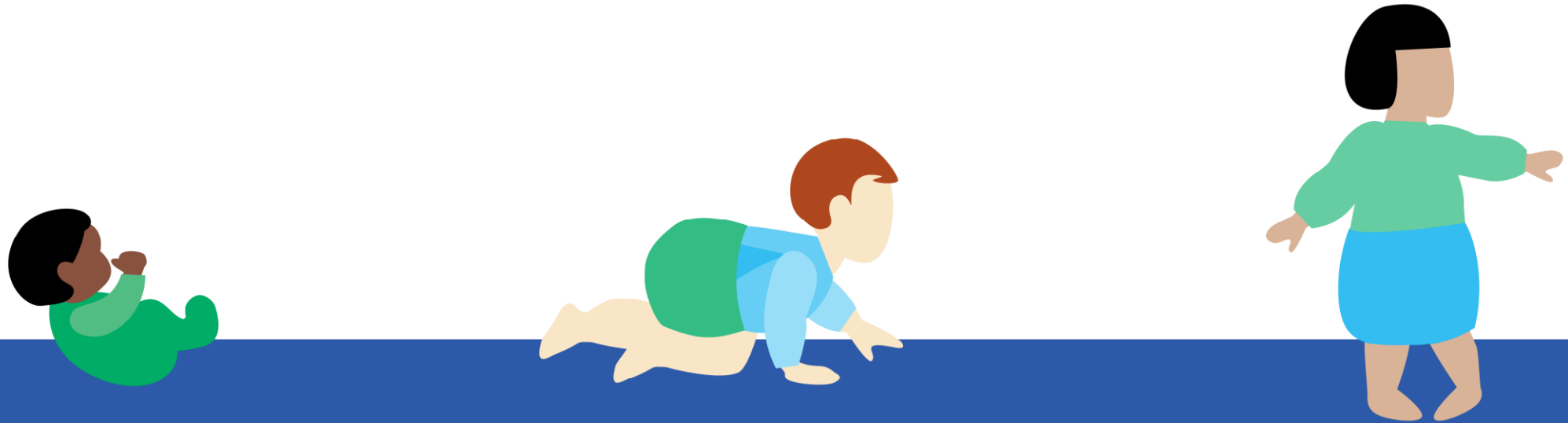
Our earliest experiences shape the parts of our brain we use when we trust and connect with other people.

**Fairness.**

Investing in early childhood development reduces gaps in health, education and income throughout the lifespan.

**Connection.**

Focusing on the needs of young children brings leadership together from across the social and political spectrum.



**A good start for all children  
is the foundation of an inclusive society**



**“All children should be able to achieve the greatest possible realisation of their innate potential.”**

– Oscar van Leer



# Early experiences shape the brain – and the future



## Brain building

**One million synapses** are created in a baby's brain every second.

The way these connections form sets the foundation for good health, learning in later childhood and adulthood.



## Scale of the problem

**250 million children under 5** – across almost every country in the world – do not receive the care they need to reach their full potential.



## The potential

**USD 6.40– 17.60:** estimated return for every USD 1 spent on high-quality early years programmes.

# Parents and caregivers are crucial

They introduce children to the world and shape their earliest experiences.

Interactions with parents and caregivers during the first five years of life is the most important factor in a child's brain development.

This sets the foundation for lifelong, health, learning and resilience.



# What we do

For more than 50 years, we have worked to develop and share knowledge about how to support young children and their parents and other caregivers, bringing together robust science, practical ideas and strong leadership.

We have seen in practice how this combination can change the lives of hundreds of thousand or millions of children and families.



# We take a global perspective

We work in a set of **5 core countries** chosen for their diversity in geographic, cultural and economic terms.

We have **two global portfolios** to expand our reach and learning beyond core countries, but without placing teams on the ground.

Through this approach, we try to develop and scale ideas that can be useful worldwide.



# We work with leadership across society to have impact

## Government

Determines policy and regulatory frameworks, has the most extensive reach, and is the most important source of finance for programmes and services.

## Business

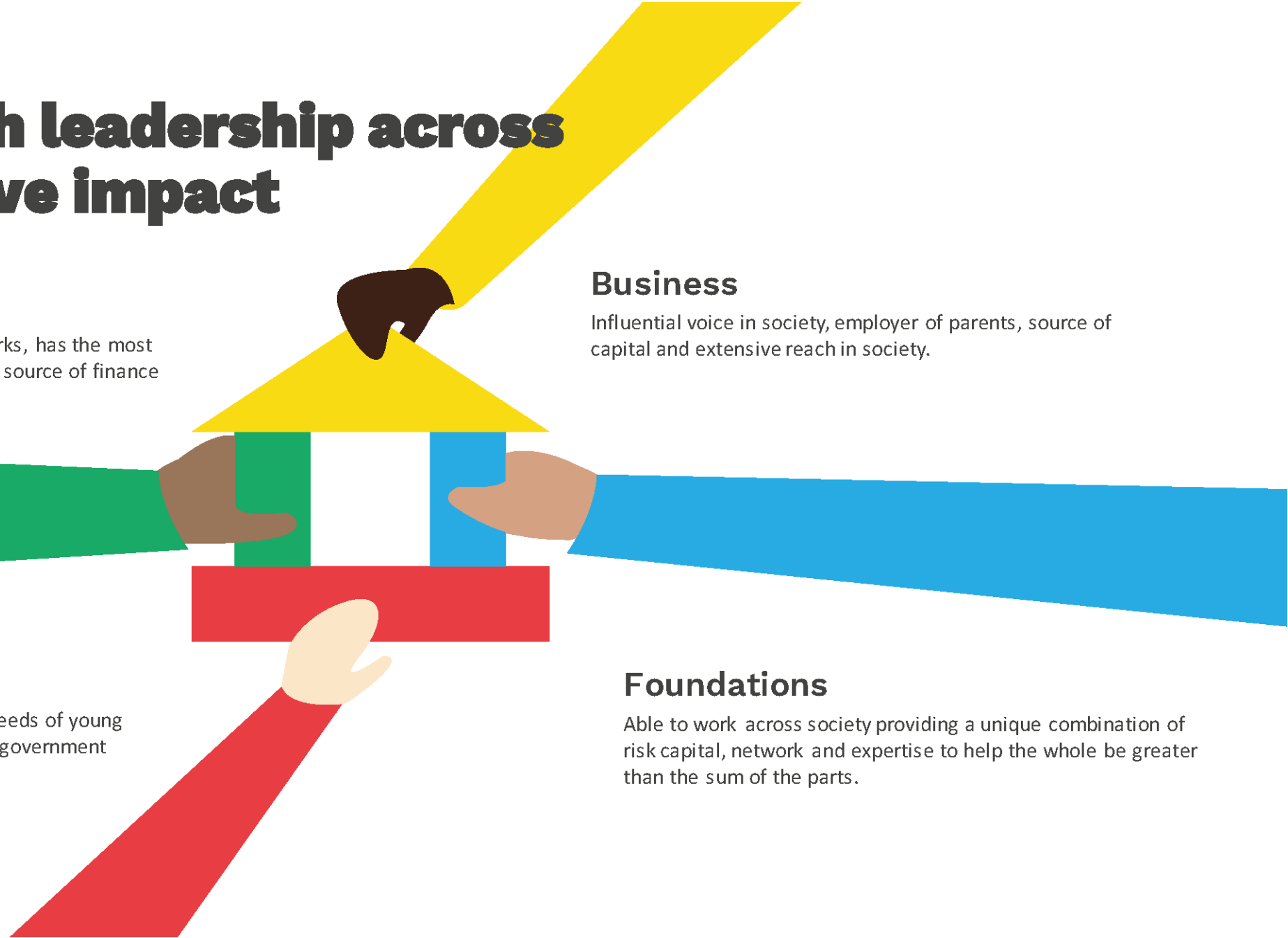
Influential voice in society, employer of parents, source of capital and extensive reach in society.

## Civil society

A voice highlighting the perspectives and needs of young children and families, and addressing gaps government and business are unable to fill.

## Foundations

Able to work across society providing a unique combination of risk capital, network and expertise to help the whole be greater than the sum of the parts.



# We support leaders to find the ideas best suited to their context and resources

We help them explore different options, design their approach and mobilise the people and resources needed to have sustained impact at scale.



**1**

**Funding**

**2**

**Knowledge and  
Technical Assistance**

**3**

**Advocacy**

**4**

**Policy  
Design**

**5**

**Executive  
Education**

**6**

**Study  
Tours**



# We document and share learnings around the world

Here is a snapshot on how we have gone about capturing and sharing learning across our network during the last strategic cycle (2016-23).



**1000**  
leaders trained



**4**  
**executive education partners**  
Harvard Kennedy School, INSEAD, LSE and  
Columbia Dart Center.



**30+**  
**events and study tours**  
**in the last 7 years**



**+5000**  
**subscribers to**  
**Early Childhood Matters**



**+700**  
**knowledge products**  
produced with partners



**18**  
**management case studies**  
written by Harvard, Princeton and RAND



A wide-angle photograph of a modern urban playground. In the foreground, a young girl in a pink shirt and patterned pants is captured mid-jump over a low barrier. To her right, a group of children are playing with a red jump rope. Several other children are standing or sitting on the colorful, patterned pavement. In the middle ground, a group of adults, including women in headscarves, are gathered around a stroller. The playground features large, circular green patches of artificial grass and blue and yellow painted patterns on the asphalt. In the background, there are multi-story residential buildings, trees, and a street with parked cars and a white van. The scene is set during the day with warm, golden light.

**Cities**





If you could experience the city  
from 95cm – the perspective of  
a toddler and their family...

**What would you change?**

# Urban95

## Our initiative and network for cities

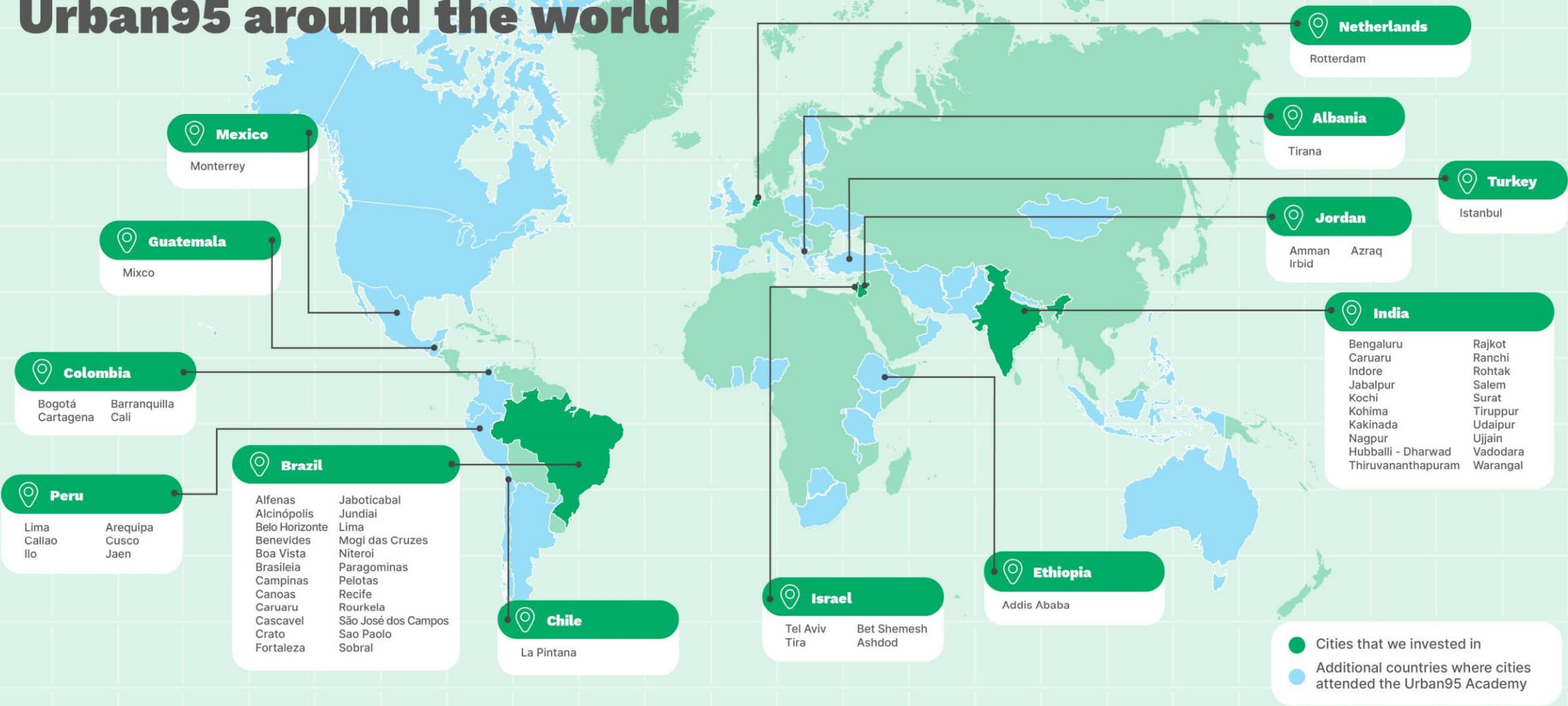
At the heart of Urban95 are dynamic and committed cross-sectoral partnerships with pioneering cities around the world.

- **Partner cities:** Expanding our support to 83 cities, within our Urban95 Networks
- **Strategic scaling partners:** Designers, architects, engineers, academics and civil society
- **Urban95 Academy:** The executive education course with the London School of Politics and Economics will continue to train municipal leaders to be champions for babies and toddlers.





# Urban95 around the world



# Urban95 with India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

## Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

Shaping cities for infants, toddlers, and their caregivers



Cities for young children



Cities for everyone

## Re-thinking urban development considering babies and toddlers at centre



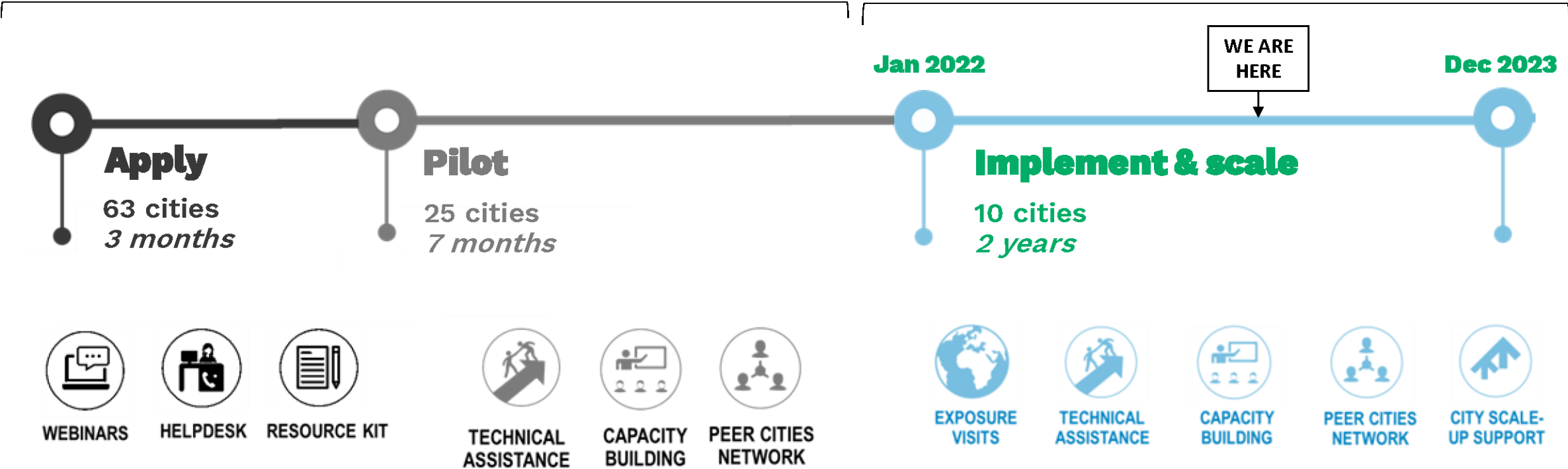
# NNC Phases & Support to Cities

## Phase I

CHALLENGE → 'GOOD TO GREAT'

## Phase II

DEEP DIVE



# Identifying immediate actions or quick wins



Short-term actions building confidence in stakeholders



One-time or recurring activities engaging communities



Temporary trials, low-cost tactical interventions





## Co-creating solutions with stakeholders







## Collecting baseline data and preparing proposals







## Testing solutions and incorporating learnings





# Implementation during the first phase

**22** cities implemented

**74** pilot projects



**33**

Reimagine parks, gardens,  
outdoor play spaces



**25**

Improve access to early  
childhood services –  
anganwadis, PHCs



**10**

Make streets safe and  
walkable



**6**

Adapt public spaces and  
transit facilities with early-  
childhood amenities

# Phase I – Footprint & Impact

**1,00,000**

Young children benefitted

**1 Million**

Users benefitted

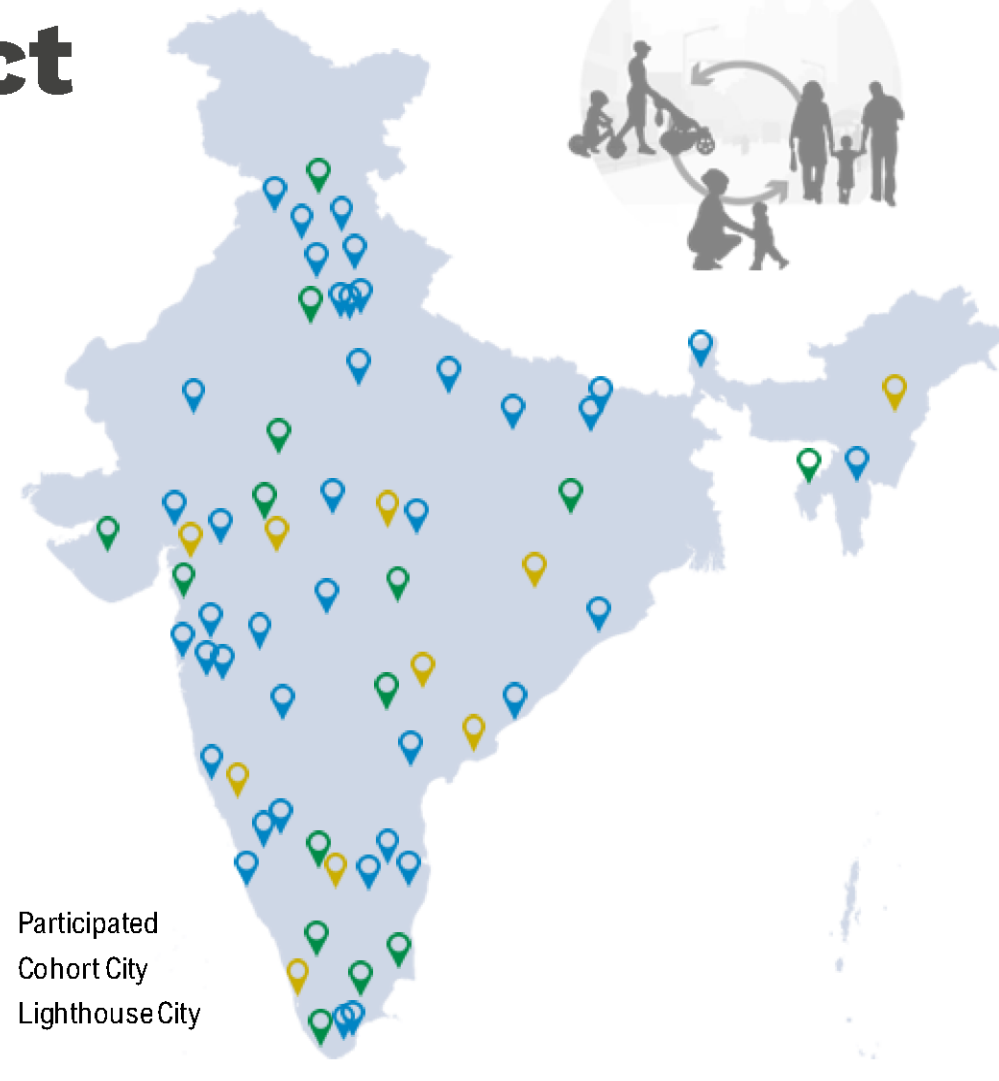
**200+**

Champions enabled  
to drive the change

**10X**

Projects and beneficiaries  
estimated in Phase II

**10 lighthouse cities working towards  
scaling up the initiative**

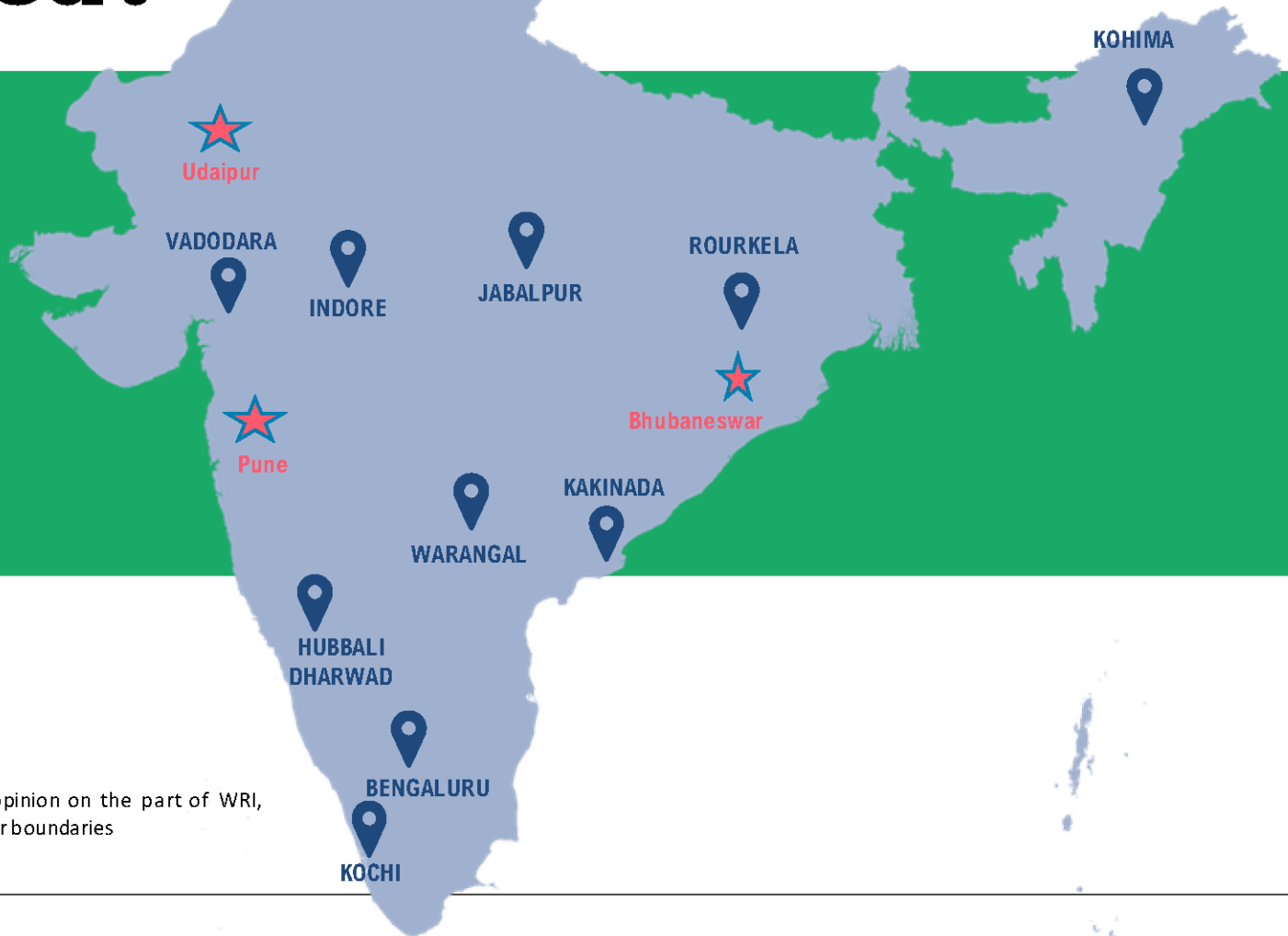
- 
- The map of India is populated with location pins of three colors: blue, green, and yellow. A legend at the bottom right identifies these as 'Participated' (blue), 'Cohort City' (green), and 'Lighthouse City' (yellow). There are approximately 40 pins in total, with a higher density in the northern and central regions. In the top right corner, there is a circular inset illustration showing silhouettes of people in various activities (walking, pushing a stroller, sitting) with arrows indicating a cycle or flow.
- Participated
  - Cohort City
  - Lighthouse City



# Where are we headed?

Phase II “Implement, Scale, Sustain”

By December 2023, 10 Indian cities become lighthouses for young children and family-friendly urban development



DISCLAIMER: This map is for illustrative purpose and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of WRI, concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries



Replicating Pilots



Institutional setup



Partnerships & Diverse Leaders



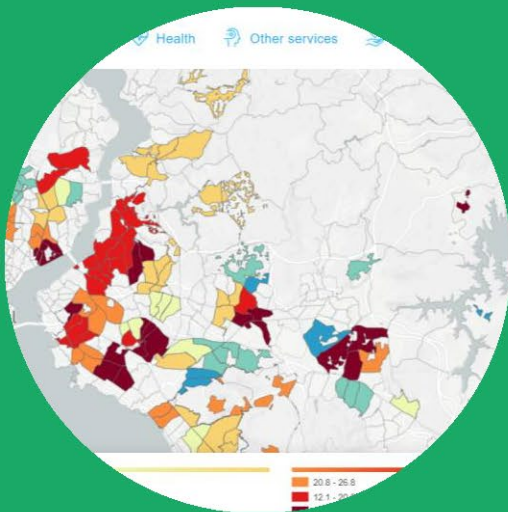
Capacity Building

## 8 Strategies

Civic Engagement



Data-based Planning, M&E, Learning



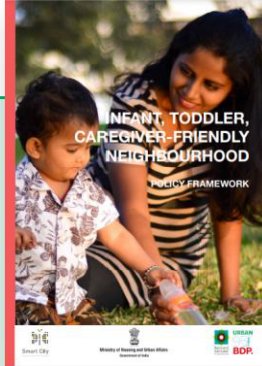
Financial Sustainability



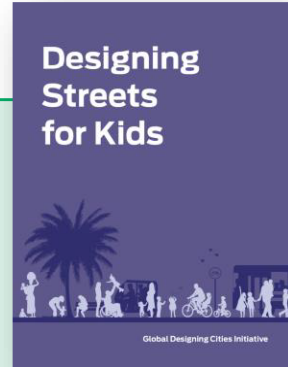
Plans, Policies and Processes



# Urban95-inspired guidelines from around the world



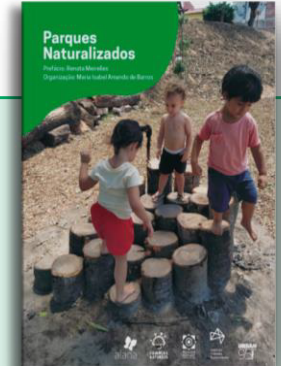
The **Infant, Toddler, Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhood (ITCN) Framework and Guidelines** comprises five publications that supports cities in **India** to create infant, toddler and caregiver-friendly neighbourhoods.



**Designing Streets for Kids** sets a new **global baseline** for designing urban streets with a focus on the specific needs of babies, children, and their caregivers by seeing them as pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.



The **Proximity of Care Design Guide** has been developed to be applied to, and benefit children and caregivers, in every urban context. The guide includes specific tools and case studies that can be applied to vulnerable urban contexts.



The **Natural Parks Guidelines** is designed to create living spaces more attractive and challenging for children, using the characteristics of the land and natural elements such as trunks, trees and plants.



A group of approximately ten children are running across a grassy field. In the background, there is a small wooden house with a corrugated metal roof. The children are dressed in casual clothing like t-shirts, dresses, and shorts. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a cloudy sky in the background. A large blue diagonal shape is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the word 'Parenting' in white text.

**Parenting**



# Parents +

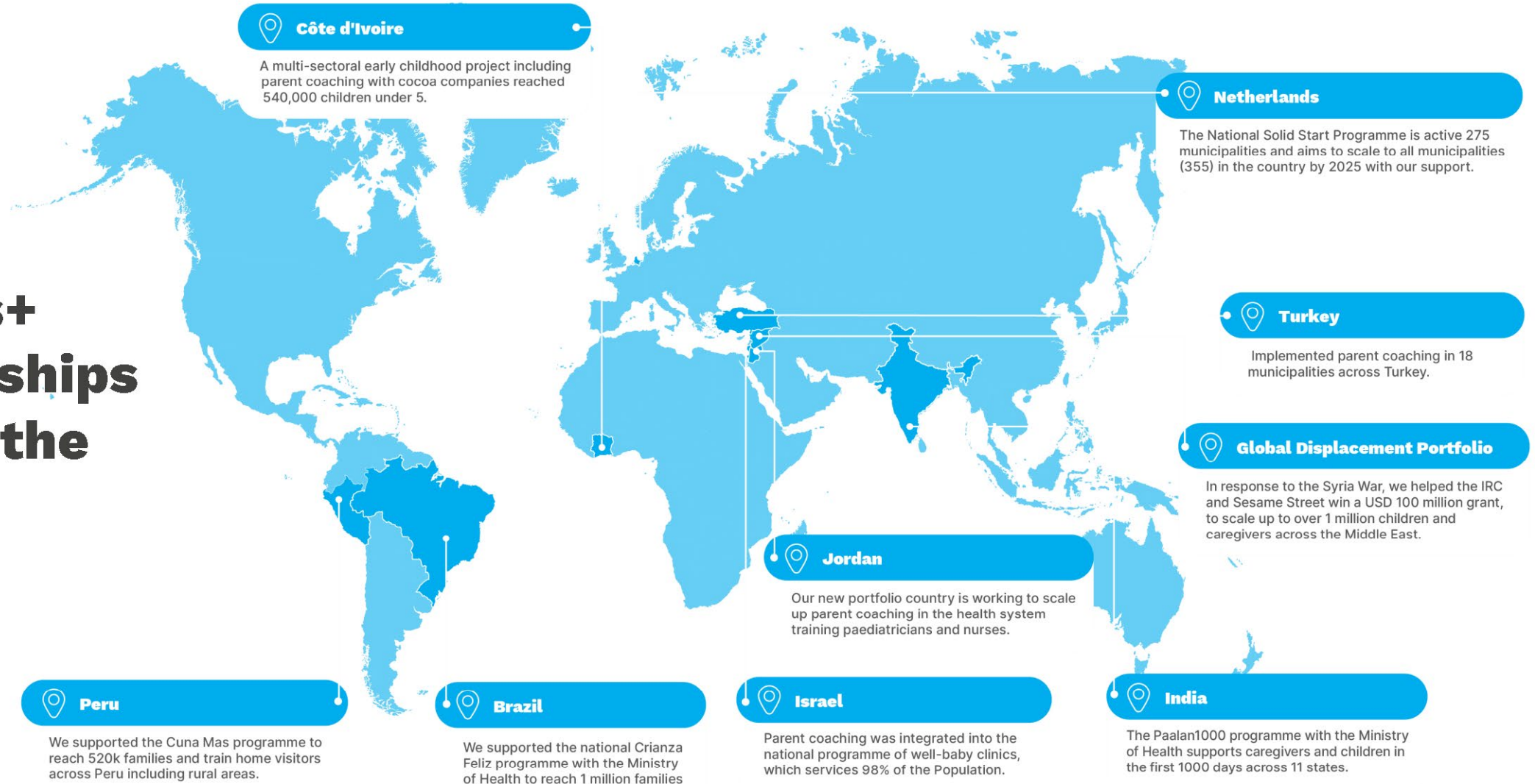
Combining early-years coaching for parents and caregivers with at least one service that meets families' basic needs.

The most powerful influencers on a child's development are their parents and other caregivers.

- **Caregiver wellbeing** is an essential part of babies' and toddlers' healthy development.
- **Parent coaching** is more effective when it also supports parents and caregivers' own wellbeing.
- **"Bundling" of services** is a cost-effective way to achieve impact at scale in the early years.



# Parents+ partnerships around the world





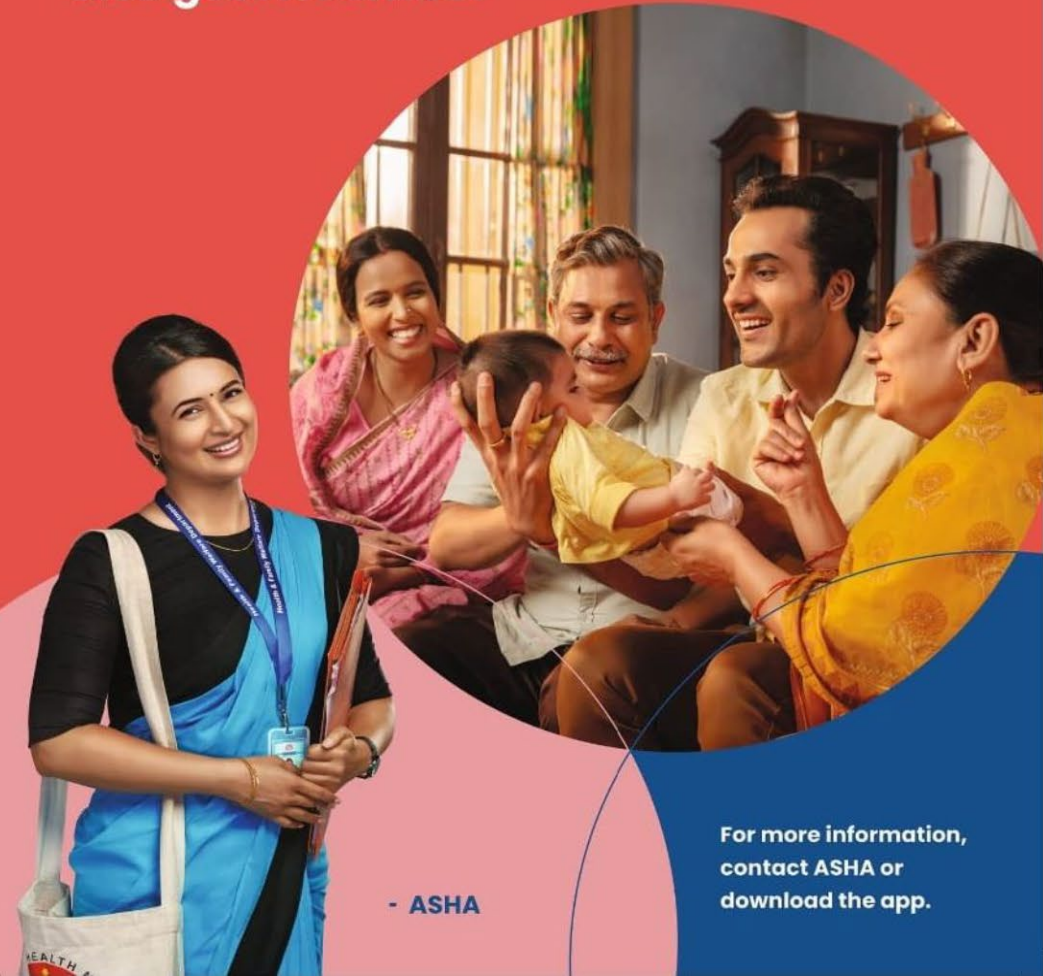
# Paalan 1000 with India's Ministry of Health

[Paalan 1000](#) combines early years coaching for parents, families and other caregivers with services designed to meet families' basic needs. The multicomponent initiative includes a national information campaign, a parenting app, ECD training modules for call centres, frontline workers capacity-building, interactive training videos and research on cultural parenting practices.

Paalan 1000 encourages parents and families to **engage with the child, explore through movement and play, read and share stories**, among other positive parenting behaviours during the first 100 days.

A simple formula for  
developing your infant's mind, no. **1**

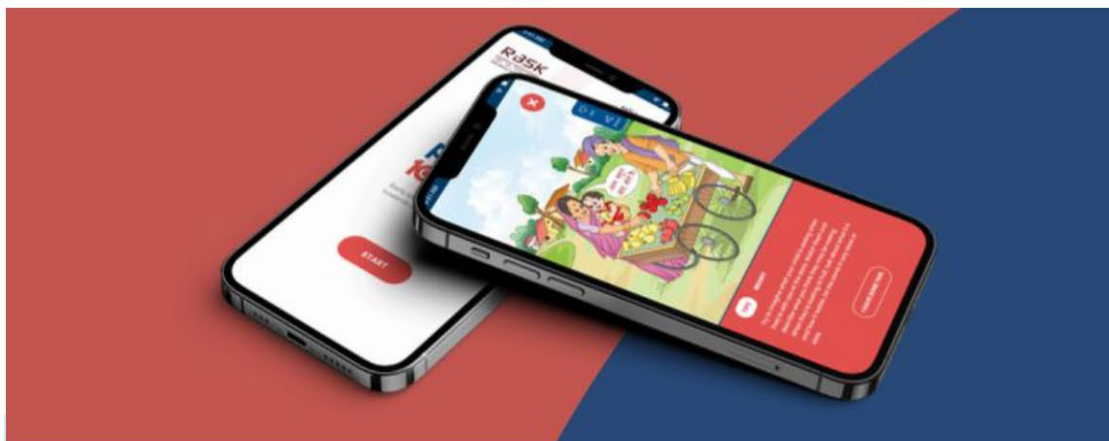
**Lots of pamper, love and care,  
mental development  
also gets its share.**



- ASHA

For more information,  
contact ASHA or  
download the app.

# The Paalan App is a one-stop solution for finding age- and developmentally- appropriate information about holistic child development



The **Paalan 1000 app** developed in 2022 include:

- Age appropriate activities in written, image and audio formats
- Easy to use tips to be included in daily routines
- A forum for parents to ask questions and share

By March 2023 the app reported **8,700 current users** in pilot sites in **Bahraich and Delhi**.



More than **1500 ASHA workers and supervisors** have been **trained** on promoting responsive caregiving in Bahraich and Delhi. This led to **improvements in home visiting services** such as increased ECD counselling to families and child development screening; and increase of singing and storytelling and playing at home practices by parents and caregivers.

# Insights about implementation at scale

## It takes a village to get to scale

Getting people involved from a wide range of sectors and backgrounds allows for an impact on more aspects of a child's life. It also helps build more political will and operational capacity.

## The backbone of that village is families and frontline workers

These are the people who do most of the care work. If they are under too much pressure – something we saw clearly during the pandemic – this will have a negative impact on children's health and development.

## Build on what you have before creating something new

Look at existing systems and workforce for ways to improve them. This is often a faster and more cost-effective way to reach scale

## What you choose to scale should be as simple as possible

The scaling process will inevitably be messy so ideally the solution you want to scale should be simple and clear to all of the stakeholders involved.

## Scale is often in tension with quality, sustainability and inclusion

Getting to scale often requires a fast pace. It is important to consider how this may negatively (or positively) affect quality, sustainability and inclusion





Van Leer  
FOUNDATION

# Thank You!

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# From Evidence to Policy to Practice: Translating evidence to create better impact

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**Assoc Prof Robyn Mildon**  
Centre for Evidence and  
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CHILD



**Dr Adrian Sandler**  
Centre for Holistic Initiatives for  
Learning and Development  
(CHILD)

# Bridging the gap: *From Evidence to Policy to Practice — Translating evidence to create better impact*

Robyn Mildon, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer  
Centre for Evidence and Implementation  
Melbourne | Sydney | Singapore | London | Oslo

Visiting Associate Professor, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore  
Adjunct Associate Professor, Monash University



# Introduction to the Centre for Holistic Initiatives for Learning and Development (CHILD)



- CHILD was established under the umbrella of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) with a generous endowment from the Lien Foundation.
- Our core strategic partners are:
  - Centre for Evidence and Implementation (CEI) and
  - A\*STAR's Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences (SICS)
- CHILD combines expertise in **translational research, early childhood development, and implementation science** to address gaps in the systems and services in Singapore.



Yong Loo Lin  
School of Medicine



# Establishing CHILD: Our purpose, vision and mission

**Our purpose** To give every child the best start to life.

**Our vision** To be a leading voice for translation of science into policy and practice for children and families in Singapore and beyond

**Our mission** To improve the emotional, social and cognitive outcomes for children in Singapore, by accelerating the implementation of early childhood research into policy and practice.



# How does *CHILD* aim to transform policy and practice in Singapore?

Our primary stakeholders – Policymakers and Practice Sectors in Early Child Development in Singapore

**CHILD** is the first centre focused on early child development in Asia to deliver:

- Knowledge Synthesis
- Evidence Translation
- Better Screening and Assessment
- Implementation and Evaluation





Behavioural and Implementation  
Science Interventions  
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine



**We cannot benefit from  
something we do not receive**





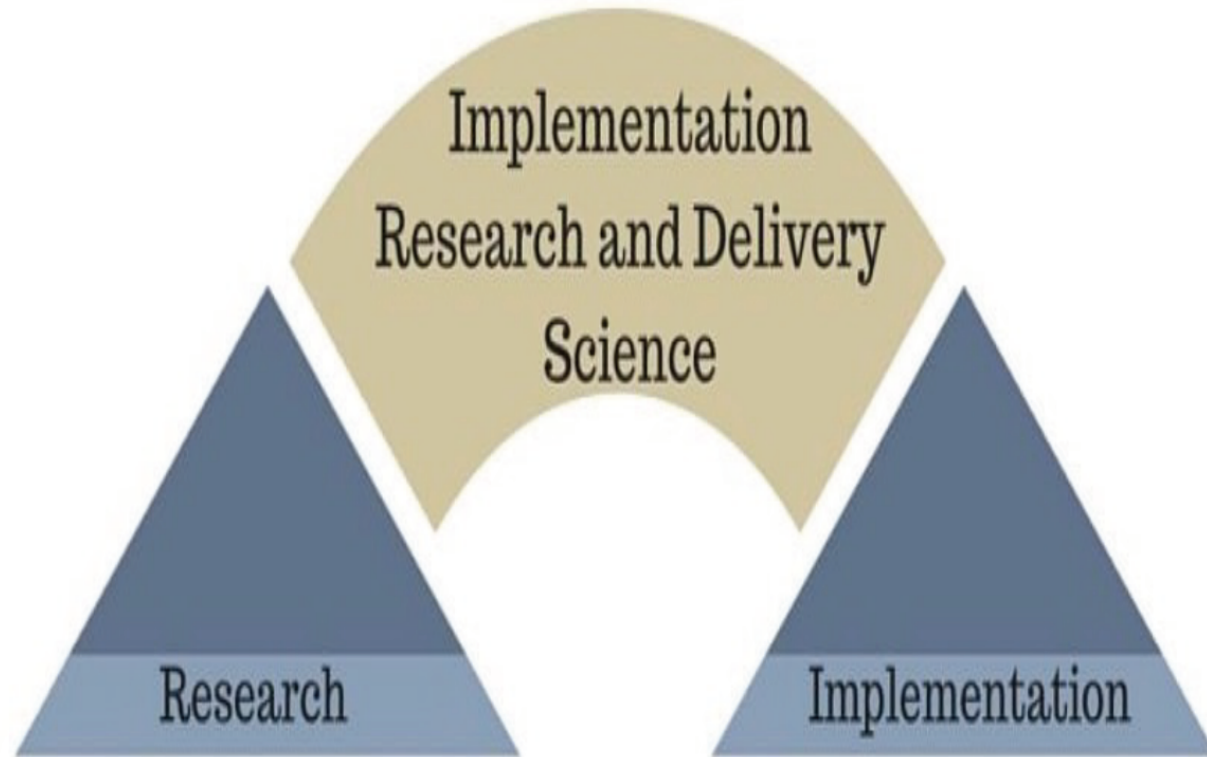
# Implementation is the bridge between evidence and policy and practice

Finding better ways to achieve system and service improvement goals is a key priority for policy makers, organizational leaders and practitioners, and policy and practice translation and implementation is the bridge between goals and outcomes.

Change is challenging:

- absent or mismatched skills and competencies in the implementation workforce
- inadequate planning
- lack of essential implementation and outcome data
- stakeholder turnover or management challenges

Sources: Bullock & Lavis, 2019; Albers, Shlonsky, & Mildon, 2020;

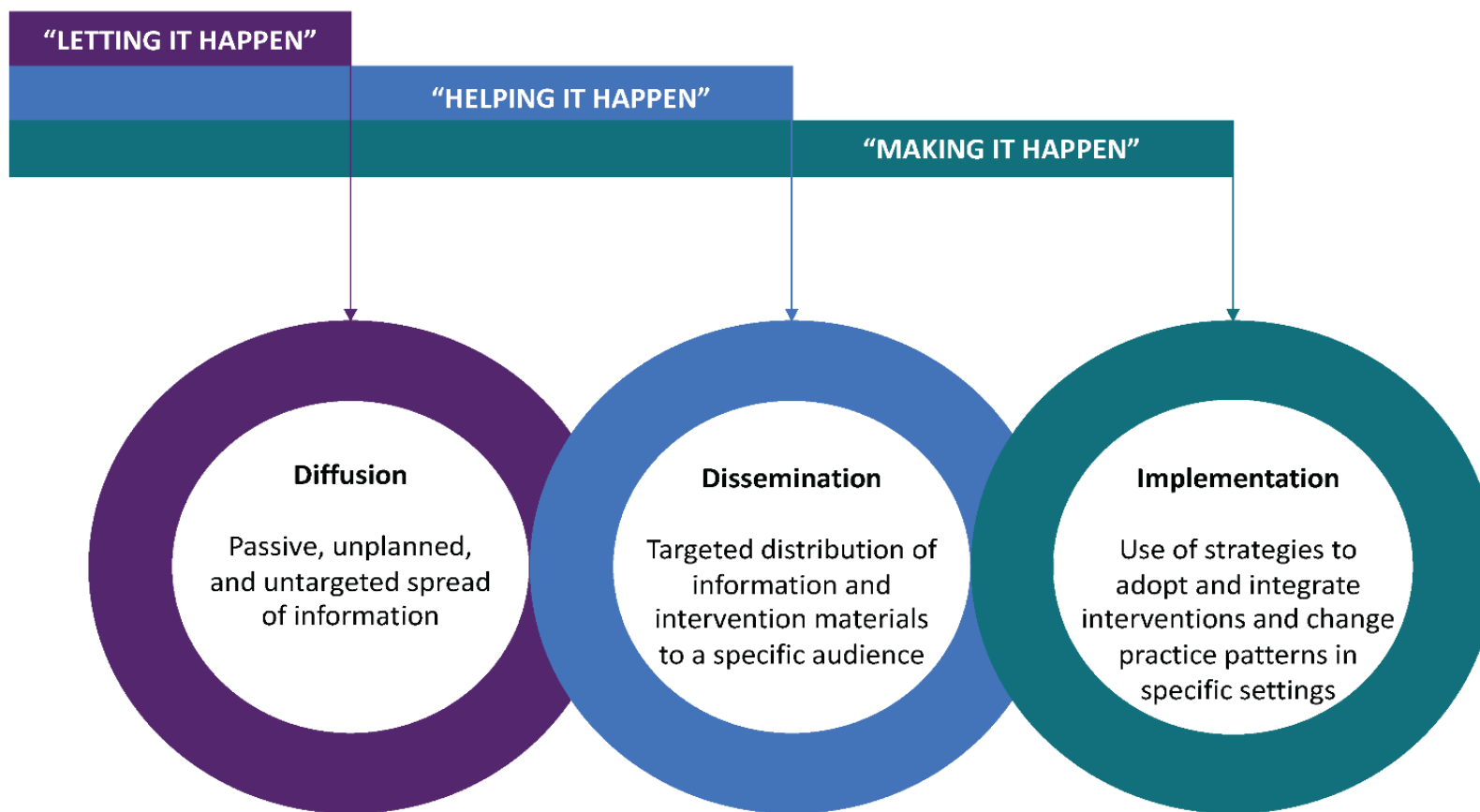


Implementation science is a field that studies how changes are successfully introduced and implemented within a system.

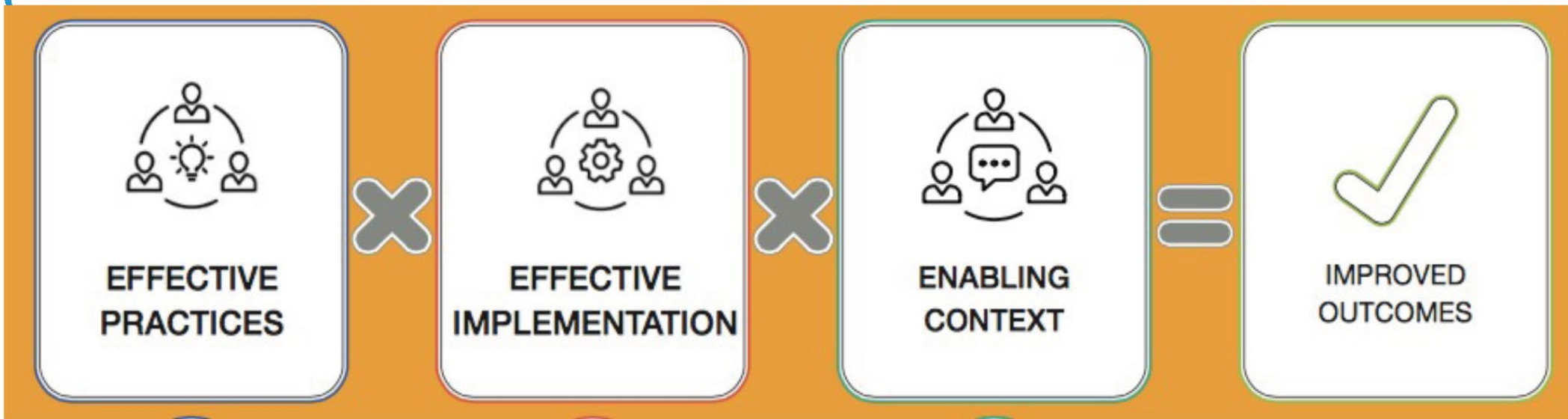
(adapted from Eccles & Mittman, 2006)

Implementation refers to the set of activities that are necessary for an innovation to produce desired outcomes.

# Active implementation support is crucial



Adapted from Greenhalgh et al. (2004)



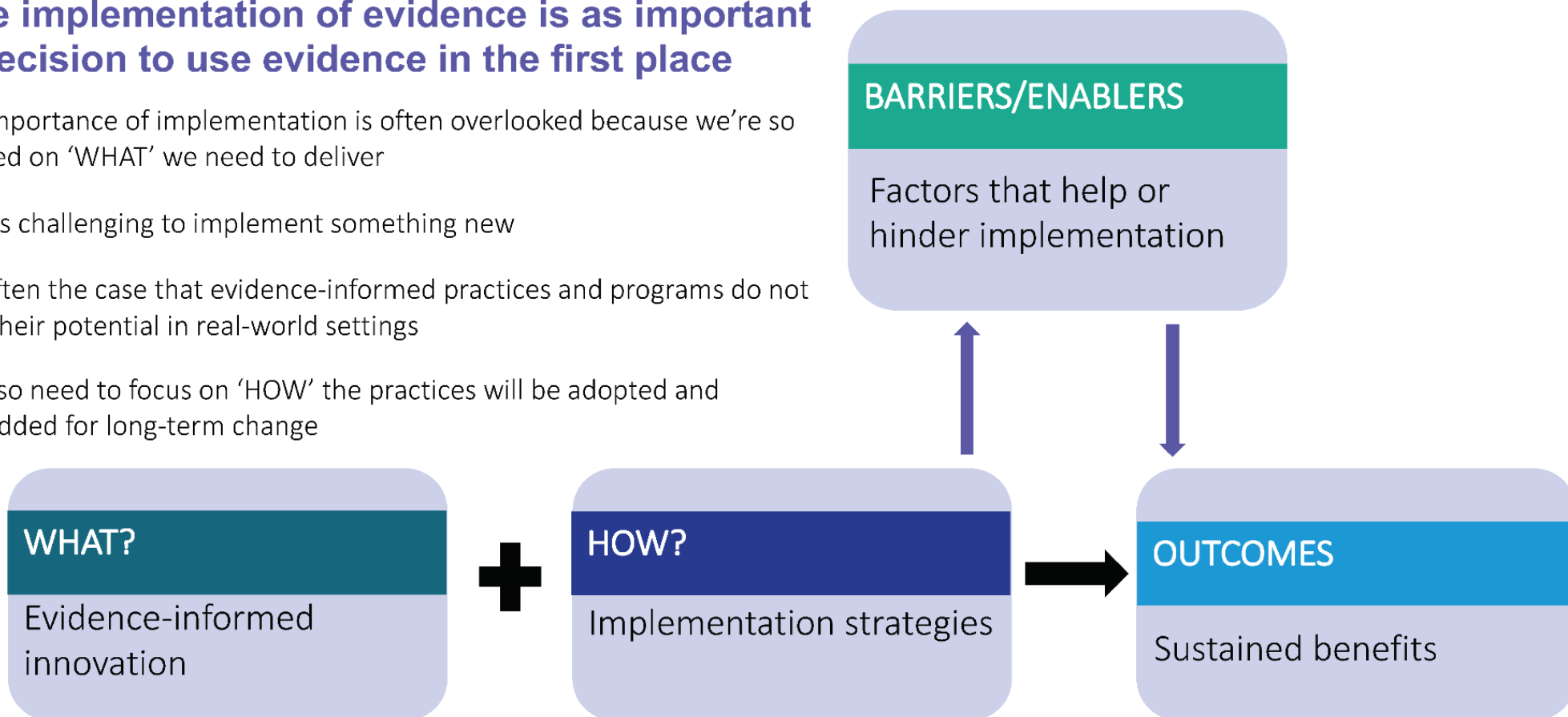
From Metz, Bartley & Maltry (2017), National Implementation Research Network



# If evidence-informed innovations are the 'what' then implementation is the 'how'

## Effective implementation of evidence is as important as the decision to use evidence in the first place

- The importance of implementation is often overlooked because we're so focused on 'WHAT' we need to deliver
- But it's challenging to implement something new
- It is often the case that evidence-informed practices and programs do not fulfil their potential in real-world settings
- We also need to focus on 'HOW' the practices will be adopted and embedded for long-term change



Shlonsky & Mildon (2014)



# Effectiveness of a nurse-led intensive home-visitation programme for first-time teenage mothers (Building Blocks): a pragmatic randomised controlled trial



*Michael Robling, Marie-Jet Bekkers, Kerry Bell, Christopher C Butler, Rebecca Cannings-John, Sue Channon, Belen Corbacho Martin, John W Gregory, Kerry Hood, Alison Kemp, Joyce Kenkre, Alan A Montgomery, Gwenllian Moody, Eleri Owen-Jones, Kate Pickett, Gerry Richardson, Zoë E S Roberts, Sarah Ronaldson, Julia Sanders, Eugena Stamuli, David Torgerson*

## Summary

*Lancet* 2016; 387: 146–55

Published **Online**

October 14, 2015

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)00392-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)00392-X)

See **Comment** page 105

For a complete list of

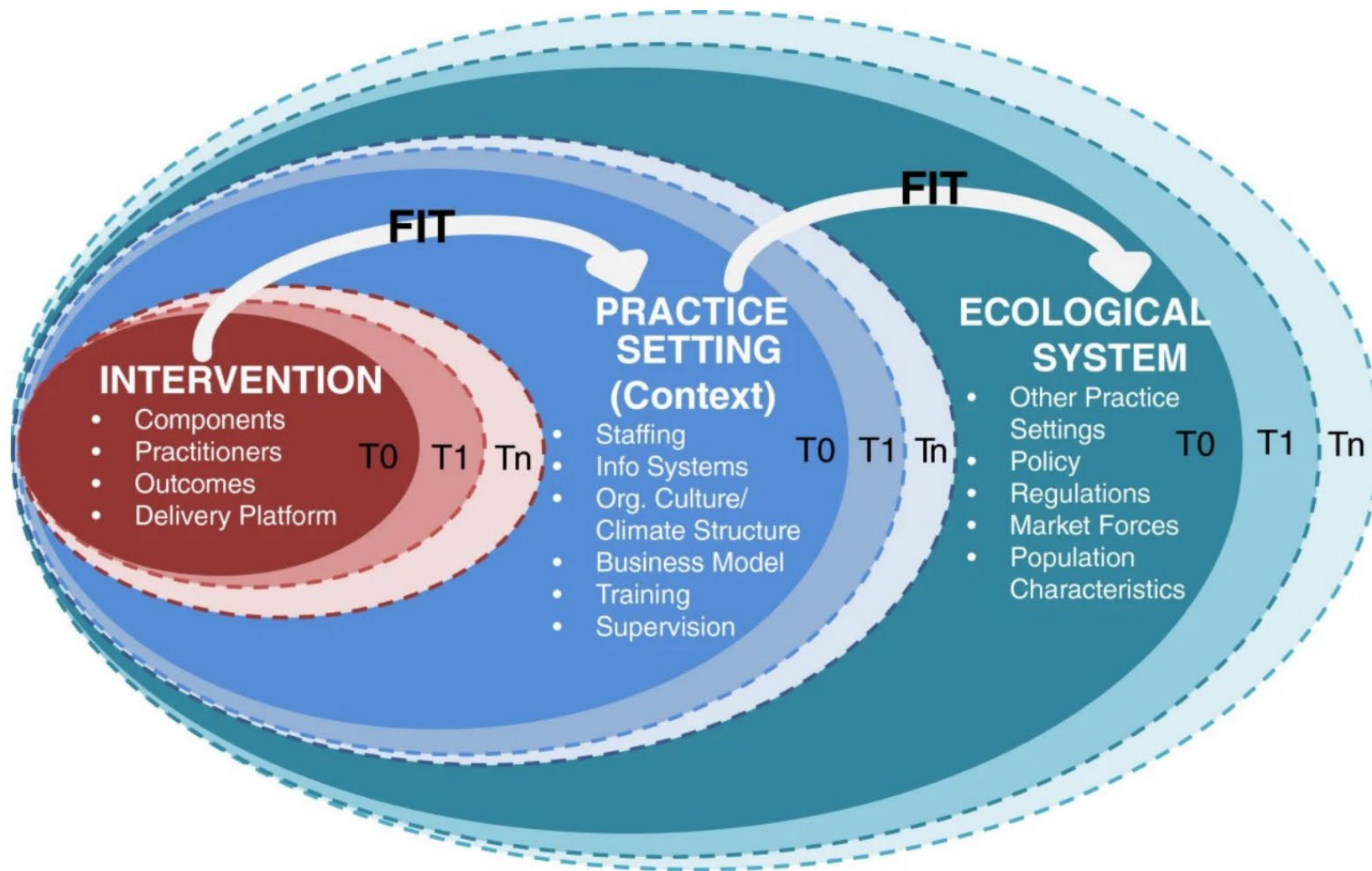
**Background** Many countries now offer support to teenage mothers to help them to achieve long-term socioeconomic stability and to give a successful start to their children. The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a licensed intensive home-visiting intervention developed in the USA and introduced into practice in England that involves up to 64 structured home visits from early pregnancy until the child's second birthday by specially recruited and trained family nurses. We aimed to assess the effectiveness of giving the programme to teenage first-time mothers on infant and maternal outcomes up to 24 months after birth.



# Effective implementation in policy and practice settings

- Effective implementation is a *process* of building and ensuring the resources and abilities of both people and organizations to support change and move the “WHAT” from new to ‘business as usual’
- For practitioners and policy makers to deliver the “WHAT” effectively, they need training and ongoing coaching to build competence and confidence. They need guidance and active support from supervisors, who need it from managers, who need it from leadership.
- The environment in which change happens needs to foster the conditions necessary to achieve effective implementation. So, paying attention to “HOW” means ensuring focused time, effort and procedures for eliminating barriers and improving pathways for change.
- It is about partnering with communities and systems to identify problems and strategies to address them.
- It is about using data to understand behaviour and system change by people and organisations for the benefit of all

# Effective implementation in policy and practice settings depend on context and systems to work



Source: The Dynamic Sustainability Framework, Chambers, Glasgow, Stange (2013); Illustrates the goal of maximizing the fit between interventions, practice settings, and the broader ecological system over time (represented by T0, T1,...,Tn), each of which has constituent components that may vary.



# Implementation strategies and measurement

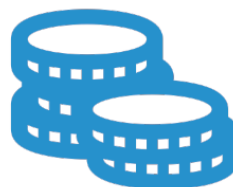
# Implementation strategies



Develop  
stakeholder  
relationships



Engage  
service  
users



Financial  
strategies



Change the  
infrastructure



Train and  
educate  
stakeholders



Adapt and  
tailor  
intervention



Evaluative  
and iterative  
strategies



Provide  
interactive  
assistance



Support  
practice staff

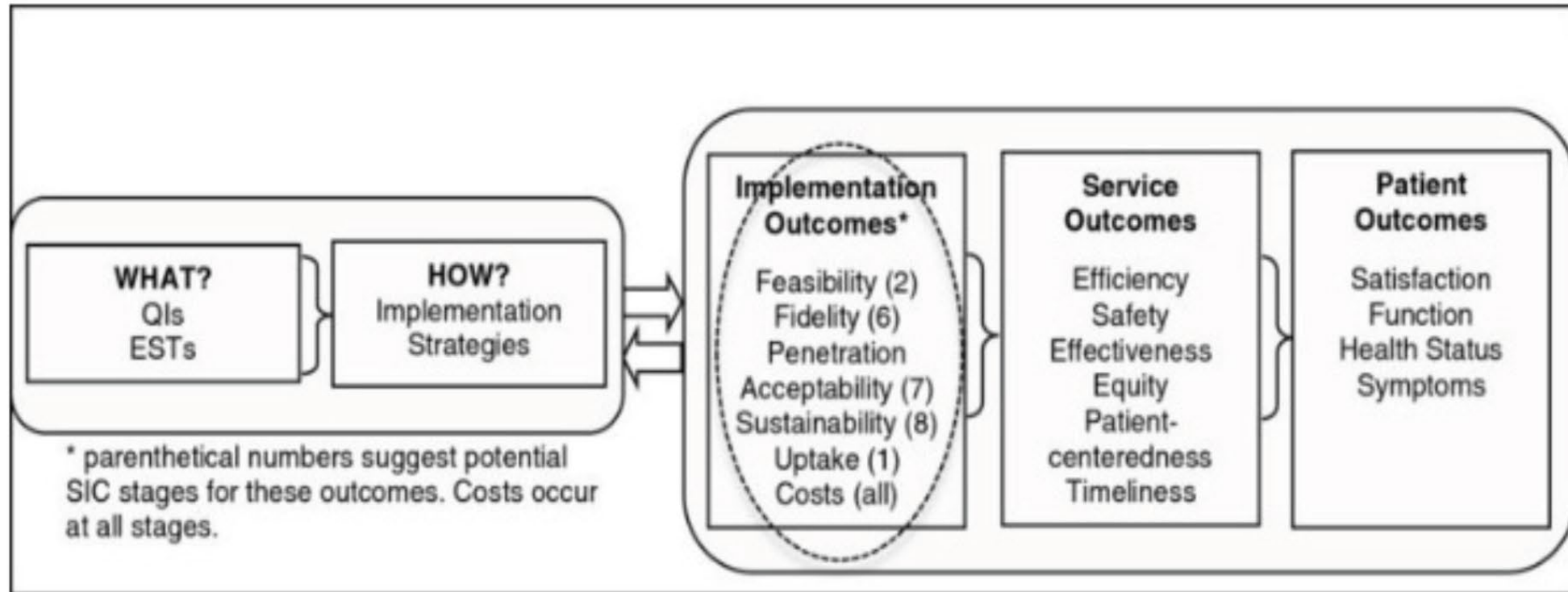
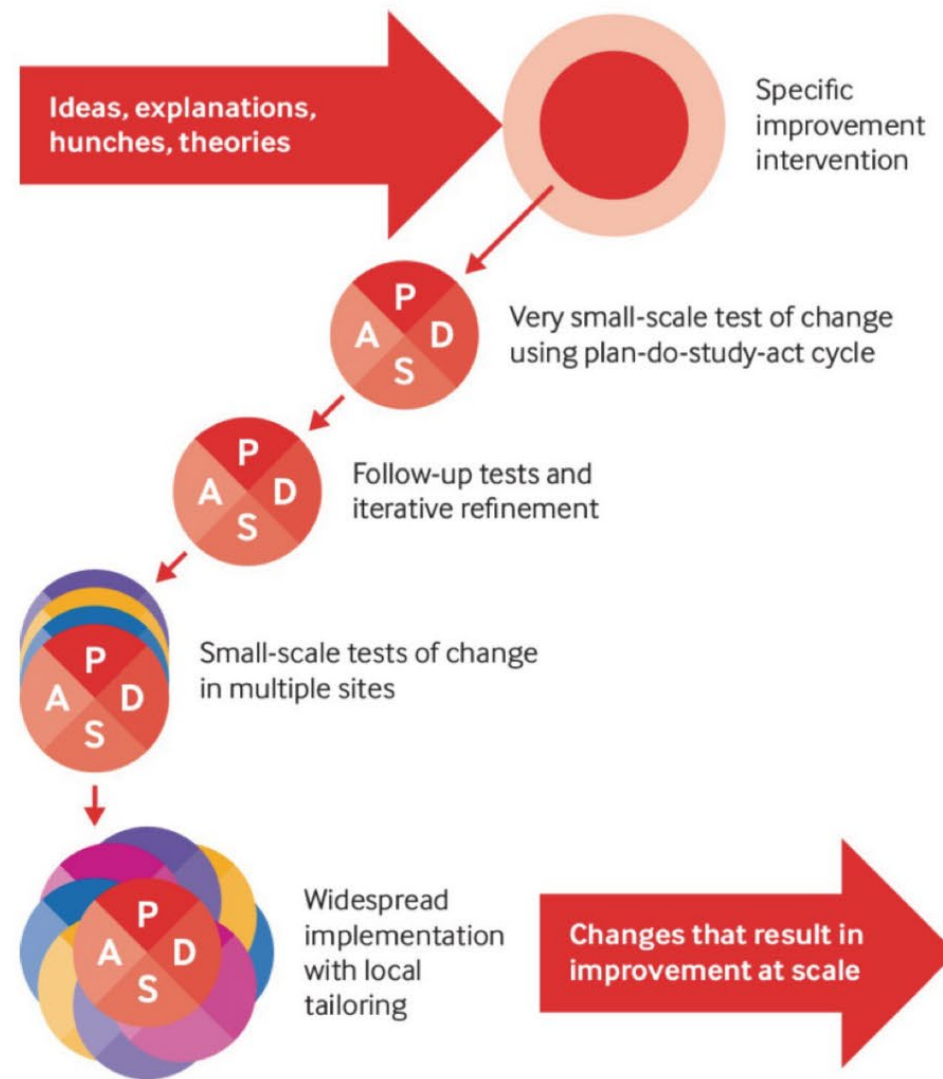


Figure 1

**Conceptual model for implementation research (adapted from Proctor et al.[3])** Circled area shows target of proposal.



Greenhalgh & Papoutsi (2019)



**Fig 1** Rapid cycle test of change model of spread used in implementation science. Drawing on insights and a previous diagram in a review by Barker<sup>3</sup>



# Case Studies



2009 — 2012

# Integrating responsive caregiving and nutrition content into home visits in Pakistan

## Context

- Pakistan had the third highest rate of newborn mortality globally
- Around 44% of children were stunted
- There was a shift in 2010 the political environment governing health
- Concurrently, severe floods affected 20 million people
- The country needed to find ways to drastically improve maternal, newborn and child health

## Evidence to policy and practice approach

- Pakistan had an existing Lady Health Workers (LHWs) network.
- The Pakistan Early Childhood Development Scale Up (PEDS) trial drew on evidence-backed interventions from UNICEF and WHO Care for Child Development on responsive stimulation and enhanced nutrition.
- These were integrated into routine home visits from LHWs.
- LHWs received additional, multi-day trainings for each intervention, together with a 1-day refresher every 6 months.
- They also received twice monthly supervision from ECD facilitators.

## Results and insights

- After about 1 year, LHWs had satisfactory level of competency
- They understood the linkages between health, nutrition, and development messages and were better able to leverage contact points with families to provide holistic advice
- Caregivers were more engaged and receptive
- Rather than dilute routine services, families and LHWs perceived an enhancement of services
- Supportive supervision and feedback loops were key ingredients that facilitated quality improvements
- Measuring skills of providers and their relationships with caregivers and young children can serve to understand implementation quality and effectiveness.



2015 — 2018

# Reducing violence in early childhood classrooms through a common elements approach in Jamaica

## Context:

- Violence is a leading public health problem in Jamaica, and corporal punishment is widely used in schools despite it being banned
- There is nearly universal enrolment of children 3-6 years in Jamaican pre-schools
- To provide a safe, secure, and nurturing early childhood learning environment, educators need training in classroom behavior management and how to promote child social–emotional competence

## Evidence to practice approach

- The IRIE Classroom Toolbox is a teacher-training program that is implemented over one school year, incorporating training workshops, monthly in-class support, and practical assignments with feedback
- It was developed using guidance from the U.K. Medical Research Council and using a common elements approach
- It was developed with close participation of Jamaican preschool teachers and incorporates their preferred behavior management strategies and training methodologies
- Was designed to be feasible in low-resource contexts

## Results and insights

- Teachers' use of violence was reduced as teachers use alternative strategies to manage child behavior
- Child behavior improved, and teachers had increased well-being
- Notably, incorporating teachers' preferences into the intervention increased its acceptability and effectiveness
- A process of integrating qualitative data with evidence-based theory and practice is appropriate to develop, adapt, and refine ECD interventions in LMICs



2014 — 2016

# Adapting the Jamaican home visiting program to the Brazilian context

## Context:

- There is good evidence that practices to improve parents' skills in responsive caregiving and helping children learn lead to gains in child development.
- But most evidence and literature focused on adapting programs developed in high-income countries for different ethnic groups.
- The research team wanted to develop and assess the effectiveness of an parent-training program, implemented at scale in LMICs. Brazil was one country with interest from both government and NGOs to work together in its implementation,

## Evidence to policy and practice approach Result and insights

- The Jamaica home visiting program (Reach Up) was shown to be effective in replications in Bangladesh and Columbia.
- The Reach Up training package contains a planning and adaptation manual, a curriculum for children 6–48 months old, a toy manual, a training manual with demo videos, and guidelines for supervisors.
- Existing community health agents (CHAs) and new child development agents (CDAs) were trained over 10 days, with subsequent refreshers.
- Home visitors experienced increased confidence and respect from the community
- There was increased parental engagement.
- The implementation team highlighted the importance of assistance and involvement of the relevant government agencies.
- Staff turnover was a challenge, and there were additional needs to be addressed within supervisor training, balancing of workloads and the integration with existing services.
- Adaptability of the Reach Up program is a strength and could facilitate use in other countries.





2022 — 2024

# Improving parenting from within the public health system in Thailand

## Context:

- Since 2017, the University of Oxford, UNICEF, and MOPH have worked in partnership to adapt, test, and implement PLH Young Children in Thailand.
- A previous study (N=120) demonstrated effectiveness in reducing child maltreatment by 58%, parent mental health problems by 40%, and child behaviour problems by 60% compared to a control of services-as-usual at three-months follow-up.
- Given these results, the partners have initiated a second phase of implementation.

## Evidence to policy and practice approach

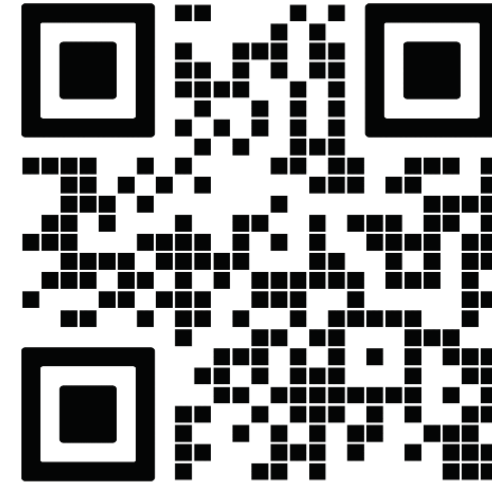
- Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) is a low-cost parenting program aiming to reduce violence against children and improve child wellbeing in low- and middle-income countries. It has an in-person training component for caregivers, to encourage stimulation and responsive caregiving, and a digital component to ensure sustained engagement and access to evidence-based practices.
- The second phase of implementation includes the training of new cohorts of facilitators, coaches, and trainers; integrating programme delivery, monitoring, and evaluation into the government health services database system; promoting digital parenting delivery; and engaging in policy advocacy



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9–11 October

Melbourne, Australia & Online



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# Thank you for your time

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# End of Main Session

*Next session is by-invitation only*



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4.50 – 5.40 PM

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# Country Breakout Sessions:

## *China, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore*

45 mins for discussion

[asiaphilanthropycircle.org](http://asiaphilanthropycircle.org)





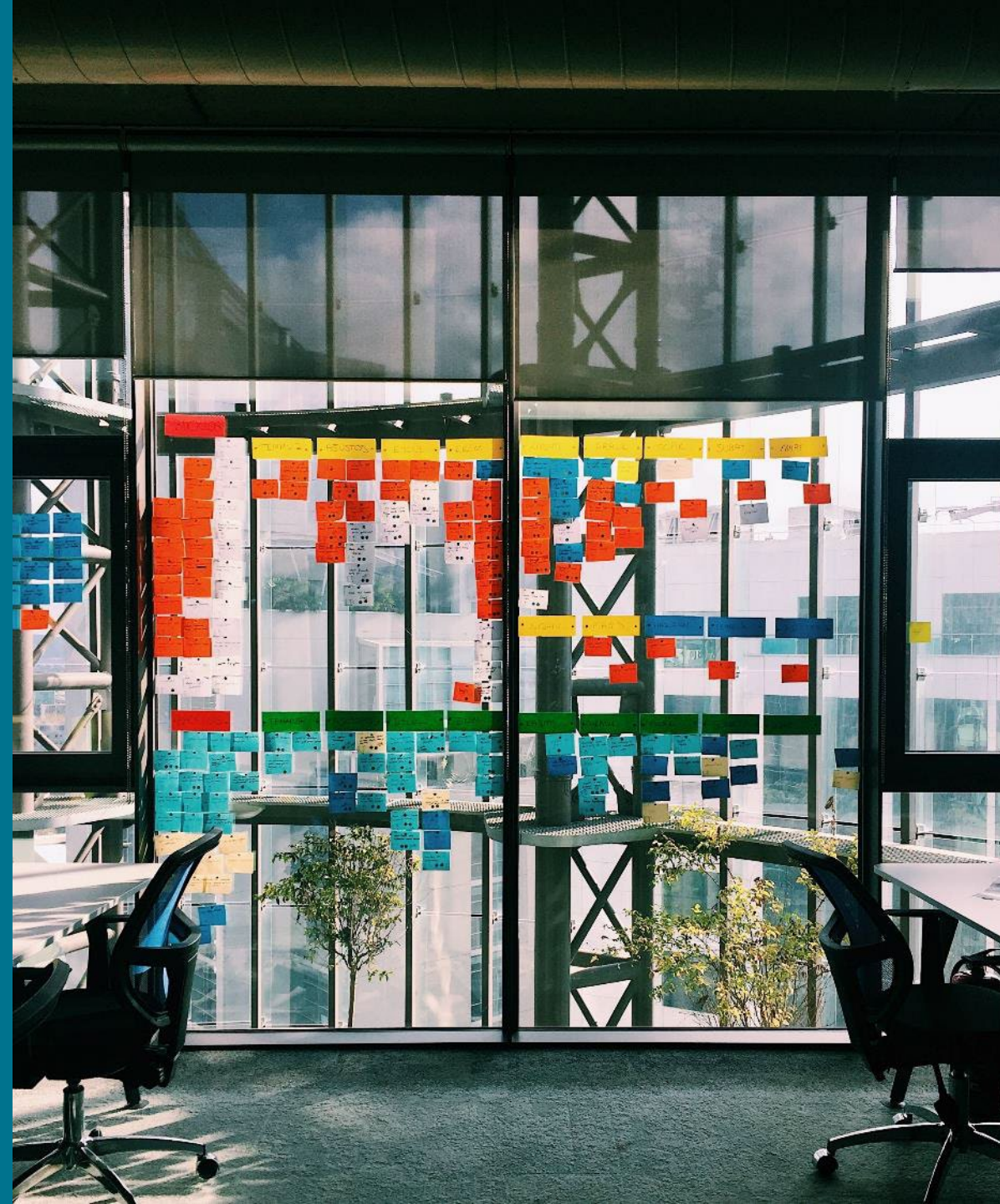


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