

The G20 Research Group  
at Trinity College at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy  
in the University of Toronto  
presents the

## **2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Final Compliance Report**

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“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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## Contents

Contents.....	2
Preface.....	3
Toronto Research Team .....	4
CIIR G20 Research Team .....	5
Introduction and Summary.....	6
Commitment Breakdown.....	7
Selection of Commitments .....	7
Final Compliance Scores.....	7
Final Compliance by Member .....	7
Final Compliance by Commitment .....	7
Table 1: 2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring .....	8
Table 2: 2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Final Compliance Scores .....	10
Table 4: 2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Final Compliance by Member .....	11
Table 5: 2018 G20 Buenos Aires Summit Final Compliance by Commitment .....	12
Table 6: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2017 .....	13
Conclusions.....	14
Future Research and Reports .....	14
Considerations and Limitations .....	14
Appendix: General Considerations .....	15
1. Climate Change: Disaster Resilience.....	16
2. Development: Early Childhood Development .....	47
3. Digital Economy: Data Governance .....	74
4. Employment: Skills Development .....	104
5. Energy: Cleaner, Flexible and Transparent Systems .....	146
6. Financial Regulation: Tax Administration .....	208
7. Food Security: Malnutrition .....	240
8. Gender: Economic Empowerment.....	302
9. Reform of the International Financial Institutions: International Monetary Fund.....	358
10. Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth.....	379
11. Climate Change: Paris Agreement.....	430
12. Digital Economy: Digital Infrastructure .....	461
13. Employment: Future of Work.....	490
14. Energy: Energy Security.....	513
15. Financial Regulation: Technology .....	541
16. Financial Regulation: International Taxation .....	567
17. Food and Agriculture: Sustainable Agriculture .....	584
18. Health: Universal Health Coverage.....	616
19. Infrastructure: Infrastructure Investment.....	651
20. Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization .....	672

## 2. Development: Early Childhood Development

“We launch the G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development and stand ready to join all stakeholders in enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs that consider the multidimensional approach of ECD, as means of building human capital to break the cycle of intergenerational and structural poverty, and of reducing inequalities, specially where young children are most vulnerable.”

*Buenos Aires Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.45	

### Background

Early Childhood Development (ECD) as a field of policy and development has emerged through a multitude of international partnerships and frameworks, beginning with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. On 20 November 1989, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the “importance of international co-operation for improving the living conditions of children in every country, in particular in the developing countries.”<sup>196</sup>

ECD has increasingly become incorporated in various global development agendas. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were developed on 20-22 June 2012 at the Rio 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Here the UN General Assembly “acknowledge[d] the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to achieve sustainable development

<sup>196</sup> Convention on the Rights of the Child, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (New York) 20 November 1989. Access Date: 12 January 2019.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>.

in all its dimensions.”<sup>197</sup> The SDGs contain many targets that specifically address ECD, such as SDG 4.2 which aims to ensure that by 2030, “all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.”<sup>198</sup> The G20 has recognized the “indisputable linkages between early childhood and sustainable development, and how ECD can contribute to the overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.”<sup>199</sup>

On 13-16 July 2015, the UN agreed to the Addis Ababa Action Agreement, which lays out the steps for the international community to fund a sustainable development agenda. The Agreement recognized that “investing in children and youth is critical to achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for present and future generations” and “the need to support countries that face particular challenges to make the requisite investments in this area.”<sup>200</sup>

On 15-16 November 2015, at the Antalya Summit, the G20 committed to “aligning its work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure that no one is left behind in our efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable development and build an inclusive and sustainable future for all.”<sup>201</sup> The G20 also reiterated its commitment to work on “human resources development both at home and abroad to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant technical and vocational skills for employment.”<sup>202</sup>

On 21-26 May 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the World Bank Group (WBG), launched the Nurturing Care Framework at the 71st World Health Assembly. The framework lays out why investing in early childhood development as it is “one of the best investments a country can make to boost economic growth, promote peaceful and sustainable societies, and eliminate extreme poverty and inequality” and it “is necessary to uphold the right of every child to survive and thrive.”<sup>203</sup>

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 leaders recognized the importance of ECD and launched the G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development. This was the first time the G20 took specific action to focus on supporting children at the earliest stage of their lives. The ECD focused on how the roles of parents, caregivers, families, play, early stimulation, responsive care, and health and nutrition shape a child’s development. In addition, the G20 also recognized that “ECD is a powerful equalizer that can help narrow the wide gaps in outcomes and opportunities that exist between children from higher and lower socioeconomic backgrounds and also the gender gap between boys and girls, consistently with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.”<sup>204</sup> They also emphasized the need to

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<sup>197</sup> Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Development Programme (New York). Access date: 12 January 2019. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>.

<sup>198</sup> Sustainable Development Goal 4, United Nations (New York) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg4>.

<sup>199</sup> G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

<sup>200</sup> Addis Ababa Action Agenda, United Nations (New York) 13-16 July 2015. Access Date 13 January 2019. [https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf).

<sup>201</sup> G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 21 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/g20-action-plan-on-2030-agenda.pdf>.

<sup>202</sup> G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 21 January 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/g20-action-plan-on-2030-agenda.pdf>.

<sup>203</sup> Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2018. Access Date: 13 January 2019. <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272604/WHO-FWC-MCA-18.02-eng.pdf?ua=1>.

<sup>204</sup> G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs that take a multidimensional approach to ECD.

### **Commitment Features**

At Buenos Aires the G20 committed to launching “the G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development” and to “stand ready to join all stakeholders in enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs that consider the multidimensional approach of ECD, as means of building human capital to break the cycle of intergenerational and structural poverty, and of reducing inequalities, specially where young children are most vulnerable.”

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), “early child development (ECD) encompasses physical, socio emotional, cognitive and motor development between 0-8 years of age.”<sup>205</sup>

At the core of this commitment is the recognition that ECD “brings clear benefits both to the individual and society, reducing health and economic problems that children can carry throughout their entire lives. It paves the way for intervening at the most critical stage of human development in order to break the vicious cycle of intergenerational and structural poverty, societal disparities and inequality of opportunities, ensuring that no child, anywhere, is left behind.”<sup>206</sup> Thereby, only through strengthening “quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs” can G20 members: 1) build human capital, and 2) reduce inequalities, amongst young children.

For this commitment, the multidimensional approach of ECD incorporates “health, food security and quality nutrition, responsive caregiving, physical and emotional security and safety, and early learning and stimulation.” All of these dimensions interact in a manner that is “mutually reinforcing.”<sup>207</sup> Thus, there are five dimensions of Early Childhood Development members must consider:

1. Access to quality primary, preventive and curative healthcare. In practical terms, this refers to “reinforcing social protection and providing access to universal health coverage for all children and women, especially during pregnancy, child-birth and breastfeeding, consistent with national contexts.”<sup>208</sup>
2. Encouraging good nutrition early in a child’s life and working towards the collective goals of ending hunger and achieving food security.
3. Promoting “secure and safe environments “free of condemnation, hostility, exploitation, abuse, neglect, conflict and stress.” This refers to taking actions for preventing “child maltreatment and gender-based violence and discrimination, including the elimination of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage; the promotion of birth registration for every child; the provision of adequate housing and basic services such as safe water,

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<sup>205</sup> Early child development, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 May 2019.  
<https://www.who.int/topics/early-child-development/en/>.

<sup>206</sup> G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.  
[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

<sup>207</sup> G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.  
[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

<sup>208</sup> G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.  
[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

sanitation and hygiene; and efforts to provide environments free of violence, conflict, war, natural and man-made hazards, and pollution.”<sup>209</sup>

4. Underscoring the need for responsive care through “providing community and centre-based organized play-based early programs that complement the parents’ role.”<sup>210</sup>
5. The necessity of early learning and stimulation play during early childhood. This refers to programs that provide “effective stimulation, including the enhancement of parents’ and caregivers’ capabilities to promote development and learning, are a way of preparing children to benefit from all forms and levels of education.”<sup>211</sup>

In the context of the commitment, G20 members are ready to “join all stakeholders in enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs that consider the multidimensional approach of ECD.” Thereby encouraging these various quality and sustainability financed programs requires three forms of action.

The first involves financing and investing in Early Childhood Development programs through “effective, equitable and sustainably financed ECD interventions.” This specifically refers to “increasing resources to quality programs that consider the holistic approach of ECD, comprising interventions in health, food security and nutrition, gender equality and women’s empowerment, responsive caregiving, security and safety, early learning and stimulation, and social protection,” especially amongst those in vulnerable situations, poor households and the informal economy. This can be accomplished through financing by International Organizations, Multilateral Development Banks, financial institutions, and private public-partnerships.<sup>212</sup>

The second form of action involves data monitoring, and evaluation of Early Childhood Development programs. This refers to “monitoring and evaluating the results and impact of ECD investments,” effective research and evidence, aimed to better inform and target policy decisions and program improvements, and addressing the data gap in ECD programs through data collection. Actions can include capturing ECD outcomes in population-based surveys and strengthening “systems that can monitor ongoing child development interventions globally, such as the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF)’s Early Childhood Development Index and the inter-agency Measuring Early Learning and Quality and Outcomes (MELQO).”<sup>213</sup>

Another form of action involves engaging in international cooperation and/or knowledge sharing. This aims to improve “the quality and accessibility of multi-sector ECD programs, particularly in supporting low-income and developing countries.” Furthermore, members can coordinate with various International Organizations, Multilateral Development Banks, and financial institutions to

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209 G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

210 G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

211 G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

212 G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

213 G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

promote opportunities for collaboration. This specifically includes collaborating with the ECD Action Network (ECDAN), in order to promote knowledge exchange and learning across countries.<sup>214</sup>

Thus, in order to receive full compliance, members must enhance quality and sustainably financed ECD programs by taking all three of the aforementioned actions. Partial compliance occurs when a member takes either one or two of the aforementioned actions, while negative compliance occurs when a member fails to take any action.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not take action to enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through any of the following: 1) financing and investing; 2) data, monitoring, and evaluation; 3) international cooperation and knowledge sharing
0	G20 member takes action to enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through one or two of the following: 1) financing and investing; 2) data, monitoring, and evaluation; 3) international cooperation and knowledge sharing
+1	G20 member takes action to enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through all three of the following: 1) financing and investing; 2) data, monitoring, and evaluation; 3) international cooperation and knowledge sharing

*Compliance Director: David Manocchio  
Lead Analyst: Emily Chu*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

Between 3-7 December 2018, coordinators from the Primera Infancia (“Early Childhood”) Program met with their counterparts in Brazil to foster knowledge sharing and train state-level multipliers from the Argentine program.<sup>215</sup> The program, called “Strengthening of actions for the promotion of Child Development,” focused on training, planning visits between the two groups, continuing education and intersectoral coordination.<sup>216</sup>

On 26 December 2018, Minister of Health and Social Development Carolina Stanley launched the “Plan de Igualdad de Oportunidades y Derechos” (“Plan for Equality of Opportunities and Rights”). The Plan presents the federal law bill “Equidad de Genero” (Gender Equality) which guarantees maternity leave for part-time workers and increasing the flexibility of maternity/paternity leave within four years of the child’s birth. The Plan also structures a national gendered in-depth data evaluation project.<sup>217</sup>

On 2 March 2019, Minister of Health and Social Development Carolina Stanley ratified a 46 per cent increase in the Asignaciones Universales por Hijo, a conditional cash-transfer program for low-

<sup>214</sup> G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development Building human capital to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 2018. Access Date: 11 January 2019.

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_initiative\\_for\\_early\\_childhood\\_development.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_initiative_for_early_childhood_development.pdf).

<sup>215</sup> Third mission of First Childhood Development Program representatives in Brazil, Gobierno Argentino (Buenos Aires) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/tercera-mision-de-referentes-del-programa-primera-infancia-brasil>.

<sup>216</sup> Tercera misión de referentes del programa Primera Infancia a Brasil, Argentina.gob.ar (Buenos Aires) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 4 May 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/tercera-mision-de-referentes-del-programa-primera-infancia-brasil>.

<sup>217</sup> Equality of Opportunities and Rights Plan, Gobierno Argentino (Buenos Aires) 26 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/plan-de-igualdad-de-oportunidades-y-derechos>.

income parents. The increase from ARS1800 to ARS2644 per month aims to reduce the impact of inflation on early childhood development.<sup>218</sup>

In 2019, the Federal Treasury Ministry increased its financial support to the Primera Infancia Program by ARS46.7 million, representing a 56.7 per cent increase compared to the previous year.<sup>219</sup>

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment towards improving early childhood development. Argentina has invested in regional cooperation with Brazil, significantly increased financial support for the scaling of its early childhood development program and plans to evaluate labour laws to facilitate early child upbringing.

Thus, Argentina has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Leonardo Consenza*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 7 December 2018, the Australian government announced that it is providing AUD44.5 million to increase the Child Care Subsidy for families using In-Home Care. Additionally, the number of In-Home Care places will increase from 200 to 3,200.<sup>220</sup> Beginning 1 January 2019, the family hourly rate cap will increase from AUD25.48 to AUD32 per hour, and the Additional Child Care Subsidy rate will increase from AUD30.58 to AUD38.40. The increased rate cap will help eligible families access affordable In-Home Care and support providers.<sup>221</sup>

On 10 December 2018, the Australian government announced that it is increasing its funding contribution to state schools to 20 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) by 2023. Additionally, the Australian government is providing AUD309.6 billion in recurrent funding to all Australian schools over the period of 2018 to 2029.<sup>222</sup>

On 1 January 2019, the Australian government announced it would provide AUD440 million to states and territories for preschool in 2019 under the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.<sup>223</sup>

On 8 February 2019, Minister for Education Dan Tehan announced funding exceeding AUD2.5 million for 16 childcare providers. Through the government's Community Child Care Fund, more

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<sup>218</sup> The answer given by Carolina Stanley when asked about poverty in Argentina, El Intransigente (Buenos Aires) 2 March 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.elintransigente.com/politica/2019/3/2/la-respuesta-que-dio-carolina-stanley-al-ser-consultada-sobre-la-pobreza-en-argentina-545430.html>.

<sup>219</sup> Macri: "I am committed to create centers of Early Childhood and CONIN Centers all over the country", Chequeado (Mexico City) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://chequeado.com/ultimas-noticias/macri-me-estoy-comprometiendo-a-crear-centros-de-primera-infancia-y-centros-conin-por-todo-el-pais-2018/>.

<sup>220</sup> Helping more families access In-Home Care, Ministers for the Department of Education and Training (Canberra) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://ministers.education.gov.au/tehan/helping-more-families-access-home-care>.

<sup>221</sup> Helping more families access In-Home Care, Ministers for the Department of Education and Training (Canberra) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://ministers.education.gov.au/tehan/helping-more-families-access-home-care>.

<sup>222</sup> Beyond Year 12 Conference – Towards better Student outcomes, Ministers for the Department of Education and Training (Canberra) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://ministers.education.gov.au/tehan/beyond-year-12-conference-towards-better-student-outcomes>.

<sup>223</sup> Improving preschool attendance, Ministers for the Department of Education and Training (Canberra) 1 January 2019. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <https://ministers.education.gov.au/tehan/improving-preschool-attendance>.



than 700 childcare services will split AUD110 million to improve sustainability, increase childcare participation, and create more childcare spaces.<sup>224</sup>

On 16 February 2019, Minister for Education Dan Tehan launched an AUD4 million information portal to support disability education. The portal improves access for education professionals seeking advice and guidance on how to provide students with disabilities the opportunities to succeed.<sup>225</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade opened applications for the New Colombo Plan Mobility Program.<sup>226</sup> The program provides funding to various universities in Australia with mobility scholarships, including funding for scholarships for the Early Childhood Education Japan Study Tour program with the University of New England.<sup>227</sup>

On 22 March 2019, Minister of Education Dan Tehan announced an investment of AUD8.3 billion in early childhood education and childcare in 2019. Additionally, the government published its 2018 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), which collected data covering language and cognitive skills, communications skills, general knowledge, physical health and wellbeing, social competence and emotional maturity of more than 300,000 children.<sup>228</sup>

On 2 April 2019, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg released the Federal Budget, which included an investment of AUD453 million until the end of 2020 to extend the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education.<sup>229</sup> However, the budget does not include the provision of services to improve the quality of early education or to address workforce challenges in the early childhood sector.<sup>230</sup>

On 11 April 2019, Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, and Minister of Education Dan Tehan announced an investment of AUD9.7 million to expand enrolment for Giant Steps Melbourne School, which provides a Prep to Year 12 specialist education for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.<sup>231</sup>

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<sup>224</sup> Support for remote and rural child care services, Ministers for the Department of Education and Training (Canberra) 8 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://ministers.education.gov.au/tehan/support-remote-and-rural-child-care-services>.

<sup>225</sup> Supporting students with disability, Minister for the Department of Education and Training (Canberra) 16 February 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://ministers.education.gov.au/tehan/supporting-students-disability>.

<sup>226</sup> The New Colombo Plan Mobility Program, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 5 May 2019. <https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/new-colombo-plan/mobility-program/Pages/mobility-program.aspx>.

<sup>227</sup> Japan — Early Childhood Short-term Study, University of New England (Armidale). Access Date: 4 May 2019. <https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-humanities-arts-social-sciences-and-education/school-of-education/short-term-international-study-opportunities/short-term-study-opportunity-in-japan>.

<sup>228</sup> Minister's Message on the Release of the 2018 AEDC Results (Canberra) 22 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.aedc.gov.au/about-the-aedc/aedc-news/article/2019/03/22/minister-s-message-on-the-release-of-the-2018-aedc-results>.

<sup>229</sup> Budget 2019-20, The Government of Australia (Canberra) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gov.au/2019-20/content/services.htm>.

<sup>230</sup> Budget Fails to Deliver for Early Childhood Education, Women's Agenda (Sydney) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://womensagenda.com.au/latest/budget-fails-to-deliver-for-early-childhood-education/>.

<sup>231</sup> Giant Leap for Giant Steps Melbourne School for Children with Autism, Government of Australia (Canberra) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://ministers.education.gov.au/mccormack/giant-leap-giant-steps-melbourne-school-children-autism>.

On 11 April 2019, the Government of Australia announced an investment of AUD300 billion in schools through the Quality Schools Package legislation designed to improve the quality of education for every child through 2020.<sup>232</sup>

Australia has invested in early childhood programs by creating online infrastructure and increasing funding to childcare programs and providers, facilitated data monitoring and evaluation, and has taken action internationally to promote ECD.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nammal Khan*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 3 December 2018, Minister of Social Development Alberto Beltrame presented at the sixth International Seminar of the magazine Pais&Filhos, Unibes Cultural in Sao Paulo, with the theme “Motherhood changes everything (still good!).” During the presentation, Beltrame emphasized the importance of the interactions between mother and child in early childhood. He addressed the Happy Child program coordinated by the Ministry of Social Development, which promotes early childhood care to help reduce social inequalities and generate more opportunities for the future.<sup>233</sup>

On 4 December 2018, the National Meeting of Happy Child was held in Brasília to celebrate more than nine million visits to beneficiary families that have been made throughout the country. About 200 managers, including state coordinators, program supervisors, as well as partners and consultants, met to assess service delivery and project expansion of actions.<sup>234</sup>

From 3-7 December 2018, Brazilian and Argentine technical teams participated in a program called “Strengthening of actions for the promotion of Child Development,” focusing on training, planning visits between the two groups, continuing education and intersectoral coordination.<sup>235</sup>

On 10 December 2018, during a lecture for professionals in the areas of health, education, social assistance and culture in the I Olga Kos Day - Inclusion of People with Disabilities in São Paulo, the Minister of Social Development Alberto Beltrame presented the Happy Child program which helps children with disabilities and receives the Continuous Benefit Programme (Benefício de Prestação Continuada, BPC).<sup>236</sup>

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<sup>232</sup> Quality Schools Package, Government of Australia (Canberra) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.education.gov.au/quality-schools-package>.

<sup>233</sup> Beltrame presents Happy Child at a seminar on child development, Ministry of Citizenship, Special Secretariat for Social Development (Sao Paulo) December 3 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <http://mds.gov.br/area-de-imprensa/noticias/2018/dezembro/beltrame-apresenta-crianca-feliz-em-seminario-sobre-desenvolvimento-infantil>.

<sup>234</sup> Happy Child celebrates more than 9 million home visits. Ministry of Citizenship, Special Secretariat for Social Development (Brasília) December 6 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <http://mds.gov.br/area-de-imprensa/noticias/2018/dezembro/crianca-feliz-comemora-mais-de-9-milhoes-de-visitas-domiciliares>.

<sup>235</sup> Tercera misión de referentes del programa Primera Infancia a Brasil, Argentina.gob.ar (Buenos Aires) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 4 May 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/tercera-mision-de-referentes-del-programa-primera-infancia-brasil>.

<sup>236</sup> Happy Child helps families overcome barriers imposed by disability, Ministry of Citizenship, Special Secretariat for Social Development (Sao Paulo) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <http://mds.gov.br/area-de-imprensa/noticias/2018/dezembro/crianca-feliz-ajuda-familias-a-superarem-barreiras-impostas-pela-deficiencia>.

Between 3-7 December 2018, coordinators from the Primera Infancia (“Early Childhood”) Program met with their counterparts in Brazil to foster knowledge sharing and train state-level multipliers from the Argentine program.<sup>237</sup>

On 7 February 2019, the National Council of Social Assistance (CNAS) approved the expansion of the Happy Child care for families enrolled in the federal government’s Single Registry for Social Programs, expanding access to more than 370,000 children who did not meet the previous criteria.<sup>238</sup>

On 8 February 2019, the Minister of Citizenship, Osmar Terra, made the statement that the 12<sup>th</sup> instalment of the Bolsa Família program will be guaranteed and its management improved. The income transfer program, which was created to contribute to the fight against poverty and social inequality in Brazil is among the priority goals of the federal government for this year.<sup>239</sup>

On 26 February 2019, the National Secretary for Human Development Promotion Ely Harasawa and Secretary for Articulation and Partnerships Eduardo Queiroz received members of the Joint Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood in Brasilia to discuss ways to integrate the Executive and the Legislative in joint actions to increase the federal budget for Early Childhood programs.<sup>240</sup>

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through increased international cooperation, monitoring and evaluation, and through financing and investing in new initiatives.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jamie Chen*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 2 December 2018, Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, announced a CAD50 million investment to Education Cannot Wait to improve children’s education in countries facing humanitarian crises and emergencies, including for girls in war zones, refugee camps and in emergency settings.<sup>241</sup>

On 18 December 2018, as part of Canada’s First Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, launched the call for

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<sup>237</sup> Third mission of First Childhood Development Program representatives in Brazil, Gobierno Argentino (Buenos Aires) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/tercera-mision-de-referentes-del-programa-primera-infancia-brasil>.

<sup>238</sup> Children and pregnant women from the Cadastro Único will be attended by the Happy Child (Brasilia) February 2019. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <http://mds.gov.br/area-de-imprensa/noticias/2019/fevereiro/criancas-e-gestantes-do-cadastro-unico-passam-a-ser-atendidas-pelo-crianca-feliz>.

<sup>239</sup> Bolsa Família will gain strength through actions of productive inclusion and child development, Ministry of Citizenship, Special Secretariat for Social Development (Brasília) 8 February 2019. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <http://mds.gov.br/area-de-imprensa/noticias/2019/fevereiro/bolsa-familia-ganhara-forca-com-aco-es-de-inclusao-productiva-e-desenvolvimento-infantil>.

<sup>240</sup> Citizenship and the Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood draw partnership work, Ministry of Citizenship, Special Secretariat for Social Development (Brasília) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <http://mds.gov.br/area-de-imprensa/noticias/2019/fevereiro/cidadania-e-frente-parlamentar-da-primeira-infancia-tracam-trabalho-em-parceria>.

<sup>241</sup> Government of Canada announces US\$38 million pledge for Education Cannot Wait, Reliefweb (New York) 2 December 2018. Access Date: 5 May 2019. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/government-canada-announces-us38-million-pledge-education-cannot-wait>.

applications for a National Advisory Council on Poverty. The council will aim in part to support children's well-being and ensure that poverty is addressed early in life.<sup>242</sup>

On 22 January 2019, Health Canada released a revised food guide encouraging Canadians to adopt healthy diets and lifestyle choices. The revised food guide emphasizes a plant-based diet, reducing sugar consumption, and limiting intake of processed foods. The food guide suggests that Canadian households increase the amount they cook at home and focus on teaching cooking skills to children.<sup>243</sup>

On 25 February 2019, Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, and the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality, delivered remarks at the Early Learning and Child Care Data and Research Conference. The Ministers highlighted a number of issues, including accomplishments made by the Government of Canada in early learning and child care and other supports for families, and the importance of addressing data gaps in this area moving forward.<sup>244</sup>

On 28 February 2019, The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Tourism, Official Languages and La Francophonie, has announced a CAD2.1 million federal grant for the creation of a childcare centre at the Université de Saint-Boniface.<sup>245</sup>

On 6 March 2019, Chandra Arya, Member of Parliament for Nepean, on behalf of the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, along with the President of the Métis National Council (MNC), Clément Chartier, and Métis Nation Minister of Social Development, David Chartrand, announced the signing of the first ever Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord. The Accord aims to create culturally relevant and supportive early learning and child care for Métis children and their families.<sup>246</sup>

On 19 March 2019, Finance Minister Bill Morneau tabled the 2019 federal budget, which contained a number of provisions aimed at enhancing the quality of services and programs for children. Firstly, the federal budget guarantees improved services for First Nations and Inuit children through Bill C-92. In partnership with the First Nations Inuit, and Metis Nations, Bill C-92 addresses the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the welfare system and supports the rights of

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<sup>242</sup> Minister of Families, Children and Social Development launches call for applications for the National Advisory Council on Poverty, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/minister-of-families-children-and-social-development-launches-call-for-applications-for-the-national-advisory-council-on-poverty.html>.

<sup>243</sup> Young, Leslie. Canada's new food guide emphasizes eating plants, drinking water and cooking at home, Global News (Toronto), 22 January 2019. Access Date: 24 February 2019. <https://globalnews.ca/news/4873598/new-canada-food-guide-2019/>

<sup>244</sup> Minister Duclos addresses data gaps in early learning and child care, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/02/minister-duclos-addresses-data-gaps-in-early-learning-and-child-care.html>.

<sup>245</sup> New Child Care Centre Coming to l'Université de Saint-Boniface, Time for Childcare (Ottawa) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 3 May 2019. <https://timeforchildcare.ca/2019/02/28/new-child-care-centre-coming-to-luniversite-de-saint-boniface/>.

<sup>246</sup> The Government of Canada and the Métis National Council sign historic Early Learning and Child Care Accord, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 March 2019. Access Date: 3 May 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/03/the-government-of-canada-and-the-metis-national-council-sign-historic-early-learning-and-child-care-accord.html>.

Indigenous Peoples over child welfare services to develop their own policies that maintain the safety of their families and communities.<sup>247</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the Canadian government announced its plan to invest CAD1.2 billion towards services for Indigenous children on the basis of Jordan's Principle as outlined in the federal budget.<sup>248</sup> Jordan's Principle guarantees that Indigenous children will receive the services they need and any arising payment disputes will be resolved after services are received. Additionally, the Canadian government proposed an investment in services for Inuit children of over CAD220 million over the course of five years, beginning in 2019 to improve the local capacity for delivering health and social services to Inuit children.<sup>249</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the Canadian government declared their commitment to negotiating the renewal of learning and childcare agreements with Canadian provinces and territories and seeking stronger performances and additional funding where necessary.<sup>250</sup> The government also announced that they would fund additional weeks of parental leave when both parents agree to share parental leave<sup>251</sup> and fund childcare spaces in parliament to accommodate Members of Parliament with young children.<sup>252</sup> In addition, the Government of Canada affirmed their support to eliminate childhood maltreatment,<sup>253</sup> combating the sexual exploitation of children online,<sup>254</sup> and reducing the number of women and children living in food-insecure households.<sup>255</sup> Finally, the 2019 federal budget further detailed its Healthy Eating Strategy, which comprises of the revised food guide, teaching cooking skills to children, and the introduction of restrictions on the marketing of unhealthy food to children.<sup>256</sup>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through engaging in international cooperation and knowledge sharing, and financing and investing in early childhood programs.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

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<sup>247</sup> Better Services for First Nations and Inuit Children, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html#Part-4-Better-Services-for-First-Nations-and-Inuit-Children>.

<sup>248</sup> Continuing Implementation of Jordan's Principle, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html#Continuing-Implementation-of-Jordans-Principle>.

<sup>249</sup> Supporting Inuit Children, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-03-en.html#Supporting-Inuit-Children>.

<sup>250</sup> Supporting Economic Participation and Prosperity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-05-en.html#supporting-economic-participation-and-prosperity>.

<sup>251</sup> Supporting Economic Participation and Prosperity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-05-en.html#supporting-economic-participation-and-prosperity>.

<sup>252</sup> Promoting Leadership and Democratic Participation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-05-en.html#promoting-leadership-and-democratic-participation>.

<sup>253</sup> Key Gender Indicators: Where We Stand, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-05-en.html#key-gender-results-indicators-where-we-stand>.

<sup>254</sup> Addressing Gender-Based Violence and Improving Access to Justice, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-05-en.html#addressing-gender-based-violence-and-improving-access-to-justice>.

<sup>255</sup> Key Gender Indicators: Where We Stand, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-05-en.html#key-gender-results-indicators-where-we-stand>.

<sup>256</sup> Introducing a Food Policy for Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-04-en.html#Introducing-a-Food-Policy-for-Canada>.

*Analyst: Alyssa Atef*

**China: 0**

China has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 29 November 2018, the State Council of the People's Republic of China announced their plan to increase the enrollment rate of kindergarten to 85 per cent by the year of 2020, which will largely decrease the tuition fee of kindergartens and increase socioeconomic diversity in schools.<sup>257</sup>

On 28 December 2018, the National Women's Federation of China introduced regulation on children's activity centers. The new regulations ordered children's activity centers to focus on fostering security, children's hobbies, and organizing sports activities.<sup>258</sup>

On 22 January 2019, State Council of the People's Republic of China published a notice on the governance of kindergartens in urban communities. The notice identified the need to have kindergartens in urban communities in order to expand the resources to improve the livelihoods of children. The government outlined the ways that they can achieve this through adequate urban planning, rebuilding and supporting kindergartens in communities, and assisting local administrative education departments, to name a few.<sup>259</sup>

On 1 April 2019, the Ministry of Education, State Administration for Market Regulation and National Health Commission introduced the new Food and Nutrition Regulation for all Chinese schools including kindergartens. This policy specifies that each kindergarten should present their menu, nutrition facts and information of food suppliers weekly to all parents.<sup>260</sup>

On 7 April 2019, the Anhui Federation of Trade Unions announced their plan to build baby care rooms and after class programs. The Federation will build 1,000 baby care rooms and opening after-class programs to look after children across the province by 2020. These baby care rooms and after class programs in different companies in order to provide a private space for women employers in different companies. To date, 700 baby care rooms have been built across the province.<sup>261</sup>

China has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through increased monitoring and evaluation and financing new initiatives. However, China has failed to engage in international cooperation and knowledge sharing.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ruiyang Hu*

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<sup>257</sup> State Council of the People's Republic of China Announced the Increase Number of Public Kindergartens, Xin Hua News Agency (Beijing) 29 November 2018. Access Date 18 April 2019. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2018-11/29/c\\_1123781720.html](http://www.xinhuanet.com/politics/2018-11/29/c_1123781720.html).

<sup>258</sup> The National Women's Federation of China Introduced the Regulation on Children's Activity Centers, The National Women's Federation of China (Beijing) 28 December 2018. Access Date 20 February 2019. [https://www.ccc.org.cn/art/2018/12/28/art\\_8\\_21578.html](https://www.ccc.org.cn/art/2018/12/28/art_8_21578.html).

<sup>259</sup> State Council of the People's Republic of China Published the Notice on Carrying Out the Work of Supporting Kindergartens in Urban Communities, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 January 2019. Access Date: 20 February 2019. [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2019-01/22/content\\_5360002.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2019-01/22/content_5360002.htm).

<sup>260</sup> The Ministry of Education, State Administration for Market Regulation and National Health Commission Announced the New Food and Nutrition Regulation to all Chinese Kindergartens, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 18 April 2019. [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-03/20/content\\_5375370.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-03/20/content_5375370.htm)

<sup>261</sup> The Anhui Federation of Trade Unions Built Baby Care Rooms and Open After Class Programs for Women Employers, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 07 March 2019. Access Date: 18 April 2019. [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-04/07/content\\_5380274.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-04/07/content_5380274.htm)

**France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 21 February 2019, parents, health professionals and advocacy groups met in Paris for the first time as part of a new committee under the French Ministry of Health to discuss high rates of congenital birth defects in three areas of France (Ain, Morbihan and Nantes).<sup>262</sup>

On 8 April 2019, the Global Partnership for Education announced USD176.6 million in new grants would allow them to carry out high-quality schooling for children in Benin, Burundi, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania and Uzbekistan. France was one of the main donors to the fund.<sup>263</sup>

On 10 April 2019, the French government introduced new tax breaks for childcare that provides up to EUR2,300. per family.<sup>264</sup>

France has partially complied with its commitment to enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs by succeeding in monitoring relevant data and engaging in international cooperation, thus satisfying two out of three key areas.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sophia Spiteri*

**Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 2 December 2018, the German government, with UNICEF, handed over 30 vehicles to the Afar and Somali Regional Health Bureaus for the provision of mobile health and nutrition services to children. This initiative aims to foster “healthy parents and healthy children.”<sup>265</sup>

On 14 December 2018, the German government approved the Good KiTa Act. With this act, the German government will invest a total of EUR5.5 billion by 2022 for the further development of quality in day-care centers and day care. Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Franziska Giffey, noted this will help “ensure that every child is supported from the beginning.”<sup>266</sup>

On 6 February 2019, the German government, through the KfQ Development Bank, pledged EUR50 million towards Lebanon’s Ministry of Education and Higher Education Reaching All

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<sup>262</sup> Parents search for answers over babies born without arms in France, France24 (Paris) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190221-france-baby-babies-born-arm-upper-limb-reduction-defect-remera-spf>.

<sup>263</sup> Global Partnership for Education scales up funding for children’s education, Global Partnership for Education (Washington) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 7 May 2019. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/news-and-media/news/global-partnership-education-scales-funding-childrens-education>.

<sup>264</sup> The French tax breaks you don’t want to miss out on, Local.fr (Stockholm) 10 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20190410/these-are-the-french-tax-breaks-you-need-to-know-about>.

<sup>265</sup> Germany and UNICEF hand over 30 vehicles to support mobile health and nutrition services for children in Afar and Somali regions, Africa News (Pointe-Noire) 2 December 2018. Access Date: 7 April 2019. <https://www.africanews.com/2019/02/12/germany-and-unicef-hand-over-30-vehicles-to-support-mobile-health-and-nutrition-services-for-children-in-afar-and-somali-regions/>

<sup>266</sup> Dr. Franziska Giffey to the Good KiTa law, The Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/mediathek/dr--franziska-giffey-zum-gute-kita-gesetz/131354>.

Children with Education plan. The funding, through UNICEF, covers costs to send 120,000 Lebanese and non-Lebanese girls and boys from 3-14 years old.<sup>267</sup>

On 21 February 2019, Caren Marks, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, welcomed a research project that aims to further develop child and youth welfare services in order to strengthen the child protection and to improve the support of families.<sup>268</sup> She also announced that the government is setting up an independent contact point at the Institute for Child and Youth Services, available in April, to hear about experiences in the child and youth welfare service.<sup>269</sup>

On 21 March 2019, the German government passed the “strong family law” which aims to protect families with small and middle-income more effectively against poverty and to secure the needs of children, through increasing the child supplement.<sup>270</sup>

On 4 April 2019, the German government officially submitted the Fifth and Sixth States Report of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the United Nations in Geneva. The report highlights German progress on promoting children’s right.<sup>271</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through financing and evaluating its early childhood programs, and engaging in international cooperation and knowledge sharing.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sophia Spiteri*

### **India: 0**

India has partially complied with its commitment to enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 12 December 2018, the Partners Forum 2018 with the theme on “Power of Partnership” to bring different constituencies together for cross-sectoral action for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health was held by the Indian government at VigyanBhawan in New Delhi. The forum was attended by Health Ministers from various countries, partner organizations, civil society organizations, academics, state representatives and youth representatives. The participants discussed issues

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<sup>267</sup> Germany contributes to the Lebanese Education Sector with an additional €50million through UNICEF, UNICEF Lebanon (Beirut) 6 February 2019. Access Date: 5 May 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/press-releases/germany-contributes-lebanese-education-sector-additional-50million-through-unicef>.

<sup>268</sup> Caren Marks for the further development of child and youth welfare, The Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/mediathek/caren-marks-zur-weiterentwicklung-der-kinder--und-jugendhilfe-/133934>.

<sup>269</sup> Caren Marks for the further development of child and youth welfare, The Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 21 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/mediathek/caren-marks-zur-weiterentwicklung-der-kinder--und-jugendhilfe-/133934>.

<sup>270</sup> Bundestag resolves "strong family law", The Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 21 March 2019. Access Date: 4 May 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/bundestag-beschliesst--starke-familien-gesetz-/134738>.

<sup>271</sup> Open lesson with Minister: Children need to know their rights, The Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 4 May 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/offene-schulstunde-mit-ministerin--kinder-muessen-ihre-rechte-kennen/135158>.



including multi-sectoral collaboration for early childhood development, adolescent health, child health in challenging contexts, humanitarian & fragile setting, quality, equity and dignity.<sup>272</sup>

On 21 December 2018, the Ministry of Women and Children Development decided to carry out a Pilot on Conditional Cash for children malnutrition in a small area of two districts, each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, following the direction of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges.<sup>273</sup>

On 1 February 2019, according to the Union Budget for 2019-2020, the total budget allocation to the Ministry of Women and Child Development increased by 20 per cent compared to the previous year, with focus on the protection and empowerment of women and children. The government continued to identify malnutrition as its critical focus. Furthermore, the budget of the programme component of the National Nutrition Mission has been increased by Rs.400 crores.<sup>274</sup>

On 25 April 2019, UNICEF reported that 2.9 million children in India missed out on the first dose of the measles vaccine between 2010 and 2017. In the first three months of 2019, reports of measles cases was up nearly 300 per cent worldwide from last year, posing an increased risk to children's health.<sup>275</sup>

India has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Jamie Chen*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 8 February 2019, the National Commission on Child Protection Chairman Arist Merdeka Sirait made a statement on the ten children rights that must be fulfilled by parents, including the right to education, food, health access and equality.<sup>276</sup>

On 19 February 2019, Indonesia along with the UN Environment (UNEP), UN Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Global Environment Facility, Conservation International and various other governments, launched a global program to address The Global Opportunities for Long-term Development "GOLD" in the Artisanal Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector. The programme aims to remove mercury from artisanal

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<sup>272</sup> Adolescent Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (New Delhi) 4 January 2018. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1558641>.

<sup>273</sup> Committee constituted to decide parameters and operational modalities for pilot study on Conditional Cash Transfer in lieu of THR, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/pmreleases.aspx?mincode=64>.

<sup>274</sup> Total Budget allocation for the WCD Ministry enhanced by Rs.4856 crores for the year 2019-20 showing an increase of 20%, Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi). 1 February 2019. Access Date: 26 February 2019. <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/pmreleases.aspx?mincode=64>.

<sup>275</sup> 2.9 million children in India miss first dose of measles vaccine: UNICEF, Times of India (New Delhi) April 25 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2019. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/2-9-million-children-in-india-miss-first-dose-of-measles-vaccine-unicef/articleshow/69050298.cms>.

<sup>276</sup> The 10 Children's Rights Parents Must Know, InfoPublik (Jakarta) February 8 2019. Access Date: 20 February 2019. <http://infopublik.id/kategori/public-welfare/326947/the-10-children-s-rights-parents-must-know>.

gold mining processes, which according to studies, puts miners and their communities at risk of brain damage; vision and hearing loss; and delayed childhood development.<sup>277</sup>

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through financing new initiatives, but has failed to increase international cooperation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Jamie Chen*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 29 December 2018, the Italian Parliament approved a revised budget for 2019.<sup>278</sup> As part of the budget were funds to strengthen nursery schools and extensions for paternity leave.<sup>279</sup>

On 22-23 January 2019, the Department for Family Policies took part in the periodic constructive dialogue in New York about the implementation of the New York Convention on rights of the child.<sup>280</sup>

On 8 April 2019, the Five Star Senator and President of the Senate's health committee, Pierpaolo Sileri, put forth a new amendment which abolishes the need to provide proof of vaccination for children to go to school, even in the case of a public health emergency. It is no longer mandatory for children between 0 to 6 to be excluded from kindergartens and day-care centres should they not provide proof of vaccination.<sup>281</sup>

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to supporting early childhood programs by sharing knowledge for implementing children's rights and improving their childhood development policies. However, Italy has failed to monitor or evaluate early childhood development programs.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sophia Spiteri*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

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<sup>277</sup> UN launches new programme for mercury-free mining, Mining Technology (New York) 19 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.mining-technology.com/mining-safety/un-programme-mercury-free-gold-mining>.

<sup>278</sup> Italy budget: Parliament passes budget after EU standoff, BBC (London) 29 December 2018. Access Date: 8 April 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46710472>.

<sup>279</sup> Manovra, Minister Fontana: "Satisfied, almost 3 billion for family and disability", Family Policy Department (Rome) 7 January 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2019. <http://www.politichefamiglia.it/it/notizie/notizie/notizie/manovra-ministro-fontana-soddisfatto-quasi-3-miliardi-per-famiglia-e-disabilita/>.

<sup>280</sup> 80th Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, Family Policy Department (Rome) 28 January 2019. Access Date: 8 April 2019. <http://www.politichefamiglia.it/it/notizie/notizie/notizie/80a-sessione-del-comitato-onu-sui-diritti-dell-infanzia-e-dell-adolescenza-a-ginevra/>.

<sup>281</sup> Italy's governing parties struggle to find path forward on vaccines, POLITICO (Brussels) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.politico.eu/article/italys-government-struggles-to-find-path-forward-on-vaccines-italy-5stars-matteo-salvini-league-public-health-children/>.

On 11 December 2018, Senior Adviser for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Keiko Osaki, shared information on JICA's experience with creating, developing, and providing maternal and child health handbooks, after the World Health Organization's (WHO) publicized guidelines on maternal and child health records.<sup>282</sup>

On 23 December 2018, JICA dispatched an Egyptian delegation to Japan to exchange experience on early childhood development with the aim to support increasing the understanding and application of the Japanese system in nurseries in Egypt.<sup>283</sup>

On 28 December 2018, the Japanese government approved a free preschool education program for all children aged between three and five, starting in October 2019. Along with this program, the Japanese government will make daycare services free of charge for children from low-income families up to the age of two. The Japanese government also planned to set a monthly subsidy cap at JPY25,700 for various private kindergartens.<sup>284</sup>

On 6 February 2019, the JICA Egypt office hosted the third seminar on universal health coverage with participants including officials from Egypt's ministries of health and finance, World Bank and the WHO.<sup>285</sup>

On 12 February 2019, the Japanese Embassy in Phnom Penh granted USD529,068 to the Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA), for efforts to improve early childhood education in the Battambang Province, Cambodia.<sup>286</sup>

On 4 March 2019, the Japanese government donated USD3.4 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for lifesaving health and food assistance to vulnerable children in Iraq.<sup>287</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the Japanese government approved a plan for April 2020 to amend child abuse prevention legislations by including physical punishments.<sup>288</sup>

On 21 March 2019, the Japanese government donated USD2.6 million to UNICEF's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene activities in Lebanon. The funding is for efforts to increase access to safe drinking water and improve child health, survival, sanitation and environmental conditions.<sup>289</sup>

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<sup>282</sup> JICA Senior Adviser Keiko Osaki on WHO's Publication of Guidelines on Home-Based Maternal and Child Health Records, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 22 February 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181211\\_01.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2018/181211_01.html).

<sup>283</sup> JICA dispatches Egyptian delegation to Japan to exchange experience on early childhood development, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 23 December 2018. Access Date: 9 March 2019. <https://dailynewssegyp.com/2018/12/23/jica-dispatches-egyptian-delegation-to-japan-to-exchange-experience-on-early-childhood-development/>.

<sup>284</sup> Government approves free preschool education program starting Oct. 2019, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 28 December 2018. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/12/28/national/government-approves-free-preschool-education-program-starting-oct-2019/#.XHSp15NKjBJ/>.

<sup>285</sup> Japan shares its universal health coverage knowledge with Egypt, Daily News Egypt (Giza) 6 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://dailynewssegyp.com/2019/02/06/japan-shares-its-universal-health-coverage-knowledge-with-egypt/>.

<sup>286</sup> Japan donates \$500k for Battambang education, The Phnom Penh Post (Phnom Penh) 12 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/japan-donates-500k-battambang-education>.

<sup>287</sup> Japan donates US\$ 3.4 million to support the health and nutrition needs of children in Iraq, UNICEF (Baghdad). 4 March 2019. Access Date: 17 April 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/press-releases/japan-donates-us-34-million-support-health-and-nutrition-needs-children-iraq>.

<sup>288</sup> Japan approves plan to ban parents from physically punishing children after string of fatal child abuse cases, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong). 19 March 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3002308/japan-approves-plan-ban-parents-physically-punishing-children>.

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to supporting early childhood programs by sharing knowledge for health handbooks and healthcare programs and by supporting developing countries in their efforts to improve early childhood development. However, Japan has failed to monitor or evaluate early childhood development programs.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Brandon Yih*

**Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 18 December 2018, the Korean government pledged USD500,000 for a UNICEF-supported education programme in Misurata, Libya. The partnership extends for two years and funds will help provide school supplies, equipment and support to students with non-formal education opportunities in three schools.<sup>290</sup>

On 27 December 2018, the Korean Ministry of Education organized a Korea-Myanmar Educational Informational International Forum aiming to promote information communication technology (ICT) education policies and establish ICT in classrooms throughout developing countries. This includes the establishment of an ICT classroom in Myanmar that includes five-year training and instructional software to assist teachers in their instruction. Attendees included representatives from Laos, Peru, Nepal, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan.<sup>291</sup>

On 12 April 2019, the Korean government announced a USD900,000 contribution to the recently launched World Bank Group Partnership Fund for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG fund). The SDG fund will support member countries (Kazakhstan, Vietnam, and Egypt) to achieve inclusive and sustainable development goals, including capacity building, quality data, knowledge generation, and institutional strengthening for the achievement of the SDGs.<sup>292</sup>

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs by financing a UNICEF initiative and engaging with various international actors on the issue, and engaged with data, monitoring and evaluation.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang*

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<sup>289</sup> The Government of Japan provides lifesaving support to the most vulnerable children and communities in Lebanon, UNICEF (Beirut). 21 March 2019. Access Date: 17 April 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/press-releases/government-japan-provides-lifesaving-support-most-vulnerable-children>.

<sup>290</sup> Republic of Korea pledges US\$500,000 to support children's education in Misurata, Libya, UNICEF (Misurata) 2018. Access Date: 18 February 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/republic-korea-pledges-us500000-support-childrens-education-misurata-libya>.

<sup>291</sup> Korea leads Myanmar's Innovation of "Smart Education", Ministry of Education (Seoul) Access Date: 23 February 2019. <http://english.moe.go.kr/boardCnts/view.do?boardID=265&boardSeq=76314&lev=0&searchType=null&statusYN=W&page=1&s=english&m=0301&opType=N>.

<sup>292</sup> World Bank Group, Government of Korea join forces to support achievement of SDGs, The World Bank Group (Washington, United States). Access Date: 25 April 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/04/12/world-bank-group-government-of-korea-join-forces-to-support-achievement-of-sdgs>.

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 7 February 2019, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced a bimestrial financial support of MXN1600 to children in childcare homes. The funds will be given directly to guardians.<sup>293</sup>

On 18 February 2019, the Secretary of Welfare María Luisa Albores González, announced that Mexico's Children's Stay Program will continue to be funded, but with other Rules of Operation aimed at the well-being of children, with the direct delivery of support to parents or guardians. Up to MXN600 will be funded for girls and boys up to one day before they reach the age of four, and MXN3,600 pesos every two months for children with disabilities.<sup>294</sup>

On 3 April 2019, the Mexican Secretary of Welfare, María Luisa Albores González, accompanied this morning to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, confirmed the commitment of the Government of Mexico to guarantee the care and attention of the girls and boys of the country. Additionally, the government announced that the results of the census for the Children's Stays Program will be sent to the transparency bodies, with unrestricted adherence to the legal framework of data protection so that the information can be consulted by the interested parties.<sup>295</sup>

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through increased financing and investing in cultural programs and increased efforts to monitor and evaluate its initiatives, thus satisfying two of the three components.

Thus, Mexico has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Leonardo Consenza*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 6 February 2019, the World Health Organization documented that Russia has stopped rubella transmission for almost three years. Rubella is a highly infectious disease that is very dangerous for a pregnant woman and her developing baby, it is most threatening in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Wide dispersal of vaccinations have steadily reduced the instances of rubella.<sup>296</sup>

On 15 February 2019, Russia moved to introduce a cultural program for school kids. Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky stated the program will require every child to visit a certain number of plays, museums, art exhibitions, classical music concerts and architectural monuments, while writing

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<sup>293</sup> AMLO announces how the wellbeing funds will be divided, *El Economista* (Mexico City) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/politica/AMLO-anuncia-como-se-repartiran-los-fondos-para-el-bienestar-20190207-0050.html>.

<sup>294</sup> Support for girls and boys will be maintained through a scheme of honesty and transparency: María Luisa Albores González, *Gobierno Mexicano* (Mexico City) 18 February 2019. Access Date: 11 March 2019. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/se-mantendra-el-apoyo-a-las-ninas-y-ninos-mediante-un-esquema-de-honestidad-y-transparencia-maria-luisa-albores-gonzalez>.

<sup>295</sup> The Secretariat of Welfare ratifies its commitment to the children of the country: María Luisa Albores González, *Government of Mexico* (Mexico City) 3 April 2019. Access Date: 4 May 2019. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/ratifica-la-secretaria-de-bienestar-su-compromiso-con-las-ninas-y-ninos-del-pais-maria-luisa-albores-gonzalez?idiom=es>.

<sup>296</sup> Pregnancy and Rubella, *Centre for Disease Control and Prevention* (Washington) 15 September 2017. Access Date 19 April 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/rubella/pregnancy.html>.

about their experience in a special print and online diary for their friends, parents, and teachers to read. Minister of Education Olga Vasileva explains the program will help children develop a sense of aesthetics and love for their homeland through the knowledge of its culture, the culture of its peoples, and regions.<sup>297</sup>

On 1 March 2019 the Russian government held the International Women's Forum in Novokuznetsk. The Russian Ministry of Health stated its principal tasks to be the reduction of maternal mortality, the prevention of cancer and cardiovascular diseases, the motivation to maintain a healthy lifestyle, and the protection of reproductive health.<sup>298</sup>

On 21-22 March 2019 the Russian government organized the Second National Interdisciplinary Congress, "Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Pediatrics: Traditions and Innovations," held in Moscow. At the meeting, the draft document "The procedure for organizing the medical rehabilitation of the children's population" was submitted for discussion. The procedure describes in detail the rehabilitation route of the child, considering the stage of the disease and its severity. For the first time, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is used for determining the rehabilitation diagnosis and rehabilitation prognosis, and the department regulated the treatment of children with hearing impairments. Other regulations assist children with cancer, diseases of the central and peripheral nervous system, the musculoskeletal system and the consequences of injuries. Furthermore, new types of equipment have been added to the equipment division of the wards, which meet the modern needs of rehabilitation.<sup>299</sup>

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through increased financing and investing in cultural programs. However, Russia has failed to increase efforts in monitoring and evaluation and international cooperation initiatives.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Turina Simanduyev*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 5 December 2018, the Saudi Council of Ministers approved an initiative to construct educational buildings with the participation of the private sector. According to the initiative, a budgetary allocation not exceeding SR400 million will be approved annually to build at least 120 schools in major regions of the Kingdom for a period of not more than 28 years.<sup>300</sup>

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<sup>297</sup> Russia to introduce cultural program for school kids, Russia Beyond (Moscow) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.rbth.com/education/329981-schools-cultural-program>.

<sup>298</sup> The International Women's Forum raised issues of the importance of maintaining and strengthening women's health, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 1 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2019/03/01/10963-na-mezhdunarodnom-zhenskom-forume-podnimalis-voprosy-vazhnosti-sohraneniya-i-ukrepleniya-zdorovya-zhenschin>.

<sup>299</sup> The draft Order for the organization of children's medical rehabilitation is submitted for public discussion, Ministry of Health (Moscow) 25 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2019/03/25/11148-proekt-poryadka-organizatsii-meditsinskoy-reabilitatsii-detskogo-naseleniya-vynesen-na-obschestvennoe-obsuzhdenie>.

<sup>300</sup> Saudi Arabia Approves SR400M Annually to Build 120 Schools with Private Sector, Al Arabiya (Dubai) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/gulf/2018/12/05/Saudi-Arabia-approves-SR400m-annually-to-build-120-schools-with-private-sector.html>.

On 11 December 2018, the Sabya Directorate of Education in Jazan launched the first virtual school for students with special needs. Assistant Director of Education in Sabya stated the virtual school addresses hardships faced by students with special needs and helps those who otherwise would be unable to continue their studies. The Saudi Education Ministry has contributed by making all its digital textbooks available through an online portal.<sup>301</sup>

On 20 December 2018, Saudi Arabia's Council of Cooperative Health Insurance announced it will apply fines and other punitive measures to firms that fail to provide both Saudis and expats with health insurance. All private sector companies are required to provide health insurance to their Saudi and expat employees as well as their dependants including spouse, unmarried daughters and male children under age 25.<sup>302</sup>

On 10 January 2019, the Saudi government banned the marriage of minors following a ruling by the Kingdom's Shoura Council. The ban includes all minors, male or female.<sup>303</sup>

On 10 January 2019, the Saudi Education Minister promised both new and old schools owned by the ministry would remain free.<sup>304</sup>

On 28 February 2019, Saudi Education Ministry joins the global education forum hosted by the Emirati Education Ministry. The Saudis participated and witnessed the signing of multiple agreements aimed at improving education levels in the Kingdom. One example includes the Memorandum of Understanding between the Tatweer Company for Education Services and the Emirati Alef Company to enrich digital content and provide digital solutions for the public and private education sectors.<sup>305</sup>

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through increased monitoring and evaluation, financing new initiatives, and engaging in international cooperation and knowledge sharing.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Turina Simanduyev*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 15 February 2019, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga in collaboration with the National Education and Collaboration Trust (NECT), launched the National Reading Coalition (NRC).<sup>306</sup> The NRC is intended to mobilize and provide support and coordination for reading

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<sup>301</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual School Launched in Jazan's Sabya, Arab News (Riyadh) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1419431/saudi-arabia>.

<sup>302</sup> Saudi Arabia to fine firms that fail to provide health insurance, International Investment (London) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.internationalinvestment.net/news/4000248/saudi-arabia-fine-firms-fail-provide-health-insurance>.

<sup>303</sup> Saudi Arabia's Shoura Council Bans Child Marriage, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1433416/saudi-arabia>.

<sup>304</sup> Public-Private Partnership to Boost Education Sector in Saudi Arabia, Arab News (Riyadh) 10 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1432591/saudi-arabia>.

<sup>305</sup> Saudi Education Ministry Joins Global Education Forum, Arab News (Riyadh) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1459611/saudi-arabia>.

<sup>306</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Launch of National Reading Coalition, Government of South Africa (Cape Town) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launch-national-reading-coalition-15-feb-2019-0000>.

initiatives across class, gender, and geographies.<sup>307</sup> The NRC has recognized six areas for improvement: initial teacher preparation, access to relevant resources; continuing professional development; community support; policy, research and evaluation.<sup>308</sup>

On 25-27 February 2019, the Department of Basic Education of the Republic of South Africa, together with UNICEF South Africa, the LEGO Foundation, and the ADEA, hosted the inaugural Continental Play-Based Learning for the 21st century skills Conference in Pretoria. The conference brought together Ministers responsible for education and early childhood development from across the continent, academics, policy-makers, high-level representatives from development agencies, the private sector, civil society, and the media. The conference offered education Ministers and stakeholders an opportunity to interact with the leading scientists and together, embrace the practice of learning through play.<sup>309</sup>

On 28 February 2019, the Department of Social Development announced it will launch a multimedia centre for children with dyslexia at the Tlhokomelo Special School in Meadowlands, Soweto - Gauteng.<sup>310</sup>

South Africa has invested in early childhood programs through its creation of the NRC and did cooperate internationally in knowledge sharing of childhood development practices, but has not facilitated data monitoring and evaluation.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nammal Khan*

### **Turkey: -1**

Turkey has failed to comply with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 17 December 2018, Youth and Sports Minister Muharrem Kasapoğlu spoke to the Daily Sabah and outlined the ministry's goals for 2019. Such goals included increasing the number of volunteering positions for Turkish youth, growing youth participation in sports activities through the "Sports Turkey" program, further investing for young athletes from five to 12 years-old, preventing drug abuse within the youth population, and improving the visibility and participation of disabled youth within society through the "Enabled Turkey" program.<sup>311</sup>

Within the compliance cycle, there is no evidence to suggest Turkey invested in early childhood programs or engaged in knowledge sharing to improve early childhood programs.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of -1.

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<sup>307</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Launch of National Reading Coalition, Government of South Africa (Cape Town) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launch-national-reading-coalition-15-feb-2019-0000>.

<sup>308</sup> What is the National Reading Coalition? National Education Collaboration Trust (Centurion) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2019. <http://nect.org.za/in-the-media/nect-news/what-is-the-national-reading-coalition>.

<sup>309</sup> South Africa hosts first-ever Africa Continental Play-based Learning Conference, Africa News (Pointe-Noire) 11 February 2019. Access Date: 9 March 2019. <http://www.africanews.com/2019/02/11/south-africa-hosts-first-ever-africa-continental-play-based-learning-conference/>.

<sup>310</sup> SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHES THE FIRST MULTIMEDIA CENTRE WITH SPECIALISED PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DYSLEXIA IN GAUTENG, Department of Social Development (Pretoria) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 4 May 2019. [http://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=987&Itemid=1](http://www.dsd.gov.za/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=987&Itemid=1).

<sup>311</sup> Youth and Sports Minister Kasapoğlu: The priority is to integrate children into sports early on, Daily Sabah (Ankara) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 15 April 2019. <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/2018/12/17/youth-and-sports-minister-kasapoglu-the-priority-is-to-integrate-children-into-sports-early-on>.



*Analyst: Alyssa Atef*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 20 December 2018, the National Health Service (NHS) announced it will work with schools and colleges to make expert mental health support available to children and young people across England, after reports indicated that one in nine people aged five to 15 had a mental health condition in 2017. This is an expanded effort to help children and young people with more severe needs to access the right support and provide a link to specialist NHS services.<sup>312</sup>

On 30 December 2018, the UK announced measures aimed to improve safety, quality and continuity of care to halve stillbirths, maternal and infant deaths and serious brain injuries in new-born babies by 2025.<sup>313</sup>

On 4 January 2019, the Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, Justin Tomlinson, announced that GBP2.7 million will be invested to increase support for disadvantaged families at risk of parental conflict. The funding will aim to address parental conflict as part of these wider family challenges and better improve access to digital support for families at risk of parental conflict.<sup>314</sup>

On 7 January 2019, the NHS launched the NHS Long Term Plan, which aims to provide better access to mental health services for adults and children.<sup>315</sup> This Plan pledges to establish a Children and Young People's Transformation Programme, which oversees the delivery of children and young people's commitments the Plan entails, and moves towards person-centered and age-appropriate care for mental and physical health needs instead of generalized services.<sup>316</sup>

On 21 January 2019, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt asserted the importance of funding girls' education after a new report was published by the Platform for Girls' Education. This report evaluated the state of girls' education in 53 Commonwealth countries, including Great Britain.<sup>317</sup>

On 25 January 2019, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced the establishment of a research program across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, aimed at early

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<sup>312</sup> NHS and schools in England will provide expert mental health support, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-and-schools-in-england-will-provide-expert-mental-health-support>.

<sup>313</sup> Wide-ranging new maternity plans announced by the government, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 30 December 2019. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wide-ranging-new-maternity-plans-announced-by-the-government>.

<sup>314</sup> £2.7 million fund to tackle parental conflict, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 4 January 2019. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/27-million-fund-to-tackle-parental-conflict>.

<sup>315</sup> NHS Long Term Plan Launched, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 7 January 2019. Access Date: 8 March 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-long-term-plan-launched>.

<sup>316</sup> NHS Long Term Plan – A summary of child health proposals, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (London) 9 January 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2019. <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/nhs-long-term-plan-summary-child-health-proposals/>.

<sup>317</sup> Girls' education should be development priority for Commonwealth, Open Access Government (Cheshire) 21 January 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/development-priority-commonwealth/57253/>.

childhood development. The UK has committed to invest GBP20.5 million over five years to address issues of food insecurity, and poor physical, social, and psychological development.<sup>318</sup>

On 27 March 2019, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development committed GBP4 million in support of UNICEF's efforts in Chad to increase treatment of severe acute malnutrition for children.<sup>319</sup>

On 1 April 2019, England's NHS launched the National Child Mortality Database, the world's first database of child mortality. This database will record the circumstances of all child deaths in England for the purposes of aiding health and other public organization leaders improve childcare or take preventive measures.<sup>320</sup>

On 8 April 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom announced an additional 600 health visitors will be trained starting in May 2019 in support of the Department of Education's early years initiative to improve early language and communication outcomes. This follows the training of 1000 health visitors since February 2019 focused on identifying early childhood language needs.<sup>321</sup>

On 8 April 2019, the United Kingdom announced that GBP84 million of new investment for projects designed to strengthen and support families.<sup>322</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to supporting early childhood programs by investing into healthcare developments, evaluating child education initiatives, financing research programs to further support child development, and collaborate with international visitors to promote knowledge exchange.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Brandon Yih*

### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood.

On 18 December 2018, the U.S. Department of Education released a final report of the Federal Commission on School Safety (FCSS). The Commission was established on 12 March 2018 to research and recommend solutions to improve the safety of schools in light of recent occurrences of violence at schools.<sup>323</sup> The report recommended the federal government to streamline information regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This will educate law

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<sup>318</sup> Early Childhood Development programme, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 25 January 2019. Access Date: 22 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/early-childhood-development-programme/>.

<sup>319</sup> UK Government supports UNICEF Chad in treating over 58,000 Chadian children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, Africanews (Brazzaville) 27 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.africanews.com/2019/03/27/uk-government-supports-unicef-chad-in-treating-over-58000-chadian-children-suffering-from-severe-acute-malnutrition/>.

<sup>320</sup> Health dept opens UK child death database, SBS News (Sydney) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/health-dept-opens-uk-child-death-database>.

<sup>321</sup> New training for experts to boost early communication skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-training-for-experts-to-boost-early-communication-skills>.

<sup>322</sup> New projects to strengthen families and keep children out of care, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 4 May 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-projects-to-strengthen-families-and-keep-children-out-of-care>.

<sup>323</sup> Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/school-safety/school-safety-report.pdf>.

enforcement and local school leaders to better protect student privacy and ensuring the health and safety of students in the community.<sup>324</sup>

On 7 February 2019, Ivanka Trump, senior advisor to President Trump, launched the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. The initiative aligns with the government's National Security Strategy with goals to "advance women's equality, protect the rights of women and girls, and promote women and youth empowerment programs."<sup>325</sup> The initiative creates a USD50 million fund from the U.S. Agency for International Development and calls on U.S. foreign assistance agencies to dedicate USD300 million annually to advance the program initiatives. The initiative will have a yearly reporting and evaluation progress with a goal to empower 50 million women by 2025.

On 26 February 2019, the House Committee on Education and Labour, House subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Senate Democrats introduced the Child Care for Working Families Act to ensure affordable, high-quality child care for working middle class families<sup>326</sup> The Act would create estimates of 770,000 child care jobs and enable 1.6 million parents, mainly mothers, to go to work and lift millions of family out of poverty. Families under 75 per cent of the state median income will not have to pay for access to high-quality preschool programs for all children 3 to 4 years old.<sup>327</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through monitoring and evaluation and financing new initiatives and taking international action.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs.

On 3 December 2018, the European Parliament voted on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) for the period 2021-2027, stipulating that member states will have to allocate at least 5 per cent of ESF+ resources to the European Child Guarantee scheme. The Child Guarantee aims to tackle child

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<sup>324</sup> U.S. Department of Education Acts on School Safety Report Recommendation to Improve Understanding of Student Privacy Law, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 12 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-acts-school-safety-report-recommendation-improve-understanding-student-privacy-law>.

<sup>325</sup> Presidential Memorandum on Promoting Women's Global Development and Prosperity, The White House (Washington) 7 February 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-promoting-womens-global-development-prosperity/>.

<sup>326</sup> House and Senate Democrats introduce comprehensive child care and early learning bill to ensure child care for all, Just The Real News (United States). Access Date: 27 April 2019. <https://www.justtherealnews.com/2019/02/26/house-and-senate-democrats-introduce-comprehensive-child-care-and-early-learning-bill-to-ensure-child-care-for-all-house-committee-on-education-labor-2/>.

<sup>327</sup> U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin helps introduce legislation to ensure child care for all, Senator Tammy Baldwin, (Wisconsin, US). Access Date: 27 April 2019. <https://www.justtherealnews.com/2019/02/26/house-and-senate-democrats-introduce-comprehensive-child-care-and-early-learning-bill-to-ensure-child-care-for-all-house-committee-on-education-labor-2/>.

poverty and social exclusion by encouraging countries to invest in services and initiatives to support positive child development and wellbeing.<sup>328</sup>

On 1 January 2019, the EU's new youth strategy for the period 2019-2027 came into force. Approved by the Council of the EU in November, the new strategy focuses on three areas of action: Engage, Connect and Empower. The strategy will develop a cross-sectoral approach to address the needs of young people in various policy areas, including the establishment of a new EU youth coordinator.<sup>329</sup>

On 23 January 2019, the European Platform for Investing in Children (EPIC) has published a policy memo which provides an overview of policies and practices across EU Member States in supporting access to quality education for children with special educational needs (SEN). This policy memo highlights the main approaches used in Member States and identifies some key challenges for policy-makers and practitioners in helping to support access to quality education for children with SEN.<sup>330</sup>

As of 10 February 2019, the EU contributed EUR8.3 million towards UNICEF at the end of 2018 to support vulnerable children and families in Syria. The funding help over one million people, specifically children and women, access protection, health, nutrition, education and water.<sup>331</sup>

On 25 February 2019, the European Commission published an inception report for a wide-ranging feasibility study into the prospect of a Child Guarantee. The study aims to assess the feasibility, implementation options and added value of a Child Guarantee, focusing on four specific groups of vulnerable or disadvantaged children. The groups include children residing in institutions, children with disabilities and other children with special needs, children of recent migrants and refugees, and children living in precarious family situations. The study also outlines a plan for further research activity, including stakeholder workshops and an online consultation to be held over the course of 2019.<sup>332</sup>

On 27 February 2019, Eurochild, a network that promotes the rights and wellbeing of children in Europe, released their analysis of the European Commission's 2019 Country Reports, which demonstrate a strong awareness for early investment to address larger societal challenges for children and families in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion. According to Eurochild, there will be a greater focus on investment in children, especially those living in poverty or social exclusion. For

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<sup>328</sup> European Parliament Committee backs Child Guarantee in European Social Fund Plus, Eurochild (Brussels) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://www.eurochild.org/media/press-releases/article/european-parliament-committee-backs-child-guarantee-in-european-social-fund-plus/?tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=d0aff882d2f1675ee493a3286de4b60a](https://www.eurochild.org/media/press-releases/article/european-parliament-committee-backs-child-guarantee-in-european-social-fund-plus/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=d0aff882d2f1675ee493a3286de4b60a).

<sup>329</sup> January 2019 developments in child and family policy in EU Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9300&furtherNews=yes>.

<sup>330</sup> EPIC publishes policy memo on access to quality education for children with special educational needs, European Commission (Brussels) 23 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1246&newsId=9284&furtherNews=yes>.

<sup>331</sup> The European Union contributes over €8 million to towards UNICEF programmes for the most vulnerable children and families in Syria, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa (Damascus) 10 February 2019. Access Date: 5 May 2019. <https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/european-union-contributes-over-8-million-towards-unicef-programmes-most-vulnerable>.

<sup>332</sup> Inception report of Child Guarantee feasibility study published, European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1246&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9315>.

instance, the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care was recommended as an investment area in 20 of the 27 Country Reports.<sup>333</sup>

On 5 April 2019, the Initiative for Children in Migration, together with Eurochild and other partners, developed a joint publication that provides informative descriptions of developments regarding child immigration detention at the global level, with a focus on European law and conduct. The publication suggests next steps towards ending child immigration detention and implementing alternatives. The initiative comes in response to the widespread detention of migrant children, alone or with their families.<sup>334</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to enhance quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs through increased monitoring and evaluation, financing new initiatives, and engaging in international knowledge sharing.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Turina Simanduyev*

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<sup>333</sup> European Semester: Eurochild welcomes new priority investment areas, Eurochild (Brussels) 22 March 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. [https://www.eurochild.org/news/news-details/article/european-semester-eurochild-welcomes-new-priority-investment-areas/?tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=f9d2b5c58e4a6c93476ed18ba5efcc46](https://www.eurochild.org/news/news-details/article/european-semester-eurochild-welcomes-new-priority-investment-areas/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=f9d2b5c58e4a6c93476ed18ba5efcc46).

<sup>334</sup> Child Immigration Detention in the EU, Eurochild (Brussels) 5 April 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2019. [https://www.eurochild.org/news/news-details/article/child-immigration-detention-in-the-eu/?tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=58f9ef7ca846aaca7d00e54b3ace5c33](https://www.eurochild.org/news/news-details/article/child-immigration-detention-in-the-eu/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=58f9ef7ca846aaca7d00e54b3ace5c33).