

How can follow-up impact evaluations strengthen evidence on the later-life effects of early childhood interventions?

Where are the Knowledge Gaps?



Interventions

- Not a single evaluation was found on the long-term effects of agriculture and food security programs - both are likely to affect children's development in lasting ways.
- Deworming is promising, but **only one study** isolated the later benefits of deworming before age 6.
- Sustained effects of early childhood from sanitation, water or hygiene interventions were studied by **only one impact evaluation each**.
- There are **no studies** on the long-run benefits to children whose mothers participated in nutrition counseling, pre-natal visits, or anti-depression programs. Breastfeeding promotion, attended delivery and family planning interventions have each only had one such impact evaluation.
- Long-run effects of institutional childcare could be positive or negative: The child spends less time with parents but benefits from higher household income if parents work. **Only one project** has been studied and it yields mixed results.

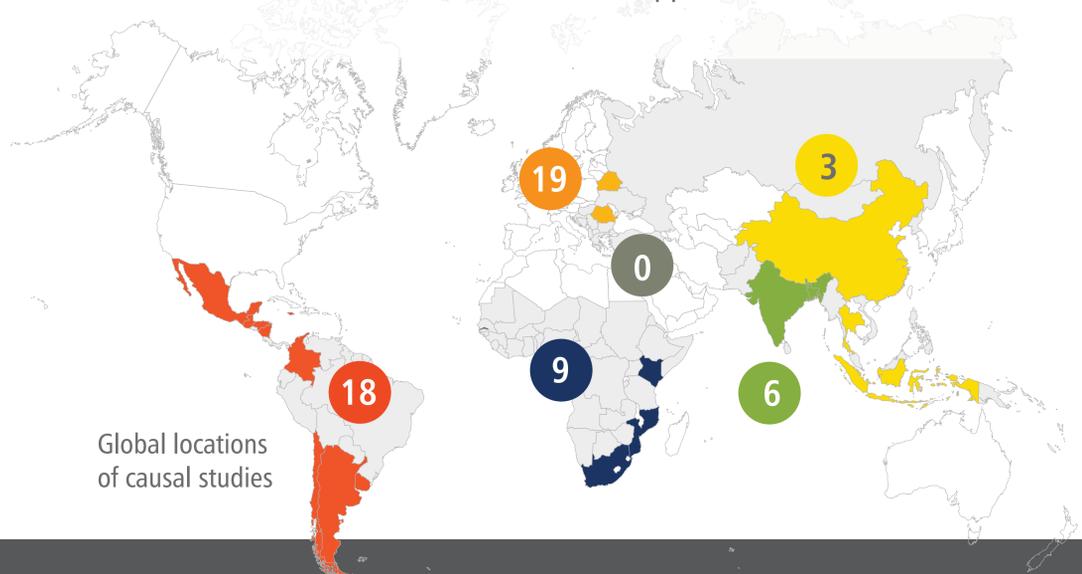
Outcomes

- Only one impact evaluation** investigated how ECD can reduce poverty—by measuring the effect on later jobs and incomes.
- Less than half of the studies** investigated how ECD can affect shared prosperity—by examining how outcomes differ by gender or parents' income
- Only 5 projects' impacts** were measured at multiple points in time after age 6, and few of those followed the same outcome over time.
- Standardizing outcome measures across projects, and over time within a project, aids comparisons and decision-making.
- Collect cost data and combine with impacts to report cost-benefit.

Regional

How do we address them?

- 0** Impact evaluations on later effects of early childhood interventions in Middle East and North Africa.
- 3** The number of long-run ECD impact evaluations that service decision makers for the nearly 40% of the world's population that lives in India and China.
- <1/3** The share of studies that come from low-and lower-middle income countries; 2/3 come from upper-middle income countries.



- Support capacity in administrative monitoring data to better measure distributional effects and costs.
- Strategically select countries and interventions to fill knowledge gaps.
- Impact evaluators and funders should follow and replicate interventions to establish how outcomes change over time and place.