



Transforming Children's Care

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Task Force on Family Strengthening

Learning Event on Social Protection

23 February 2023



MODERATOR

Alexandra Yuster
Facilitator
Task Force on Family
Strengthening



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WELCOME

- This learning event is hosted by the Task Force on Family Strengthening of the Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform
- The platform establishes a way for organizations and advocates at local and global levels to collaborate to improve children's care and care systems
- Sign up at the link in the chat to join the platform and receive updates about future webinars



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About the Task Force on Family Strengthening

The Task Force was established to develop a Thematic Brief on Family Strengthening.

The brief focuses on policies that can help prevent the need for children to enter care - a critical first step in the care reform agenda.

Social Protection is one of the four policy areas the brief will cover.



Why is social protection so central to care reform?

Poverty is a key driver of family separation

Poverty may be caused or exacerbated by many factors: births and deaths, disability, economic downturns, natural disasters or conflict.

Social Protection is intended to reduce the risks and impacts of these challenges throughout the lifecycle.

Economic strengthening is a complementary effort to help families in developing livelihoods to escape and remain out of poverty



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AGENDA

- Welcome
- Panel presentations & facilitated discussion
 - Dominic Richardson
 - Lisa Laumann
 - Carolina Aulicino
- Q & A



**DOMINIC
RICHARDSON**

Chief, Social Policy and
Economic Analysis
UNICEF Office of Research



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A schema for a comprehensive child/family policy portfolio by age

Child age		Pre-natal	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17+	
Social protection cash benefits	Family allowances		Child and family benefits; family tax breaks etc.																		
	Leave and family care policies	Maternity/paternity leave		Parental leave	Homecare allowances																
			Birth grants																		
Social and human services	Child protection		Services for children (<u>e.g.</u> institutional care, social work interventions)																		
	Family services	Home visiting																			
		Family centres, etc.																			
Employment / training																	ALMPs				
Education and care supports	Subsidies		School or childcare fees, meals, equipment																		
	Services	Childcare and preschool																			
											Primary			Secondary +							
Family health services	Subsidies	Health insurance or cost																			
	Family health services		Primary and secondary care																		
	Mother and infant health	Pre-natal	Birth services; post-natal, immunisations																		

Family policies and the SDGs

- Group consultation led to a selection of focal goals:



- And 2 targets within each (e.g. SDG 1: No Poverty)
 - **1.1** By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere
 - **1.2** Reduce at least by half, % of people living in poverty in all its dimensions

Broad findings of the SDG report

- There is no silver bullet:
 - But family cash benefits consistently reduce poverty and deprivation – can effectively promote employment and gender equality
 - Family focused health approaches are effective – behavioral interventions need family therapists too
 - Parental factors are key to education success, family policies work for school access – less so learning
 - Family policies need to be gender neutral in outcomes
 - Violence preventions means conditions and education (NFP)

Effects on >>>	1 NO POVERTY	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Policies and programming for	1 NO POVERTY	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
1 NO POVERTY		e.g. Access to health in multiple countries, and health outcomes				
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING						
4 QUALITY EDUCATION						
5 GENDER EQUALITY						
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH						
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS						

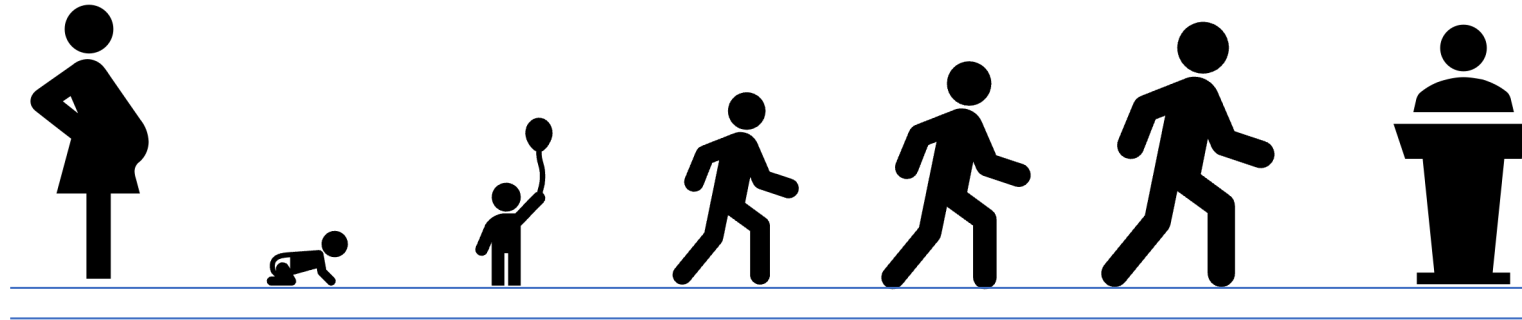
- **Observed SDGs connections via family focused policy and programming**
- Strong spillover effects found in the majority of cases

Age-related development of basic human skills

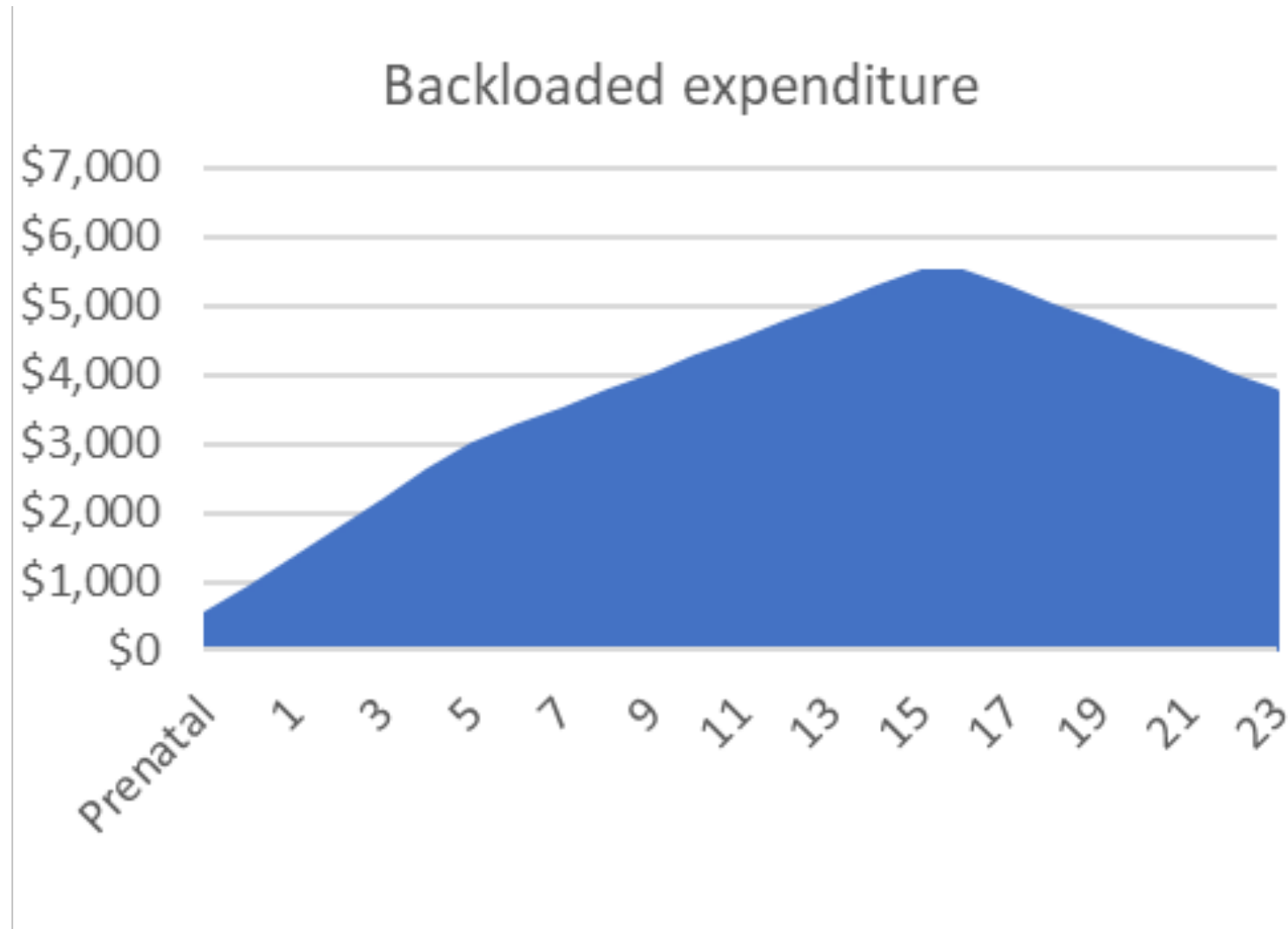
Listening, Empathising, Inquiring

Discerning patterns, Embodying, Observing, Reflecting, Relaxing, Sensing

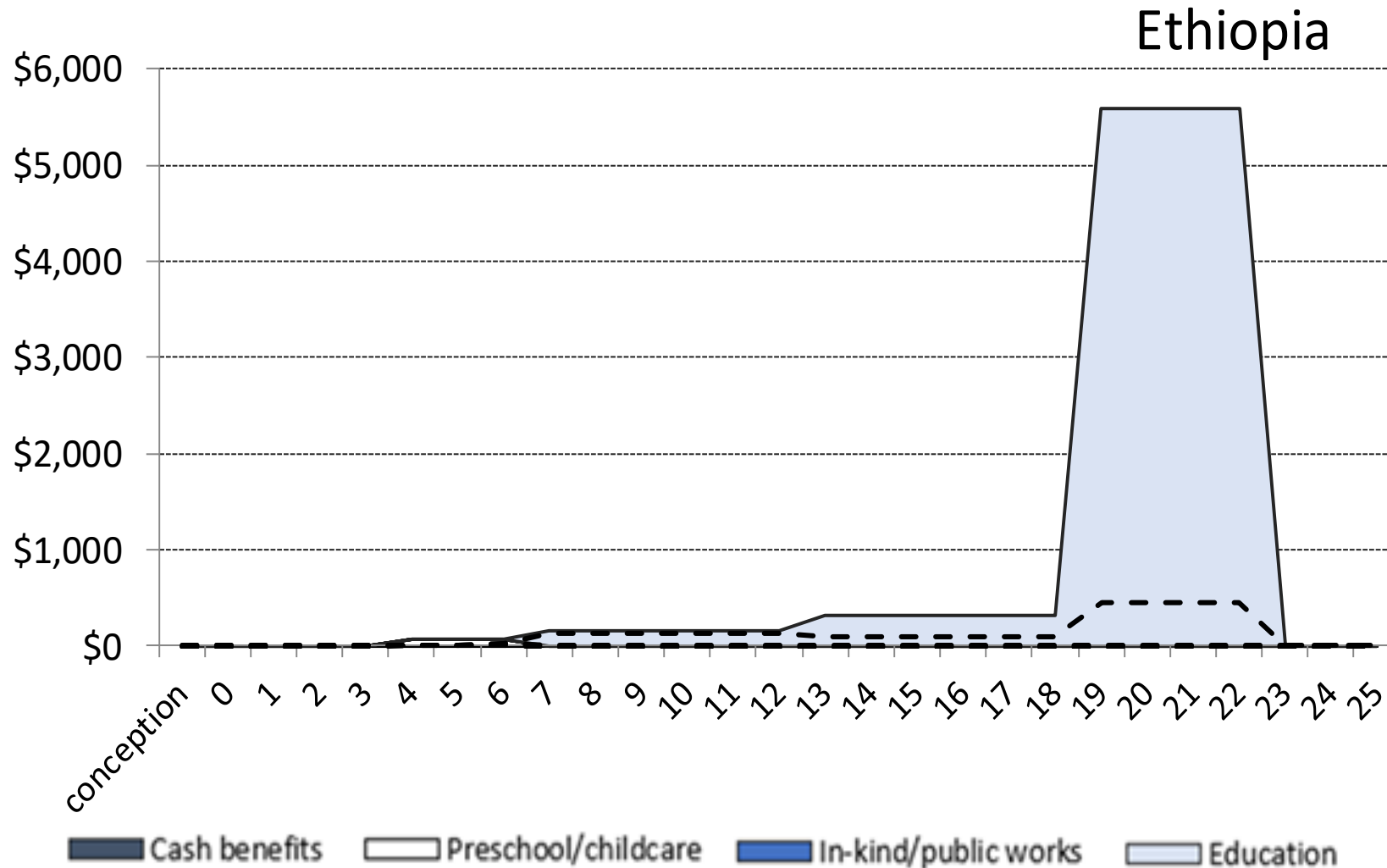
Fluency in: ideation, divergent thinking, self-regulation (ado), affective empathy, intuition



Understanding Age Spending Profiles

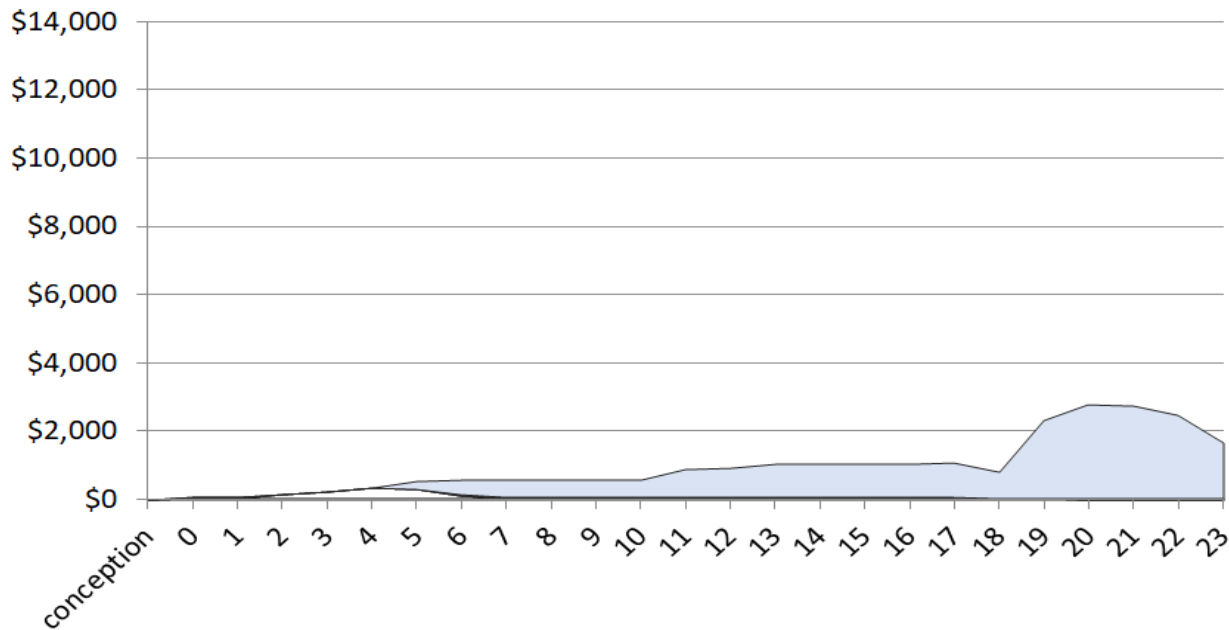


Examples of country profiles.. “too late”

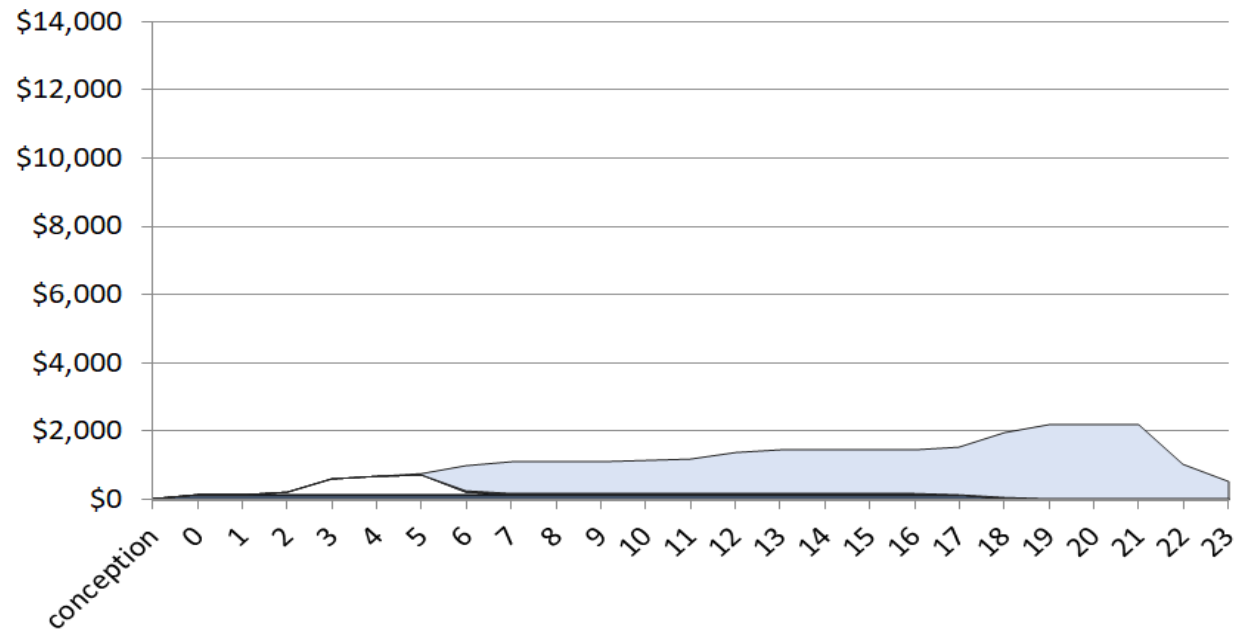


Source: Richardson et al (2023, forthcoming)

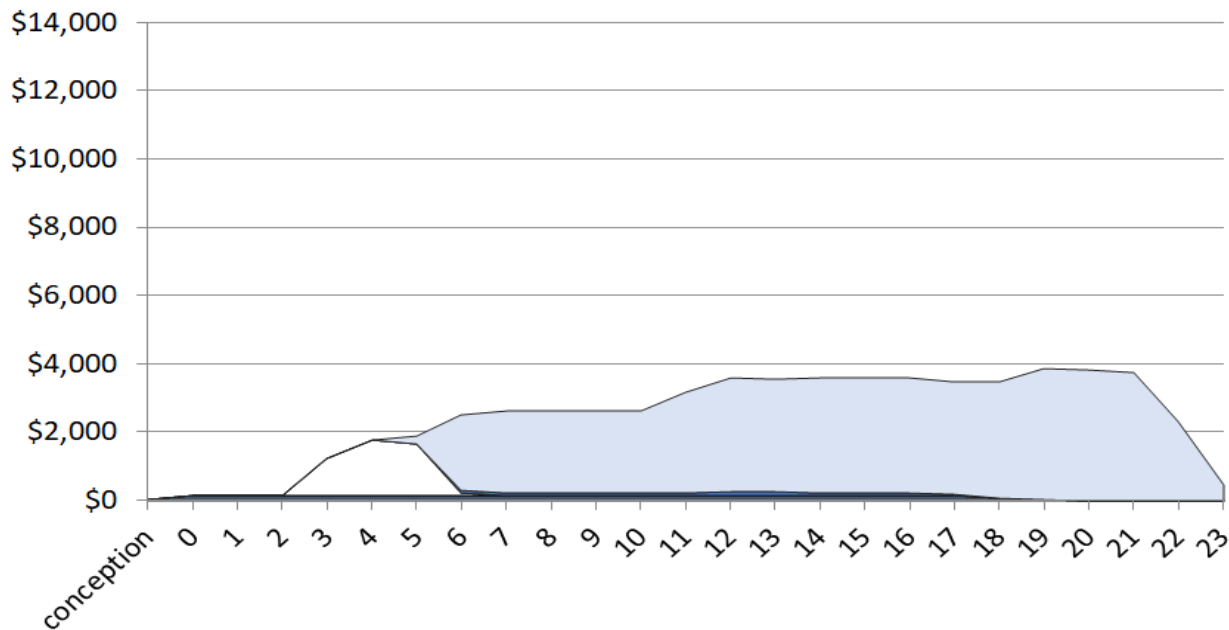
Low-income countries



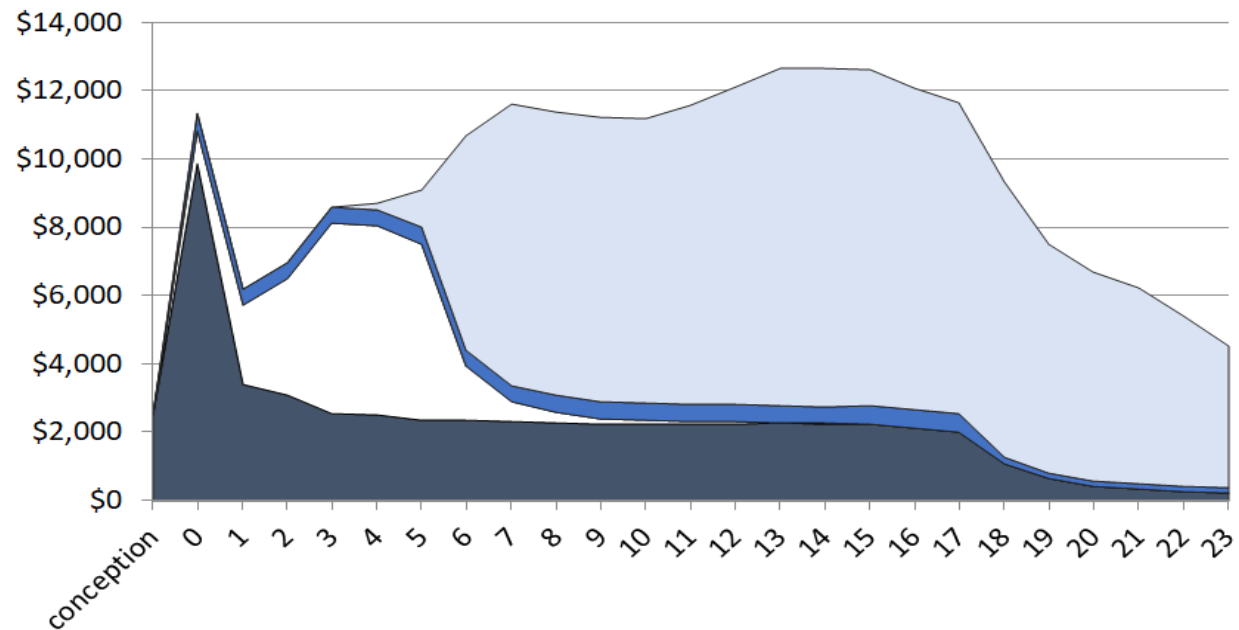
Low middle-income countries



Upper middle-income countries



High-income countries



**LISA
LAUMANN**

Independent Consultant

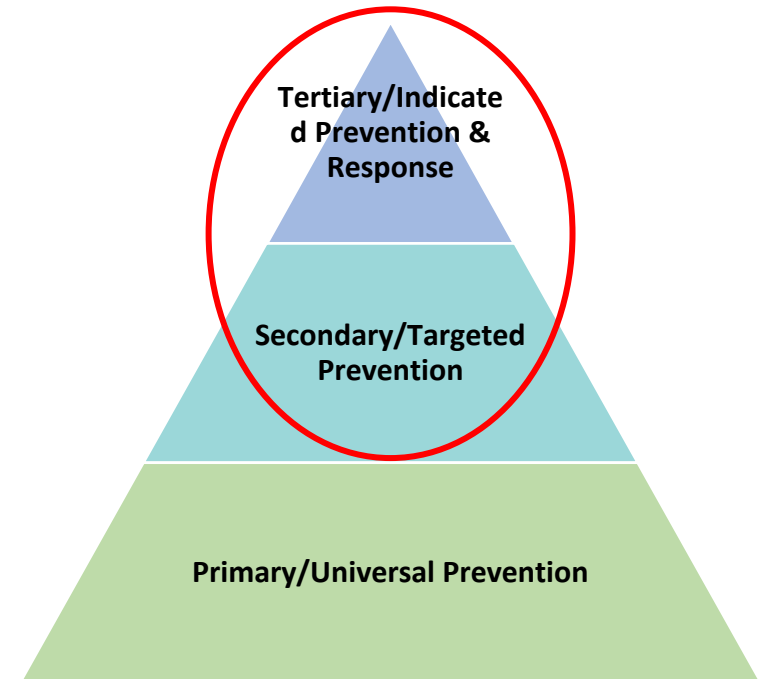


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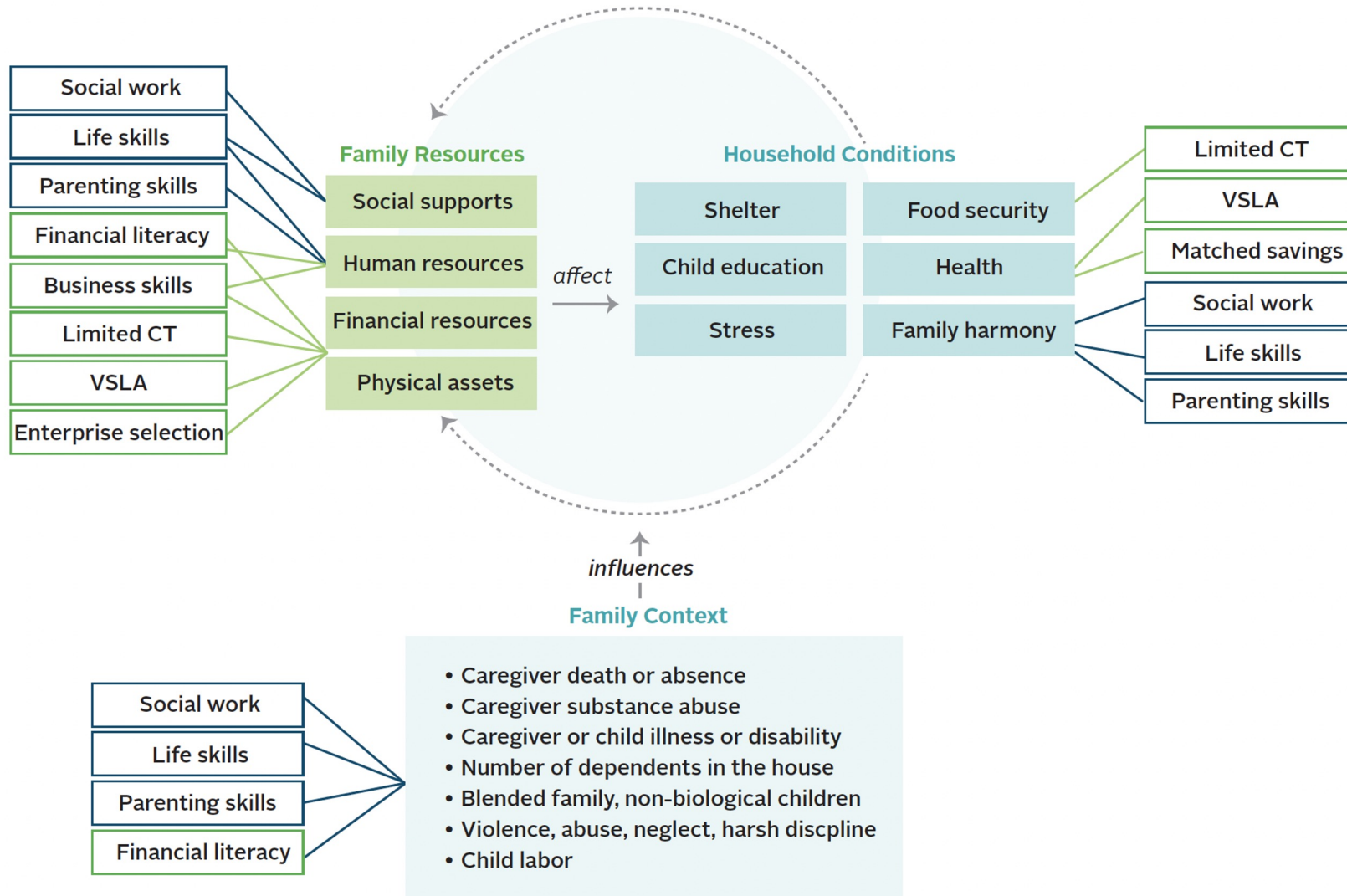
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HES is the process by which individuals and HHs improve their living conditions by participating in activities that increase physical, financial, human, or social assets and their capacity to obtain them (Evans et al, 2013)

- Program component – social problems where poverty is an issue
- Often has a short-term focus on how families spend and accumulate money
- Often aimed at stabilizing HHs and preventing sliding (back) into poverty
- Should be tailored and appropriate to HH capacities, assets, vulnerabilities, context



Drivers of separation are diverse, multiple, compounding – poverty underlies many factors, but social factors drive as well



Social benefits to economic well being and economic benefits to social well being

The 70,000 shillings that they send me every month has helped me a lot because it helps me to pay the rent for where we stay. My children now have a home to come to after schooling. Before the rent was stressing me a lot I could not sleep. The landlord would call even in the middle of the night. Sometimes she would come here and tell you to leave her house while other people are watching; this would get people talking behind your back. But now I sleep peacefully.

Shelter

Social relationships/resources

Caregiver stress

Financial resources

It also helped to increase on my income, because the money that I would have spent on rent, is now covered by the cash transfer. So I use that money to buy needs like food, sugar and milk for the children and also inject some in the business.

Food security

Financial resources

Caregiver-child attachment

Child stress

The children are happy because we are no longer bothered by the land lady. Our relationship is now better because we are no longer constrained by money problems. I am no longer worried as before, so I do not take out my stress on the children by shouting at them. I talk to them in case they have done something wrong.

HH human resources

Behavior/interaction

Kampala at-risk CT HH



**CAROLINA
AULICINO**

Social Policy Specialist
UNICEF Argentina



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Income protection for children and adolescents in Argentina

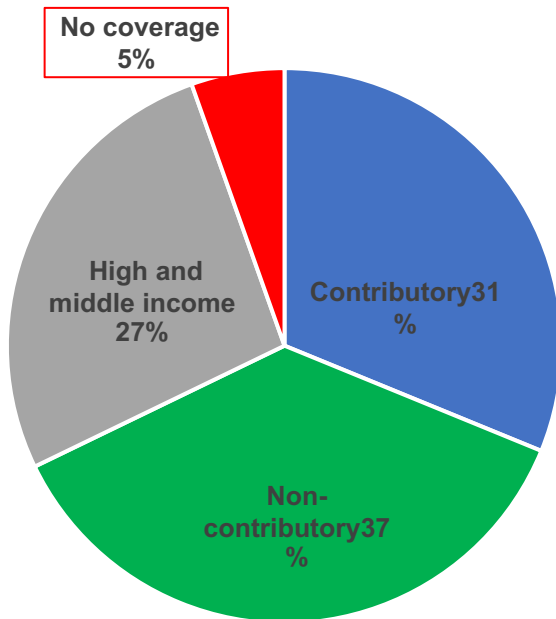
Total of children:
(100%)

Contributive system: 31%. Family allowances for formal workers, small tax-payers, retired workers and unemployment insurance

High and middle incomes tax deductions: 27%. Middle- and high-income formal employees and independent workers.

Non-contributory system: 37%. Main CCT Program (Universal Child Allowance - AUH), “Alimentar” transfer, non-contributory pensions.

Children without coverage: 5% around 700 thousand.



Fragmented and heterogenous system that combines contributory and non-contributory benefits and tax-deductions.

Universal Child Allowance (AUH)

A conditional cash transfer that constitutes the non-contributory component of the Social Protection System, in effect since 2009



Directed to pregnant women and children under the age of 18 (or any age in case of disability) whose parents:

- Are unemployed
- Work in the informal sector for a salary under minimum wage
- Are domestic workers



Conditionalities: in health (vaccination and check-ups) and education (attendance to compulsory education)



Monthly payment of around 50 USD: 20% is accumulated and paid once a year after the certification of the conditionalities.

The AUH represents 0.5% of the GDP

Poverty, incomes and social protection

Social protection policies have positive effects on the well-being of families with children.



In 2022, half of Argentina's children and adolescents were living under the poverty line and 13% are indigent or extremely poor.

Without income protection policies, poverty would have been approximately 55% (4 pp higher) and indigence 21% (8 pp higher).

Argentina's annual inflation rate is 98.8% (January 2023). Between 2016 and 2022, the value of the poverty basket multiplied by 7,4 and the food basket by 8. However, household incomes only multiplied by 7,1.

➤ A sustained increase in poverty is expected.

Non-labor income (i.e., social transfers) had a key role in mitigating poverty: between 2016 and 2022, they multiplied by 8.1.

Main challenges faced by the social protection system

Coverage gaps

- ✓ Fragmented and heterogenous system.
- ✓ Children without any type of coverage.
 - ✓ Approximately 700.000 children do not have access to any coverage mechanism.
- ✓ During 2022:
 - ✓ Around 300,000 children were excluded from the non-contributory sub-system (AUH) due to difficulties to certify conditionalities.
 - ✓ 900 thousand children were left out from contributory allowances due to lack of updating of income thresholds.

Inequality and sufficiency

Inequalities within the system:

- ✓ Conditionalities in the non-contributory sub-system (health and education) that: overburden women, generate bottlenecks to access and maintain the benefit or access the 100% of the transfer.

Sufficiency problems:

- ✓ The updating mechanism for contributory and non contributory policies is insufficient in a context of high-inflation rates.
- ✓ “Alimentar” transfer with no updating mechanism.
- ✓ Bonuses (discretionary) for the lowest end of the contributory sub-system.

Currently, main cash transfers (contributory and non-contributory) amount to 45% of the food basket and 20% of the poverty basket.

Panel Discussion



DISABILITY

Children with disabilities often face extra challenges and are more likely to be placed in alternative care

What role can social protection play to support their families and mitigate these risks?



MIGRATION

Children who migrate - alone or with parents - as well as those left behind often end up with reduced access to services and an increased risk of separation from caregivers.

Are there social protection solutions which can help mitigate these risks?



GENDER

Poverty risks and domestic and care burdens are nearly always highest for women.

Which social protection or economic strengthening programmes have been particularly effective in promoting greater gender equality while also supporting family care for children?



Q&A



**THANK
YOU FOR
JOINING!**

The webinar recording, presentation and resources will be shared with all participants and posted to the Transforming Children's Care Platform.

Please join the Task Force on Family Strengthening if you would like to continue the discussion around social protection and other family policies and help contribute to the brief.

Thank you for joining us today



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