



**USAID**  
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# USAID WEE COP September 2023 LEARNING EVENT

PROMOTING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT  
THROUGH EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE PROGRAMMING



# AGENDA

## Welcome and Overview

- **Morgan Mickle**, Senior Program Officer, USAID WEE CoP, Banyan Global

## Presentation

- **Dr. David Evans**, Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development

## Moderated Panel Discussion & Questions

- **Amy Luinstra**, Manager, Global Operations (Acting), Gender and Economic Inclusion, International Finance Corporation
- **Frances Beaton-Day**, Co-Lead for Invest in Childcare, World Bank
- **Sabrina Habib**, CEO and Co-Founder, Kidogo

## Wrap-Up and Announcements

- **Morgan Mickle**, Senior Program Officer, USAID WEE CoP, Banyan Global

# USAID WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Currently 2,000 members



Gather and share evidence



Facilitate learning among  
members



Foster engagement  
opportunities

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand early childhood care programming, the impacts on women, and where gaps in evidence remain.
2. Learn about existing public and private models to implement early childhood care, opportunities to scale, and emerging approaches.
3. Gain knowledge of tools to support government and practitioner partners to navigate promising approaches to early childhood care.



# WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHILDCARE



# PRESENTER



**David Evans**

Senior Fellow

Center for Global Development

# Early Childhood Care and Women's Economic Empowerment

David K. Evans

# What is Early Childhood Care?

Care (for today's discussion) =  
regular care provided for a child  
between birth and primary school  
entry by someone who is not the  
primary caregiver



# This includes many models at different child ages

## Ages 0-3

- Care in child's home by a relative or neighbor
- Care in a neighbor's home with a small group of children
- Private daycare (including employer supported care)
- Public daycare

## Ages 3-5

- Care in child's home
- Care in neighbor's home
- Private preschool (including employer provided care)
- Public preschool

## Ages 5-6

- Care in child's home
- Care in neighbor's home
- Private kindergarten
- Public kindergarten

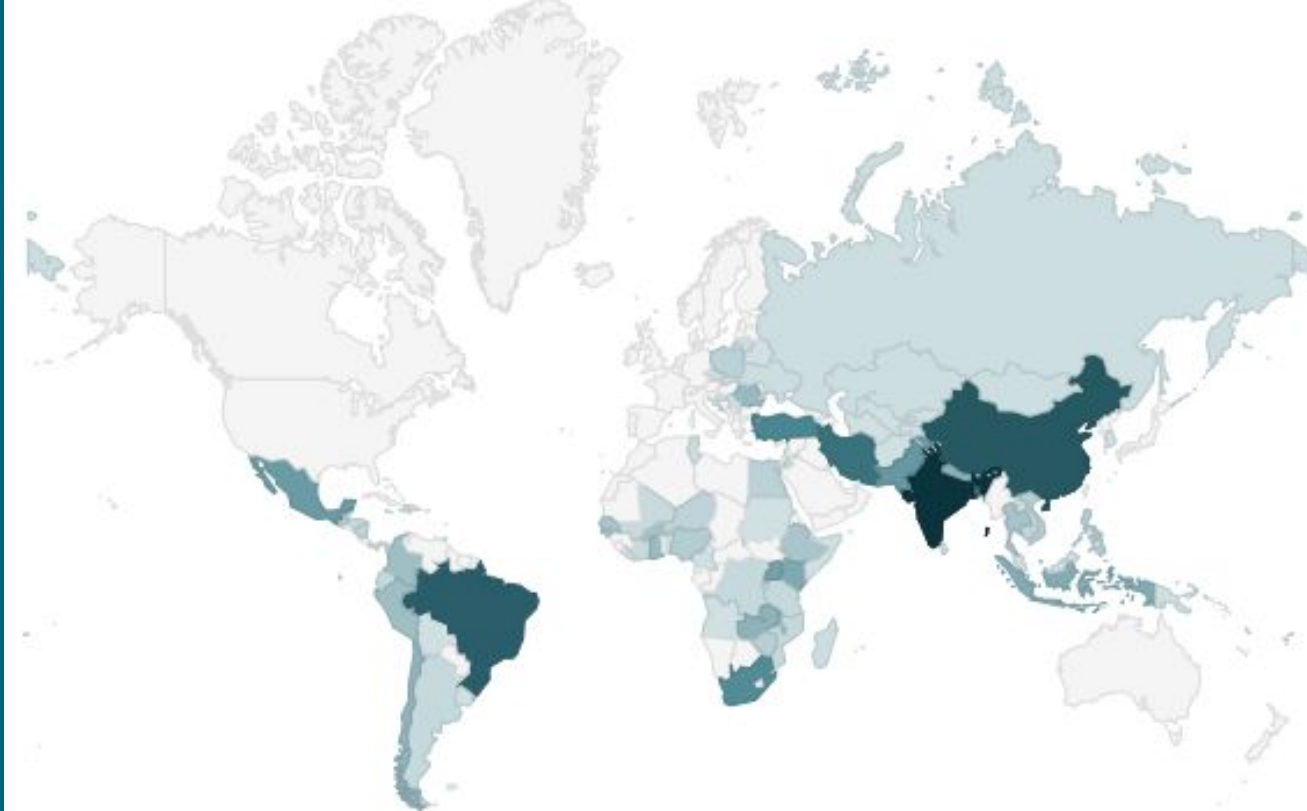
# Two principal questions about the impact of care



How do childcare interventions affect women's economic advancement and other outcomes?

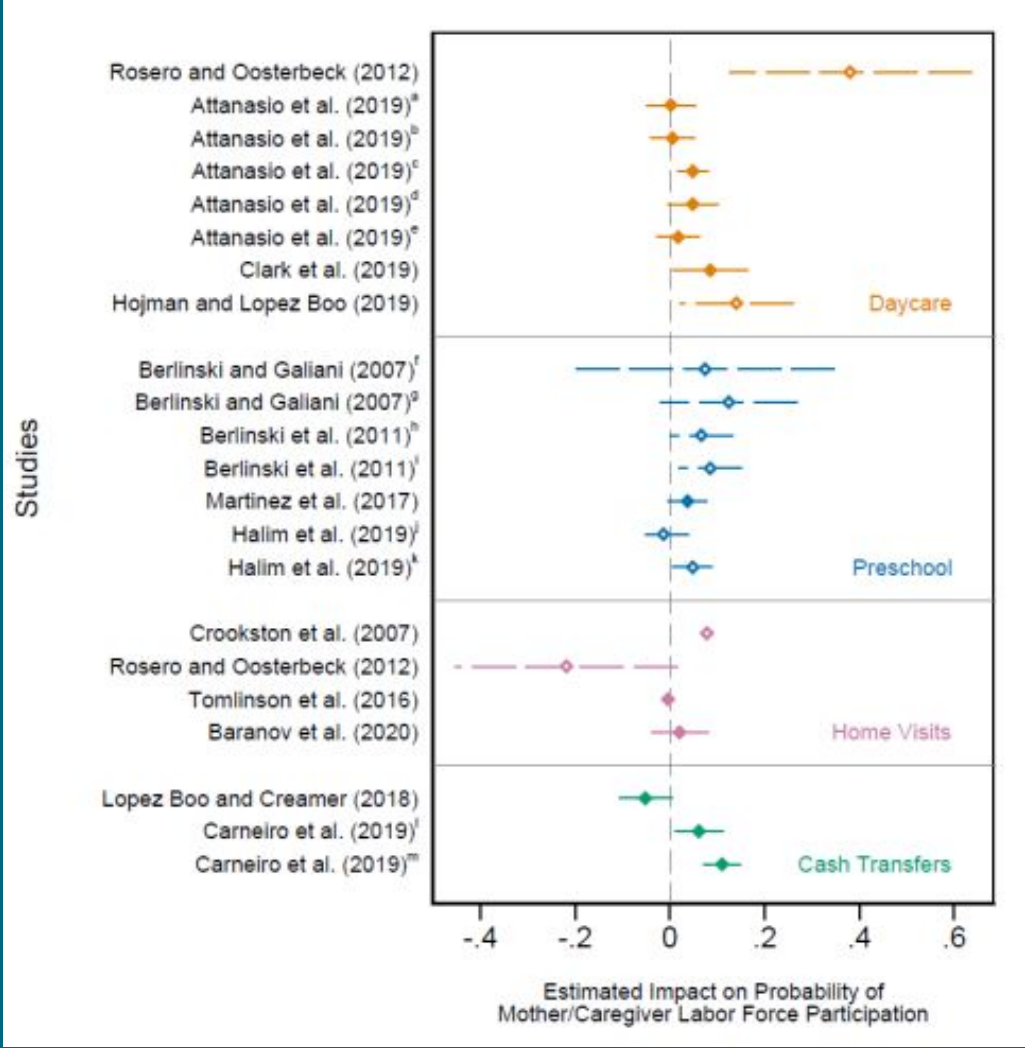
Is there a trade-off for children's outcomes?

# How we examined care and women's outcomes



- We screened thousands of studies from the last 20 years.
- We found nearly 500 empirical studies of early childhood development interventions (including care) in low- and middle-income countries.
- Relatively few study women's outcomes, but here's what we learn from those that do.

# On average, care interventions boost women's economic opportunity



- Daycare: Positive (except Brazil study)
- Preschool: Mixed
- Other interventions: Few measured

# Country examples show positive impacts across a range of women's empowerment indicators



Vouchers for childcare in Kenya: Boosted mothers' employment and income.

([Clark et al. 2019](#))

Childcare center construction in Nicaragua boosted mothers' employment.

([Hojman and Lopez Boo 2019](#))

Childcare centers in Ecuador: Boosted mothers' labor force participation, hours worked, and income.

([Rosero and Oosterbeek 2011](#))

Childcare as part of a public works project in Burkina Faso increased salaried work and savings.

([Ajayi et al. 2022](#))

Preschools in Argentina boosted mothers' employment and likelihood of full-time work.

([Berlinski et al. 2011](#))

But not in another study!

([Berlinski et al. 2007](#))

Community-based childcare in DRC boosted women's agricultural productivity and income.

([Donald and Vaillant 2023](#))

Fewer studies examine this, but the studies we have suggest positive impacts.

Providing community-based daycare in rural India reduced mental distress among mothers.

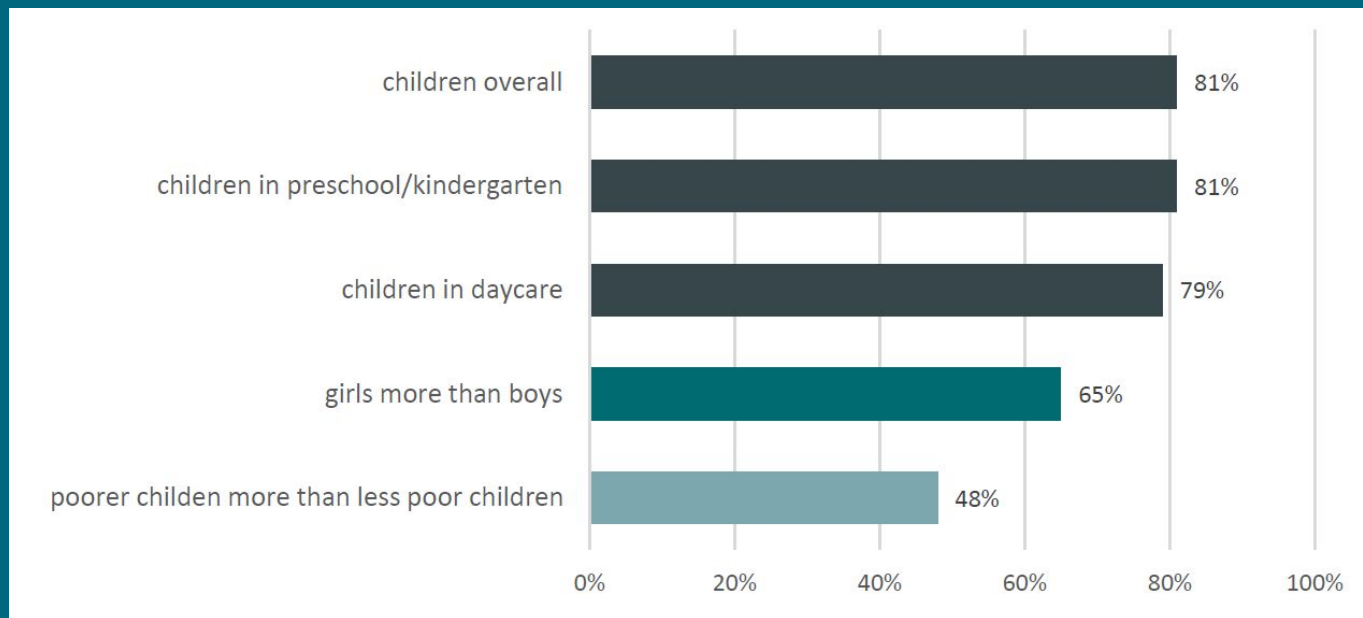
(Richardson et al. 2018)

Public, center-based daycare in urban Brazil reduced stress among mothers.

(Attanasio et al. 2022)

# How do care interventions affect children?

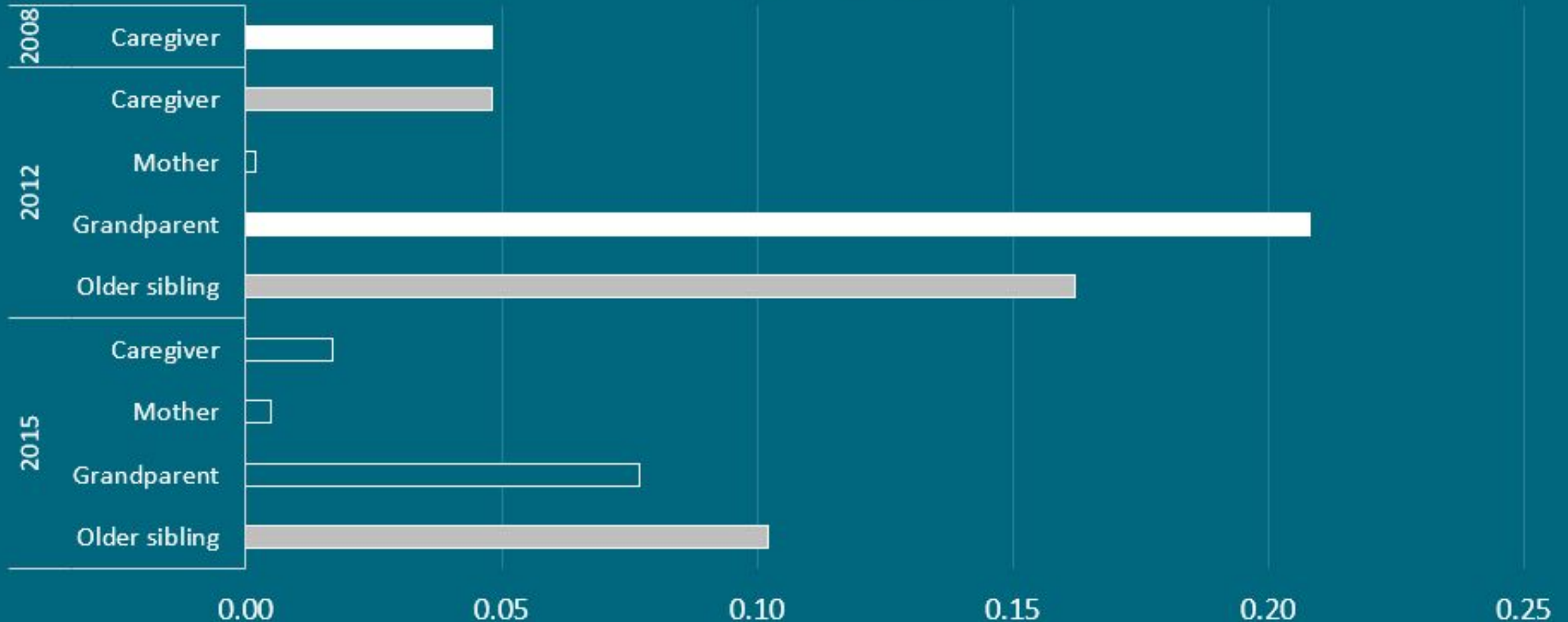
## Proportion of results showing that childcare interventions benefitted...



- Four out of five results show that childcare interventions benefit children
- This is true for both young children in daycare and older children in preschool
- This is true for girls and boys (but especially for girls)
- Whether poorer children benefit depends on the context

# Remember: Care interventions can have economic benefits beyond children and mothers

## Currently employed



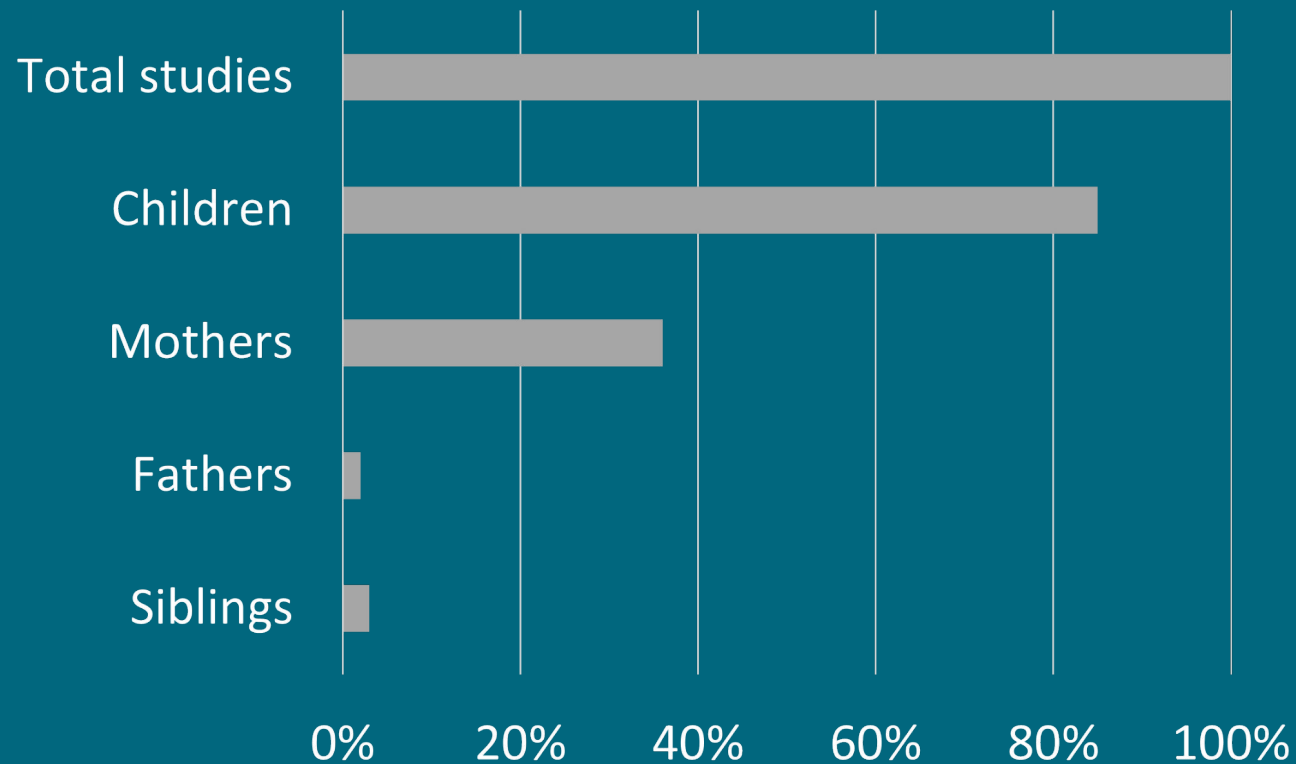


# Many studies don't measure impacts on women. There are ready-made tools to help.



## Tools to measure impacts...

*Number of studies with at least one outcome from the group*



### On mothers' economic outcomes

- Guide for Measuring Women's Empowerment and Economic Outcomes in Impact Evaluations...
- Improving the Measurement of Rural Women's Employment

### On mothers' mental health

- Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale
- Parenting Stress Index
- Hopkins Symptoms Checklist

### On children's development

- Measure of Early Learning Environments Scale (3-6)
- Environmental Rating Scales (0-2; 3-5)

# Areas where we have a lot to learn!

- How does care affect women's decision-making power?
- Which models and characteristics of care are most beneficial to women's economic empowerment?
- How does care impact the quality of life for care workers and entrepreneurs?
- Does the work of care entrepreneurs create positive spillovers into local economies?
- How can systems support those providing care to ensure there are no trade-offs between women's empowerment and child development?

# Recap: Who benefits from care interventions?

- Women (specifically, mothers) have better economic outcomes.
- Little evidence of a tradeoff: Children generally have better development outcomes.
- Public care tends to benefit other women family members economically (such as grandparents and older siblings) as well.

# — PANEL DISCUSSION



# PANEL DISCUSSION

## MODERATOR



**David Evans**

Senior Fellow

Center for Global Development

## PANELISTS



**Amy Luinstra**

Manager, Global Operations (Acting),  
Gender and Economic Inclusion

International Finance Corporation



**Frances Beaton-Day**

Co-Lead for Invest in  
Childcare

World Bank



**Sabrina Habib**

CEO and Co-Founder

Kidogo

# WRAP UP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Participant Poll



## Call for Member Spotlights

Want to feature your activity in a future USAID WEE CoP monthly communication?

Email Banyan Global at [fundcop@banyanglobalgita.com](mailto:fundcop@banyanglobalgita.com)



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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12501152/>



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