



ilifa
LABANTWANA



Expanding the Role of Private
Investment in Young Children Globally
Increasing Access: Increasing Equality

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An Essential Package: Framing ECD for SA

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL PACKAGE SERVICES AND SUPPORT

CONCEPTION TO BIRTH

- early antenatal booking
- nutritional support in pregnancy
- mental health services
- prevention of alcohol and substance use

BIRTH TO 2 YEARS

- birth registration
- early child support grant access
- immunisation
- breast feeding
- caregiver psychological support

2-4 YEARS

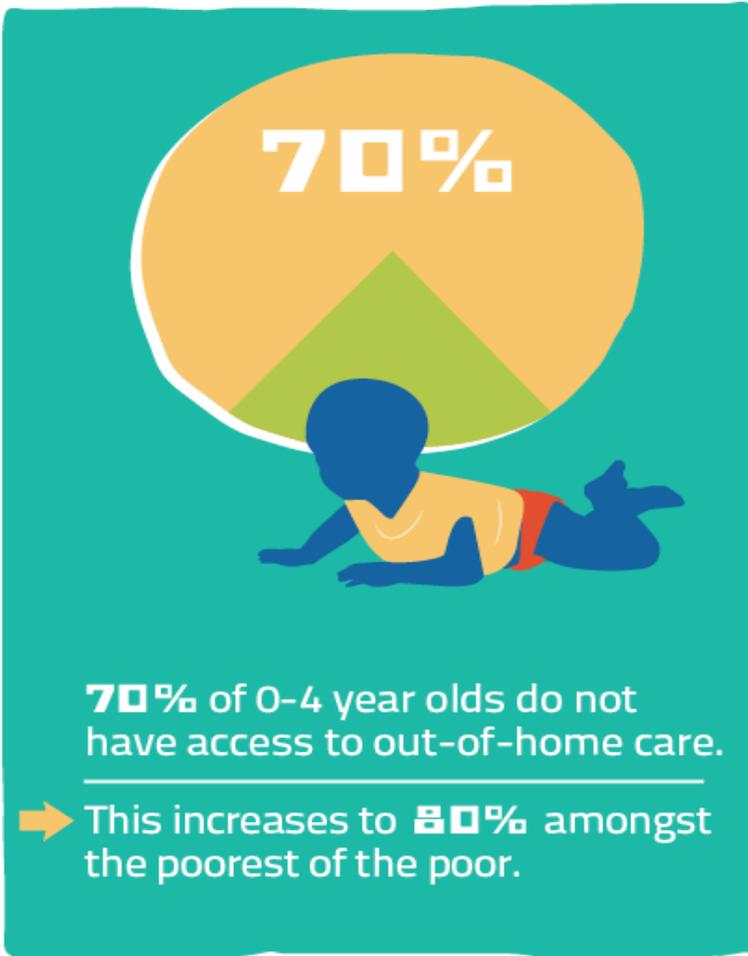
- early learning interventions
- parenting programmes
- nutritional support

4-5 YEARS

- formal early learning interventions (e.g. preschool)
- nutritional support



Context: Funding for ECD in SA doesn't provide a solid base for universal access



Ilifa: facilitating a quantum leap

A Unique Donor Collaboration

- Ilifa is a **'small p' for political** strategy for ECD, driven by a donor partnership
- Ilifa is **an actor in the sector**, seeking to use its resources catalytically to bring about quantum leap change
- Ilifa **seeks partnerships** in civil society and government **using its grant making capacity as a mechanism** for enabling its strategic objectives
- The resource base of the programme **creates access and leverage**

The formation of Ilifa – and the significant injection of funding from three diverse donors – assisted in creating momentum around ECD in a context where there have been significant lags. This momentum, in turn, has the potential to serve as a catalyst to the state and other non-governmental organisations in the sector to upscale integrated ECD services in a collective and collaborative manner.



One Fund, One Focus!

A window of opportunity!

- **Politically the space was right for a programme like Ilifa!**
- **Getting an agreement** in place took some doing: bringing three donor partners together is challenging, each comes with their own institutional culture, funding expectations and reporting requirements.
- What made it work was **a common vision for ECD**: by working together and pooling resources, both human, imaginative and financial meant that each partner was bigger than they could be alone.
- So, through joint strategising and engagement, the partners **created a solid resource base**, an amplified voice and a multi-faceted intervention to support the transformation of ECD quality and scalability in South Africa.
- **Each partner still continued to support the ECD sector outside of this consortium** so their contributions to ECD in the country were in fact doubled + relationships strengthened.



A Generative Partnership?!

Plus minus....

- Donor partners have a hands on role to play in implementation of the programme,
- Ilifa has been able to move relatively quickly, to be responsive, to provide leadership and even to act pre-emptively,
- Challenges come from outside of the partnership from civil society especially, suspicion about a donor led strategy, this terrain requires constant navigation,
- On the other hand, other donors, government departments and many civil society organisations wanted to understand the strategy and how they could be part of this



Catalysing funding

In addition to providing funding to the ECD strategy of Ilifa, the programme sought to interface directly with the funding mechanisms enabling ECD service delivery in SA

Increasing the flow

- **We did research:** Follow the Money, exploring what funding was available to ECD, where were the logjams and how could funding flows be enhanced?
- We **collaborated on the development of models:** through supporting direct service provision in communities we got to understand some of what works and what doesn't
- This has led **to work directly with National Treasury** on the flow of funding (per child per day subsidies) to centres and the enhancement of a currently onerous system of registration which enable access to this resource

Government buy-in

- We **costed these models** and supported government partners to prepare their budget bids
- **This secured ew funding streams** for community based ECD
- It also **built the capacity of our partners**, to continue costing for an expanded service delivery model
- These processes also fed into **National Treasury** budgeting for ECD in SA



Expand investment: Increase access!
Increase equality!



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