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# IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION THROUGH BETTER FINANCING FOR DATA: A COMPARATIVE REVIEW

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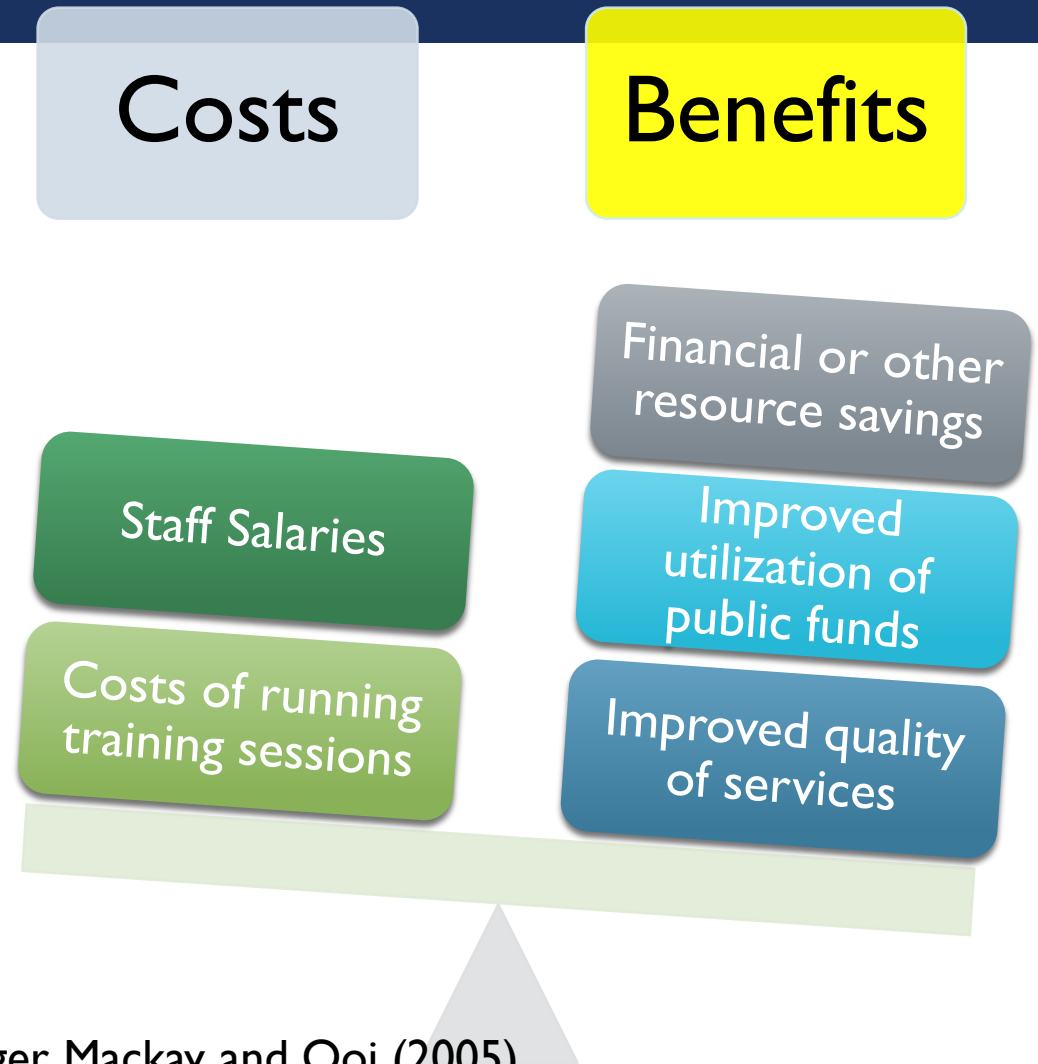
International Conference Center, Victoria, Seychelles  
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## OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENTATION

1. To understand why financing for data is important in improving quality of ECCE
2. To summarize the key principles in establishing well-functioning financial framework for ECCE with strong data collection mechanism
3. To introduce some successful country cases
4. To make recommendations towards more and better financing for data collection and use in ECCE

# SPENDING ON DATA COLLECTION AND USE IS A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

- ➔ The government collects and utilizes data not only because it is a compliance requirement, but also because there is a high return on investments in these efforts.



# OUTSTANDING CLASSIC CASE IN EDUCATION SECTOR

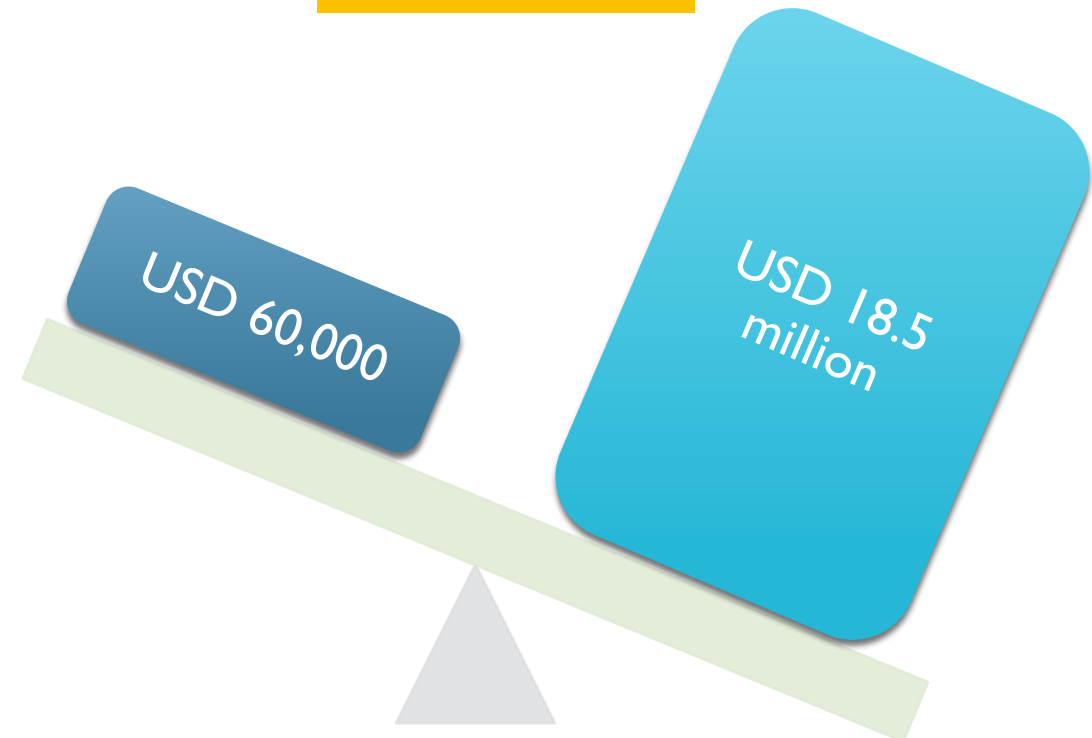
## Uganda (1996) Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS)

Data collection and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect data on how much capitation grants each primary school actually receives from the government</li> <li>Compare them with budget allocations</li> </ul>
Result	Only 13% of the capitation grants actually reached the schools.
Action	Publishing the monthly transfers of public funds in the main newspapers.
Benefit	Proportion of approved education funds which actually reached the schools was increased to 80%.

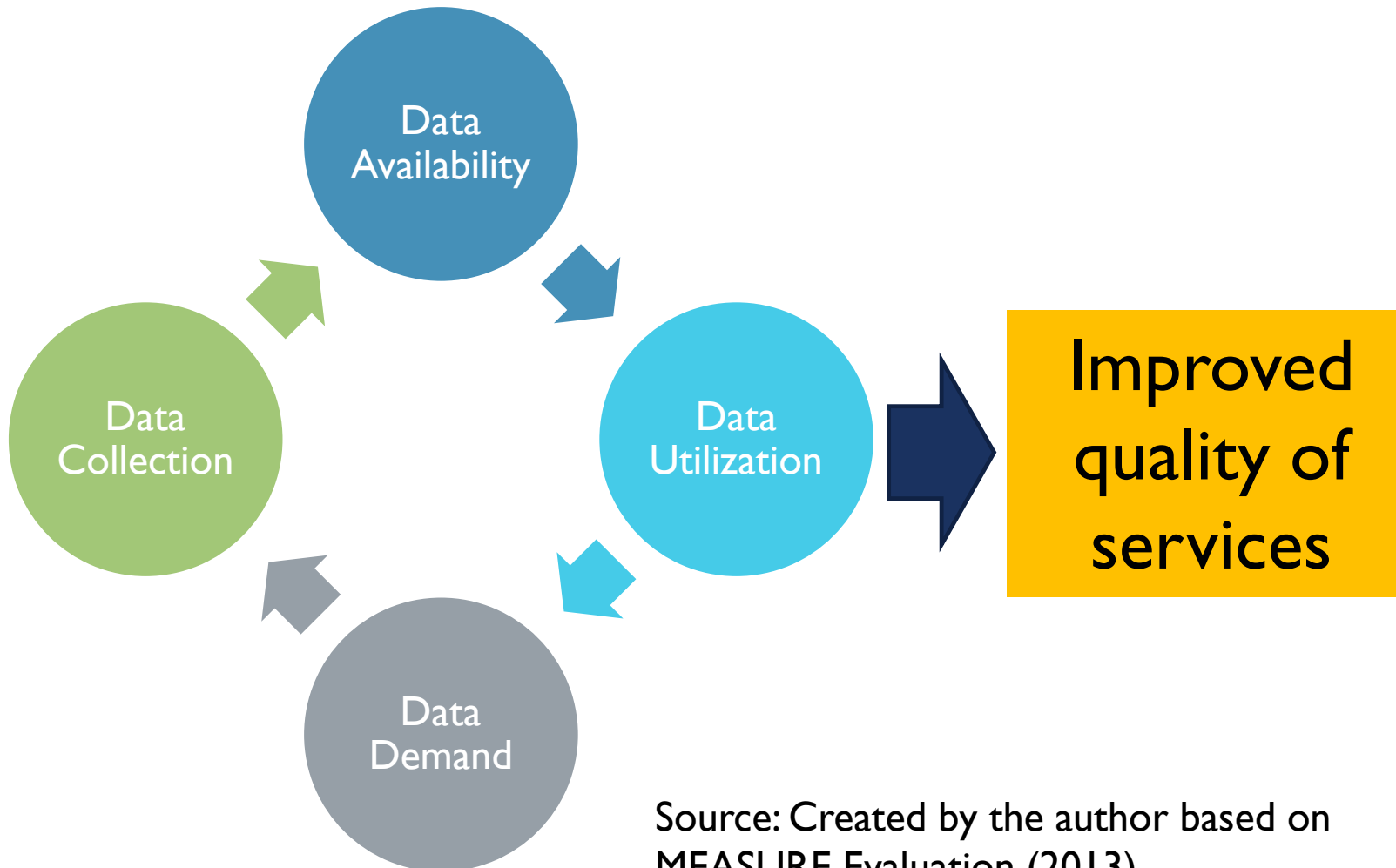
Costs

Benefits

CBR=308



# HOW WE CAN IMPROVE QUALITY OF SERVICES THROUGH BETTER FINANCING FOR DATA?



Source: Created by the author based on MEASURE Evaluation (2013)

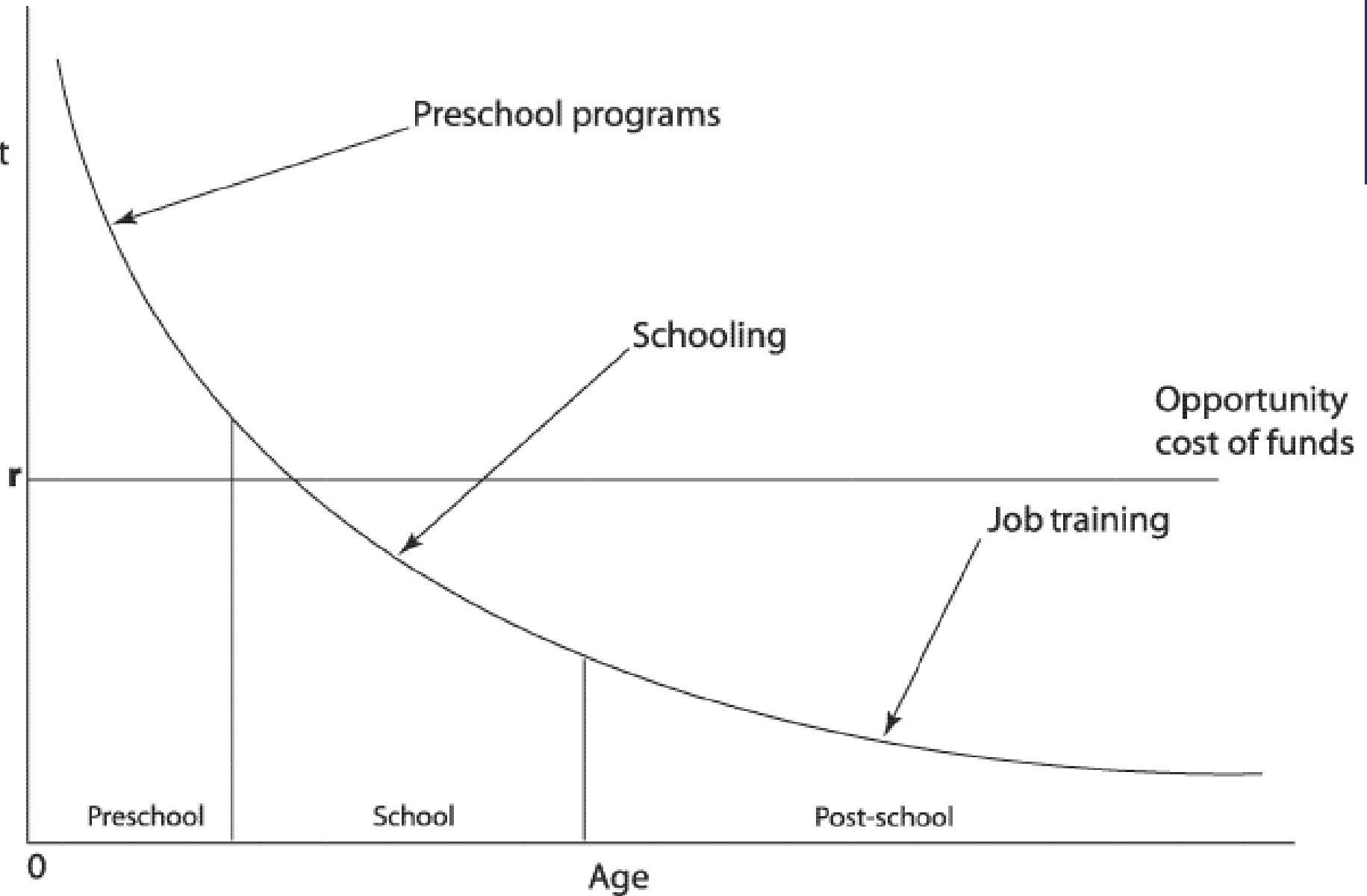
- ❑ Some bottlenecks in the large national system may be easy to fix than we imagine.
- ❑ Building a well-designed system to identify them with a timely manner has a high value worth investing in.
- ❑ Success of the system should be measured by how much data is utilized.

# WHY MORE AND BETTER FINANCING FOR DATA IN ECCE ?

- Low level of government spending on ECCE
  - Increasing government commitment on ECCE subsector
  - Strong evidence, which shows notably high rate of return on investing in ECCE programs, have been produced by rigorous impact evaluations conducted in USA and European countries.
  - More efforts are also required to produce evidence to attract more funding as a subsector, especially in developing countries.
- Various actors from different sectors have numerous service delivery options in ECCE.
  - ECCE subsector has a great potential to find more cost-effective options by investing in collecting and utilizing data.

# RATE OF RETURN TO HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Rate of return to investment in human capital



Source: Cunha, Heckman, Lochner and Masterov (2006, 710).

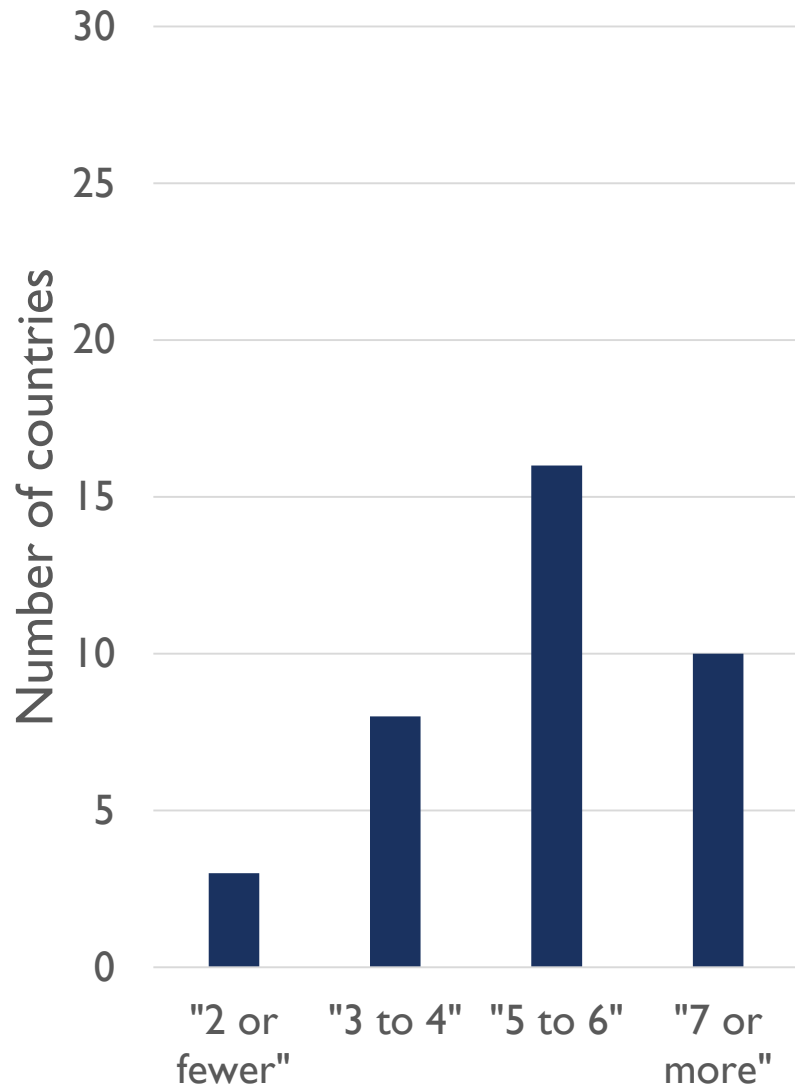
## NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR DATA COLLECTION AND USE IN ECCE

- ▶ Notable efforts have been made to produce internationally comparable ECCE data under SDG4-Education 2030.
  - ▶ Revising UNICEF Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI)
  - ▶ OECD's international Early Learning and Child Well-being Study
- ▶ In parallel with these efforts, it is important to make efforts for increasing the number of countries with national system for collecting and using data.
  - ▶ A few countries, including high-income countries, have a national monitoring system for ECCE
  - ▶ Some countries have objections to collecting and using outcomes data for young children (Bertram and Pascal, 2016).

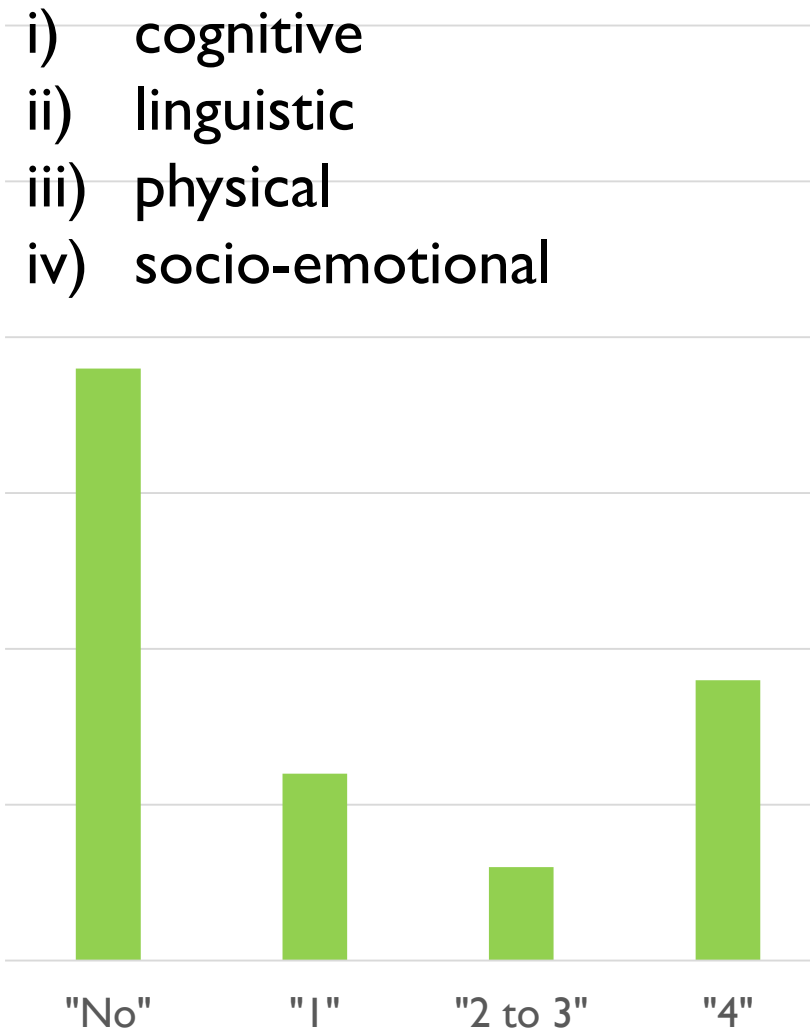


# FINDINGS FROM SABER – ECD 2012-2017

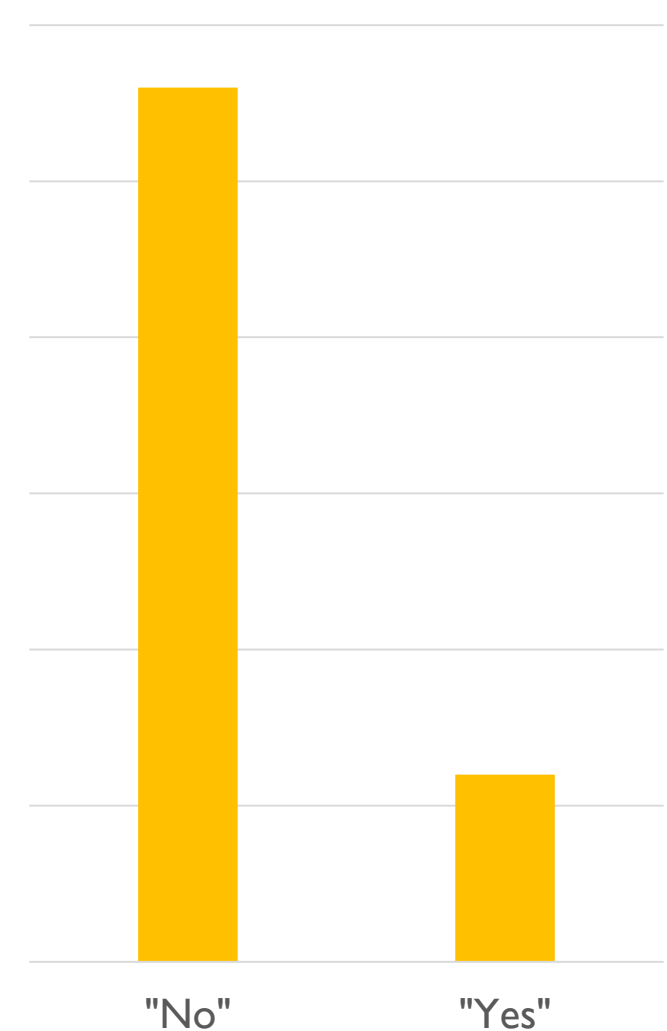
Administrative data on access



Number of domains included in data system



Tracking development outcomes

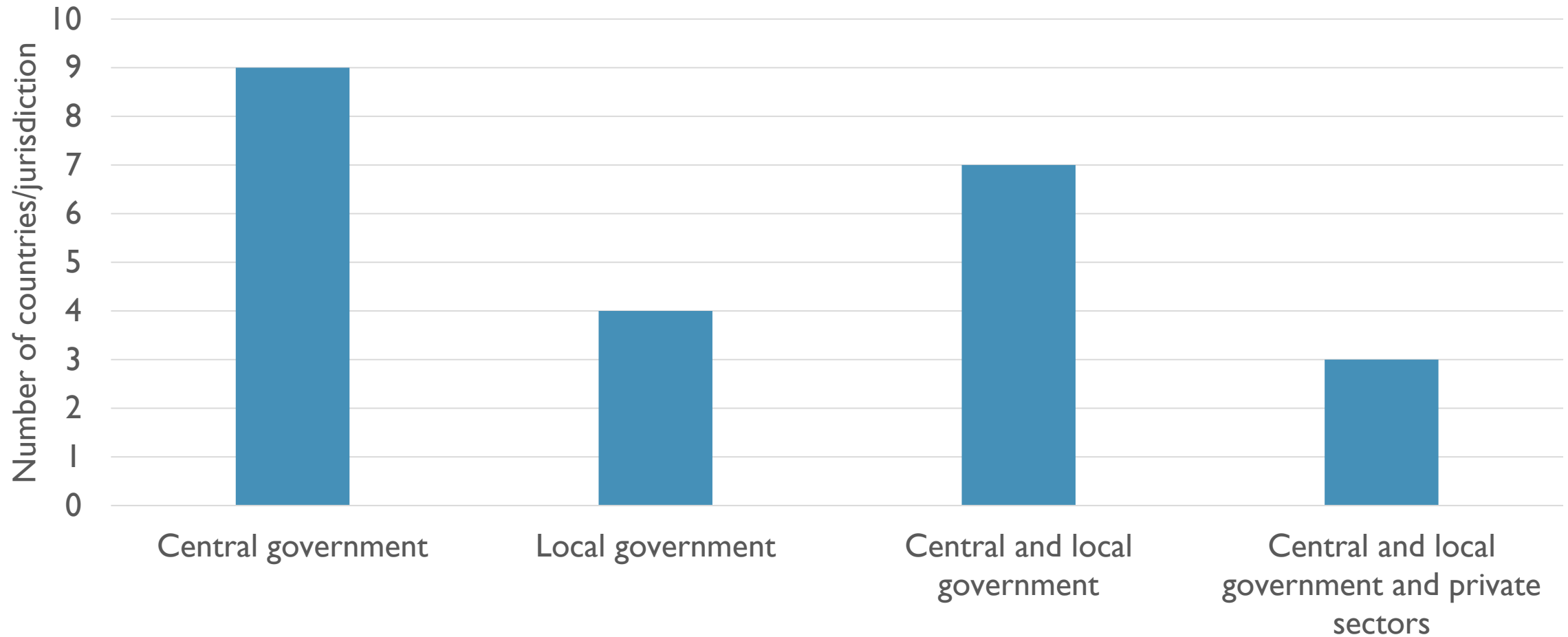


## TRENDS IN FINANCING FOR DATA IN ECCE

- Unfortunately, there are little comprehensive data which show how much each government spends for collecting and using data.
- We have some information on who finance for data in ECCE.
  - OECD conducted “Online Survey on Monitoring Quality in Early learning and Development” in 2013 targeting 24 countries/jurisdiction.
- Key findings show that funding of data collection system is almost exclusively relying on public.
  - It is often sourced by different levels of government simultaneously.

(OECD 2015)

## HOW ARE ECCE MONITORING SYSTEMS FUNDED? RESULTS FROM OECD SURVEY IN 2013



Source: Created by the author based on OECD (2015)

## KEY PRINCIPLES: ENSURING **ADEQUACY** FINANCING FOR DATA IN ECCE

- How much should governments spend on their data collection and use? How much is adequate?
- A rule of thumb ratio: 1% of a program's spending should be devoted to data.
  - There is no logical or empirical bases behind the benchmark.
  - It can lead to under-budgeting for data collection and use.

(Mackay 2007)

# KEY PRINCIPLES: INCREASING EFFICIENCY FINANCING FOR DATA IN ECCE

## Utilize existing survey and administrative data

- Almost all countries have already had data collection system.
- There is always a potential to reduce duplication in the existing data collection system.

## Collect data through a unified, integrated and comprehensive system

- Focus should be put on creating new coordination structure.

## Build data collection into routine administrative tasks

- Also important to keep in mind that we do need to conduct new data collection for collecting selective core information when necessary.

# KEY PRINCIPLES: INCREASING EFFICIENCY FINANCING FOR DATA IN ECCE

## Design data collection system with a long-term agenda

- Worth considering how we can collect data within a national system which enable us to assess the long-term impact of ECCE
- Is the data collection system for ECCE embedded in the system for the whole education sector?

## Apply ICT

- It has a huge potential to dramatically cut costs retaining or even improving quality.

## KEY PRINCIPLES: PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY FINANCING FOR DATA IN ECCE

- Lack of sustainability is a general issue in financing ECCE especially in developing countries when it is largely funded by donors

(Ogawa et al. 2016)

- Can your country's data collection system for ECCE survive a change in administration or in government ministers/top officials or in donor funding?
  - It is OK to be lead by a political leadership and/or strong donor support in establishing the system.
  - The utilization of collected data should be institutionalized or mainstreamed for promoting the sustainability of the system.

(Mackay 2007)

## COUNTRY CASES: JAPAN

### INTRODUCING UNIFIED DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

#### Basic administrative & financial framework

- Comprehensive Support System for Children and Childcare (CSSCC) “子ども・子育て支援新制度”
- Two ministries (health and education) and cabinet office involved in the implementation.
- The Cabinet Office (CO) coordinated at the national level and executes the CSSCC budget.

#### Data collection practice and challenges

- Japan used to have no holistic data collection system.
- Ministry of Education and Ministry Health collected data separately.
- Under CSSCC, CO established a completely new unified data collection system covering all types of ECCE facilities.



COUNTRY CASES: **CHILE**  
FREQUENTLY CITED AS  
ONE OF THE BEST DATA COLLECTION AND USE IN ECCE

Basic administrative & financial framework

- Chile Crece Contigo (“Chile Grows with You,” or ChCC)
- Three ministries (health, education, social development) involved in the implementation.
- The Ministry of Social Development (MDS) coordinated at the national level and executes the ChCC budget including data collection and use.

Data collection practices and challenges

- Biopsychosocial Development Support Program (PADB) tracks the individual development of children with an online system.

## COUNTRY CASES: CHILE

### NUTS AND BOLTS FOR EFFICIENT DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

- In ECCE sub-sector, a coordinating ministry (Ministry of Social Development) focused on building an on-line platforms.
  - All information is linked to the unique national identification numbers of the child.
  - Individual-level data can be linked with other government databases.
  - Designed to be used by all sectors (education, health, social services, among others).

World Bank (2018, 67-68)
- Chile is known as a country which has an efficient system for data collection and use.
  - The government spends far less than 1% of their program budget for data.
  - Relatively few number of evaluations are conducted.

Mackay (2007)

## TAKE A WAY MESSAGES

1. Ensure adequate financing to collect quality data through government funding
2. Increase financial efficiency by collecting data through the unified system
3. Promote financial sustainability by embedding the data collection system in the ECCE service delivery mechanism
4. Seek the possibility of utilizing ICT for increasing the cost-effectiveness of data collection system in ECCE

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Thank you for your kind attention.

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