



# Better Early Learning and Development at Scale (BELDS)

An innovative partnership and knowledge initiative for planning early childhood education

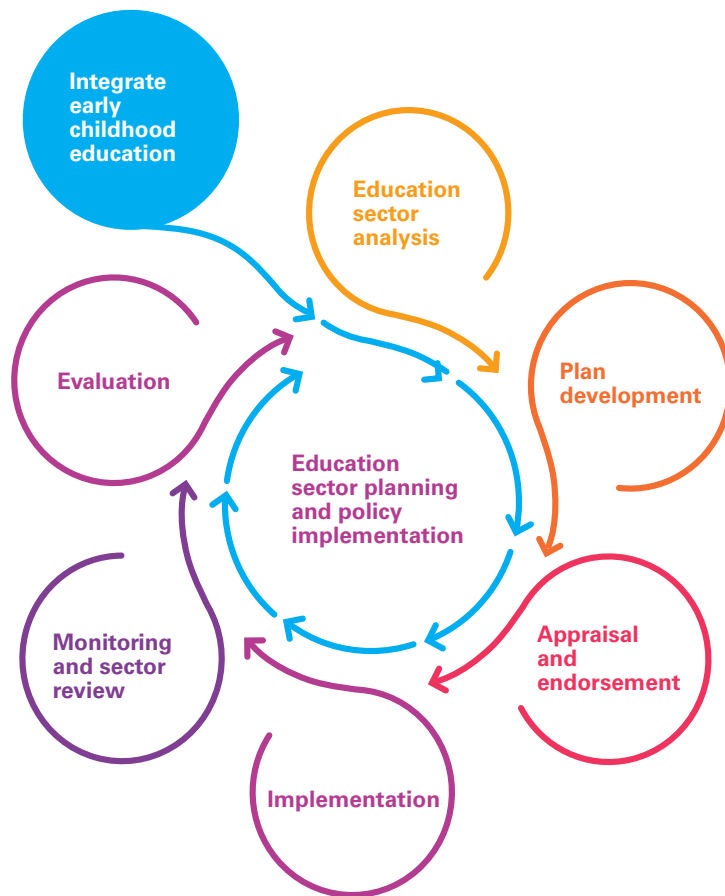


unicef   
for every child

The importance of quality early childhood education is reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, as target 4.2 calls for access to quality pre-primary education for all children. To achieve this ambition, it is important to ask a key question:

## How can countries effectively plan for quality early childhood education at scale?

**One vital solution is to ensure that early childhood education is systematically integrated into the national cycles of education sector planning and policy implementation.** To this end, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and UNICEF have partnered under the BELDS initiative to pilot an innovative and consultative approach to strengthen national capacities to plan, cost and finance early childhood education programmes and ensure that they are a crucial part of the processes for education sector planning and implementation.



## Key facts about BELDS

- **Four GPE partner countries** are currently engaged in capacity building activities under the BELDS pilot: Kyrgyz Republic, Ghana, Lesotho, and Sao Tome and Principe.
- **A global toolkit** of resources is being developed to support countries with effective planning for early childhood education across all phases of education sector plan development.
- **Cross-country** peer learning and exchange will take place (e.g., webinars, workshops) to promote best practices, lessons learned, and collaboration between pilot countries and other countries that are interested in taking part in BELDS.
- **The results of BELDS** are aimed to inform the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX), which seeks to strengthen national education systems and accelerate progress through knowledge generation, innovation and capacity strengthening.

## What are the intended outcomes of BELDS?

- 1 Raise the profile of early childhood education so that it is recognized as an essential, integral part of education sector plans and policies and, in turn, make tangible improvements towards meeting the challenge to provide the world's children with universal access to quality pre-primary education.
- 2 Ensure that national education systems, including the ministry of education and other relevant ministries, are equipped with the capacities, resources and knowledge to mainstream early childhood education into education sector plans, budgets and implementation strategies.

## BELDS represents a fresh vision

Ensuring children enter school ready to learn and succeed begins with the prioritization of early childhood education in education sector plans and budgets. The vision for BELDS is to engage with more countries and partners, put to use the global toolkit that is now being developed, and learn from ongoing efforts and successes.

**JOIN NOW**—GPE and UNICEF urge all countries and their partners to actively engage in this innovative initiative and community of practice. Together, we can make universal access to quality pre-primary education a reality for all children by 2030.

## **HERE'S HOW...**

**Read more about BELDS online:**

<https://www.globalpartnership.org/ecce>

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