



ECD FUNDING LANDSCAPE: SURVEY

October, 2022



Table of Contents

2	
Introduction	3
1 WHO ARE THE FUNDERS?	5
1.1 type of organisation	5
1.2 geographic spread.....	5
2 WHAT ECD and support services are currently funded?.....	5
2.1 ecd services currently funded	5
2.2 ecd support services currently funded	6
2.3 funder overlap.....	7
2.4 investment amount.....	8
2.5 regional focus	8
3 Has investment changed in the last year?	10
3.1 changes to investment activities	10
3.2 future interest in investment areas	11
4 How do funders measure grantees' performance?	13
4.1 reporting requirements	13
4.2 measurement tools.....	13
5 What new partnerships have been established?	14
5.1 new partnerships.....	14
5.2 public sector partnerships	15
5.3 future partnerships	16
5.4 partnership platforms	16
5.5 grantee platforms.....	17
5.6 challenges with partnership	18
6 how do funders view the ecd landscape?.....	18
6.1 supporting systemic change	18
6.2 funding lessons.....	20

6.3	best practices in funding ecd.....	22
7	COMMENTARY ON KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE SURVEY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS	23
7.1	trends in funding	24
7.2	measurement trends and data-informed interventions.....	24
7.3	collaboration and partnerships	25
7.4	future directions – what now?	26

For more information, contact:

IPASA

louise@ipa-sa.org.za

www.ipa-sa.org.za

INTRODUCTION

Within South Africa's early childhood development (ECD) ecosystem, funders play an important role given limited state resources and capacity. Funding priorities and practices may enable important change and transformation within this ecosystem, but collaboration and information-sharing remain on the periphery.

In 2021, a [survey](#) of the early learning funding landscape in South Africa was distributed among local and global funders who support early learning activities in South Africa. In September 2022, a follow-up survey was distributed to ECD funders to collect additional data and insights on the funding landscape within South Africa's Early Childhood Development (ECD) sector. The 2022 survey was jointly commissioned by the Independent Philanthropy Association of South Africa (IPASA), and the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation.

The purpose of the survey was to obtain additional insights on how ECD funders could contribute to, and leverage, improvement in the sector, as well as share important lessons that might benefit the ECD funding community as a whole. In particular, the survey sought to understand:

- The types and geographic location of initiatives currently funded in the ECD sector;
- How investments have shifted in recent times;
- Funder perspectives on outcome measurement;
- What partnerships and collaborations currently exist in the sector; and
- How funders are currently supporting systemic change in the sector.

The survey was a Google Form in which funders were asked to answer 30 questions. It was distributed to 74 funders, 6 of whom were identified as funding ECD prior to the survey. To assist with identifying new, or other known, funders supporting the ECD sector, a question to this effect was included in the survey. Through this question, 9 leads were identified but when followed up, these organisations did not meet the criteria for the survey. After four weeks, the survey was closed and 28 responses were recorded. This represents a response rate of 38%. It is thus important to note that the results recorded herein do not represent a national perspective, but are limited to the inputs provided by the 28 organisations who responded to the survey.

This report summarises the inputs of the 28 organisations who completed the survey. It is structured around 6 key questions that seek to understand funder perceptions and behaviour in South Africa's ECD sector:

1. Who are the funders?

2. What ECD and support services are currently funded?
3. Has investment changed in the last year?
4. How do funders measure grantees' performance?
5. What new partnerships have been established?
6. How do funders view the ECD landscape?

A note on terminology

The term *funders* is used in this report to describe entities that provide funding to ECD initiatives, including: private trusts and foundations; independent corporate foundations (excluding CSI); and impact investors.

The term *early childhood development (ECD)* is used in this report to describe all products, services, systems enhancements, research, or programmes that target children aged 0 – 6 years old, with the aim of improving their life trajectories. This includes any activities aimed at South Africa's Grade-R year.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to

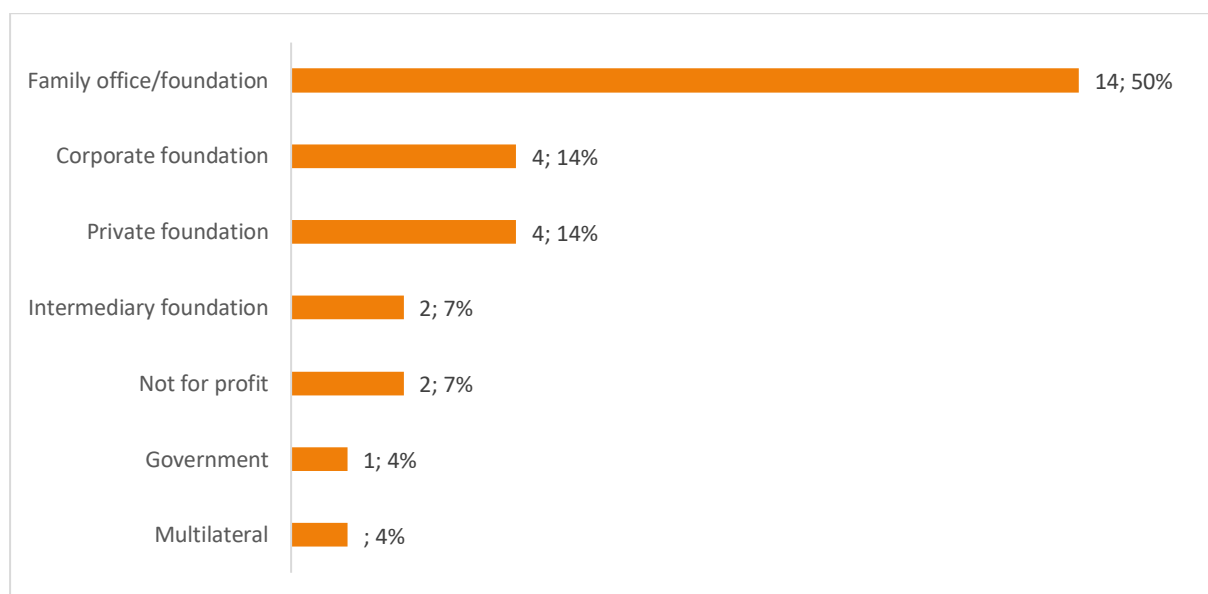
The respondents who completed the survey, Jessica Horler and Linda Biersteker for data analysis and report preparation, and the Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation for funding this initiative.

1 WHO ARE THE FUNDERS?

1.1 TYPE OF ORGANISATION

The majority of survey respondents represent family offices/foundations (50%).

Figure 1. Number and % of Respondents per Type of Organisation.



1.2 GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD

More than half of the respondents (61%) restrict their funding to South Africa only, whereas 39% (11) fund within and beyond South Africa. Hereafter, the former will be referred to as South Africa (SA) funders, whereas the latter will be referred to as Global funders. The funding practices of these two categories are compared throughout this report.

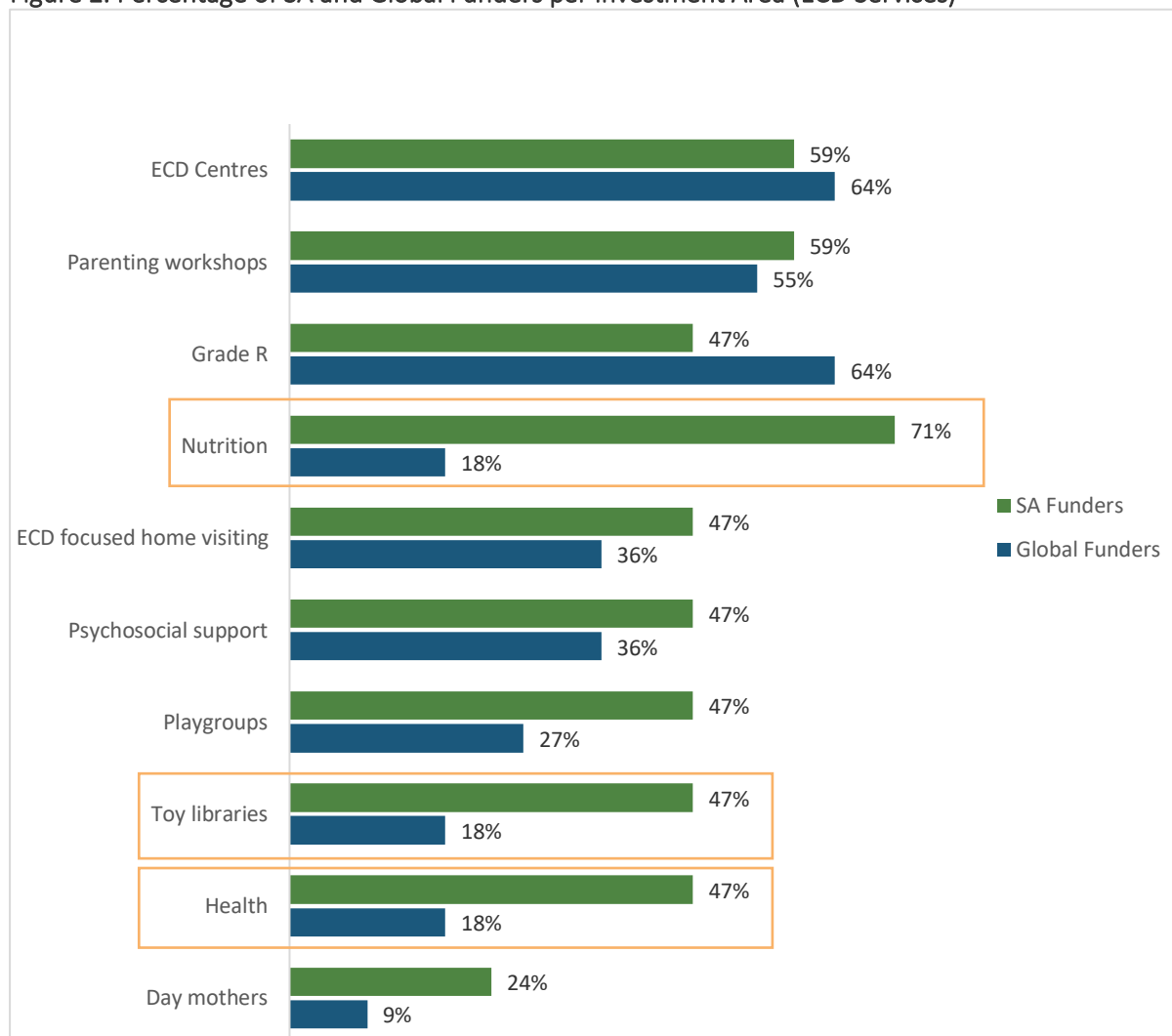
2 WHAT ECD AND SUPPORT SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY FUNDED?

2.1 ECD SERVICES CURRENTLY FUNDED

The most funded ECD service among the survey respondents is *ECD centres*, funded by 61% of all respondents. Additionally, Global funders appear to largely focus on *parenting workshops* and *Grade R*, while *nutrition* is the most funded area by SA funders (followed by *ECD centres* and *parenting*

workshops). Areas with the most distinct difference among SA and Global funders are *nutrition* (71% vs 18%), *toy libraries* (47% vs 18%), and *health* (47% vs 18%).

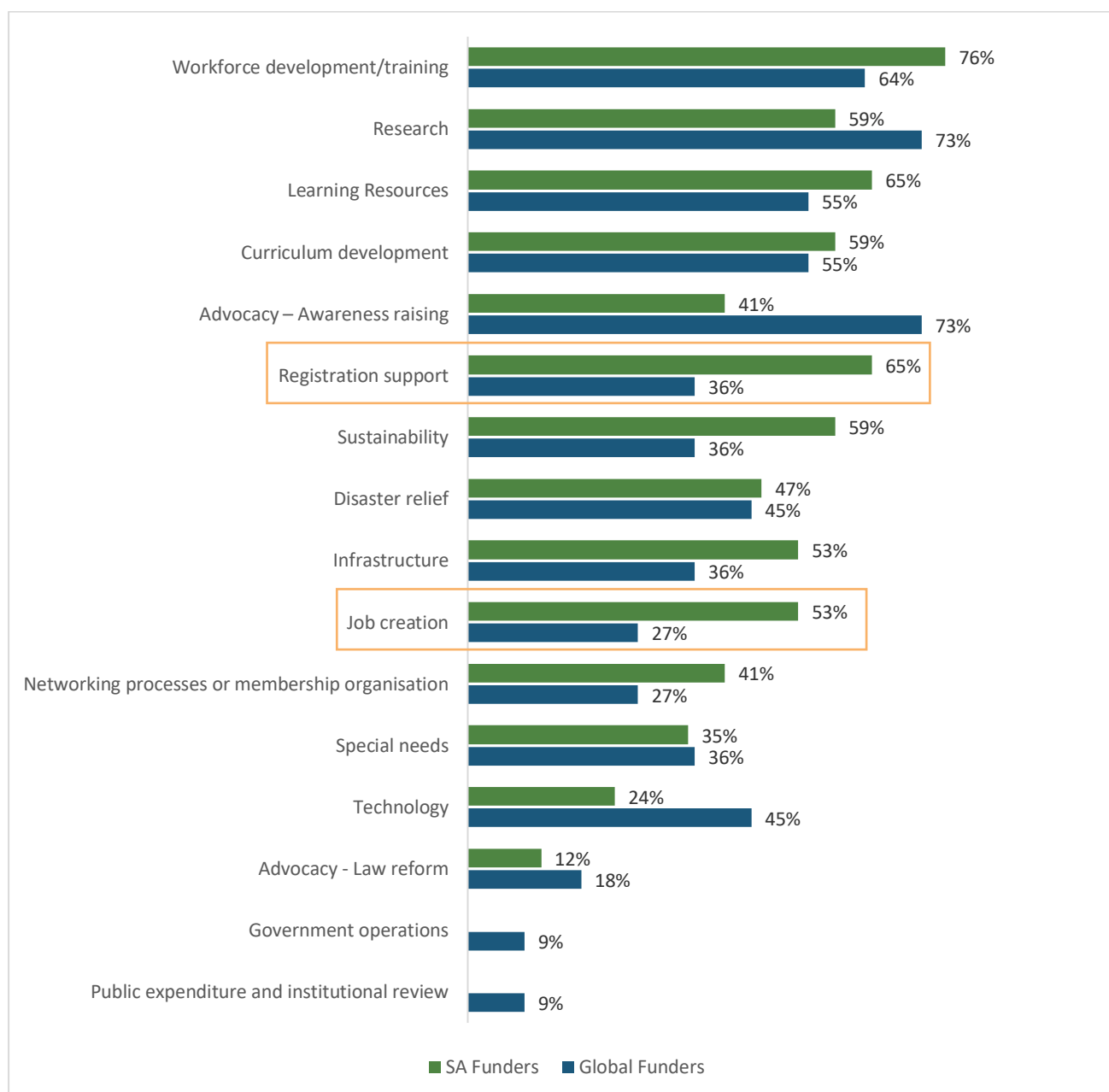
Figure 2. Percentage of SA and Global Funders per Investment Area (ECD Services)



2.2 ECD SUPPORT SERVICES CURRENTLY FUNDED

With regard to other services that support the ECD sector, 71% of respondents report funding *workforce development/practitioner training*. This remains the largest area among SA funders (76%), while most Global funders (73%) focus on *research and awareness-raising advocacy* initiatives. As above, there appear to be differences in investment focus between SA and Global Funders – especially in terms of *job creation* (53% vs 27%) and *registration support* (65% vs 36%) (see Figure 3 overleaf).

Figure 3. Percentage of SA and Global Funders per Investment Area (ECD Support Services)



2.3 FUNDER OVERLAP

Survey respondents were asked whether they are aware of other funders contributing to the same investment areas that they do. All but two respondents (93%; 26) said that they are aware of other funders working in the same focus areas, and 23 of them were able to name specific organisations. Likewise, the majority of respondents reported being aware of other funders working in the same geographic regions that they do (82%; 23). However, five (18%) respondents (2 global, 3 SA) were unaware/uncertain whether others were working in the same focus and/or geographical areas suggesting the need for better information sharing.

2.4 INVESTMENT AMOUNT

Fifteen respondents were able to provide the total amount of money (ZAR) currently being invested in their ECD portfolio, over the last year. Most SA funders are either investing between R10 - R15 million, or between R1 - R5 million, with a larger variation found among the Global Funders.

Table 1. Grant Range among SA and Global Funders.

AMOUNT IN ZAR	GLOBAL VS SA FUNDERS	
	Global	SA
R200 000 - R600 000		
R600 000 – R1 000 000	1	
R1 000 000 – R5 000 000	1	3
R5 000 000 – R10 000 000		1
R10 000 000 – R15 000 000		4
R15 000 000 – R20 000 000	1	
R20 000 000 – R25 000 000		2
R25 000 000 – R30 000 000		
R30 000 000 – R35 000 000	1	
R35 000 000 – R40 000 000	1	

2.5 REGIONAL FOCUS

The majority of funders fund or implement projects nationally (75%); four funders (14%) report only funding provincially, while the rest fund a mix of national, provincial, and district-level projects (10%; 3). Provincial areas are highlighted in Figure 4 overleaf; the Northern Cape remains the only province with no reported funding among the survey respondents. Three funders reported the specific districts that they work in, provided below (a single funder supports multiple districts).

Table 2. Districts Reported to be Supported by Three Funders

Province	Districts	Number of Funders
Western Cape	City of Cape Town	1
	Metro South, Metro Central, Metro East, Metro North	1
KwaZulu-Natal	Harry Gwala, iLembe, Pinetown, Ugu, Umlazi	1

Gauteng	Ekurhuleni South, Gauteng North, Johannesburg Central, Johannesburg North, Johannesburg South, Johannesburg West, Tshwane North	1
Eastern Cape	Buffalo City, Joe Gqabi, Nelson Mandela	1
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni and Bohlabela	1
Limpopo	Capricorn North and South, Sekhukhune, Mogalakwena, Mopani West, Vhembe	1

Figure 4. Number of Funders Working in Each Province

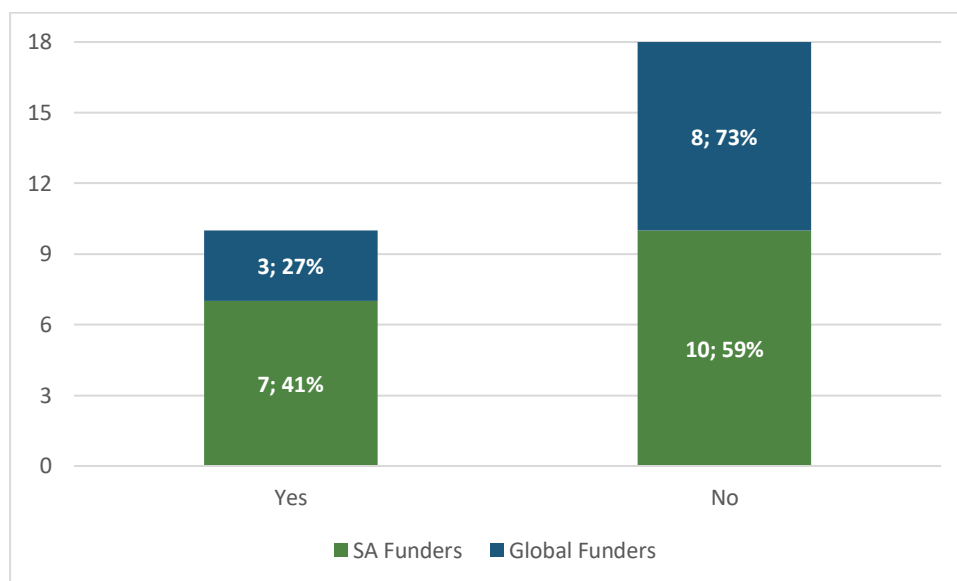


3 HAS INVESTMENT CHANGED IN THE LAST YEAR?

3.1 CHANGES TO INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

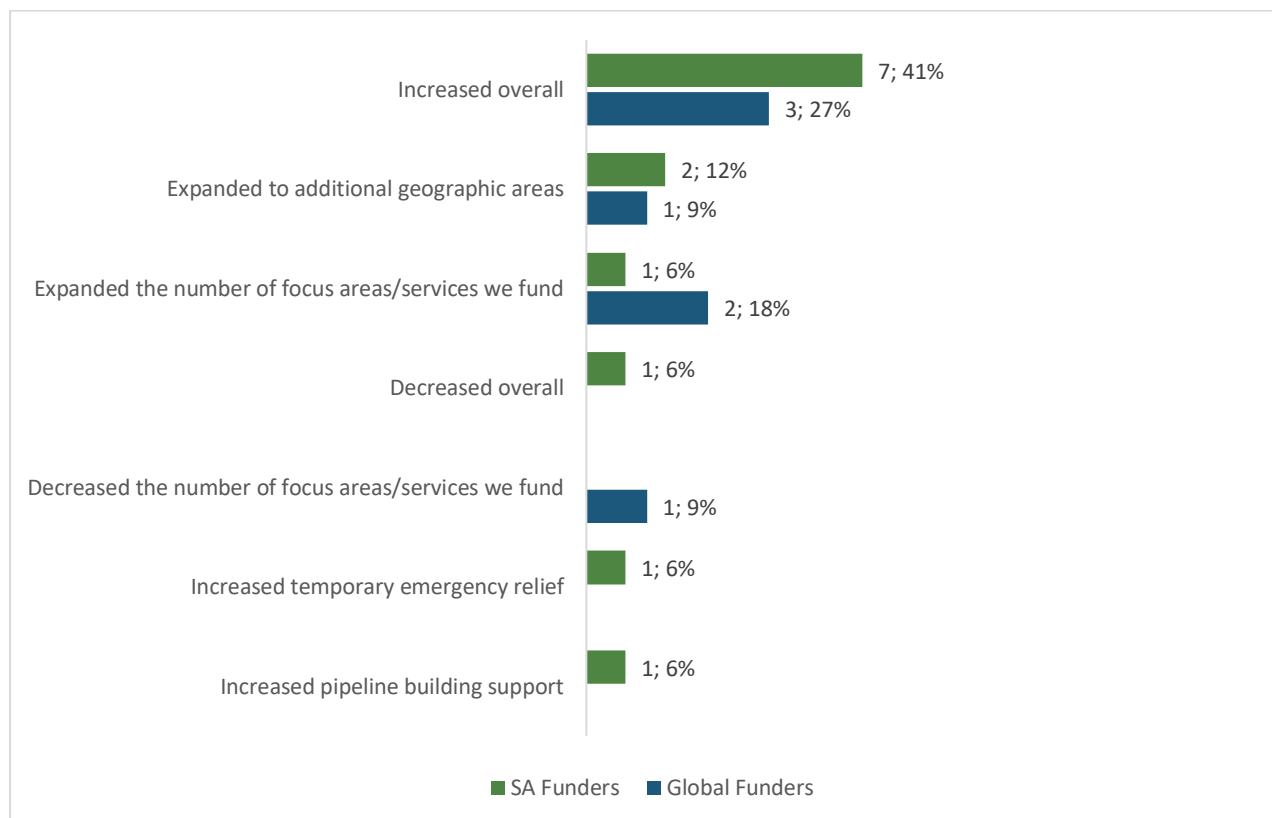
Most respondents reported that no major changes in their investment activities have taken place over the last year (64%), while ten reported making changes to their investments (36%). More than double the number of SA funders reported changes to their activities (7), as compared to Global funders (3).

Figure 5. Number and % of Respondents Reporting Changes to Investment Activities



When asked how investments have shifted over the last year, 36% of respondents said that their investments have increased overall. Most of these respondents are SA funders (70%; 7).

Figure 6. Number and % of Respondents per Type of Investment Shift



To explain these shifts, respondents offered the following explanations:

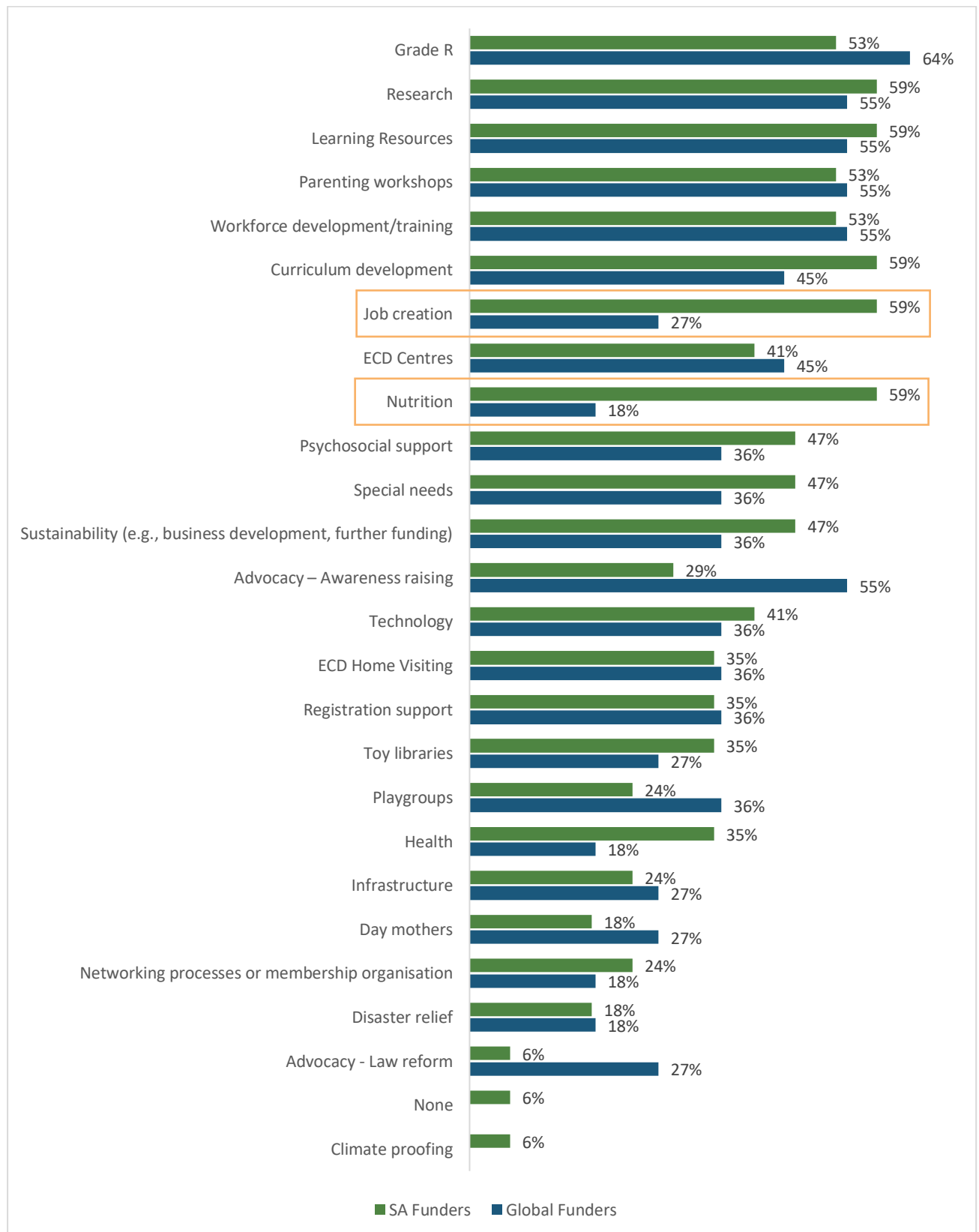
- Responses to disasters such as COVID-19 and the KZN floods.
- Moving away from disaster relief and toward other opportunity areas in ECD.
- Changes to strategy that recognise the importance of ECD.
- To increase the impact of the fund.
- To expand into priority geographic areas.
- To meet newly identified needs.
- New partnerships with specific mandates.

3.2 FUTURE INTEREST IN INVESTMENT AREAS

Respondents were asked whether they have any interest in future investment in different focus areas.

Areas identified by 57% of all funders include: *Grade R, research and learning resources*. Reflecting currently funded areas (see Figure 2 and Figure 3 previously), *nutrition* remains a ‘contested’ area, with a large amount of local attention (59%), but little global attention (18%), as does *job creation* (see Figure 7 overleaf).

Figure 7. Percentage of SA and Global Funders with an Interest in Future Investment Areas



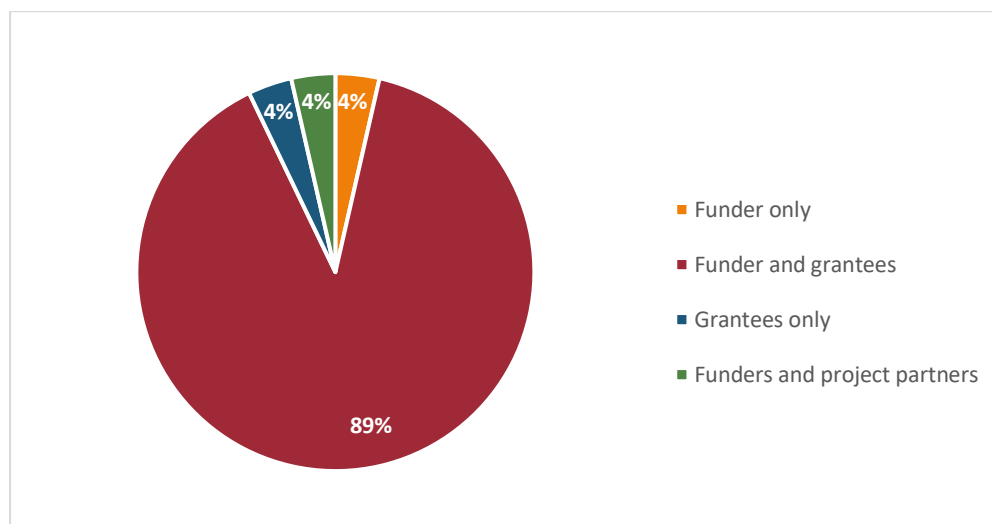
4 HOW DO FUNDERS MEASURE GRANTEES' PERFORMANCE?

4.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Almost all of the funders (93%) require that grantees measure and report programme outcomes/targets. One SA funder reported that there is no requirement, while another said that this measurement and reporting is only required for larger grants (R1 million and over).

The majority of funders (89%) decide what should be measured in conversation with the grantees, while 4% of funders each: decide on their own; allow grantees to decide; and decide in collaboration with project partners.

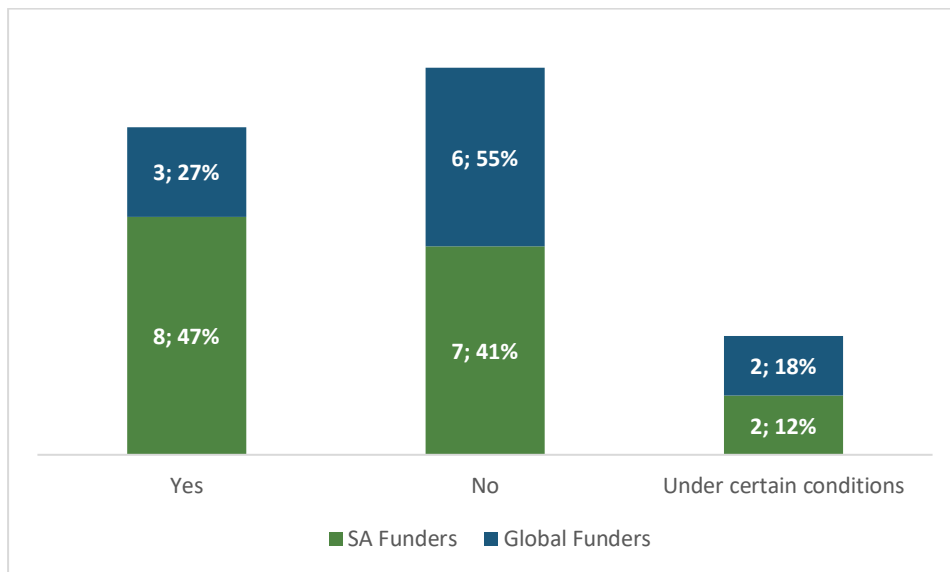
Figure 8. How Funders Decide on Reporting Requirements



4.2 MEASUREMENT TOOLS

Respondents were asked whether they stipulate use of a particular metric or measurement tool in grantee reporting. Just under half said no (46%), while 39% do require use of a particular tool.

Figure 9. Number and % of Respondents that Require Use of a Particular Measurement Tool



Among those who specify tools under certain conditions, these conditions include:

- Summative assessment (as opposed to formative assessment).
- Use of standardised instruments for particular outcomes.
- Whether the grantee has requested funding to achieve specific targets/outcomes.

When asked to specify the particular tool that is required, the most commonly cited tool was South Africa's Early Learning Outcomes Measure (the ELOM) – noted by five respondents (four SA funders and one Global funder).

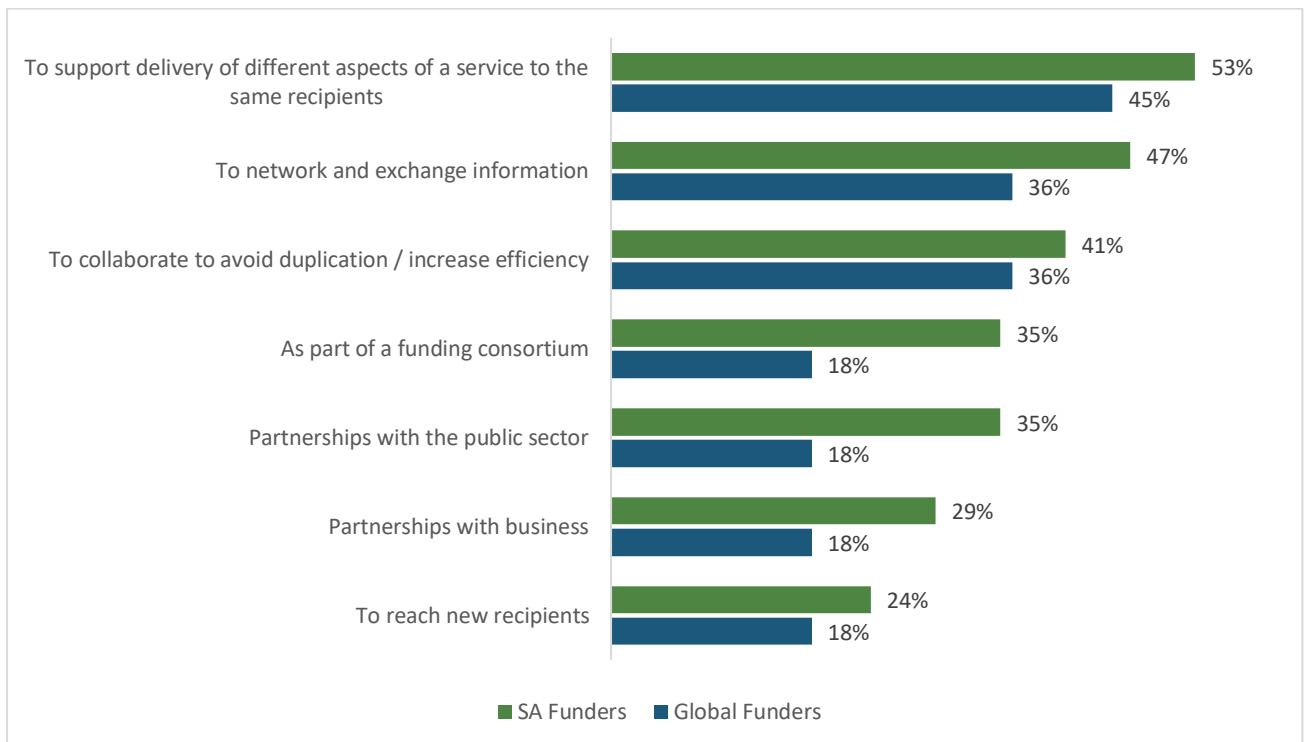
5 WHAT NEW PARTNERSHIPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED?

5.1 NEW PARTNERSHIPS

More than half of the survey respondents reported developing new partnerships with other funders (64%; 18). Of these, most were SA funders (72%; 13). Among both SA and Global funders, the top cited reasons for developing new partnerships were as follows:

- To support delivery of different aspects of a service to the same recipients (noted by 50% of all funders);
- To network and exchange information (43%); and
- To collaborate to avoid duplication/increase efficiency (39%).

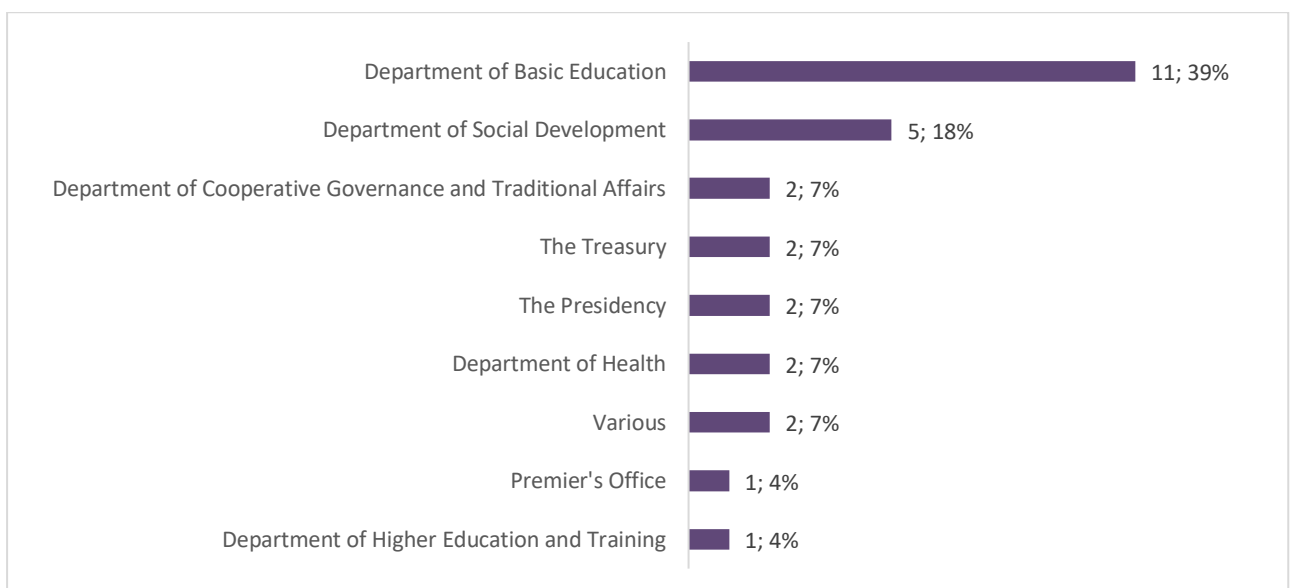
Figure 10. Percentage of Respondents Who Have Developed New Partnerships



5.2 PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

When asked whether they partner with any public sector departments, 39% (11) of respondents report partnering with the Department of Basic Education, all of whom report investing in Grade R as one of their focus areas. Of the 11 DBE partners, 8 were SA funders and 3 were Global funders.

Figure 11. Percentage of Respondents with Government Partnerships

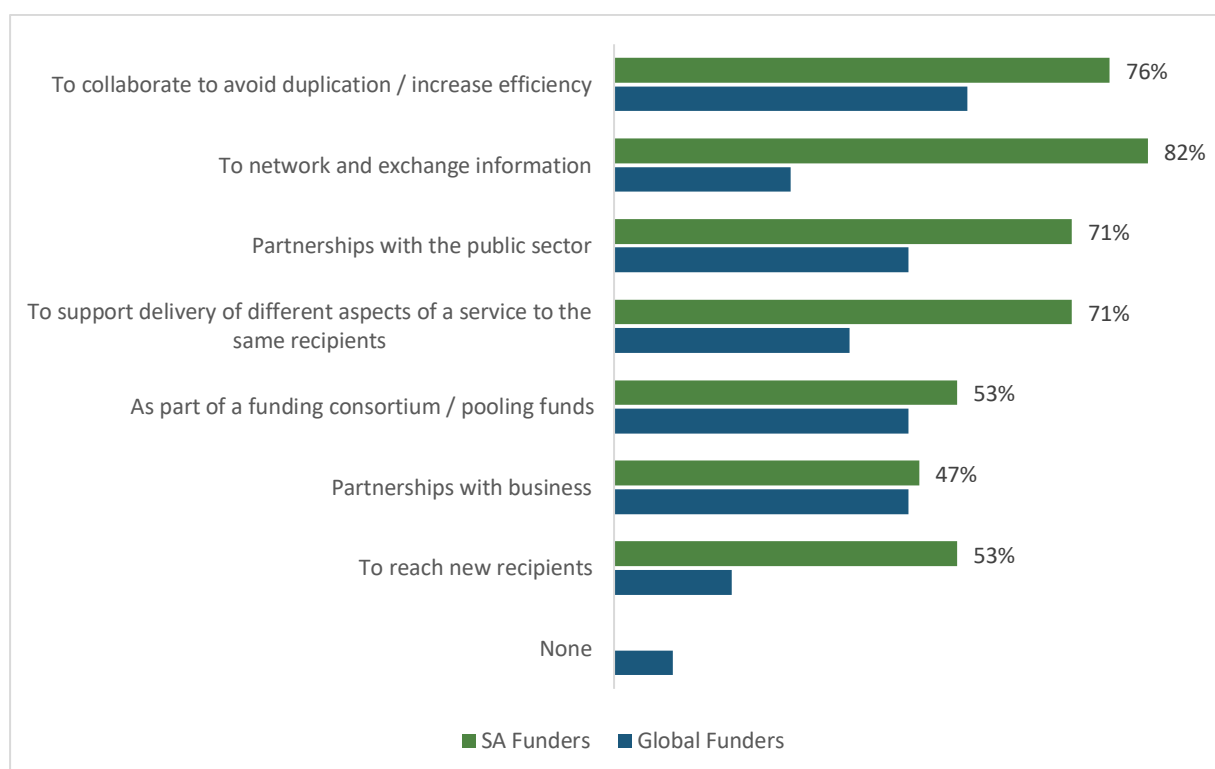


The majority of these partnerships are at the national level; 32% of funders report partnering with national departments (4 SA funders and 5 Global funders). Only SA funders (5) report working with provincial departments, while only Global funders (2) report working with district/circuit departments.

5.3 FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS

Respondents were asked to specify whether they have any interest in developing future partnerships in particular focus areas. The majority of all respondents (68%) are interested in developing new partnerships to avoid duplication and increase efficiency. Overall, there appears to be greater interest in new partnerships among SA funders. Only one (Global) funder said that they have no interest in developing future partnerships.

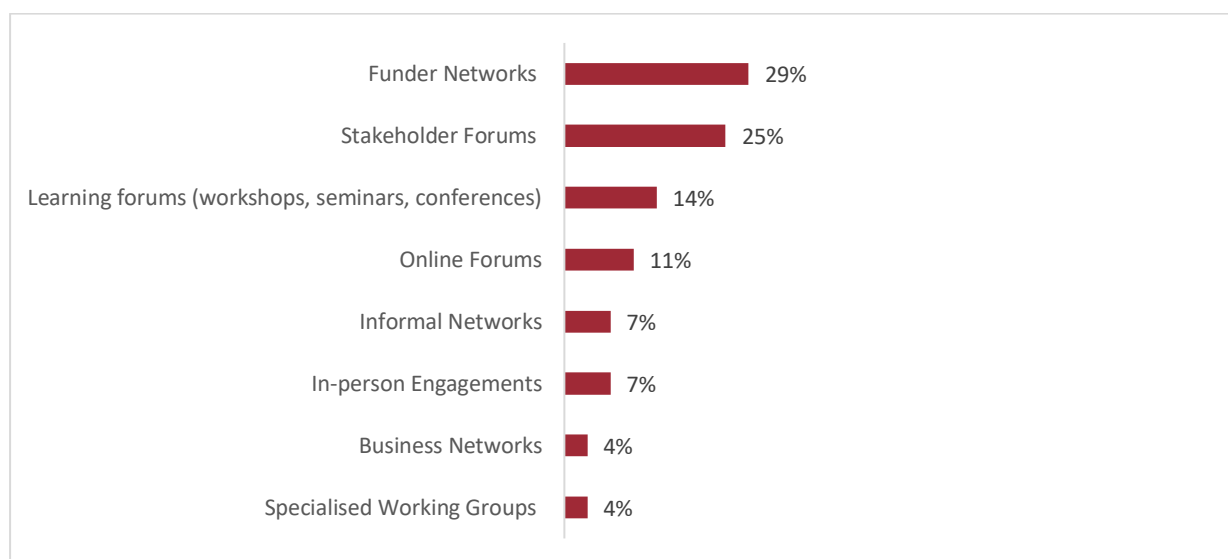
Figure 12. Percentage of Respondents Interested in New Partnerships



5.4 PARTNERSHIP PLATFORMS

Respondents were asked to share the types of platforms that they prefer for developing partnerships and collaborating with other funders. The most popular platform, noted by 29% of respondents, are funder networks (such as IPASA and Foundations Xchange), followed by stakeholder forums (such as BRIDGE and Real Reform for ECD) – mentioned by 25% of respondents.

Figure 13. Percentage of Respondents per Preferred Partnership and Collaboration Platforms



5.5 GRANTEE PLATFORMS

The survey probed the extent to which funders would be interested in using a platform where they would be able to find grantees by region and specialisation, with due diligence checks having already been completed. Over half of the respondents (68%) said that they would be interested in using such a platform. Reasons for interest in such a platform, include:

- It would help to encourage grantee partnerships.
- It would provide a trusted source of reputable and established organisations to work with.
- It would help to expand funders' networks and partner pool.
- It would help funders to understand where ECD organisations are operating and where there are gaps.
- It would help funders to identify local ECD contacts within communities.
- It is likely to improve accountability and enable coordination of resource allocation for greater reach.

Reasons why some funders are not interested in such a platform include:

- The funder's strategy is moving away from ECD.
- The funder has a limited scope of work in South Africa.
- There is a misalignment with their funding approach (i.e., less investments over a longer period of time, versus a large grantee pool).

- There is a misalignment with their partnership approach (i.e., focusing on communities and community mobilisation versus due diligence).
- The funder's due diligence procedures are bespoke and contextual and would need to be performed anyway.
- Having grantees approach the funder, and 'steer the way', helps to identify the grantee's commitment levels.
- The funder is currently experiencing a high volume of requests.

In addition, two respondents raised the issue of fairness and equity in the vetting process, highlighting concerns over the potential impartiality of the platform.

5.6 CHALLENGES WITH PARTNERSHIP

Respondents provided the main challenges that may prevent them from collaborating or partnering with other funders. These include:

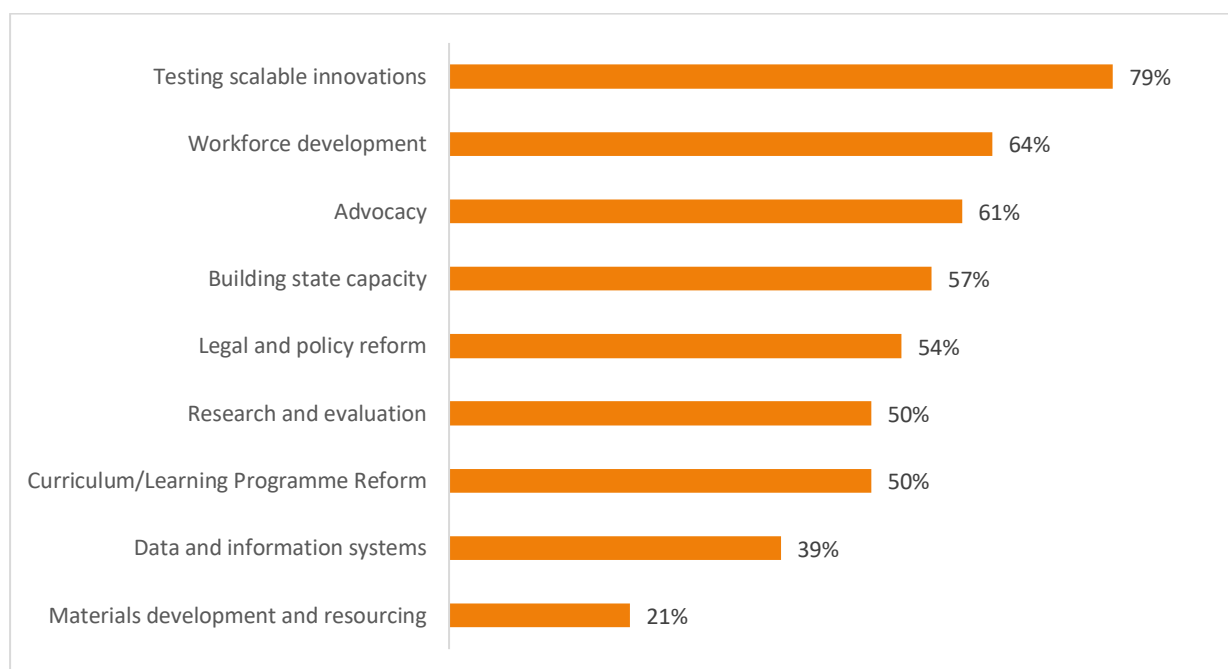
- Limited funds available for investment.
- Lack of time for joint planning.
- Misalignment in priorities, values, mandates, and/or objectives.
- Misalignment in approaches to funding.
- Lack of respect and trust.
- Lack of flexibility and agility among some funders.
- Lack of knowledge/information about other funders.
- Lack of an effective coordination platform.

6 HOW DO FUNDERS VIEW THE ECD LANDSCAPE?

6.1 SUPPORTING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

The survey asked respondents how they think ECD funders can support systemic change in the ECD sector (i.e., the positive transformation of the ECD sector to provide equal access to quality ECD for all South African children at scale). The majority of respondents (79%) said that *testing scalable innovations* is a mechanism of change that funders can support. The *development of ECD materials and resourcing ECD partners* was the least selected mechanism for change (21%).

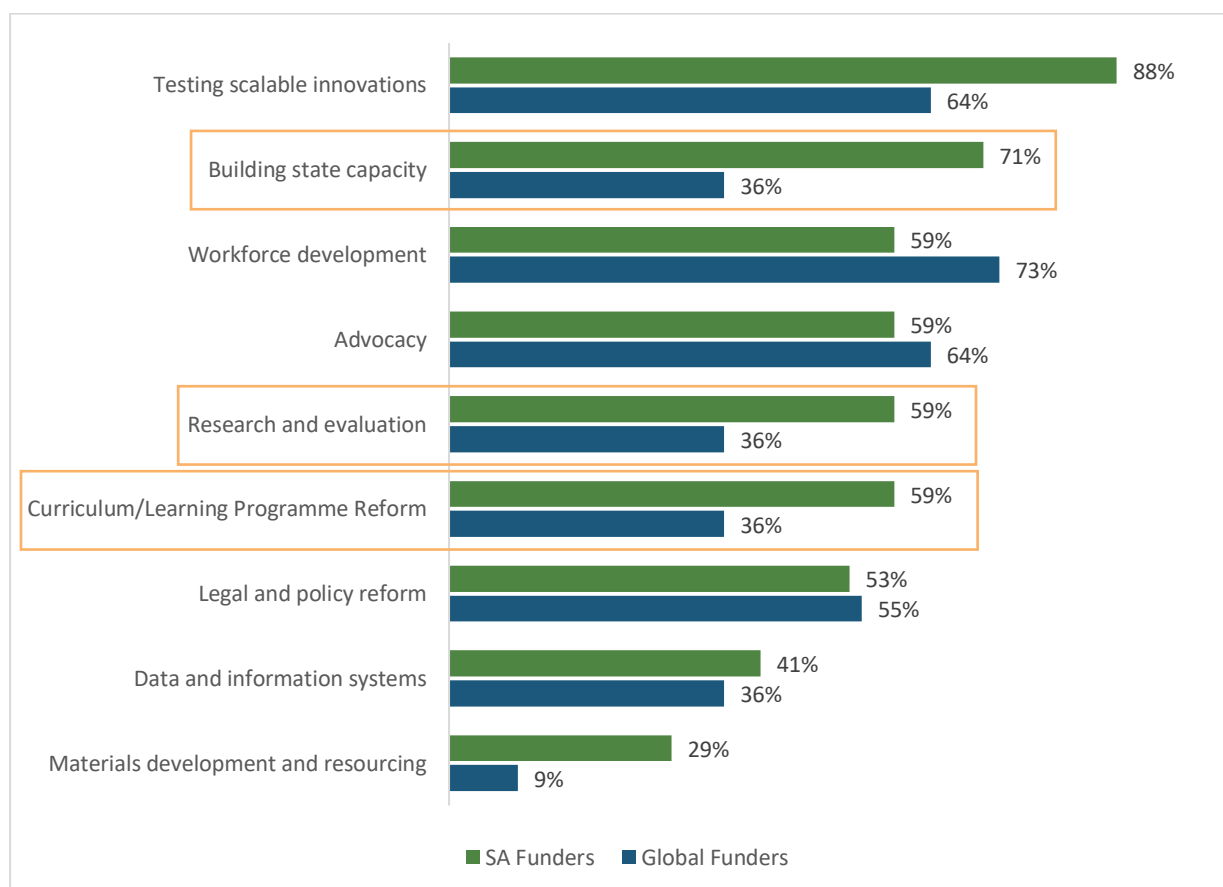
Figure 14. Percentage of Respondents per Systemic Change Mechanism



When separating the perspectives of SA and Global funders, there are clear differences in priorities. Among SA funders, most respondents (88%) feel that *testing scalable innovations* is the most important mechanism for systemic change, while most Global funders (73%) selected *workforce development* (see Figure 15 overleaf). An area of significant difference is *building state capacity*; 71% of SA funders selected this mechanism, while half of this number of Global funders did so (36%). Differences are also seen in views on *research and evaluation* and *curriculum/learning programme reform*.

An interesting tension is that while testing scalable innovations is the preferred mechanism for systemic change, technology which is an enabler for scale, is one of the lowest areas of investment (Figure 3).

Figure 15. Percentage of Global and SA Respondents per Systemic Change Mechanism



6.2 FUNDING LESSONS

Respondents were asked to share lessons that they have learned in terms of funding ECD that other funders may benefit from. The responses reflect the complexity of sector governance and resource constraints, demonstrating the need for a more strategic approach. Common lessons learned with illustrative quotes include:

1. There are critical financial constraints within the non-profit sector, and sustainability remains a concern.

“It’s difficult to effect change if practitioners themselves are not funded... We invest a lot of money in training and resources, but practitioners are not motivated to implement the training and use the resources if they are not being paid a decent salary.”

“Some NGOs struggle to run their organisations or attract highly skilled individuals due to financial compensation.”

2. There is a need to partner and collaborate for impact, including working with government and with other funders.

“Building relationships, providing the right information (to government) at the right time.”

“Cross sector collaboration across government departments is difficult but important.”

“Funders tend to operate in silos and collaboration would improve impact.”

“A greater shift towards long term funding and working in partnership.”

3. There is a need for a strategic and evidence-based approach to funding, and a greater focus on data for sectoral learning.

“It is imperative to work with and support government plans and priorities while respecting and understanding how landscape has functioned in the past and what lessons have been learned.”

“The importance of building state capacity through training and support of teachers, their heads and subject advisors.”

“Building robust M&E systems and processes for sector learning.”

“There is a need for more iterative testing and measurement.”

4. It can be challenging to identify grantees or investment opportunities; it is important to seek guidance on where funding is needed and ensure that funders work with reputable organisations.

“It is expensive and difficult to target resources because there are many learning programmes, multiple players with different interests and it is market driven.”

“Always seek counsel from experts on where funding is needed.”

“Work with reputable organisations.”

6.3 BEST PRACTICES IN FUNDING ECD

To further add to an ECD funding knowledge base, respondents were asked to recommend any best practices around funding ECD, as per their experience in the sector. The following practices were shared:

1. Work with networks, collaborate with others, and develop strategic partnerships to fill funding gaps in the sector and realise greater impact.

“Support RTOs and challenge them to be more networked and strategic.”

“Work with networks and brokers.”

“Fund collaboratively to build long term state capacity.”

“In the short-term, co-fund to offer comprehensive package in the same region.”

“Encourage collaboration and growth.”

2. Support evidence-based initiatives and foster the development of a learning community among partners and other actors in the sector.

“Share lessons learnt, reporting tools and community knowledge.”

“Pilot test approaches for including parent involvement.”

“Allow partners to reflect.”

“Understand the outcome you wish to contribute to and also the very many factors that influence that outcome.”

3. Support innovation and new approaches.

“Engage in exploratory work, not just proven methodologies.”

4. Be sensitive to the needs of grantees and the sector, offering holistic, flexible support that fosters (rather than impedes) their effectiveness and sustainability.

“Understand differences in organisational leaders and find ways to support them to thrive.”

“Engage with grantees in various levels beyond funding.”

“Beware of increasing the bureaucratic load on platforms and recipients.”

“Fund organisational strengthening so that organisations are capacitated to deliver their programmes.”

“Be able to adapt in light of changing circumstances.”

“Create opportunities to find grantees in smaller, harder to reach geographies.”

5. Provide support with a view of long-term growth and systems change.

“Work collaboratively with government and others funders to pool resources, capacity and expertise for systemic change.”

“Work with scale in mind.”

“Do not simply fund for outcomes but for systems change.”

“Fund initiatives aligned with government priorities.”

7 COMMENTARY ON KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE SURVEY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

This section draws on the survey results as well as the commentary and discussion of the IPASA feedback workshop on 29th September 2022.¹ The survey was useful for clarifying existing investments, while the topic of main discussion at the workshop was collaboration among the ECD funding community. The workshop was attended by 26 participants, representing 19 organisations (including the organisations which the panel discussants represented). Nine of the organisations that participated are IPASA members, and the other participants represented other philanthropic funders, Corporate Social Investment Funders, international donors, social enterprises in the ECD sector, and government.

¹ As part of the programme, a panel consisting of Sonja Giese (DataDrive 2030), Janeli Kotze (Department of Basic Education) and Kayin Scholtz (ECD Resource Hub Manager at the DG Murray Trust) gave their perspectives on the implications of the survey findings and the role of philanthropy for leveraging improvement at scale for ECD in South Africa. This was followed by general discussion from the funders who attended the workshop.

7.1 TRENDS IN FUNDING

It was encouraging to see a reported increase in funding commitments for ECD since the 2021 survey, in which less than 5% of funders' budget was allocated to early childhood. The link between ECD and the care economy, via funding ECD interventions associated with job creation, was seen as a positive trend. Another positive trend was the interest in Grade R and the focus on nutrition, especially in light of Thrive by Five data² indicating a widespread lack of preparedness for Grade R and the impact of stunting on child learning outcomes.

The survey highlighted differences in focus among global and South African funders. This trend was seen as complementary by the workshop attendees, with South African funders focused on on-the-ground issues and service delivery, and global funders focused on strategic issues of importance.

A number of gaps were noted during the workshop, including: the need for governance and leadership support in organisations; a limited focus on environment and climate change; and limited technology interventions which are needed to support systems for scale as well as practitioner support.

Another important issue that was raised was the creation of more equitable access to funding and fairness in vetting procedures – not just funding the most well-known organisations, but those making a difference. A challenge for funders is a lack of infrastructure to deal with the flood of unsolicited proposals. A solution that was offered during discussions was to involve partners who work with community-based organisations to leverage their infrastructure and support structures.

7.2 MEASUREMENT TRENDS AND DATA-INFORMED INTERVENTIONS

Donor funding for research has increased the availability of ECD data and has encouraged an increase in the measurement of programme effectiveness to inform data-driven decision-making. Key ECD role players expressed an awareness that the sector is running out of time, and that every intervention aimed at young children needs to be able to demonstrate a measurable impact. This is an encouraging trend and can help the sector direct funding strategically and efficiently. For example, the largest funding focus area (reported in the survey) is workforce development, but child outcomes and quality remain a challenge; data can inform where best to intervene in these areas. Furthermore, evidence can be used to motivate the National Treasury to increase funding for ECD programmes and

² <https://www.thrivebyfive.co.za/>

services. The need for qualitative data also emerged during discussions to hear the voices and understand the realities on the ground.

ECD is a complex and dynamic sector; to address challenges, systems work needs to be done to create an enabling environment. Substantial attention has already been given to developing programmes to scale, there now needs to be greater attention and investment in *systems* that can deliver at scale. While there is a need for space for interventions that are specific to particular issues and challenges, there was also a caution against ‘intervention fatigue’ and only focusing on interventions at scale at the expense of more universal systemic investment.

7.3 COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The survey highlighted that South African funders are interested in developing new partnerships and opportunities for collaboration, while workshop discussions further highlighted the need to go beyond co-funding and to clarify a purpose, shared goals and strategic coordination efforts, as well as share information and key learnings. The role of a secretariat function was raised, including the need for it and questions around what it might look like. Some noted the usefulness of a clear, common goal to help frame collaboration, and that starting with something tangible and achievable within a specific timeframe could be helpful.

Comments from survey respondents noted a need to be flexible and agile in grantee-funder partnerships, but also in funder-funder partnerships. A lack of flexibility was mentioned as an inhibitory factor in funders’ willingness to collaborate; thus, being open to creating a shared vision and a new mandate may help to support new opportunities for collaboration.

Work for systems change and government support were identified as key funding areas at this time. The co-creation of systems among donors and the public sector and donors was noted during discussions as a valuable contribution to helping create an enabling ECD environment. Further, the DBE welcomed the survey findings and expressed appreciation for ongoing support from the donor community (including in recent crises). Discussions further highlighted the opportunity to shift how funders invest, particularly now that the responsibility for ECD is located in the DBE. By ensuring that both funders and the DBE play to their strengths, and by combining the unique capabilities and strengths of both funders and the DBE, it should be possible to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of funding in the ECD sector.

7.4 FUTURE DIRECTIONS – WHAT NOW?

Partnership and collaboration require: a shared vision and understanding of priorities and concerns; a clear focus; a shared measurement framework; and an agreement on how to coordinate. The idea of a backbone organisation as an enabling mechanism for collaboration was discussed, as was the importance of including civil society/implementers in the conversation to create equity and shift power within collaborative efforts. Other unanswered questions centre on the type of organisation that should take that role on, and whether it should be an independent player.

There are a number of existing platforms for collaboration that can be drawn upon, including: IPASA; BRIDGE; the National ECD Alliance (NECDA); and the Intersectoral Forum (ISF). In addition, there are technology-based platforms that can be used to identify partnership opportunities, such as Edvision.

The Intersectoral Forum Funding and Donor Subcommittee has the mandate to promote integrated funding and sufficient resources. Its priority goals are the development of a donor registry and donor toolkit, and achieving funder and sector buy-in. The ISF can also create conversations with other bodies like SETAs and other stakeholders in the sector. The ISF a convening space, and it is important to have a secretariat to keep the conversation moving.

Lastly, the DBE does not yet have a proactive strategy on collaboration that could guide donor activity (as opposed to one-on-one collaborations). The DBE is willing to explore avenues through which to share details of present collaborations and to investigate how best to work with the funder community on a collaboration strategy

IPASA is perfectly positioned as an independent philanthropy service organisation to continue to support ECD funders in their work of increasing the capacity of the ECD sector in South Africa. IPASA has the convening power and ability to facilitate the sourcing and sharing of vital knowledge between ECD funders as well as other key stakeholders in the ECD sector. IPASA thus see its future role as a knowledge hub, to share key sector initiatives – particularly research and measurement initiatives for IPASA members as well as the philanthropy sector as a whole. IPASA also sees opportunity to be facilitator of collaboration between all key stakeholders in the ECD sector including government to ensure the scaling up of initiatives with proven potential to achieve system-wide results.