

South Africa's Public Expenditure & Institutional Review for Early Childhood Development — Closing the Gender Employment Gap Through Childcare

Gender Equality · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 70/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

South Africa's ECD subsidy reaches 1.5 million children (2022, up from ~700k in 2019) via centres staffed over 90% by women. A 2023 World Bank-DBE review finds universal access could add 300,000+ jobs and close the gender employment gap — but funding remains chronically short.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	1/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	0/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Department of Basic Education \(DBE\), with National Treasury & the World Bank](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Daily Maverick — ECD subsidy coverage gap](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[World Bank — PEIR press release](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

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