

Don't Let  
**Critical  
Crossroads**

**An updated scorecard on donor  
funding to pre-primary education**

VS Down!



# Key messages

## Editor's Note:

The Early Years donor scorecard reflects the most recent donor funding for pre-primary education as of 2023. In 2024 and early 2025, significant policy shifts and announcements by bilateral donors will undoubtedly have an impact on aid to pre-primary education. The scorecard provides a snapshot of funding to pre-primary education prior to these announcements, demonstrating a steady increase over the past five years with aid more than doubling. It will be necessary to encourage international institutions and global funds to double-down on funding for the early years, identify opportunities to leverage new and innovative finance, and ensure domestic budgets continue to prioritise the early years.

## There is encouraging news and steps forward:

- **The amount of aid spent on pre-primary education in 2023 was the second highest since records began in 2002** – more than doubling donor funding for pre-primary education over the past five years. In 2002, \$42.9 million was spent on pre-primary education compared to \$250.7<sup>1</sup> million in 2023. Despite the small decline in funding from the previous year, the amount spent exceeds spending prior to the reduction during the Covid-19 period.
- **Some bilateral donors are taking steps forward, with 17 countries increasing their pre-primary education spending.** Italy has

shown the firmest commitment, investing 9.4% of its education in 2023 from 1.5% in 2015.

- **G20 countries share of pre-primary education increased between 2022 and 2023.** G20 countries<sup>2</sup> spent a total of \$83.8 million on pre-primary education. This is equivalent to 33.4% of the total reported aid spent on pre-primary aid in 2023, rising from 24% in 2022.

## Yet gaps remain to reach the ambitions of universal pre-primary education:

- **Despite this increase, pre-primary education aid decreased as a proportion of aid to education overall.** Between 2022 and 2023, aid to education overall increased, while aid to pre-primary education decreased. As a result, the share of pre-primary education decreased from 1.4% in 2022 to 1.2% in 2023..
- **Aid to pre-primary education is still far from the 10% target.** Theirworld, alongside organisations such as UNICEF and UNESCO, have consistently advocated for aid donors and national governments to commit 10% of their education spending to early childhood education. While the share has increased since the beginning of the Sustainable Development Goal period in 2015 when it was just 0.8%, the share of 1.2% in 2023 remains far below the 10% target.
- **Among the main donors to education, only UNICEF, the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait report that they have met the 10% target.**

UNICEF spent 14.8% of its education aid on pre-primary education in 2023. This is a reduction from 30.0%, in 2021 and 18.7% in 2022. The Global Partnership for Education reports that around 10% of its portfolio was spent on pre-primary education in 2023. In 2023, Education Cannot Wait reports that it disbursed \$189.6 million to education. Of this, 10.6% or \$20.2 million was allocated to pre-primary education programming<sup>3</sup>.

- **The largest donor to pre-primary education, the World Bank, decreased its spending on pre-primary education between 2022 and 2023.** The World Bank<sup>4</sup> has been the largest donor to pre-primary education since records began in 2002. The decrease in its spending on pre-primary education by 17.7% between 2022 and 2023, from \$174.4 million to \$143.5 million, has therefore had a notable impact on overall spending on pre-primary education. This is potentially due to fluctuations in programs starting or ending year-to-year.
- **Aid spending on post-secondary education continues to far outweighs spending on pre-primary education.** In 2023, aid spent on post-secondary education overall was 24 times higher than pre-primary education, up from 21 times in 2022. Aid spent on students from aid recipient countries studying in higher education institutes in donor countries alone was 19 times higher than the total amount

donors spent on pre-primary education.

- **Aid to pre-primary education continues to be concentrated among a small number of donors, leaving it vulnerable to any shifts in donor priorities.** In 2023, the top five donors were responsible for around 81.1% of total pre-primary aid. The remaining amount was spent by 31 donors, with half of all donors to pre-primary education spending less than \$1 million each on pre-primary education.
- **Aid to pre-primary education is concentrated in a small number of countries.** Five recipient countries (Tanzania, Rwanda, Jordan, Bangladesh and Ethiopia) received over half of spending on pre-primary education.
- **Some of the poorest countries receive little or no aid to pre-primary education.** Among these were Burundi, South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, which received less than 20 cents per pre-primary school-aged child. It is notable that these countries are primarily ones that are affected by conflict.





# Contents

Trends in aid to pre-primary education	5
Largest donors to pre-primary education aid	12
Largest recipients of pre-primary education aid	14
Pre-primary education donor funding scorecard tables	17







# Trends in aid to pre-primary education

## Introduction

This is the eighth report in a series dating back to 2017 by the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre for Theirworld. The series tracks donor performance in pre-primary education, with this latest report examining the period from 2022 to 2023 while placing trends in a longer-term perspective.

After years of progress that has more than doubled pre-primary education aid since 2015, donors face a pivotal moment of decision. The geopolitical landscape is rapidly transforming, with escalating conflicts, shifting power dynamics, and economic volatility diverting attention from development priorities. Though this report analyses 2023 data, the time lag underscores the urgent need for continued engagement to ensure the early years remain on the development agenda. Without persistent efforts to prioritise early years investments, hard-won gains face being reversed in the face of competing challenges.

The 2023 data show modest indications that efforts are making an impact. Overall funding reached its second-highest level since records began. Some bilateral donors are showing small signs of commitment, with 17 countries expanding their pre-primary education investments. Notable increases include Germany, Italy, and the UK, however, many of these are from a very low base. The United Arab Emirates, while not a large donor in terms of volume, has the second one of the largest highest proportions of its education aid dedicated to pre-primary education.

Pre-primary education funding nonetheless remains severely insufficient. At just 1.2% of total education aid in 2023, it falls far short of the 10% target advocated by Theirworld, UNICEF and UNESCO, and endorsed by United Nations member states in the 2022 Tashkent Declaration. This small investment means that when individual countries or institutions start or end pre-primary programs, it can lead to significant fluctuations in overall funding from one year to the next.

Recent announcements from the United States Agency for International Development cancelling much of its basic education funding (Kenny and Sandefur, 2025), the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office reducing aid spending from 0.5% to 0.3% of GDP by 2027 (Mitchell and Hughes, 2025), and Switzerland cutting education aid (GPE, 2024) underscore the threats to continued progress. While the full effects of these cuts are yet to be felt, they suggest a rapidly changing aid landscape that could undermine recent gains in pre-primary funding.

Additionally, escalating conflicts in Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine create urgent humanitarian needs. Research on attacks on education infrastructure in Gaza highlights that children are first affected in conflict but often last in line for support (Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, Centre for Lebanese Studies & UNRWA, 2024). A Theirworld report emphasizes that early childhood development in Gaza has reached a critical tipping point, jeopardizing the survival and future of its most vulnerable populations, including young children (Jalbout, 2025).

The dual challenges of potential aid reductions and increasing humanitarian crises underscore the importance of (1) maintaining and expanding commitments to pre-primary education, particularly in large global funds and finance institutions; (2) identifying opportunities to leverage new financing through innovative mechanisms, and (3) encouraging more domestic investment in the early years. Progress toward the 10% target agreed in the Tashkent Declaration remains essential, particularly for the most vulnerable children in conflict-affected regions who stand to benefit most from these investments.



## The Act for Early Years Campaign

The Act For Early Years campaign is working to transform early childhood investment globally through a broad coalition of civil society groups, business leaders, NGOs, UN agencies, youth advocates, and early years professionals. The campaign calls for urgent government action to ensure every child has access to high-quality early years interventions through three catalytic goals:

- 1. Universal access to quality primary healthcare in support of health, wellbeing and development across pregnancy, birth and early childhood**
- 2. Universal access to quality, inclusive preschool education**
- 3. Universal support for families including affordable childcare, child benefits, and parent/caregiver support**

This scorecard specifically focuses on the second goal - universal access to quality, inclusive preschool education - by examining the latest trends in donor funding for pre-primary education. While pre-primary education represents just one element of comprehensive early childhood development, it serves as a critical indicator of global commitment to investing in the earliest years of life.

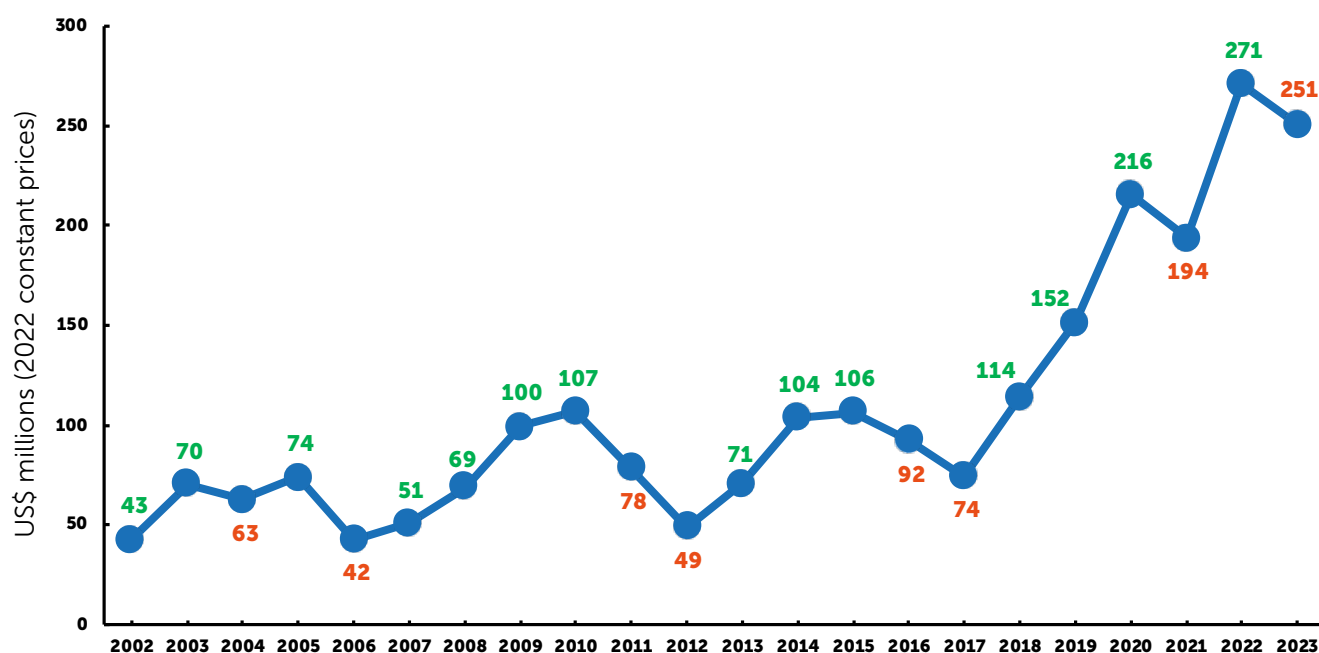
The campaign aims to mobilize at least \$1 billion in new funding commitments and secure the first-ever International Financing Summit on Early Years to transform lifelong outcomes for children worldwide. Tracking donor performance on pre-primary education funding provides essential accountability toward these ambitious but achievable goals.

The 10% investment target highlighted in this report represents a critical benchmark endorsed by United Nations member states in the 2022 Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action for Transforming Early Childhood Care and Education. This historic commitment recognized that adequate financing is fundamental to quality early childhood education, with the 10% allocation from education budgets serving as a minimum threshold to ensure children's right to early learning.

Meeting this target in international aid would help close the devastating global financing gap in pre-primary education, particularly for the most vulnerable children in conflict-affected and low-income countries who stand to benefit most from these investments. Reaching the 10% goal would represent significant progress toward the Act For Early Years campaign's objective of securing \$1 billion in new funding, ultimately helping millions more children receive the quality early education foundation that is their right.

**Figure 1: Pre-primary education aid spending in 2023 is second highest since records began**

Aid to pre-primary education, 2002 to 2023



Source: Authors' calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

## Global trends

**The amount of aid spent on pre-primary education decreased between 2022 and 2023.** Total aid to pre-primary education fell by 7.5%, from its all-time high of \$271 million in 2022 to \$250.7 million in 2023 (Figure 1). Despite this decrease, it represents the second highest volume of aid spent on pre-primary education since records began in 2002.

**Aid to pre-primary education is the only education sub-sector that experienced a decline in spending between 2022 and 2023.** During this period, the amount of aid spent on the education overall increased by 8.5%, from \$19.5 billion to \$21.2 billion. This was the highest level since records began in 2002. Spending on basic, secondary and higher education all increased over this period by 11.2%, 3.2% and 9.4%, respectively (Figure 2). This increase in education spending is in a context of an overall decline in global aid spending, which decreased by 0.6% from \$277.3 billion in 2022 to \$275.6 billion in 2023.

**The decrease in aid to pre-primary education was largely due to the World Bank.** The World Bank continued to be the largest donor to pre-primary education overall in 2023.<sup>5</sup> However, its spending to pre-primary education decreased by 17.7%, from \$174.4 million in 2022 to \$143.5 million in 2023. This was largely due to a drop in World Bank's pre-primary aid spending to Tanzania, which decreased by \$22.9 million between 2022 and 2023. The World Bank's reduction in spending accounted 46.1% of the reduction in pre-primary aid over this period by the 17 donors cutting their funding. Other donors whose pre-primary education spending decreased significantly were the EU Institutions, UNICEF and the United States.

**The share of education aid to pre-primary education decreased between 2022 and 2023.** Against a backdrop of an increase in education aid and a decrease in pre-primary education aid, pre-primary education spending as a share of education aid overall decreased from 1.4% in 2022 to 1.2% in 2023 (Figure 3). This is higher than the 0.8% at the starting point of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. However, it falls far short of the recommended Theirworld target of 10%, which was also agreed by 147 United Nations member states who signed up to the *Tashkent Declaration and Commitments to Action for Transforming Early Childhood Care and Education*.



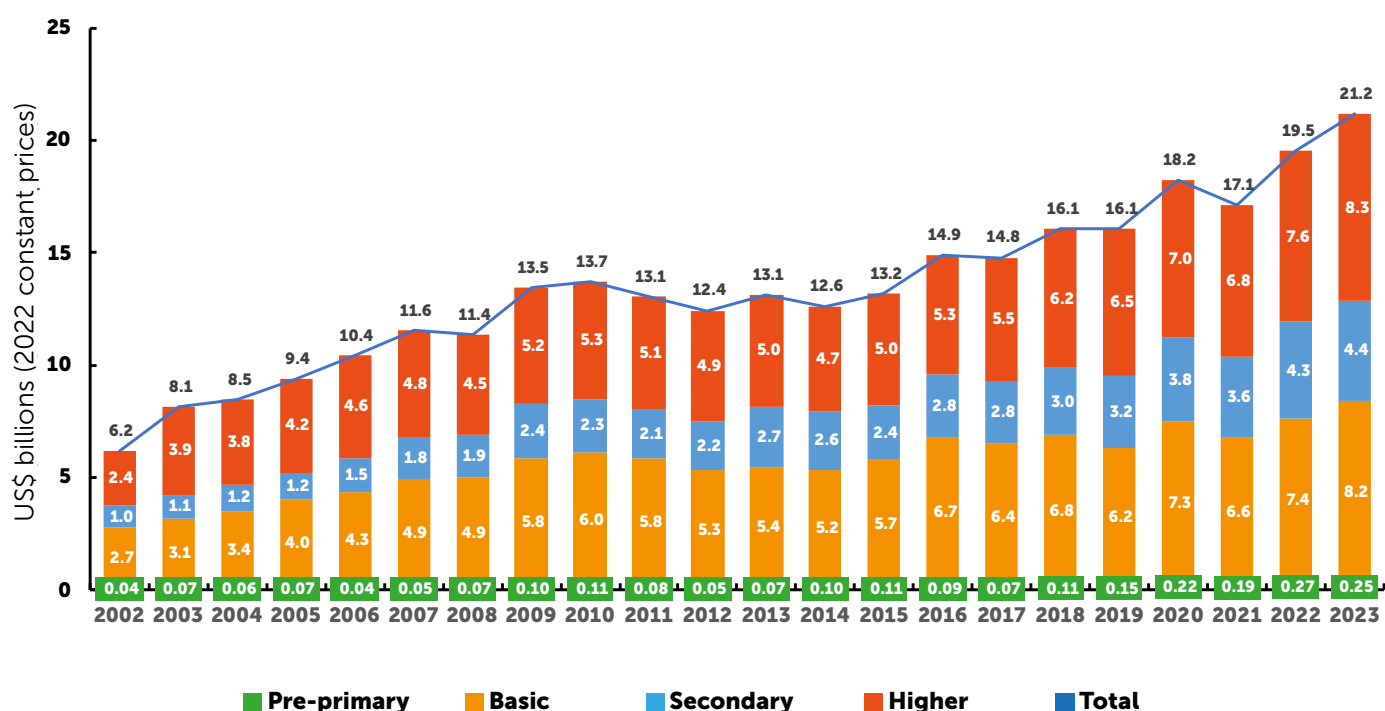
**Only UNICEF, the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait report that they have reached the 10% target among the top donors to education overall.** UNICEF's share of education spending to pre-primary education was 14.8% in 2023. This is a fall compared to 30.0% in 2021, and 18.7% in 2022, indicating a shift in its priorities away from pre-primary education (Figure 4). This reduction was due to the fall in volume terms from \$12.7 to \$8.9 million between 2022 and 2023. The amount spent by UNICEF in 2022 was its lowest since 2017. This decrease is notable, though it remains above the 10% benchmark. The Global Partnership for Education reported that around 10% of its portfolio was spent on pre-primary education in 2023 (GPE, 2025). Italy's increase in pre-primary education aid in 2023 means that it has almost reached the 10% target, at 9.4%. This is mainly due to its funding to Jordan, which receives 92.8% of its aid to pre-primary education. Education Cannot Wait reports that it disbursed \$189.6 million to education. Of this, 10.6% or \$20.2 million was allocated to pre-primary education programming.

### **Donors give far greater prioritisation to post-secondary education than pre-primary education.**

In 2023, aid spent on post-secondary education overall was 24 times more than spending on pre-primary education. The amount of aid spent on students from aid recipient countries studying in higher education institutes in donor countries was \$4.7 billion in 2023, equivalent to 19 times higher than pre-primary education spending. Germany and France were responsible for 62.5% of this spending, equivalent to \$2 billion and \$1.1 billion, respectively. Germany spent 511 more aid on post-secondary education spent on students from aid recipient countries in Germany compared to its spending on pre-primary education aid in total. For France, the equivalent was 1,311 times more.

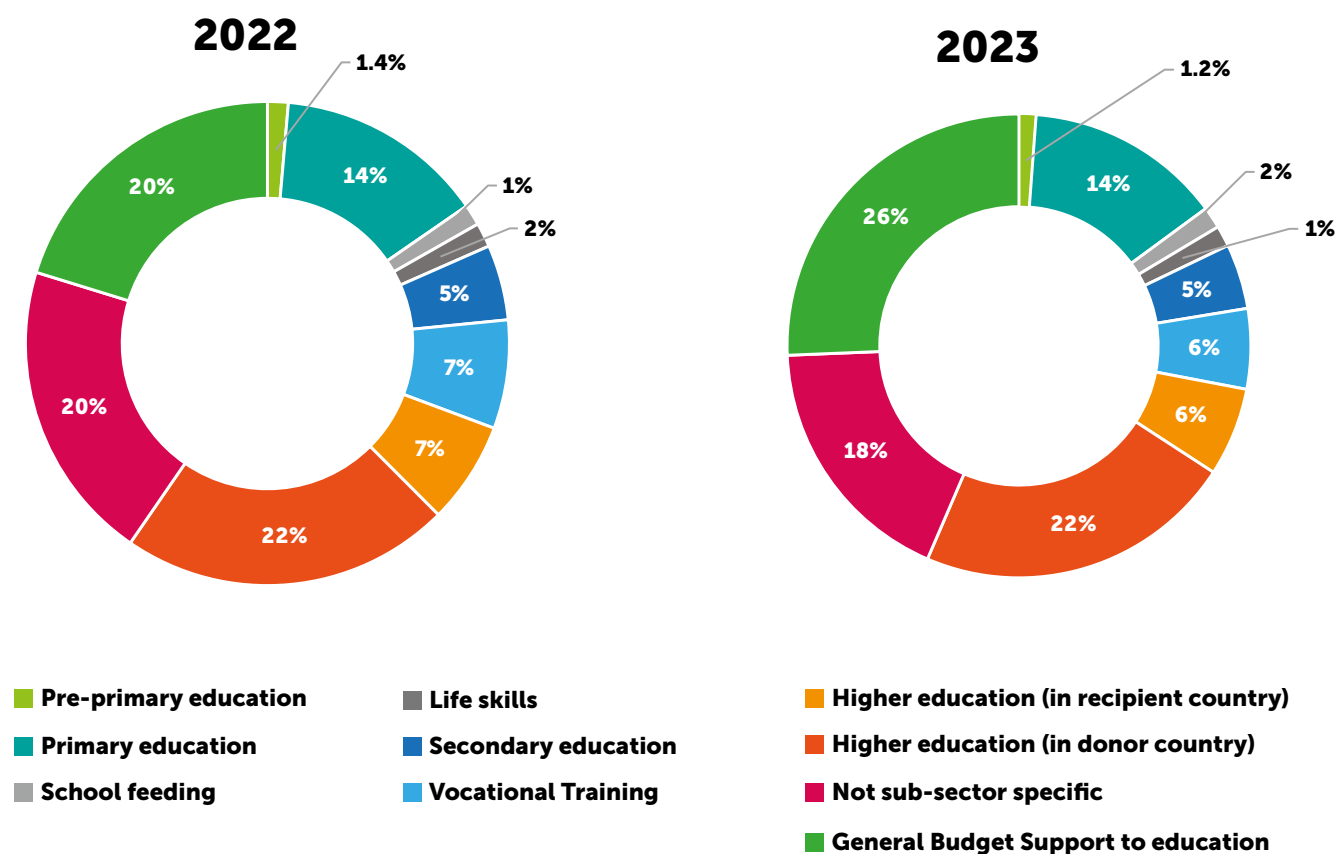
**Figure 2: Pre-primary education aid spending has remained a consistently tiny amount**

Aid to education by sub-sector, 2002 to 2023



Source: Authors' calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

**Figure 3: Higher education aid for students in donor countries is far higher than pre-primary aid, 2022 and 2023**

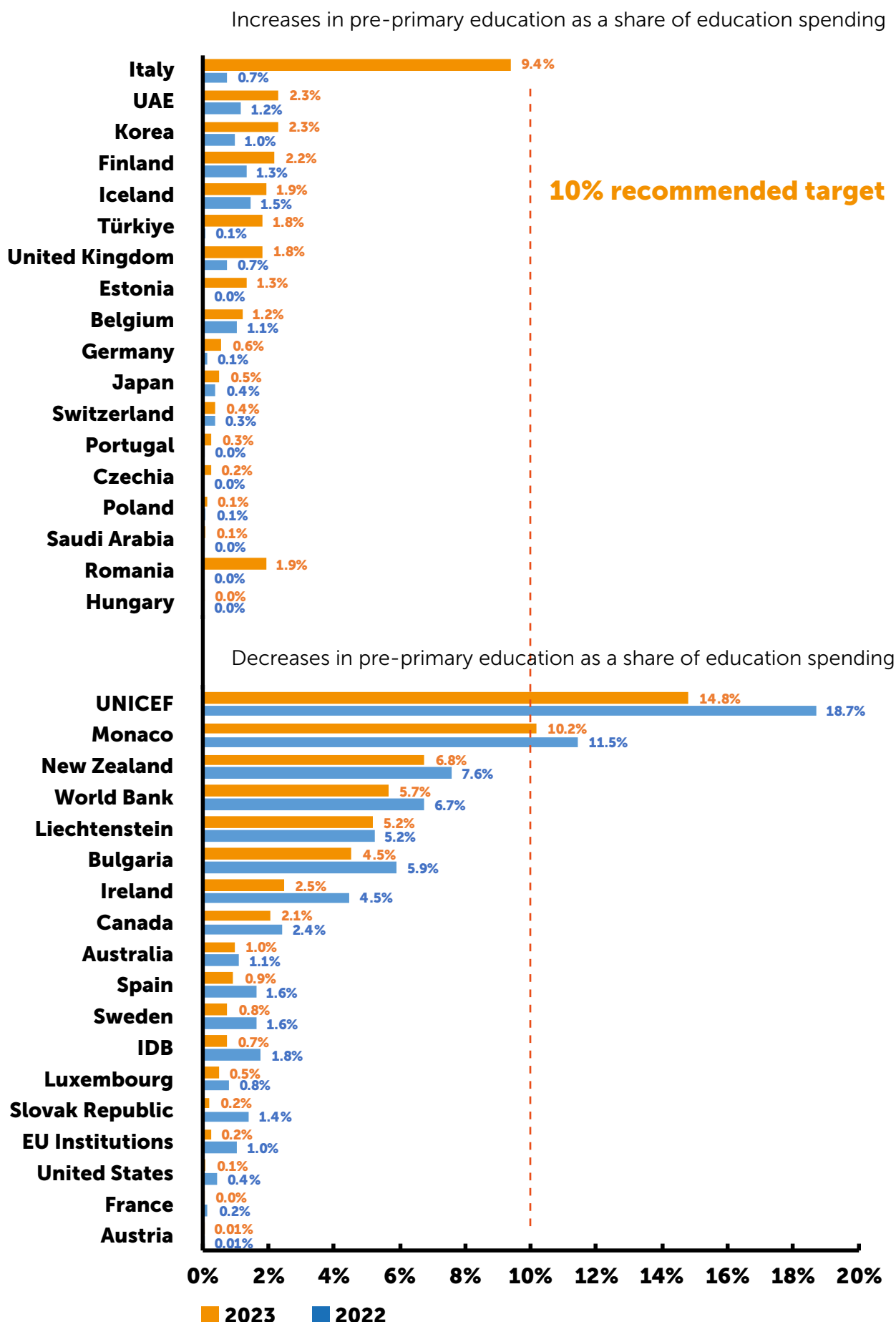


Source: Authors' calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.



**Figure 4: UNICEF was the only top donor to education meeting the 10% target in 2023**

Share of total education aid to pre-primary education, 2022 and 2023



Source: Authors' calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.



# Largest donors to pre-primary education aid

## Of the top 35 donors to education in 2023 (Table 3):

- **Eight donors did not report any spending on pre-primary education.** These were the Asian Development Bank (AsDB), China Taipei, Denmark, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, and United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency (UNRWA). None of these donors reported spending any aid on pre-primary education in 2022.
- **Of the 27 remaining donors, ten decreased the amount of education aid spent on pre-primary education between 2022 and 2023.** These included all the major multilateral aid donors, including UNICEF and the World Bank.
- **17 of the 27 donors increased their spending on pre-primary education.** These were all bilateral donors, including Italy, South Korea, Germany and the United Kingdom. For Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, this represented an increase in the share of their education aid spent on pre-primary education, from a low base.

**Aid spending to pre-primary education continues to be concentrated among a small number of donors.** The top five largest donors to pre-primary education (World Bank, Italy, Germany, EU Institutions and UNICEF) were responsible for 81.1% of the total aid spending on pre-primary education in 2023. This is similar to previous years. The World Bank alone was responsible for 57.3% of total aid spending on pre-primary education (Figure 5). This makes the sub-sector vulnerable to fluctuations by specific donors, as witnessed by the overall decline in 2023 due to the reduction in World Bank spending.

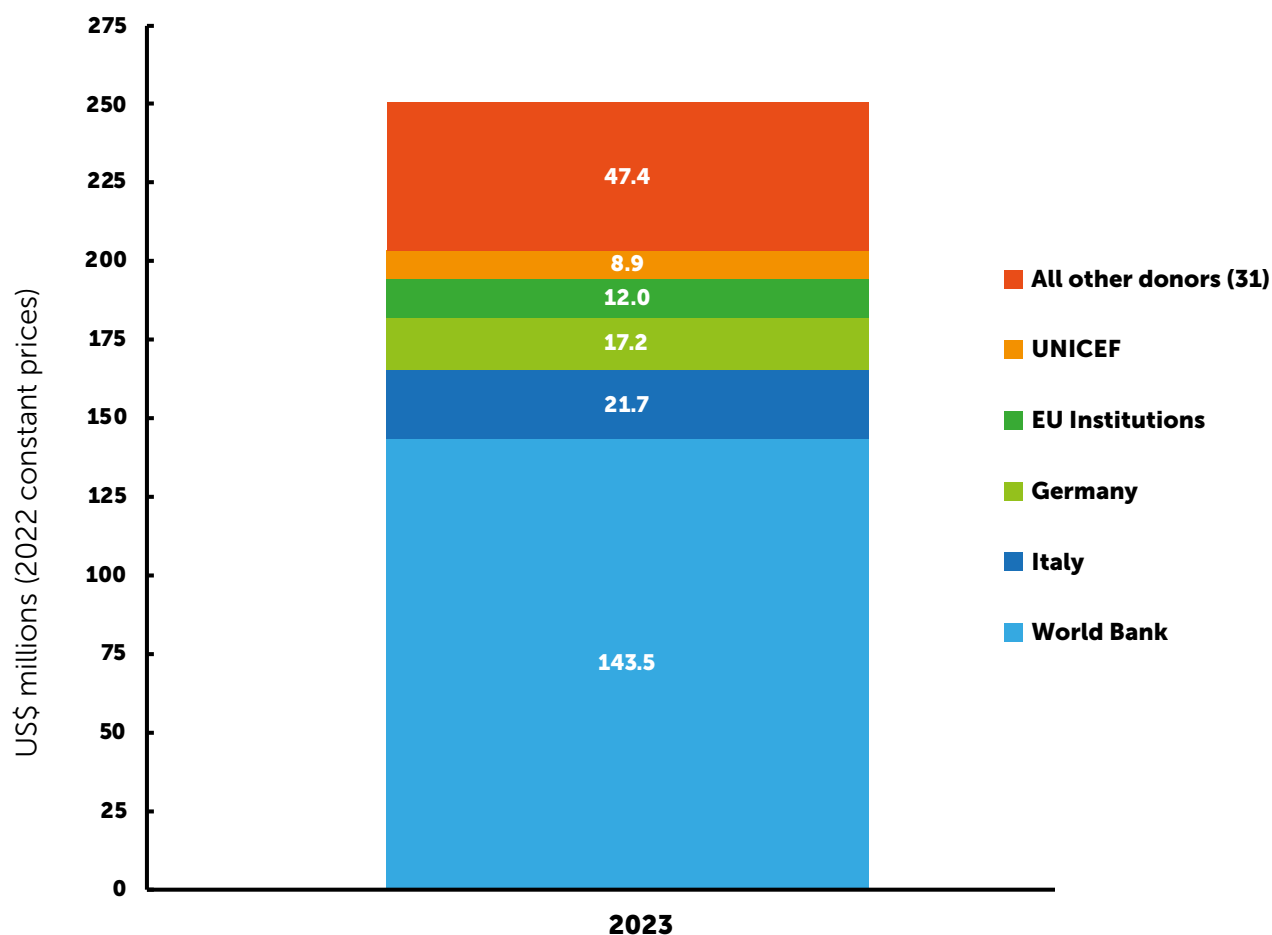
**In 2023, eight donors spent more than \$5 million to pre-primary education.** These were Canada, Germany, Italy, Korea, United Kingdom, EU Institutions, UNICEF and World Bank. Eighteen donors each disbursed less than \$1 million to pre-primary education in 2023, reflecting a continued fragmented donor landscape (Figure 6).

**G20 countries were responsible for more than one-third of all aid spent on pre-primary education in 2023.** G20 countries<sup>6</sup> spent a total of \$83.8 million on pre-primary education in 2023, equivalent to 33.4% of the total amount of aid spent on pre-primary aid. This represented an increase from 2022 when the share was the equivalent of 24%. The increase was largely due to Germany and Italy, who increased their spending by \$13.4 million and \$18.9 million, respectively. The five G20 countries spending the most aid on pre-primary education in 2023 were Italy (\$21.7 million), Germany (\$17.2 million), EU Institutions (\$12.0 million), Canada (\$7.1 million) and United Kingdom (\$7.1 million).



**Figure 5: Pre-primary aid remains concentrated among a small number of donors**

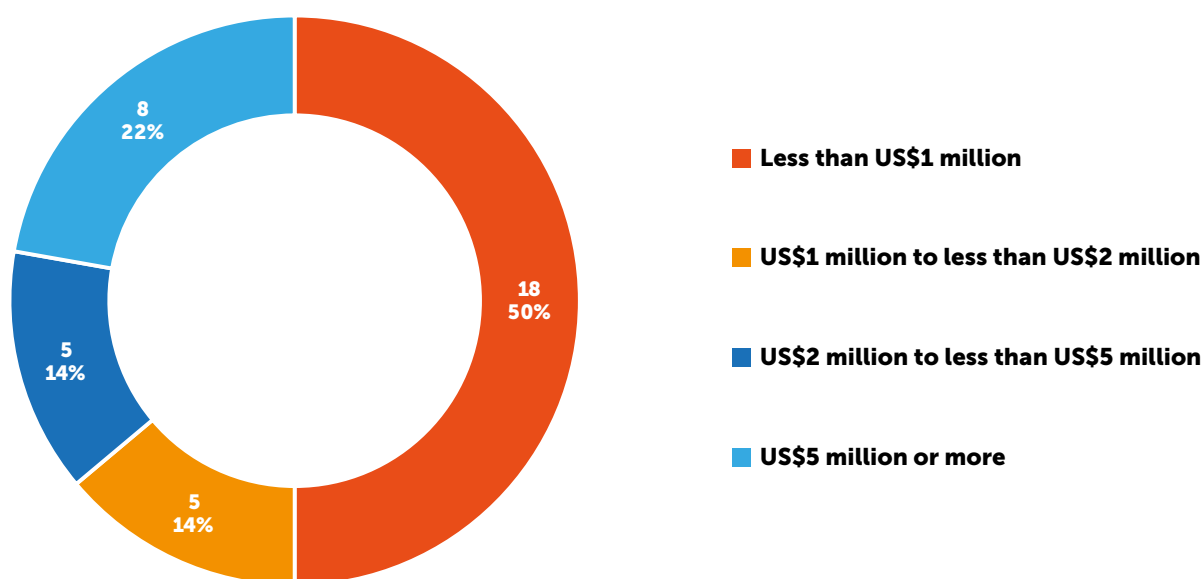
Share of top five donors to pre-primary education, 2023



Source: Authors' calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

**Figure 6: The majority of donors spend very low amounts on pre-primary education**

Fragmentation of pre-primary ODA, 2023



Source: Authors' calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

# Largest recipients of pre-primary education aid



**Aid spending to pre-primary education remains concentrated among a small number of recipient countries.** Five countries (Tanzania, Rwanda, Jordan, Bangladesh and Ethiopia) received half of all aid to pre-primary education in 2023. The top ten recipients of pre-primary education aid received 65% of the total by 2023 (Figure 7a).

**The geographical location of pre-primary education aid spending has shifted towards sub-Saharan Africa.** In 2015, the East Asia & Pacific region received the lion's share of pre-primary education aid spending overall (48%), largely because of the World Bank's support to Vietnam. By 2023, this had moved to sub-Saharan Africa, which received 54% of pre-primary education aid. This was also largely due to World Bank's support to the region (Figure 7b). Tanzania was the largest recipient of aid to pre-primary education aid in 2023, receiving almost all of this aid from the World Bank.

**Lower middle-income countries continue to receive the lion's share of donor spending on pre-primary education.** The share of pre-primary education aid spent in low-income countries was 24% in 2023, above their share of the pre-primary school age population of 19%.<sup>7</sup> Most of the pre-primary aid continues to be spent in lower-middle income countries. These countries received 68% in 2023, although aid-recipient lower-middle income countries accounted for 48% of the pre-primary school-age population.

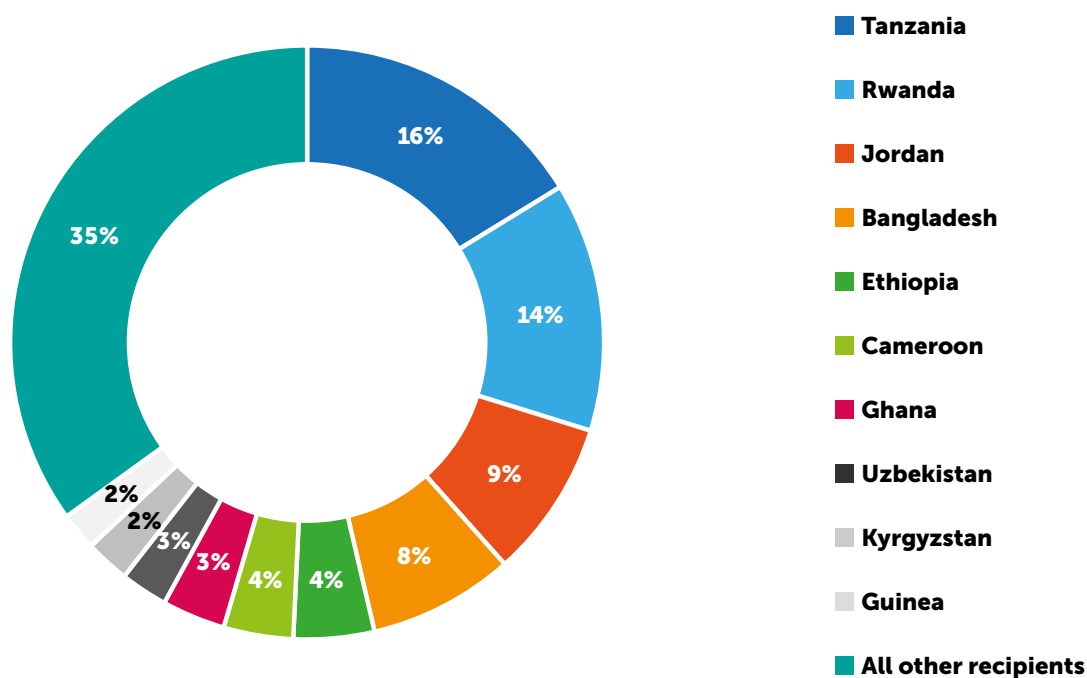
**Some of the world's poorest countries receive very little or no aid to pre-primary education.** Of the 26 low-income countries, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, D.P.R. Korea, Liberia and Niger received no aid for pre-primary education in 2023. Of the 115<sup>8</sup> countries receiving aid to pre-primary education, 98 countries received less than \$5 per primary school-age child. Among these were Burundi, South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, which received less than 20 cents per pre-primary school-aged child. Only 17 countries received more than \$5 per child in 2023 including small Pacific Island states (Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). Other than these countries, Rwanda, Kyrgyzstan and Jordan were amongst the countries receiving more than \$5 of aid per child (Figure 8). As a comparator, OECD countries<sup>9</sup> spent \$7,848 per pre-primary-aged child.

**Countries impacted by conflict received minimal amount of aid for pre-primary education per child.** In 2023 Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine were countries amongst the worst affected by conflict, and yet received low amounts of aid. Aid spending on pre-primary education in Sudan is negligible. Donors spent \$0.52 million, or \$1.79 per pre-primary aged child in Palestine. They spent \$0.16 million in Ukraine, equivalent to just \$0.14 per pre-primary-aged child.

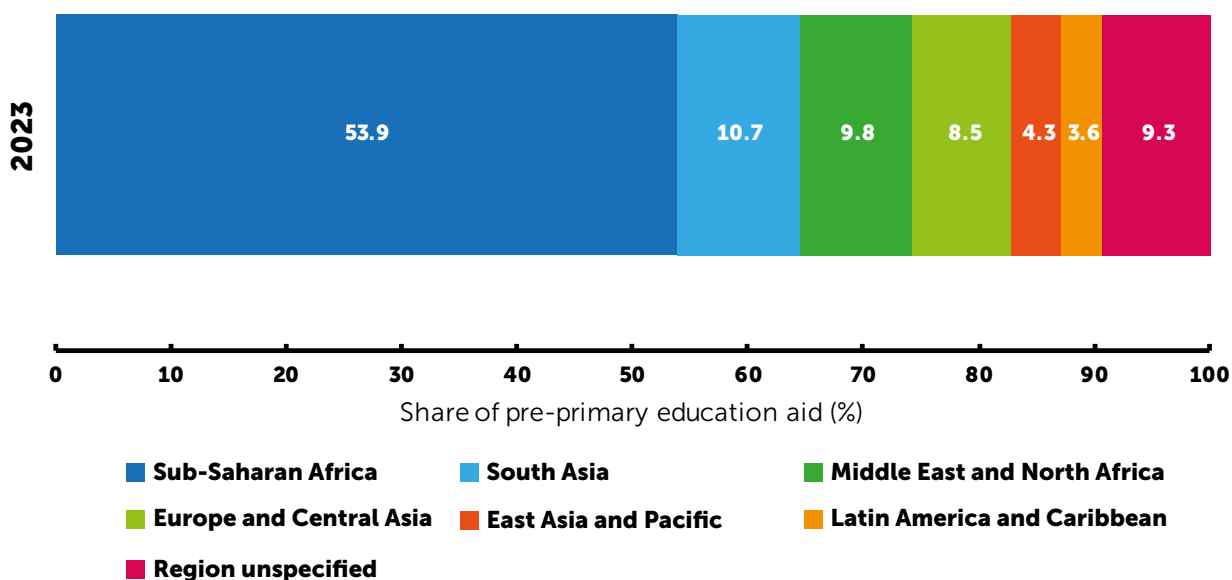


**Figure 7: Top recipient countries, regions and income groups of pre-primary education aid, 2023**

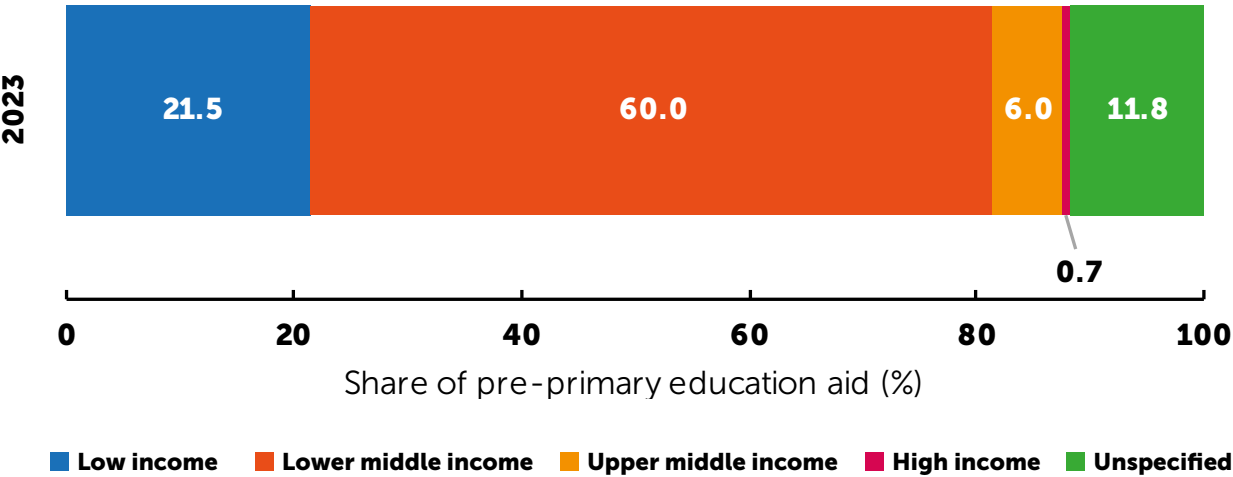
a. Countries



b. Regions

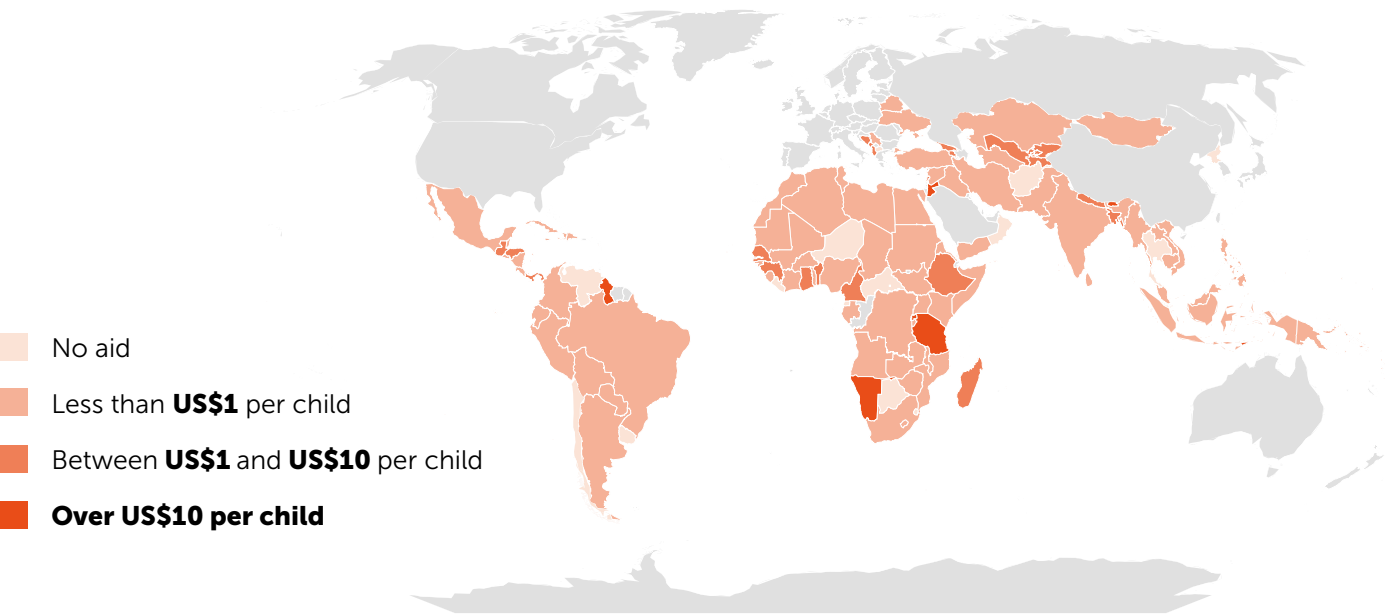


c. Income groups



Source: Authors’ calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

Figure 8: Pre-primary education aid per capita, 2021



Source: Authors’ calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

# Pre-primary education donor funding scorecard tables

**Table 1: Top 35 donors to education, 2023**

	Ranking by volume		Pre-primary education aid		
	Education aid	Pre-primary education aid	US\$ millions (2022 constant prices)	Share of total pre-primary aid (%)	As a share of total education aid (%)
<b>UNICEF</b>	31	5	8.9	3.5%	14.8%
<b>Italy</b>	14	2	21.7	8.7%	9.4%
<b>New Zealand</b>	27	9	4.2	1.7%	6.8%
<b>World Bank</b>	3	1	143.5	57.3%	5.7%
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	20	12	2.9	1.2%	2.3%
<b>South Korea</b>	13	8	5.5	2.2%	2.3%
<b>Finland</b>	35	16	1.1	0.4%	2.2%
<b>Canada</b>	10	6	7.1	2.8%	2.1%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	9	7	7.1	2.8%	1.8%
<b>Türkiye</b>	16	10	3.9	1.5%	1.8%
<b>Belgium</b>	22	15	1.3	0.5%	1.2%
<b>Australia</b>	15	13	2.1	0.8%	1.0%
<b>Spain</b>	25	18	0.8	0.3%	0.9%
<b>Sweden</b>	23	19	0.7	0.3%	0.8%
<b>Germany</b>	2	3	17.2	6.9%	0.6%
<b>Japan</b>	7	11	3.8	1.5%	0.51%
<b>Luxembourg</b>	34	22	0.2	0.1%	0.48%
<b>Switzerland</b>	18	21	0.6	0.2%	0.4%
<b>Portugal</b>	30	23	0.2	0.1%	0.3%
<b>EU Institutions</b>	1	4	12.0	4.8%	0.2%
<b>Poland</b>	21	24	0.1	0.1%	0.1%
<b>United States</b>	5	14	1.7	0.7%	0.1%
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	6	17	1.0	0.4%	0.09%
<b>France</b>	4	20	0.7	0.3%	0.05%
<b>Romania</b>	28	27	0.01	0.01%	0.02%
<b>Hungary</b>	24	25	0.02	0.01%	0.02%
<b>Austria</b>	17	26	0.02	0.01%	0.01%
<b>UNWRA</b>	8	-	0	0	0
<b>AsDB</b>	11	-	0	0	0
<b>Norway</b>	12	-	0	0	0
<b>Qatar</b>	19	-	0	0	0
<b>Denmark</b>	26	-	0	0	0
<b>China Taipei</b>	29	-	0	0	0
<b>Netherlands</b>	32	-	0	0	0
<b>Israel</b>	33	-	0	0	0
<b>Bilateral</b>	-	-	86.1	34.3%	0.7%
<b>Multilateral</b>	-	-	164.6	65.7%	1.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	-	250.7	100.0%	1.2%
<b>G20</b>	-	-	83.8	33.4%	0.6%

Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

Notes:

[1] Table has been ordered according to the donors spending the largest share of their education aid on pre-primary education.

[2] Bilateral donors are in black and multilateral donors are in orange.

[3] The 35 donors in this table are those spending the most on education in volume terms in 2023.

[4] See endnote 4 for information on the G20 participants included in the table.



**Table 2: Share of total education aid spent on pre-primary education, 2015 and 2023**

	Amount spent on pre-primary education (US\$ millions, 2022 constant prices)					Pre-primary education as share of total education aid (%)				
	2015	2023	Change between 2015 and 2023	Ranking in 2015	Ranking in 2023	2015	2023	Change between 2015 and 2023	Ranking in 2015	Ranking in 2023
<b>UNICEF</b>	5.4	8.9	▲	4	5	5.5%	14.8%	▲	2	1
<b>Italy</b>	1.5	21.7	▲	12	2	1.5%	9.4%	▲	8	2
<b>New Zealand</b>	3.1	4.2	▲	8	9	3.3%	6.8%	▲	4	3
<b>World Bank</b>	46.3	143.5	▲	1	1	3.0%	5.7%	▲	5	4
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	1.9	2.9	▲	10	12	0.3%	2.3%	▲	12	5
<b>South Korea</b>	5.2	5.5	▲	5	8	2.3%	2.3%	▲	7	6
<b>Finland</b>	4.5	1.1	▼	6	16	6.7%	2.2%	▼	1	7
<b>Canada</b>	14.2	7.1	▼	2	6	4.6%	2.1%	▼	3	8
<b>United Kingdom</b>	0.1	7.1	▲	18	7	0.01%	1.8%	▲	21	9
<b>Türkiye</b>	-	3.9	▲	-	10	0%	1.8%	▲	-	10
<b>Belgium</b>	2.5	1.3	▼	9	15	2.9%	1.2%	▼	6	11
<b>Australia</b>	0.1	2.1	▲	17	13	0.02%	1.0%	▲	18	12
<b>Spain</b>	0.08	0.8	▲	15	18	0.2%	0.9%	▲	14	13
<b>Sweden</b>	-	0.7	▲	-	19	0%	0.8%	▲	-	14
<b>Germany</b>	7.2	17.2	▲	3	3	0.3%	0.6%	▲	11	15
<b>Japan</b>	1.2	3.8	▲	13	11	0.3%	0.5%	▲	13	16
<b>Luxembourg</b>	0.5	0.2	▼	14	22	0.9%	0.5%	▼	9	17
<b>Switzerland</b>	-	0.6	▲	-	21	0%	0.4%	▲	-	18
<b>Portugal</b>	0.001	0.2	▲	21	23	0.003%	0.3%	▲	19	19
<b>EU Institutions</b>	3.8	12.0	▲	7	4	0.4%	0.2%	▼	10	20
<b>Poland</b>	0.1	0.1	▲	16	24	0.124%	0.122%	▼	15	21
<b>United States</b>	-	1.7	▲	-	14	0%	0.1%	▲	-	22
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	-	1.0	▲	-	17	0%	0.1%	▲	-	23
<b>France</b>	1.5	0.7	▼	11	20	0.1%	0.05%	▼	16	24
<b>Romania</b>	0.04	0.01	▼	19	27	0.1%	0.02%	▼	17	25
<b>Hungary</b>	-	0.02	▲	-	25	0%	0.02%	▲	-	26
<b>Austria</b>	0.02	0.02	▼	20	26	0.02%	0.01%	▼	20	27
<b>UNWRA</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>AsDB</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>Norway</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>Qatar</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>Denmark</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>China Taipei</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>Netherlands</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>Israel</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>Bilateral</b>	49.7	86.1	▲	-	-	0.5%	0.7%	▲	-	-
<b>Multilateral</b>	56.6	164.6	▲	-	-	1.5%	1.8%	▲	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	106.3	250.7	▲	-	-	0.8%	1.2%	▲	-	-
<b>G20</b>	34.7	83.8	▲	-	-	0.4%	0.6%	▲	-	-

Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

Notes:

[1] Table has been ordered according to the donors spending the largest share of their education aid on pre-primary education.

[2] Bilateral donors are in black and multilateral donors are in orange.

[3] The 35 donors in this table are those which spend the most on education in volume terms in 2023.

[4] See endnote 4 for information on the G20 participants included in the table.

**Table 3: Share of total education aid spent on pre-primary education, 2022 and 2023**

	Amount spent on pre-primary education (US\$ millions, 2022 constant prices)					Pre-primary education as share of total education aid (%)				
	2022	2023	Change between 2022 and 2023	Ranking in 2022	Ranking in 2023	2022	2023	Change between 2022 and 2023	Ranking in 2022	Ranking in 2023
<b>UNICEF</b>	12.7	8.9	▼	3	5	18.7%	14.8%	▼	1	1
Italy	2.9	21.7	▲	10	2	0.7%	9.4%	▲	14	2
New Zealand	3.4	4.2	▲	8	9	7.6%	6.8%	▼	2	3
<b>World Bank</b>	174.4	143.5	▼	1	1	6.7%	5.7%	▼	3	4
United Arab Emirates	2.5	2.9	▲	13	12	1.2%	2.3%	▲	8	5
South Korea	2.2	5.5	▲	14	8	1.0%	2.3%	▲	12	6
Finland	0.7	1.1	▲	18	16	1.3%	2.2%	▲	7	7
Canada	6.8	7.1	▲	4	6	2.4%	2.1%	▼	4	8
United Kingdom	3.2	7.1	▲	9	7	0.7%	1.8%	▲	15	9
Türkiye	0.14	3.9	▲	22	10	0.1%	1.8%	▲	22	10
Belgium	1.2	1.3	▲	16	15	1.1%	1.2%	▲	10	11
Australia	2.5	2.1	▼	12	13	1.1%	1.0%	▼	9	12
Spain	1.1	0.8	▼	17	18	1.6%	0.9%	▼	6	13
Sweden	1.6	0.7	▼	15	19	1.6%	0.8%	▼	5	14
Germany	3.9	17.2	▲	6	3	0.1%	0.6%	▲	20	15
Japan	3.5	3.8	▲	7	11	0.4%	0.5%	▲	17	16
Luxembourg	0.3	0.2	▼	20	22	0.8%	0.5%	▼	13	17
Switzerland	0.6	0.6	▲	19	21	0.3%	0.4%	▲	18	18
Portugal	0.01	0.2	▲	25	23	0.02%	0.3%	▲	23	19
<b>EU Institutions</b>	32.1	12.0	▼	2	4	1.0%	0.2%	▼	11	20
Poland	0.13	0.1	▲	23	24	0.1%	0.1%	▲	21	21
United States	5.2	1.7	▼	5	14	0.4%	0.1%	▼	16	22
Saudi Arabia	0.2	1.0	▲	21	17	0.02%	0.1%	▲	24	23
France	2.6	0.7	▼	11	20	0.2%	0.05%	▼	19	24
Romania	-	0.01	▲	18	27	-	0.02%	▲	17	25
Hungary	-	0.02	▲	0	25	-	0.02%	▲	-	26
Austria	0.02	0.02	▼	24	26	0.01%	0.01%	▲	25	27
<b>UNWRA</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>AsDB</b>	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
Norway	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
Qatar	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
Denmark	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
China Taipei	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
Netherlands	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
Israel	0	0		-	-	0	0		-	-
<b>Bilateral</b>	51.0	86.1	▲	-	-	0.4%	0.7%	▲	-	-
<b>Multilateral</b>	220.0	164.6	▼	-	-	3.0%	1.8%	▼	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	271.0	250.7	▼	-	-	1.4%	1.2%	▼	-	-
<b>G20</b>	65.2	83.8	▲	-	-	0.6%	0.6%	▲	-	-

Source: Authors' calculation based on OECD Creditor Reporter System. Accessed February 2025.

Notes:

[1] Table has been ordered according to the donors spending the largest share of their education aid on pre-primary education.

[2] Bilateral donors are in black and multilateral donors are in orange.

[3] The 35 donors in this table are those which spend the most on education in volume terms in 2023.

[4] See endnote 4 for information on the G20 participants included in the table.



## Endnotes

1. All figures in this report are in US\$ 2022 constant prices.
2. The G20 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the UK, the USA, and the EU.
3. The 2023 data was supplied directly by Education Cannot Wait.
4. For the purposes of this report, World Bank spending refers to the International Development Association (IDA) which is part of the World Bank Group. IDA provides grants and concessional loans to the world's poorest countries.
5. Some bilateral donors channel their funding for pre-primary education through multilateral channels, such as the World Bank.
6. The G20 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the UK, the USA, and the EU.
7. This excludes countries, territories and regions which cannot be attributed to a World Bank designated income group.
8. This figure includes only aid-recipient countries with population data on pre-primary aged children.
9. These relate to 21 OECD countries (Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, France, Korea, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Lithuania, Italy, New Zealand, Hungary, Latvia, Spain, United Kingdom, Slovak Republic, United States, Mexico, Colombia).

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This report has been created  
with support from the  
**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**



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