ECD Costing Fellow: Bethlehem Girma

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Project
Landscape Review of Costing Tools: An online user-friendly repository of costing tools for ECD
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By Bethlehem Girma
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Outline

• Background
• Objective
• Methodology
• Topology of Costing Tools
• Next steps
Background

Early Childhood Development programmes are low-resourced particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)
Cost data is critical for ECD investment decision making
Costing enables policymakers, donors, program implementers, researchers, and others to answer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costing Type</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost economy</td>
<td>How much did/will the program cost? What would be the cost of scaling up a program or intervention? What are the cost drivers of an intervention?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost-efficiency</td>
<td>What is the cost per beneficiary (unit cost) of an intervention or program?</td>
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<td>Cost-effectiveness</td>
<td>What is the best way to achieve a certain outcome/impact?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost-benefit</td>
<td>What is the value of all the benefits created by this intervention? Does the benefit outweigh the cost?</td>
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How can costing tools and guides help to conduct costing analysis?

• Costing tools facilitate cost analysis by enabling users to enter cost-related data and providing them with a range of calculations, estimates, and simulated costs.

• Costing guides help establish processes and procedures to examine cost data.
Challenges in ECD costing

- **Not easy to locate costing resources (tools and guidance)**
- **Sometimes it is a complex task to choose a suitable tool/guide**
- **Differences in metrics and measurement approach constraining comparison, low capacity to conduct a cost analysis**
Objective

This Landscape Review of Costing Tools is aimed at creating an online, user-friendly repository of costing tools for ECD.
Methodology

- A preliminary review of the literature to guide the search/deep dive
- Developed inclusion and exclusion criteria; and Keywords for the search
- Survey, and crowdsourcing using professional and social media platforms
- 13 tools, 7 guides, and around 400 plus webpage browsed
- 7 templates and 6 guides are included in the final review and the online ECD costing repository
ECD Costing

Cost analysis which is commonly referred to as "costing" is the process of identifying and examining the costs of the inputs of an intervention or program, and how those costs and inputs are distributed. Cost data are crucial for advocacy, budgeting and planning, and resource allocation including the critical relationship between cost and quality. Costing initiatives in this regard are growing in their relevance to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of Early Childhood Development programmes.

There are diverse tools and guides that can facilitate the costing of ECD programmes. Selecting the appropriate tool and conducting cost analysis is a complex task. This knowledge resource repository from ECDAN aims at enabling national and international ECD stakeholders and anyone interested in ECD costing to have easy access to available costing tools and guides.

Check our table of comparison to help you choose among the various cost tools.

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### Costing Tools

**Platform and Format**

- Excel (5)
- Web based (2)

**Costing Approach**

- Brookings Childhood Cost Calculator (C3)
- ILO Care policy Investment Simulator
- UNICEF ECE Accelerator Simulation Model

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See more at: [https://ecdan.org/themes-costing/](https://ecdan.org/themes-costing/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Developer</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Type of Analysis</th>
<th>Platform and Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tool</td>
<td>Brookings Center for Universal Education</td>
<td>To facilitate the costing of past, current or future (potential) programs to determine cost per beneficiary and total (resources needed), compare costs between initiatives, understand cost distribution, and costs of scaling</td>
<td>Retrospective and prospective</td>
<td>Web-based</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>-To present how to close the care policy gaps through investments in the country-specific gender-transformative care policy packages and assess the multiple benefits of investing in the care economy.</td>
<td>Prospective</td>
<td>Web-based or downloadable excel based</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Estimating the resources required for achieving SDG 4.2 targets-material, human, and financial resources required for Education Sector Planning and ECE subsector planning processes</td>
<td>Retrospective and prospective</td>
<td>Downloadable excel based</td>
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<td></td>
<td>USAID Center for Education</td>
<td>- Improve sustainability and overall value for money of USAID education programming through a better understanding of cost structures, cost efficiency and cost-effectiveness of interventions.</td>
<td>Prospective</td>
<td>Downloadable excel based</td>
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<tr>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>Education sector-wide simulation selected key SDG4-Education indicators to facilitate national planning exercise</td>
<td>Retrospective and prospective</td>
<td>Downloadable excel based</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UN Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI)</td>
<td>-To understand gender-responsive unit costs (costs per person) and ingredient costs (total costs of parts of an activity) considerations across common Education in Emergencies (EIE) intervention types;</td>
<td>Retrospective and prospective</td>
<td>Downloadable excel based</td>
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<td>J-PAL</td>
<td>To collect costs for all ingredients needed to implement a program or intervention, excluding the costs of evaluating the impact of that program. Collecting this cost data will help NGOs, governments, and other policymakers determine how much replicating or scaling up a program will cost.</td>
<td>Retrospective and prospective</td>
<td>Downloadable excel based</td>
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Next steps

USE PROMOTE SHARE

ENRICH THE REPOSITORY

TRACK USE AND

DOCUMENT LEARNING