

# Funding Equitable and High-Quality Early Childhood Education: Highlights from The Gambia

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# Rationale

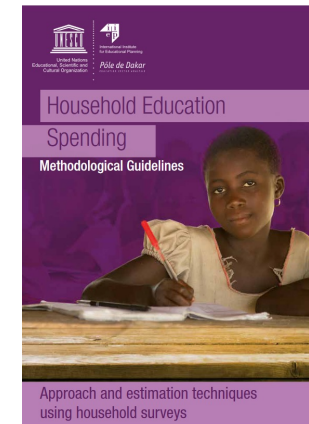
- Funding ECE scale-up is a major challenge
- Lack of ECE cost and financing data is a big problem
- The Gambian MoBSE & IIEP undertook two joint studies:
  - Cost-effectiveness
  - Funding for ECE to support the development of relevant evidence on ECE
- With COVID-19, financial resources (incl ODA) for education & ECE in particular expected to drop
- To “build back better” we need to understand where financial leeway stands

# Key questions

- What was spent on ECE (2018)?
- Who is financing ECE?
- What is the prevailing ECE financing structure?
- Is current ECE financing pattern equitable, efficient and sustainable?

# Methodology

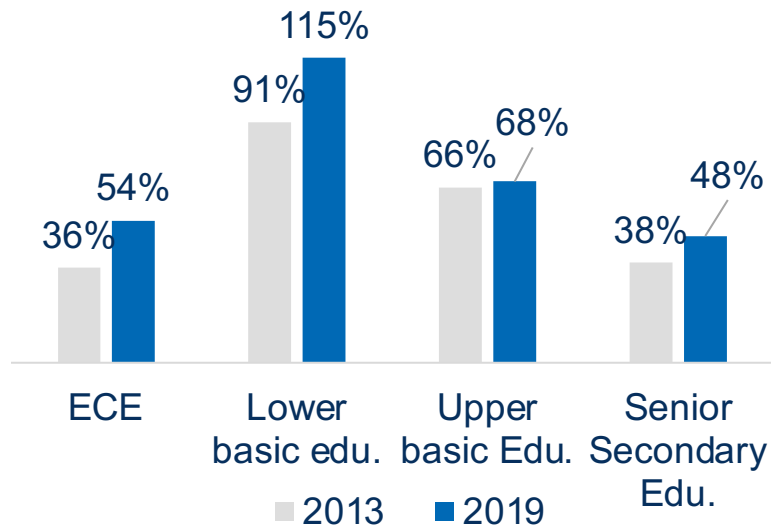
- Based on existing methodologies, including:
  - 1) Mapping major ECE services providers
  - 2) For each provider, identifying financing sources & mechanisms
  - 3) Collecting relevant data from financing unit & services providers
  - 4) Consolidating & analysing data
  
- Various sources of data used
  - EMIS
  - Actual budget data from MoFi and MoBSE
  - Report from DPs and NGOs
  - Dedicated survey to capture financing from private sources incl. households
  - Interviews with key informants



# The situation of ECE in the Gambia

- ECE enrolment on the rise
- Yet, sharp disparities prevail; gender parity reached

Trend in gross enrolment ratios, by education level, 2013-2019



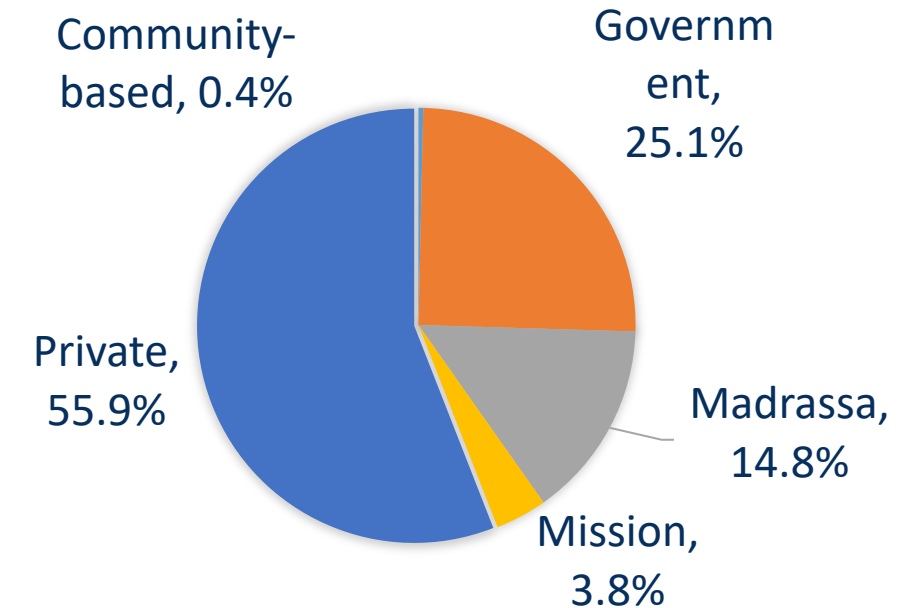
Parity indexes, GER, 2015

	Gender Male/Female	Location Urban/Rural	Wealth Richest/Poorest Quintile	Region Region1/Region 5
ECE	0.97	1.5	2,4	3.1
LBE	0.97	1.2	1,3	1.9
UBE	0.86	1.5	1,7	2.3
SSE	1.07	2.1	3,1	2.3
Tertiary	1.60	3.0	4,3	

# The situation of ECE in the Gambia

- Multiple ECE service providers
- ECE provision dominated by private providers
- Public enrolment share stable over 2013-2019 (25%)
- Low quality of ECE: 4% of children school ready (2018) (IIEP, forthcoming)

Distribution of ECE enrolment by ECD centre ownership, 2017/18 (%)

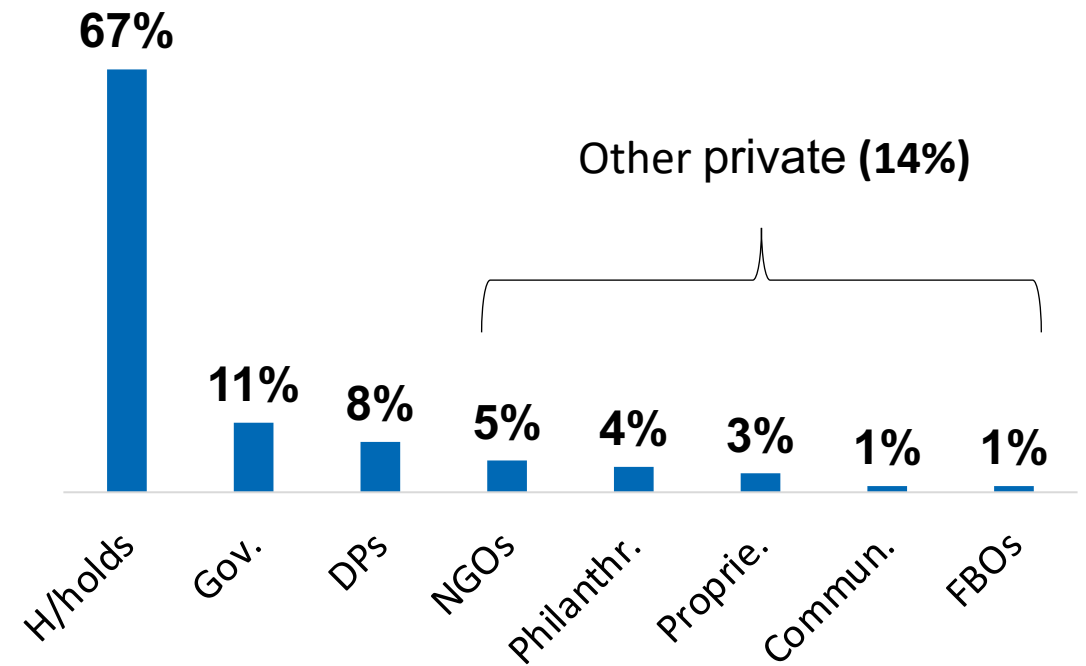


# A multiplicity of ECE financing sources and mechanisms

- **Financing sources & mechanisms**
- **Government:** funds from central level - domestic revenues (e.g. taxes)
  - Direct support of government and community ECD centres (all expenses covered)
  - Subventions to religious umbrella organisations (teacher salaries)
  - School improvement grant targeted to public primary schools indirectly benefiting annexed ECD centres
- **Households:** Direct in-kind or in-cash (e.g. user fees) contributions to providers
- **Other private entities** (e.g., NGOs, FBOs, philanthropists, proprietors, communities): Direct in-kind or in-cash contributions to providers
- **Development partners (DPs)/donors:** Transfers to MoBSE budget (e.g. on/off sectoral budget support (project grants)) and NGOs; direct in-kind contribution to schools

# What was spent on ECE in The Gambia in 2018?

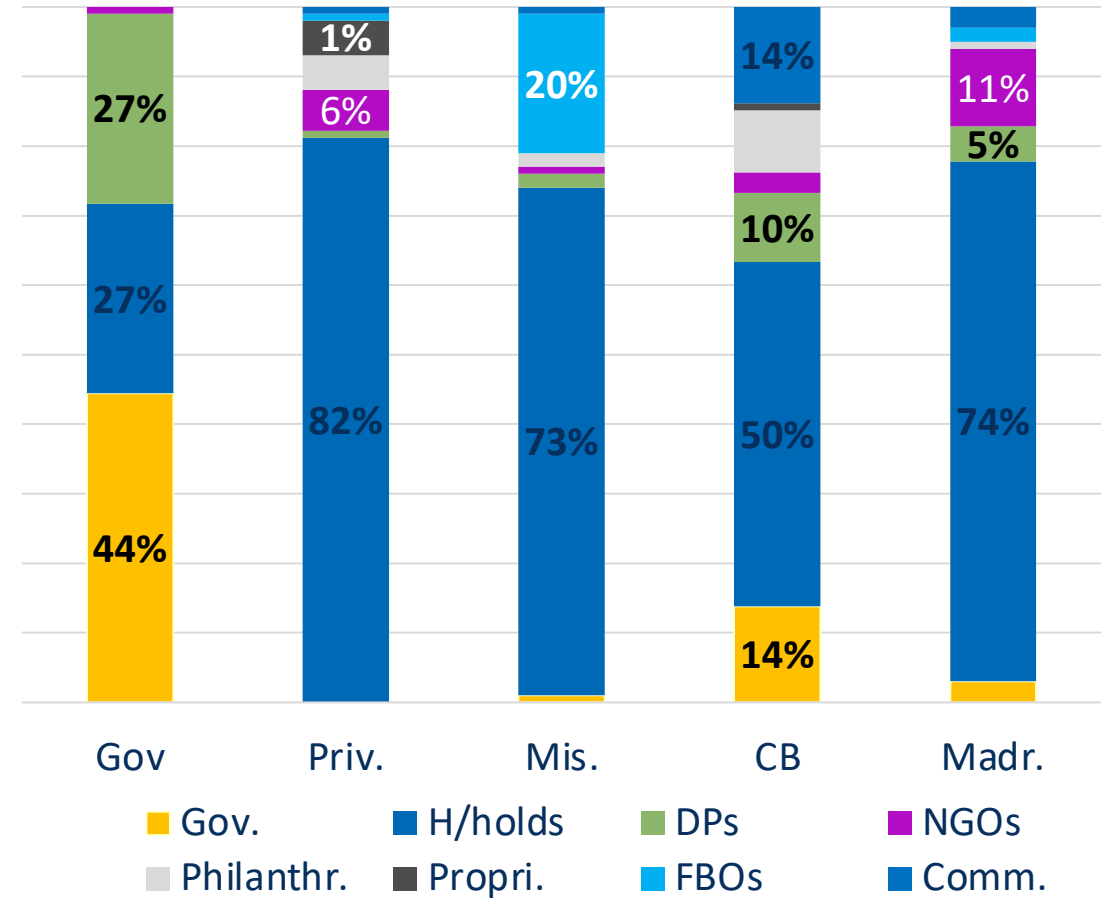
- Total ECE funding in 2018: 650.3 Million GMD (0.8% of GDP)
- Household financing is dominating (67%)
- Government: 2<sup>nd</sup> next largest at only 11%





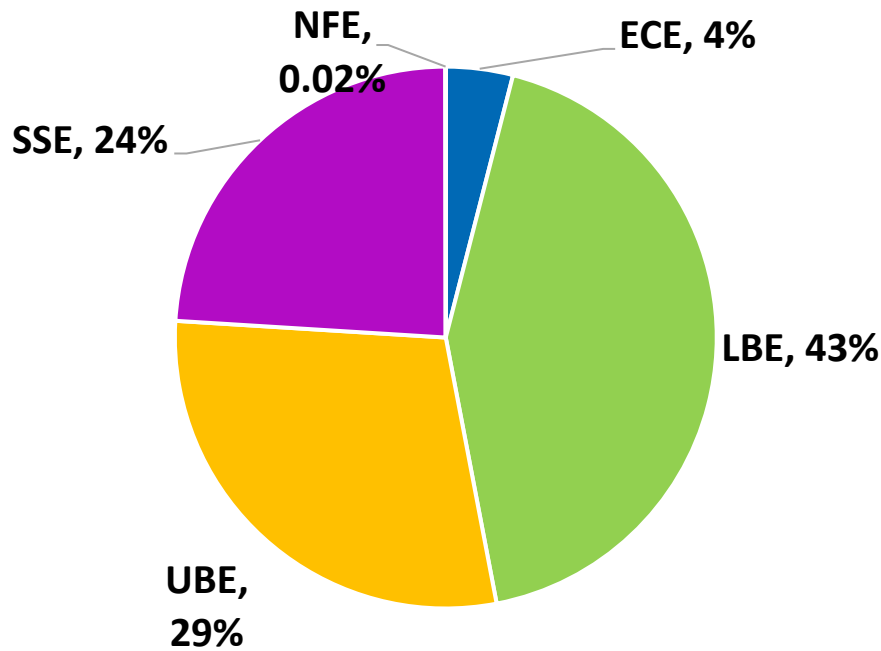
# ECE financing structure: who is getting what from whom?

- Funding allocation somewhat aligned to ECE enrolment
- Skewed: private ECD centres absorbing the bulk of financing (61%) ; 0.5% for community-based
- Private ECD centres relied heavily on households (HH) (82% of their total funding)
- CB centres have more balanced funding sources
- Gov. centres: high reliance on HH (27%) and DPs (27%)



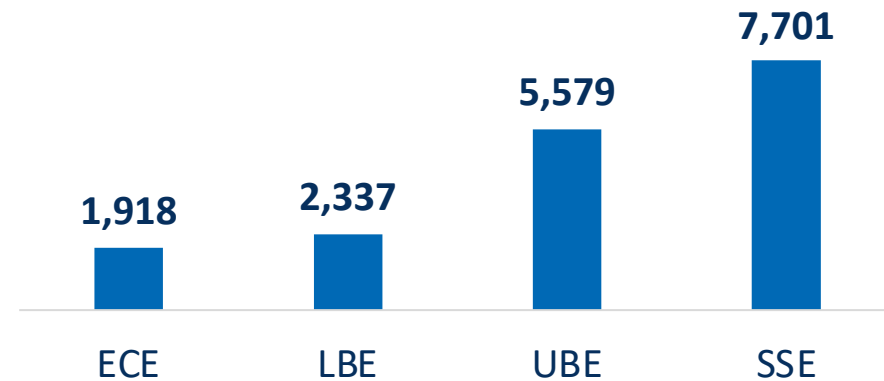
# Low level of public ECE financing

Distribution of public expenditures (Government only) on basic and secondary education by education level, 2018



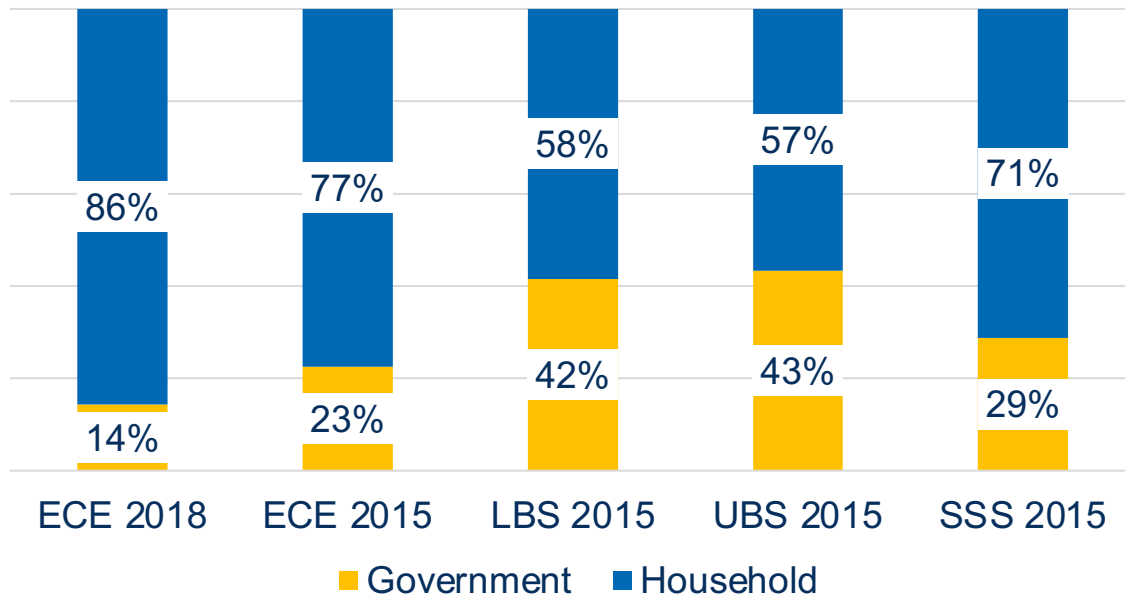
- Government: second financer (11% of total ECE financing)
- ECE = 4% of MoBSE total expenditure
- Patchy evidence of public funding increase
- Recurrent public cost per child lowest in ECE

Per student public recurrent expenditure (unit cost in GMD) by education level, 2018

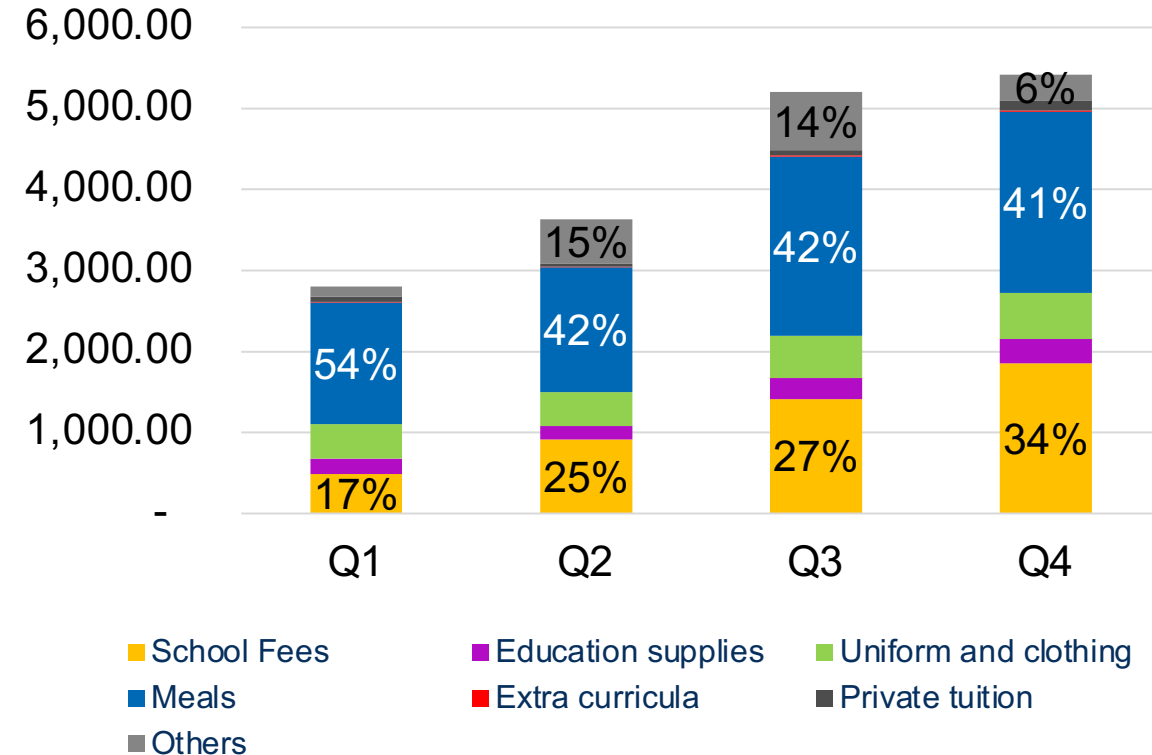


# High burden on household

Proportion of government and household recurrent spending by level of education, 2015 and 2018



Household per child ECE expenditure (GMD), by nature and household wealth quartiles, 2018



- Current financing pattern raises major equity/sustainability issues

## Other private sources

- Diversity of other private financiers reflecting the diversity of providers
- 14% of total ECE funding in 2018
- Often one-off contributions
- => Sustainability issue over time

## Development partners

- Donor support for ECE is on the rise (positive signal)
- However, support
  - limited in size
  - Often project-driven
  - few actors
- => Sustainability at stake

Trend in the distribution of donor ECE spending by education level, 2015-2018 (% and million GMD)

	Without WFP*				With WFP
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018
ECE	4%	4%	5%	6%	7%
LBS	74%	60%	66%	62%	67%
UBS	19%	31%	24%	23%	17%
SSS	3%	5%	6%	11%	9%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total amount (ml GMD)	223.9	105.5	184.8	583.2	713.5

# Key take away points

- The Gambia achieved relatively high ECE coverage with little government financial support
- HH bear disproportionate share of cost, raising sustainability & equity issues
- Low levels of school readiness suggest inefficient use of existing resources & inadequate levels of ECE funding
- ‘Building back better’ requires sharp increase of ECE funding (public & private) & better use of resources for (a) cost-effective quality investments (b) inclusion of most vulnerable
- Simulation financial education models are useful tools for assessing and testing the financial, human, technical and feasibility of alternative policies options
- Data challenges : ECE data is multi-sourced, not centralized. Data/information often inconsistent or missing. Strengthening ECE data including financial data tracking critical to monitor ECE and advocate for more resources

Thank you for your attention

Brief available on:

<http://www.iiep.unesco.org/en/publication/funding-equitable-and-high-quality-early-childhood-education-highlights-gambia?language=fr>