

# Social protection to overcome vulnerable situations in the family

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# Key messages

- Innovation in, and expansion of, family social protection policies continues
  - Plenty of quality evidence that they reduce vulnerability...
- But they can take an active role in social and economic development
- Complete family policy portfolios are needed
  - Adequately funded, designed for purpose, complementary other sectors, for and with families
- A global divide in utilization, huge gaps in provision in most countries worldwide, incoherent portfolios, and negative design effects



# SDGs covered: and how they were selected

- Group consultation led to a selection of focal goals:



- And 2 targets within each (e.g. SDG 1: No Poverty)
  - **1.1** By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere
  - **1.2** Reduce at least by half, % of people living in poverty in all its dimensions

# What did the study tell us?

- There is no silver bullet:
  - But family cash benefits consistently reduce poverty and deprivation – can effectively promote employment and gender equality
  - Family focused health approaches are effective – behavioral interventions need family therapists too
  - Parental factors are key to education success, family policies work for school access – less so learning
  - Family policies need to be gender neutral in outcomes
  - Violence prevention requires changes in conditions and education (Nurse family partnerships)



Effects on >>>	1 NO POVERTY	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Policies and programming for						
		e.g. Access to health in multiple countries, and health outcomes				

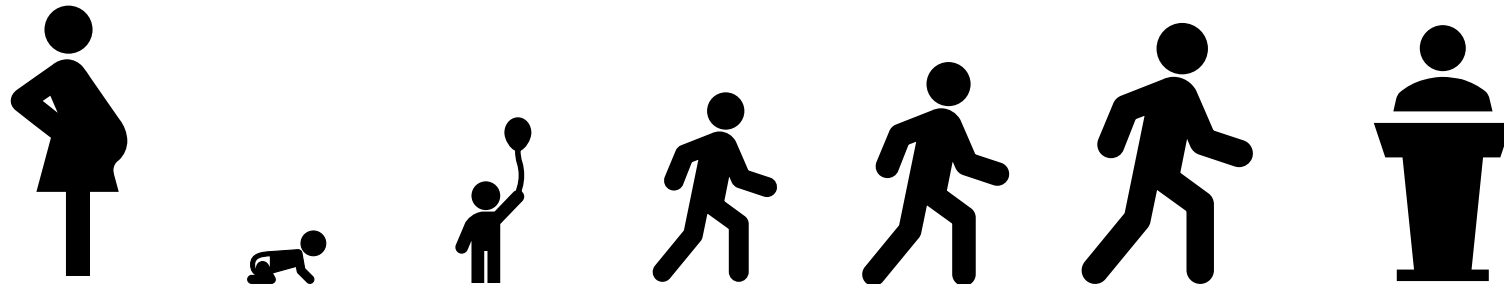
- **Observed SDGs connections via family focused policy and programming**
- Strong spillover effects found in the majority of cases
- Yet to cover:
  - Health system effects

# Age-related development of core capacities

Listening, Empathising, Inquiring

Discerning patterns, Embodying, Observing, Reflecting, Relaxing,  
Sensing

Fluency in ideation, divergent thinking, self-regulation (ado),  
affective empathy, intuition

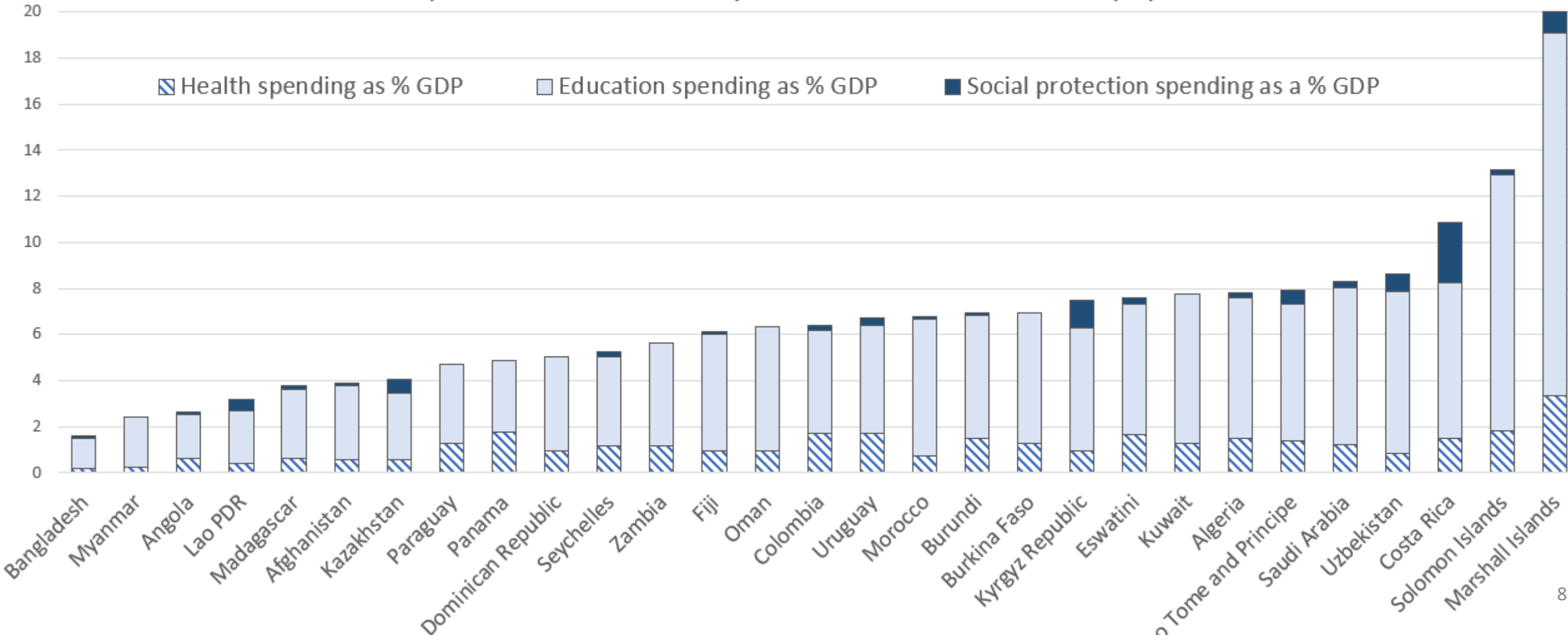


Speed of development and 'type' also matter!

Child age		Prenatal	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17+	
Social protection cash benefits	Family allowances		Child and family benefits, child disability benefits, family tax breaks, advances on maintenance payments																		
	Leave and family care policies	Maternity/paternity leave and benefits		Parental leave and benefits	Child raising/homecare allowances																
			Birth grant																		
Social and human services	Child protection		Services for children (e.g., institutional care, social work interventions)																		
	Family services	Home visiting, nurse–family partnerships																			
		Additional services in support of child-rearing (e.g., food packages, family accommodation services, family centres and parenting interventions)																			
	Employment/training																	Active labour market participation for youth			
Public work supports for caregivers																					
Education and care supports	Subsidies		Fees waivers, or school or childcare fee subsidies, free meals or equipment																		
	Services		Childcare and preschool																		
									Primary					Secondary and post-secondary							
Family health services	Subsidies	Health insurance or health cost waivers																			
	Family health services		Primary and secondary care																		
	Mother and infant health	Prenatal checks	Birth services, postnatal checks, immunizations																		

# Balance of cross-sectoral spending in LMIC countries

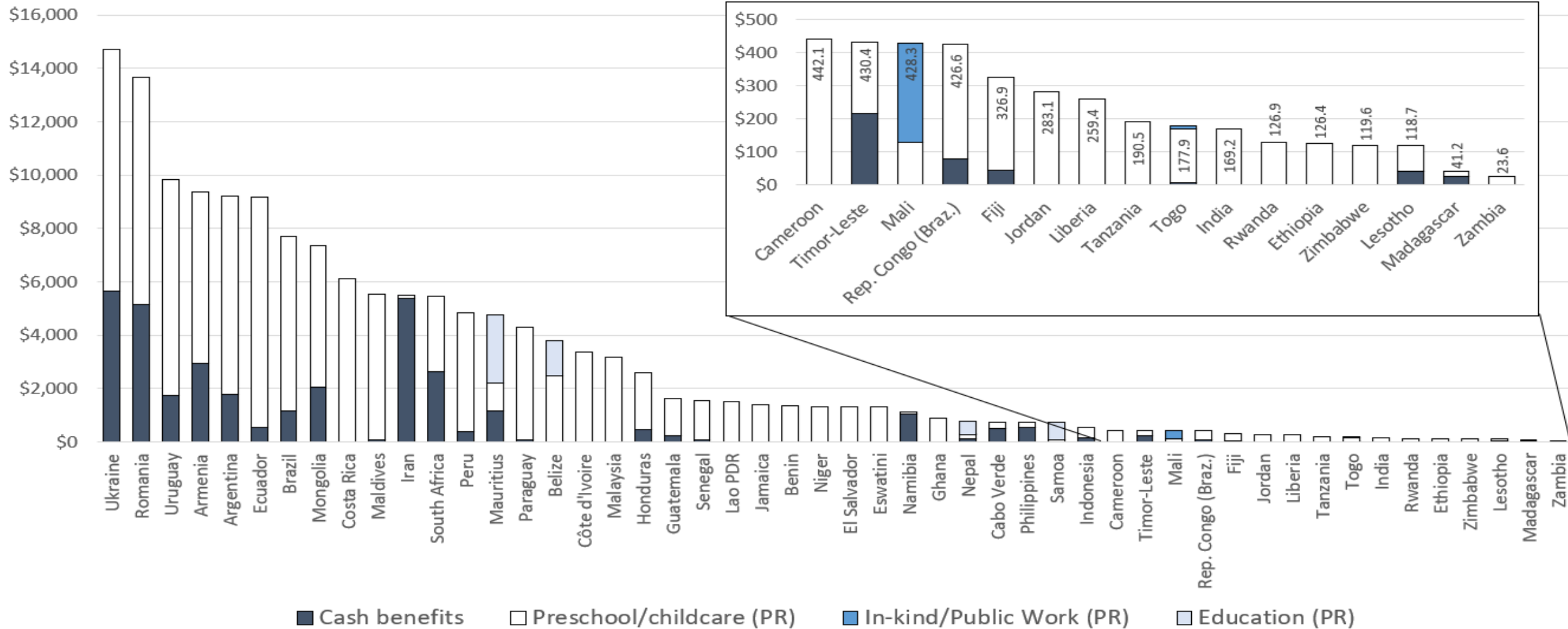
Estimated expenditure on on 0–19-year-olds based on national populations, 2019



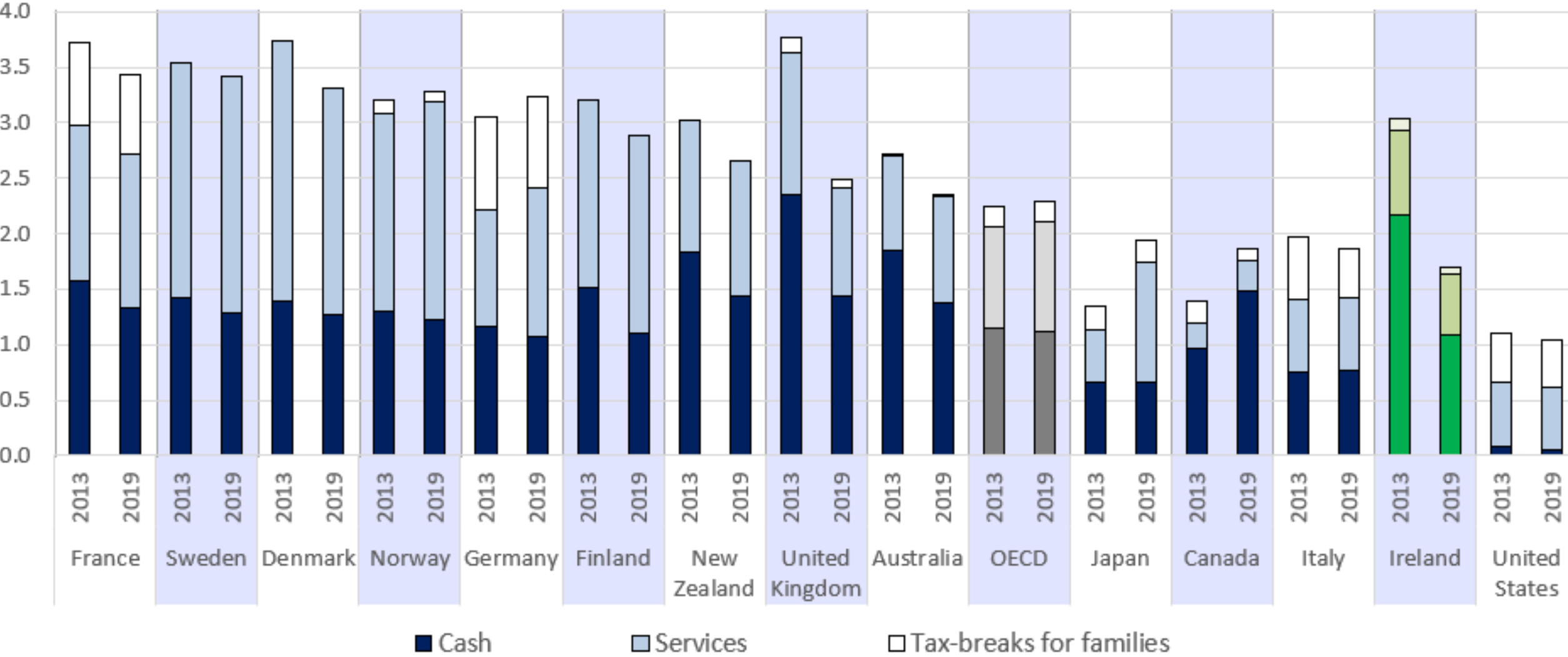


# Differences in expenditures on young children in LMIC countries

Spending per child from conception to age 6 in USD PPP

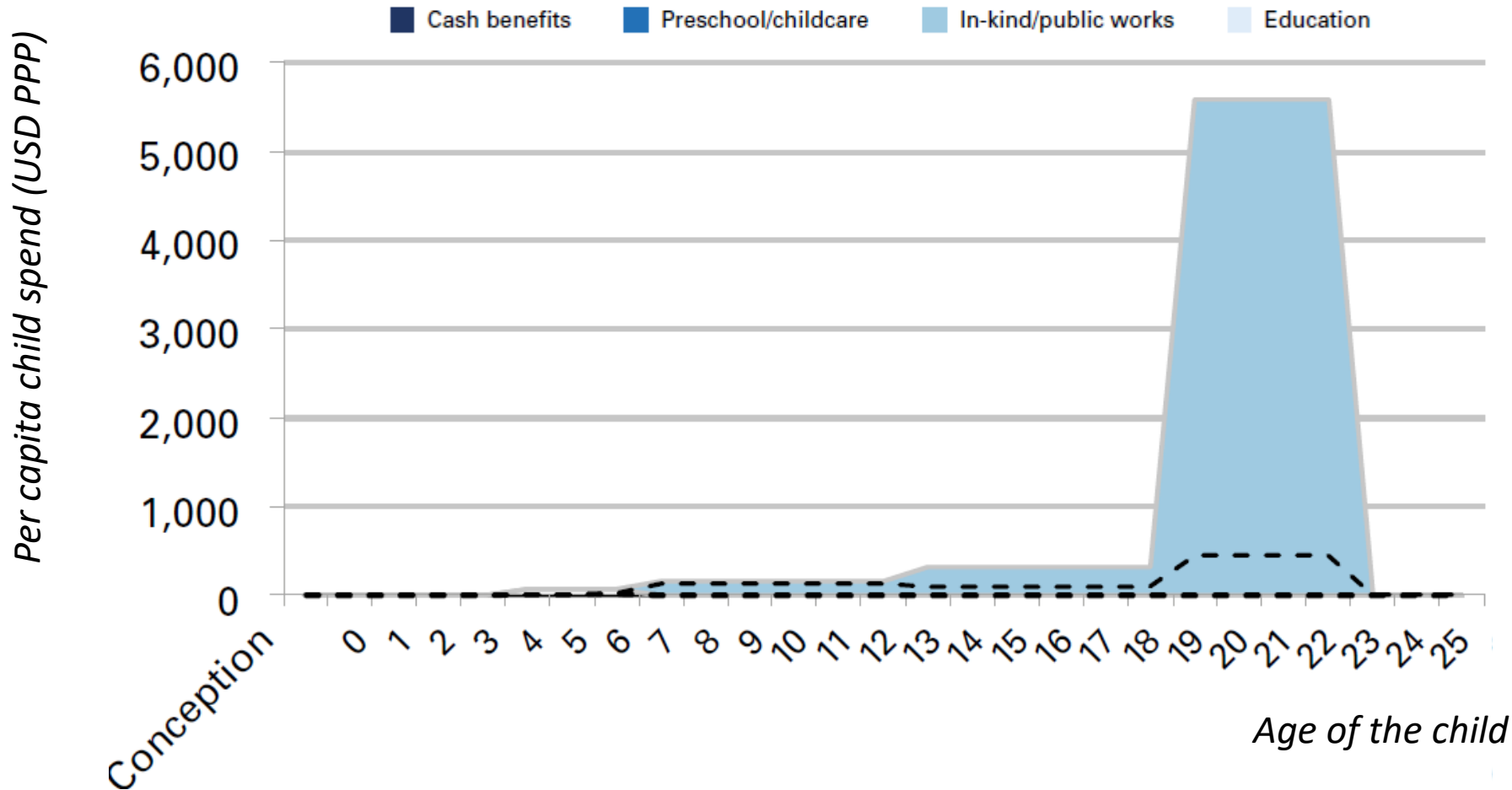


# Differences in family policy expenditures in OECD countries



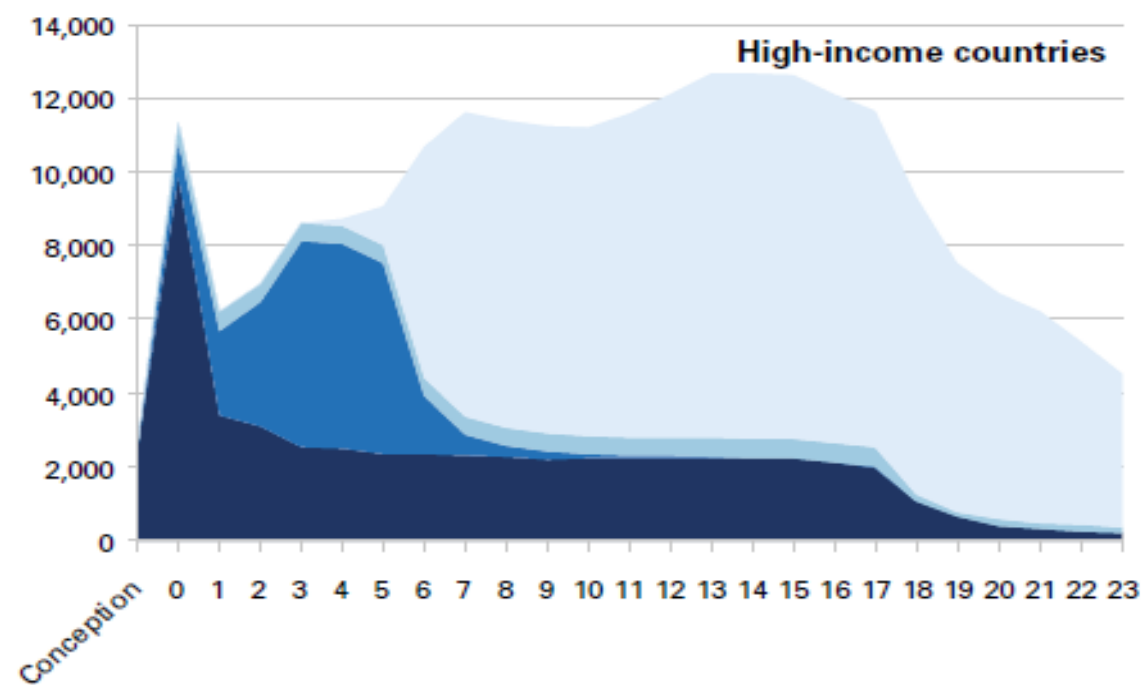
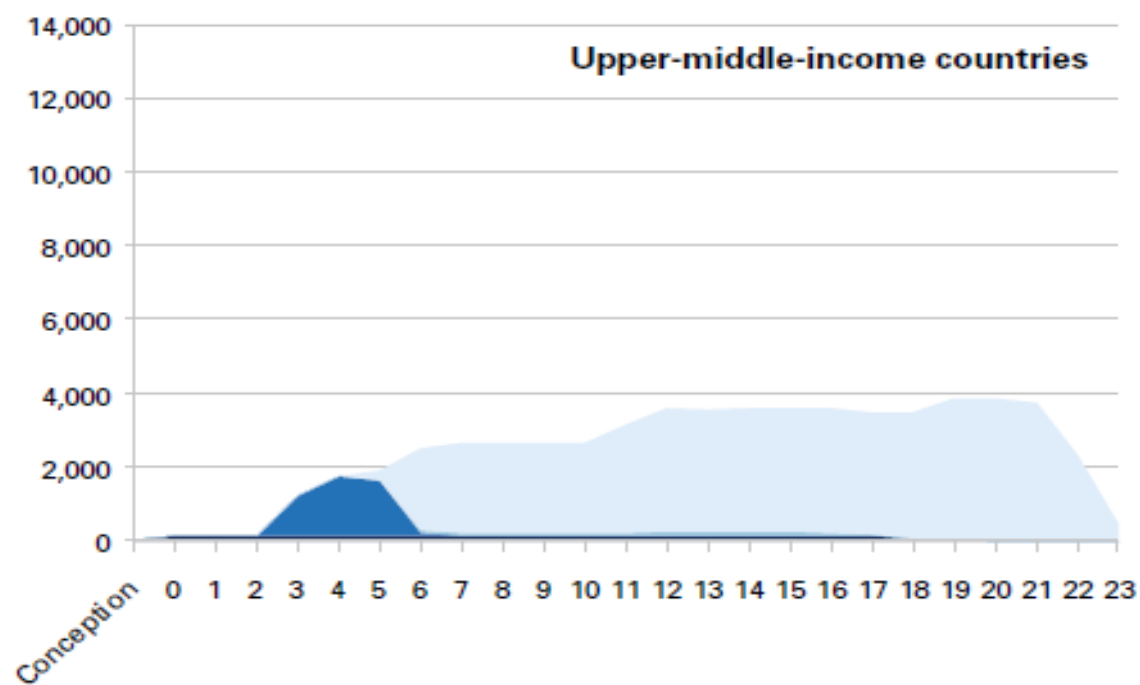
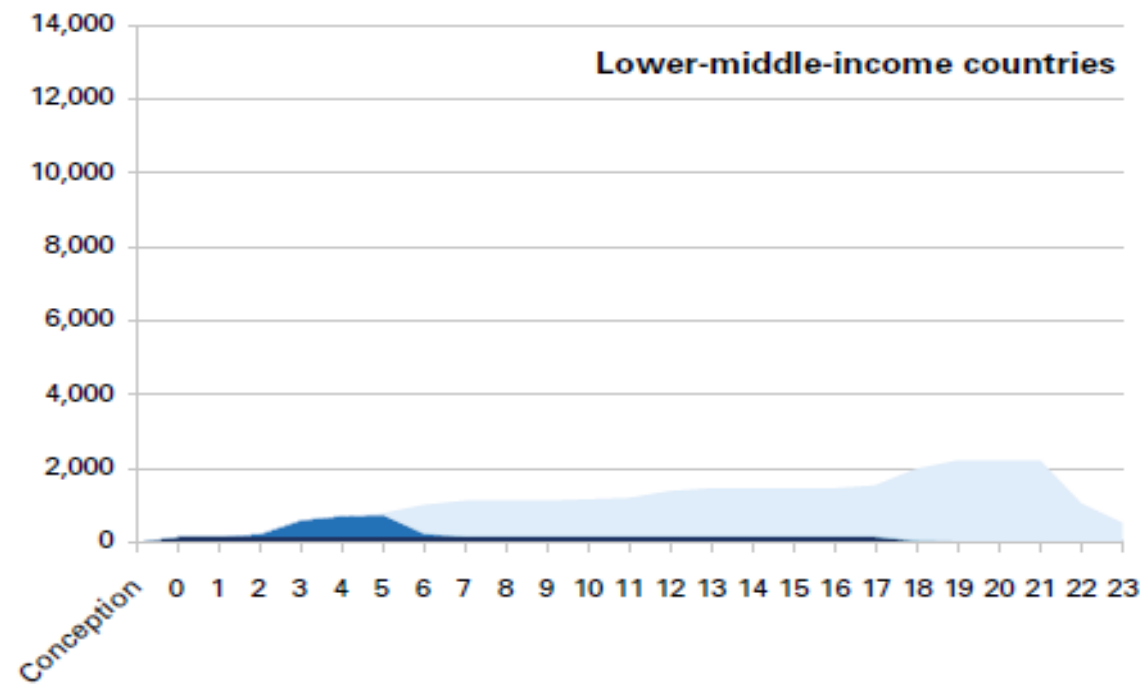
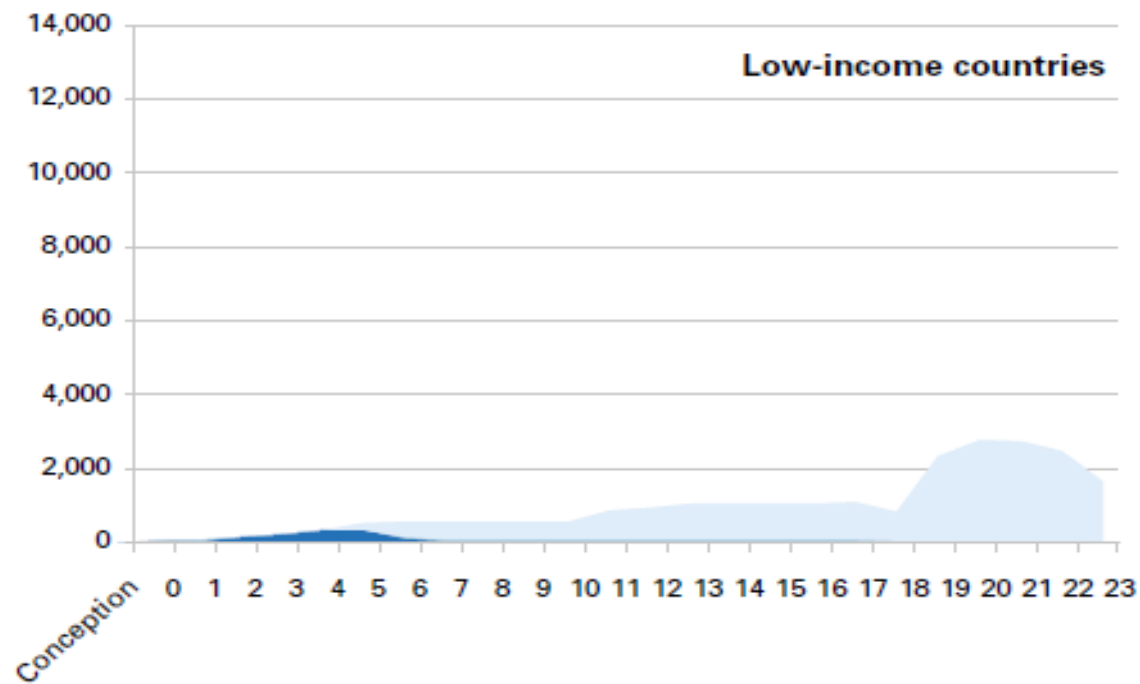
# Examples of country profiles

## Ethiopia



Adapted from:  
Heckman (2007)

Source: Richardson  
et al, 2023  
forthcoming



Classification of cash benefits in 22 OECD countries, 1996-2009

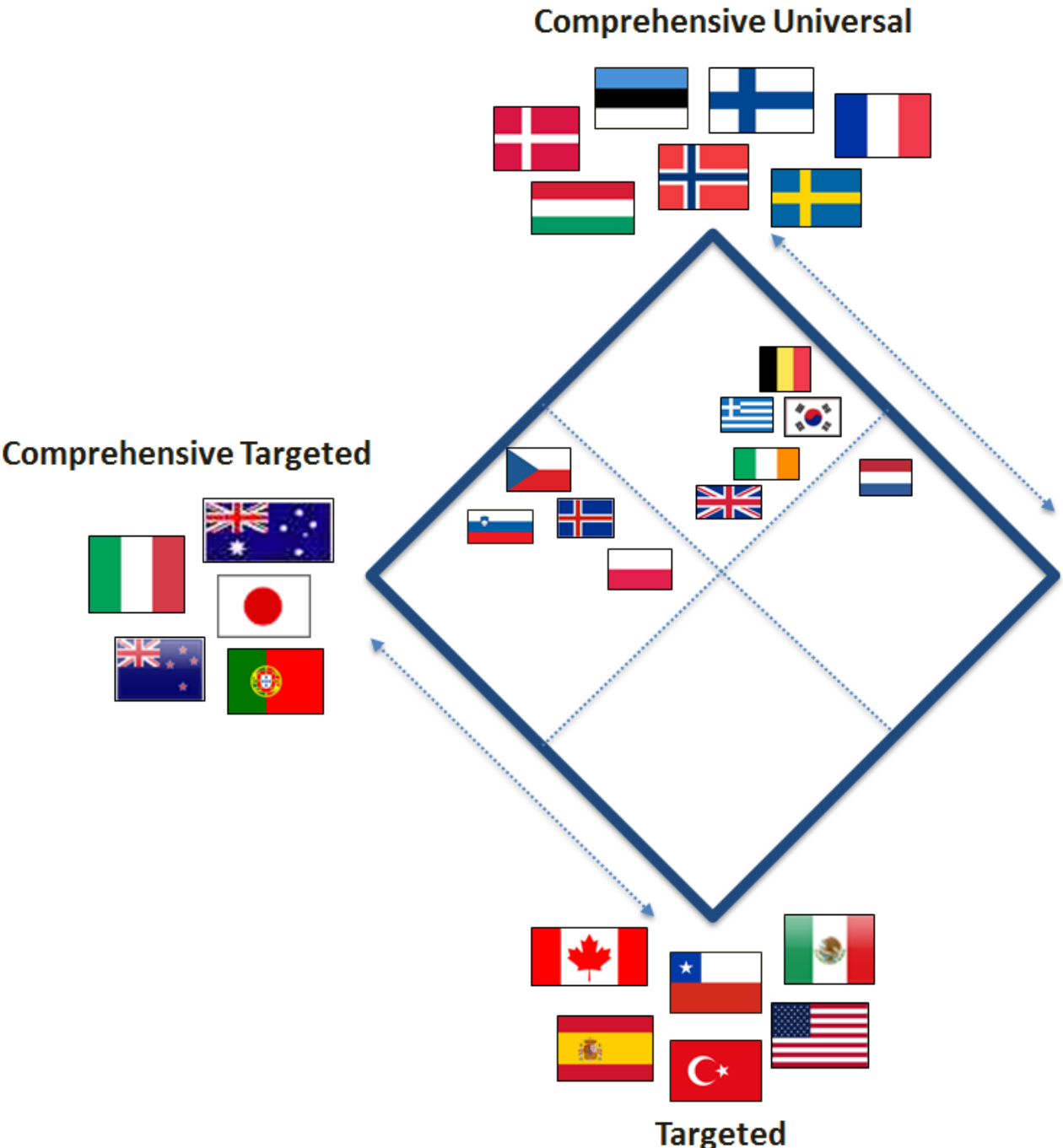
	How family cash benefits are delivered			
	Main Child Benefit is not means-tested	Tax Breaks	Sole-parent Supplement	Strong leave Structures
Comprehensive universal	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Yes
Universal	Yes	Yes	No	Sometimes
Comprehensive targeted	No	Sometimes	Yes	No
Targetted	No	Sometimes	No	No
All remaining combinations are 'hybrid types'				

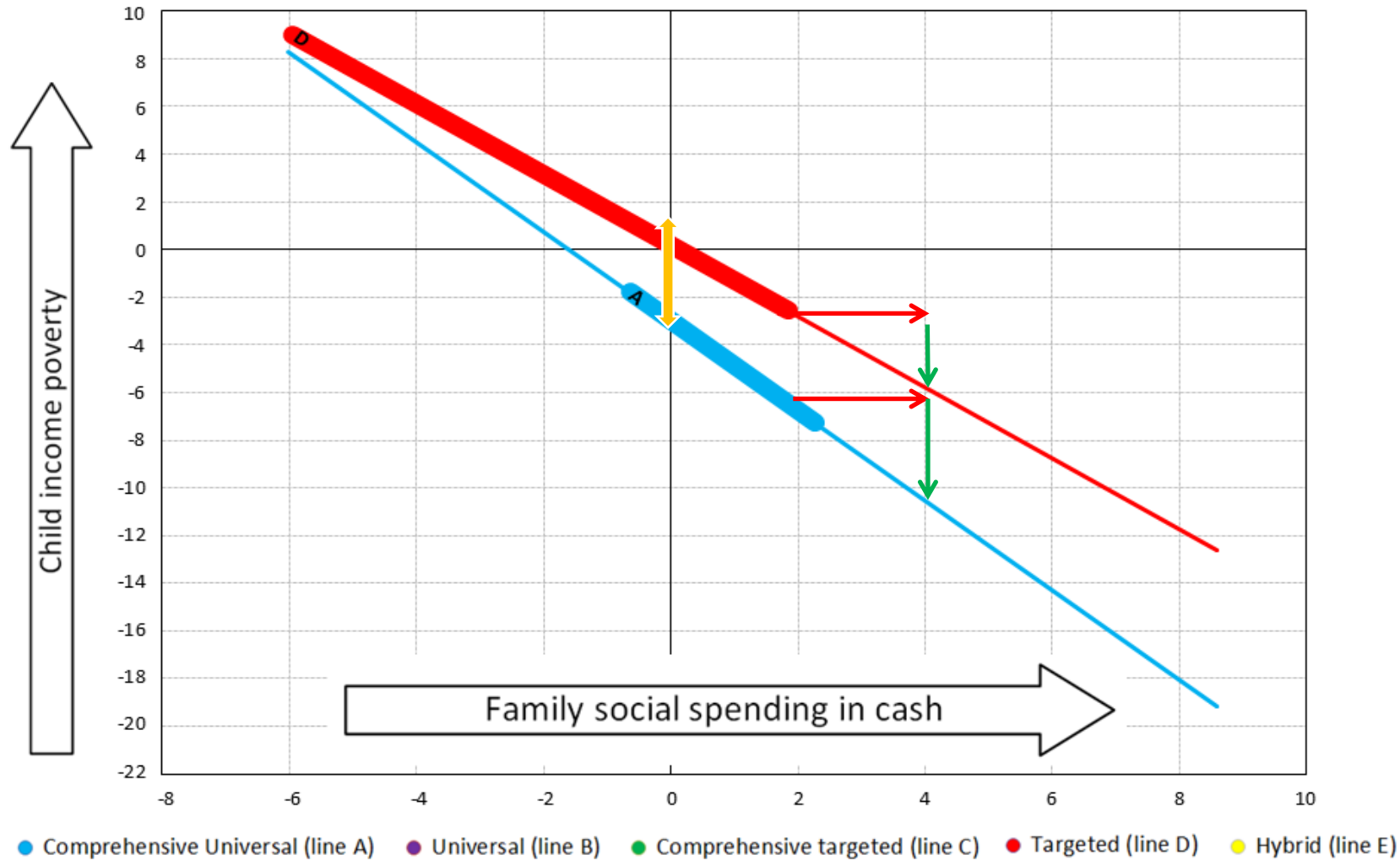
**Family policy design matters**

**'Cash' types**



# Family cash benefit typologies








## Comparing approaches to family cash benefits

Regression lines of child poverty on family cash spending as a function cash benefit structures, 22 OECD countries, 1996-2009.

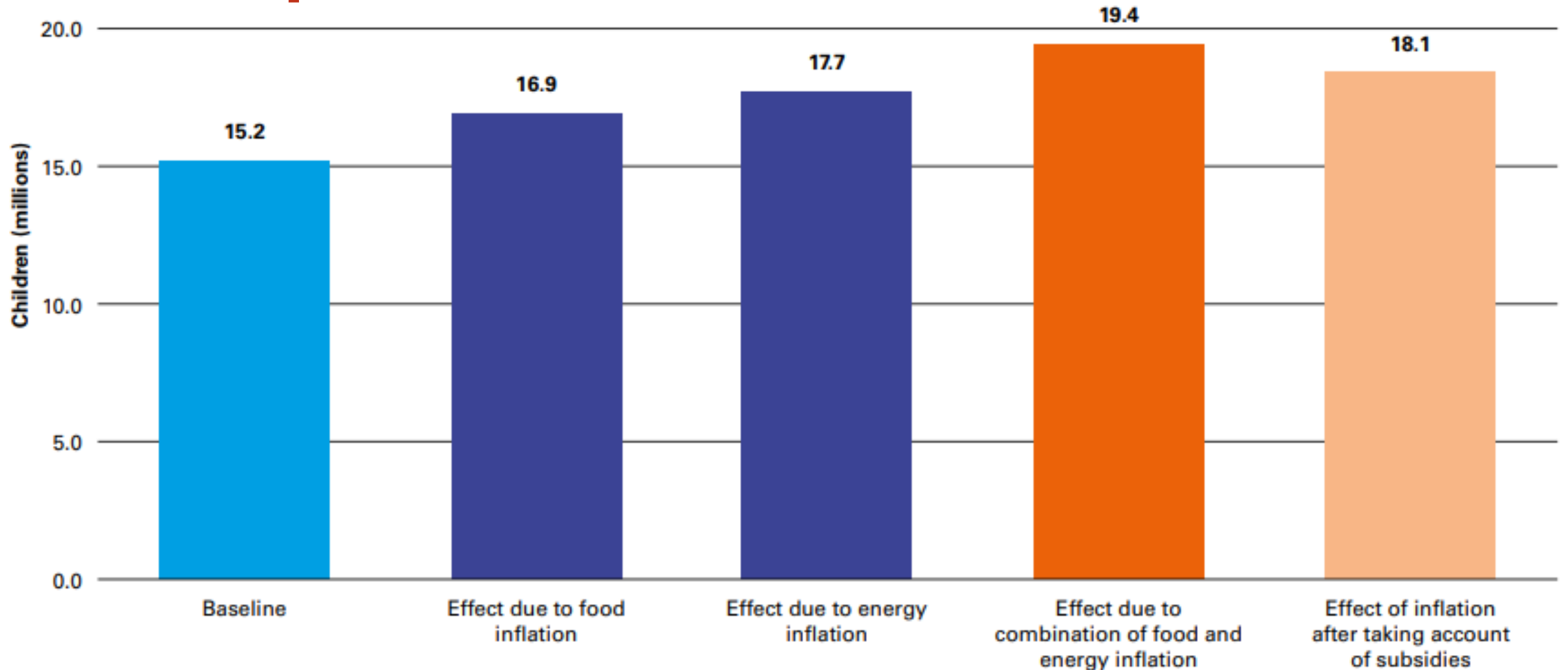
Source: Richardson et al., OECD Report to the European Commission, 2014.

POLICY RESPONSES TO CRISES & THEIR IMPACTS		Income	Health	Education & Childcare	Work	Safety
 <p><b>Fiscal Measures</b></p>	Stimulus	Green	White	White	Orange	White
	Austerity	White	Red	Red	White	Red
 <p><b>Social Insurance</b></p>	Health Insurance	White	Green	White	White	White
	Unemployment Insurance	Green	White	White	Orange	White
	Weather Insurance	Green	White	White	White	White
 <p><b>Social Transfers, Social Services, &amp; Job Programmes</b></p>	Cash Transfers	Green	Green	Green	Green	White
	Food & School Feeding	White	Green	Green	White	White
	School & Health Subsidies	White	White	Orange	White	White
	Social Services	White	Green	Green	White	White
	Job Programmes	Green	Green	Red	Green	White

Source: Tirivayi et al (2020)



# Crisis-proof indicators: cost of living crisis in Europe



Source: Authors' calculations based on analysis of data as described in the Appendix.

Source: Richardson et al (2023)

# Priority recommendations (at a time of crisis)

- Increase social protection expenditures: starting with families with the youngest children – in the form of family-friendly cash benefits
  - Undertake incremental adjustment if necessary... but...
- Complete the set
- Prioritize social protection policies that are adequate / inclusive / equitable
- Policies should work **with** as well as **for** families
- Use foreign assistance, and other less-sustainable sources of finance, to catalyse efforts to strengthen welfare systems
- Utilize international goals and agreements in efforts to promote political will and consensus for change



# Thank you

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