

Joint Programme Document

- Template (final) -

A. COVER PAGE

- 1. Fund Name:** Joint SDG Fund
- 2. MPTFO Project Reference Number**
- 3. Joint programme title:** *Early childhood and sustainable development: towards a comprehensive care system*
- 4. Short title:** *Care system for early childhood*
- 5. Country and region:** *Argentina, Latin America & Caribbean.*
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9. Short description:

The aim of the JP is to support the Argentine Government in the implementation of the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI in Spanish), focusing on strengthening childcare services at national and subnational levels. It is expected to reduce the inequality gaps among the 5,2 million children (0 - 6 years old)¹, of which 2,7 million are poor, by increasing the investment for the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI) from the current 0.26% and identifying consolidated investment gaps at national and provincial levels. The target population in this JP is aged 0 to 6 years. The JP's emphasis will be on girls and boys from the lowest income deciles, particularly those with indigenous origins and those with disabilities, who experience multiple factors of exclusion and discrimination. As a result, four provinces will have a Provincial Early Childhood Strategy (EPPI) designed and under

¹ The originally proposed age range has been extended to include children up to 6 years old, on the basis of the recent publication of Executive Order No. 750/2019 in the Official Gazette dated October 31, 2019 approving the National Early Childhood Strategy as a "tool to guarantee the overall and progressive development of children, from the prenatal period to and including the age of SIX (6) years old."

Source: <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/220299/20191031>

implementation, reaching up to 1,3 mill of vulnerable children, including those from indigenous populations. The model will be prepared for scaling-up to all 24 provinces.

The JP will also develop innovative instruments using new technologies: a) public care digital platforms to enhance access to the care system; b) Impact Investment Fund, supported by an impact investment platform; and c) inter-cultural education and culturally-centred care and education services for rural indigenous women and children. Also, a strategy will be put in place to improve the working conditions of early childhood care workers through supporting their professionalization, transition to formal employment, and organization in the initial four provinces. Finally, big data and other analytical tools will be used for monitoring and evaluation.

10. Keywords:

Social protection in Argentina.

Care system.

Early childhood.

Decent work.

Social innovation.

11. Overview of budget

Joint SDG Fund contribution	USD 2,000,000
Co-funding 1 (UNICEF)	USD 407,902.00
Co-funding 2 (UNDP)	USD 12,498.00
Co-funding 3 (ILO)	USD 86,300.00
Co-funding 4 (ECLAC)	USD 93,300.00
Co-financing (private and other non-traditional donors) ²	USD 300,000.00
TOTAL	USD 2,900,000

12. Timeframe:

Start date	End date	Duration (in months)
<u>01-03-2020</u>	<u>31-12-2021</u>	<u>22 months</u>

13. Gender Marker:

² It is expected that an estimated USD 300,000 will be provided by private initiatives working to support the ENPI and mobilized through the innovative financing instruments that will be designed through this JP. For that purpose, potential social investors will be identified and approached. Among them: high-income individuals, foundations, pension funds and institutional investors. Some investors that already committed with impact initiatives in Argentina are, for example, Banco Galicia, Banco Nación, Banco de Inversión y Comercio Exterior (BISE), family offices and high net worth individuals.

Overall score average: 2

14. Target groups (including groups left behind or at risk of being left behind)

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	Direct influence	Indirect influence
Women	X	
Children	X	
Girls	X	
Youth		X
Persons with disabilities	X	
Indigenous peoples	X	
Rural workers	X	
Human rights defenders (incl. NGOs, journalists, union leaders, whistleblowers...)		X
Migrants	X	

15. Human Rights Mechanisms related to the Joint Programme

The joint programme will contribute to follow-up and implement the following HR recommendations:

UPR 2017: Continue its efforts aimed at combating the persistence of discriminatory stereotypes and promoting equal opportunities for men and women and eliminating discrimination concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society (107.124; 107.132)

Fully implement relevant laws to promote the rights of indigenous people and to ensure their safety in realizing their economic and civil rights (107.170);

Facilitate access to the labour market for indigenous peoples, people of African descent and migrants and make sure they receive all social benefits (107.181)

CEDAW 2016: Adopt a comprehensive strategy targeting women, men, girls and boys to overcome the machismo culture and the discriminatory stereotypes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society and ensure that this strategy also addresses intersecting forms of discrimination against women

Economic empowerment of women be enhanced by strengthening income-generating opportunities(para.25)

Create more opportunities for women, including migrant women, to gain access to formal employment, in particular by promoting the equal sharing of domestic and family responsibilities between men and women, providing sufficient and adequate childcare facilities and adopt a timebound plan to implement the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), of the International Labour Organization, with a view to facilitating women’s access to the formal economy. Monitor the working conditions of women domestic workers, including through regular inspections of private households, and ensure that women domestic workers are covered by social security schemes. Accelerate the

adoption of programmes at the national, provincial and municipal levels to promote access to employment opportunities for women who experience intersecting social stigma and discrimination (para 31)

CRC 2018: Incorporate a disability perspective into Act No. 26061 and the system for the comprehensive protection of children's and adolescents' rights (para. 29)

Allocate sufficient financial resources for the development and expansion of early childhood education, on the basis of a comprehensive and holistic policy of early childhood care and development, and strengthen measures to increase access to school places and support across all provinces, particularly for children between 3 and 4 years of age (para37 a))

CERD 2017: Adopt a comprehensive policy to combat racism and racial discrimination that promotes social inclusion and seeks to reduce the high levels of poverty prevalent among indigenous peoples, people of African descent and migrants, particularly those in an irregular situation (para. 7).

The Committee recommends that the State party take into account its general recommendation No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination and that it mainstream a gender perspective in all its policies and strategies for combating racial discrimination in order to address the multiple forms of discrimination faced by, in particular, indigenous, Afro-descendent and migrant women(para. 36)

ESCR 2018: Strengthening and expanding a comprehensive public care system that eliminates social and geographical divides through the effective implementation of the Equal Opportunities Plan, and more actively promoting policies for reconciling work and family life for both men and women; Adopting and implementing effective measures, including temporary measures, at the national, provincial and municipal levels to combat social stereotypes that are detrimental to women(para.29)

CCPR 2016: The State party should redouble its efforts to eliminate the gender stereotypes surrounding the roles and responsibilities of men and women in the family and in society (para. 8)

SRVW 2016: Adopt a comprehensive strategy targeting women, men, girls and boys to overcome the machismo culture and discriminatory stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society(para.80)

16. PUNO and Partners:

16.1 PUNO

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16.2 Partners

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- The National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (Secretaría de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia, SENNAF).
 - Castelli, Gabriel. gcastelli@senaf.gob.ar
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-Private sector:

As part of this JP, the impact investment of high-income individuals, foundations, pension funds, institutional investors, among others, will be promoted. The activities of this JP include the identification and contact of such investors. Among the potential investors we can mention:

- Banks already committed with impact initiatives in Argentina, such as Banco Galicia, Banco Nación, Banco de Inversión y Comercio Exterior (BISE), among others.
- Family offices and high net worth individuals (HNWI)

-Other:

○ Other UN Agencies:

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B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. Call for Concept Notes: 1/2019

2. Relevant Joint SDG Fund Outcomes

- Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale
- Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement

3. Overview of the Joint Programme Results

This JP is intended to support the implementation of the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI, in Spanish), in particular, such actions linked to care services for children under 6 years old. This decision is supported by a diagnosis of the lack of a comprehensive care system for early childhood. For such purpose, the approach proposed in this JP focuses on three closely interconnected aspects, namely: a) families' access to care services and the enhancement of the service quality provided; b) improved employment conditions of workers in early childhood care; and c) a contribution to women's financial independence in relation to meeting care needs and, consequently, to their chances of labor market participation. In view of the foregoing, the outcomes and outputs of this initiative are stated below.

3.1 Outcomes

- OUTCOME 1: Argentina will have designed and implemented social protection and inclusion policies aimed at the full exercise of social rights through universal access to essential quality services with a gender perspective and with particular emphasis on groups subjected to aggravated forms of discrimination (UNSDCF, outcome 2.3)
- OUTCOME 2: The country will have articulated employment, education and training policies for decent work aimed at reducing the informal economy and all forms of discrimination, especially promoting gender equality and the abolition of child labor. (UNSDCF, outcomes 1.2 and 1.3)

3.2 Outputs

- OUTPUT 1: Support the national and subnational implementation of the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI).
- OUTPUT 2: Development of innovative instruments for a comprehensive care strategy, based on coordination and integration of public policies for early childhood.
- OUTPUT 3: Design and implementation of a strategy aimed at estimating the demand of employment for early childhood caregivers and improving working conditions of workers in the care sector.
- OUTPUT 4: Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation, using big data and other analytical tools.

4. SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme

4.1 List of targets

- Target 4.2. Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.
- Target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family.
- Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

4.2 Expected SDG impact

The support of the UNS to improve and increase the supply of quality care services for early childhood, as well as enhance their accessibility, may speed up the achievement of Agenda 2030-related goals in a manner that is both strategic and innovative. A comprehensive early childhood development, care and preprimary education policy targeting the most vulnerable (SDG target 4.2) also seeks to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by mitigating care work inequalities and facing obstacles that prevent women from obtaining decent paid work (SDG target 5.4). In addition, by generating decent care jobs, childcare policies and services expand the care workforce, sustaining the demand for female and male employment and contributing to full and productive employment for all (8.5).

In contribution to the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda, it is expected that this experience will (i) be replicated in other provinces; (ii) help increase the percentage of children attending quality learning and care spaces, particularly those suffering multiple forms of discrimination; (iii) improve the labor conditions of early childhood care workers; and (iv) contribute to reduce gender gaps through actions that promote women's access to formal employment, taking into special account the specific realities of indigenous women.

5. Relevant objective/s from the national SDG framework

The government has set priorities regarding fighting against **poverty** and **focusing social investment on the most vulnerable groups** (VNR 2017, p.70-71). For that purpose, national plans and policies are implemented to:

- achieve healthy development in early childhood;
- improve educational quality;
- promote gender equality and women empowerment;
- promote inclusion and provide comprehensive care for people with disabilities, among others.

In particular, the general purpose of the ENPI (National Early Childhood Strategy) focuses on five large areas which require State intervention to guarantee the gradual closing of the currently existing social and territorial gaps that impact on the overall development of early childhood:

- Life and Health (SDG 2 and 3);
- Identity (SDG 16);
- Conditions to guarantee upbringing (SDG 1 and 8);
- Education and care for development (SDG 4 and 1);
- Rights promotion and action when facing risks and/or infringements (SDG 5, 10, 16).

6. Brief overview of the Theory of Change of the Joint programme

6.1 Summary:

The fact that children face vulnerabilities inherent to their age group (in addition to the vulnerabilities affecting their families and communities) draws attention to the need to advance towards child-sensitive social protection contemplating, among other things, the dynamic and multidimensional nature of child poverty, as well as the particular factors that impact on certain groups, such as indigenous children and children with disabilities (UNICEF, 2012). In particular, early childhood is especially relevant for children's development and is also an extremely demanding stage in terms of care. In order to address the challenges inherent to this stage, Argentina is facing coverage, quality and integrality issues in its public policies. Besides, there are major obstacles to women's financial independence, which is also affected by the lack of public quality care services for early childhood, and to care workers' effective access to labor rights. In order to reverse this situation, progress must be made towards more efficacious and comprehensive early childhood care policies.

This JP is intended to boost the implementation of the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI), particularly, such actions linked to care services for children under 6 years old. This decision is supported by a diagnosis of the lack of a comprehensive care system for early childhood. For such purpose, the approach proposed in this section focuses on three closely interconnected aspects, namely: a) families' access to care services and the enhancement of the service quality provided; b) improved employment conditions of workers in early childhood care; and c) a contribution to women's financial independence in relation to meeting early childhood care needs and, consequently, to their chances of participation in the labor market.

6.2 List of main ToC assumptions to be monitored:

- Political will (of the national and provincial governments) to develop public care policies and to prioritize the population in their early childhood suffering multiple forms of discrimination (children from households with lower income, indigenous children and children with disabilities).
- Access to the information required to perform studies, systematize experiences and build tools (systems and platforms) concerning privately funded early childhood care.
- Decision makers' willingness to use the new evidence gathered by the project for redesigning public policies for early childhood care.

7. Trans-boundary and/or regional issues

The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean is the most prominent intergovernmental forum in the region covering the issues addressed by this JP. This forum's meetings are attended by the highest-ranking authorities responsible for women-related issues and policies conducive to safeguarding gender equality in the countries of the region. At the 2016 meeting, the so-called Montevideo Strategy was adopted for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for the achievement of SDGs. The social organization of care services is a key element of said strategy, as it recognizes existing flaws, inequalities and imbalances and their consequences in terms of the gap between men and women, among women with different socioeconomic levels and among countries and territories.

Over the last few years, an increasing number of regional countries have made efforts to raise awareness of the predominant role of women in unpaid caring activities, as well as to design and implement care policies and programmes for dependent populations. Nevertheless, these efforts are still insufficient not only because of restrictions in terms of knowledge but also due to the significantly heterogenous population of the territory. In this regard, the Project will promote South-South cooperation with leading countries in terms of design and implementation of comprehensive care systems, as is the case of Uruguay or Costa Rica, focusing on the design and expansion of quality care service coverage.

C. JOINT PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

1. Baseline and Situation Analysis

1.1 Problem statement

Early childhood social protection in Argentina: policies and challenges

The main public policies on early childhood implemented in Argentina involve different aspects, including education and care, health services, cash transfers, leaves of absence and social inclusion policies (including guidance to families). According to current legislation (Law No. 26,061), the Integral Rights Protection System must coordinate the actions of several bodies and programmes of the National State and the different levels of government targeting children and families in a vulnerable social situation.

The social protection policy includes care and education services for early childhood, provided by schools (nursery schools) and Childhood Development Centers.³ As regards the latter, the Undersecretariat of Early Childhood (SSPI, in Spanish) headed by the National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENNAF, in Spanish) promotes territorial policies aimed at creating and strengthening Spaces and Projects following a comprehensive approach on early childhood, as well as fostering training and reinforcement of governmental and non-governmental technical teams. The SSPI is responsible for the development of the National Early Childhood Plan (Executive Order N° 574/16), whose actions are intended to promote and strengthen spaces for comprehensive care of children between 45 days old and 4 years old. To that end, Childhood Development Centers (CDIs, in Spanish) are set up and/or strengthened (SSPIN, 2019). Currently, 1,715 CDIs are in operation throughout the country assisting about 117,800 children. Governmental organizations (local or provincial) manage 83% of CDIs, and NGOs are in charge of the remaining 17%. Additionally, there are other early childhood spaces whose data is not available. Therefore, the aggregate number of early childhood spaces existing at a national level is still unknown.

As to assistance quality, the SSPI has developed and implemented a training course for caregivers, in conjunction with the National Institute of Technological Education (INET, in Spanish), and a series of training sessions for caregivers within the framework of an agreement with social organizations. Also, the SSPI has developed a Reporting and Monitoring System for the CDIs engaged in the National Plan (SIM-CDI). Said surveying, together with the Assessment of Receptive Interactions in Argentine Classrooms (MIR.Ar, in Spanish) currently being implemented, constitute the baseline for CDI monitoring and evaluation. The main challenges faced by a care policy organized through CDIs are related to the need for extended coverage and access, so as to reduce territorial inequalities, ensure basic quality care standards, professionalize and improve employment conditions of such caregivers (SSPIN, 2019).

As far as education services are concerned, provincial governments are in charge of their management. The Argentine Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology establishes strategies and policies; and the Federal Council approves common guidelines for all jurisdictions. According to the National Education Law 26.206, initial education includes from 45 days to 5 years of age. Said Law established the obligation of this last year. In 2014,

³ General name used in Law No. 26,233 "Promotion and regulation of Childhood Development Centers", enacted in 2007, and subsequently in Regulatory Executive Order No. 1202/08.

early education became compulsory for 4-year-olds (Law No. 27,045) and the commitment to universalize pre-primary education was extended to cover 3-year-olds. The enrollment rates for children aged 4 and 3 are increasing. However, there are indicators of a deficit in state service supply, particularly in terms of nursery schools (45-day-olds to 2-year-olds) and kindergarten services for 3-year-olds (Steinberg and Scasso, 2019). Also, in this case challenges have been identified as to the heterogenous quality of these services.

Moreover, social inclusion policies targeting early childhood include guidance actions for families. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the Early Childhood programme – “Acompañamos la crianza” (Guidance on Upbringing), implemented within the framework of the SENNAF and with the support of the UNDP. It is an inter-ministerial initiative aimed at strengthening the upbringing capacities of vulnerable families including children ranging from 0 to 4 years of age. It consists in periodical visits to the families by facilitators with the aim to share knowledge related to integral child development. Moreover, group spaces for upbringing have been created for all local families as well as Early Childhood Local Boards (SSPIN, 2019).

Finally, it is important to mention a series of policies which, in conjunction with the actions stated above, contribute to the creation of a favorable environment for upbringing in households. These policies include cash transfers and leaves of absence. The National Social Security Administration (ANSeS, in Spanish) is a decentralized body in charge of national benefits regimes and social security services, including the Universal Allowance per Child for Social Protection (AUH, in Spanish), the Universal Pregnancy Allowance for Social Protection (AUE) and Workers’ Family Allowances. The Secretariat of Labor and Employment of the Ministry of Production and Labor is the competent authority responsible for enforcing the laws on leave of absence and its main role is making and executing policies on labor, labor relations, training and social security (maternity, disability, family dependents, unemployment, among other things). Although the leave of absence regimes cover 100% of the salary, they only include employees in the formal sector. In the case of maternity and paternity leaves, their duration depends on the workers’ geographical location and type of employment. Besides, family leaves are incipient in Argentina. Finally, it is worth mentioning the development of child care centers as part of a strategy to prevent and eradicate child labor driven by the Ministry of Production and Labor, provincial governments, stakeholders such as RENATRE, UATRE and the private sector through Chambers and “Red de Empresas contra el Trabajo Infantil” (Network of Enterprises against Child Labor). Some examples worth highlighting are “Jardines de Cosecha” (Harvest Kindergardens) in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy and Misiones, the “Buena Cosecha” (Good Harvest) programme and the “Más cuidado, menos trabajo infantil” (More work, less child labor) Programme in the province of Buenos Aires.

Social Investment in Early Childhood (ISPI, in Spanish) among the population aged 0 to 5 amounts to AR\$199,508 million Argentine pesos and equals 1.9% of the GDP considering the consolidated investment by the national government and the provinces in 2017. On average during 2016 and 2017, 44% of the ISPI was financed by the National Government, whilst the provinces contributed the remaining 56%. In terms of execution, 39% is executed by national policies and programmes, whereas the remaining 61% is executed by the provinces. The care and education category accounts for 29% of the ISPI for 2016 and 29.5% for 2017, and the participation of the provincial government in both years equals 96% (Undersecretariat of Macroeconomic Planning, 2018).

Inequalities in early childhood care

In Argentina, children and adolescents suffer higher poverty levels than other age groups. The data collected during the first half of 2019 reveal that 52,6% of children aged 0 to 17

reside in households with insufficient income (over 13,1% live in extreme poverty) (INDEC 2019). This high vulnerability is related to the labour market participation of their parents and their household composition; female-headed single-parent households being particularly vulnerable. Vulnerability is also multidimensional: 48% of children lack some basic and essential rights associated with education, sanitation and social protection (UNICEF et al, 2018). The indigenous population (2.4% of the total population) has a higher proportion of children and adolescents (46%) than the rest of the population (31%), and they mostly reside in the poorest provinces (INDEC, 2010). These children face particular structural poverty challenges related to the lack of access to adequate educational, care and health services; lack of labor opportunities for their families; and discrimination. Besides, the rate of disability prevalence among children between 0 and 5 years of age is 2.7 (INDEC, 2018).

The challenges faced by early childhood care require an intersectoral approach which will make it possible to adequately address the different dimensions of children's development. One of these dimensions is related to care. In connection with the operation of care institutions (CDIs and kindergartens), several issues and necessities have been identified, namely: the absence of agreed upon quality standards, the insufficient training of the staff responsible for children at CDIs, precarious working conditions, in addition to the lack of technical teams providing professional guidance on a regular basis and the limited equipment and materials available, as well as the absence of an intercultural approach to childcare. In this regard, improving the working conditions of all care workers, including workers in childcare services, will set the foundation of quality care services (ILO et al., 2018).

Additionally, there are challenges connected with the coordination of the different services supplied to early childhood. Although the number of institutions offering these services has increased, there is still room for improving integrality and consistency to achieve a scale commensurate with a current and future demand of care that is sustainable in fiscal terms. In other words, the scope of coverage must be broadened as the most vulnerable families are prioritized; the professionalization and decent work of caregivers and educators must be ensured, and the heterogeneous nature of services must be valued (which services meet different development, upbringing and care needs in a large and diverse country) ensuring shared quality standards. In fact, in Argentina only 21% of children between 0 and 3 years of age have access to education and care services (UNICEF, 2012). As regards the foregoing, there are differences between such families which may resort to the market to hire childcare services (care centers, private education or domestic worker) and such families lacking this possibility, who need to resort to adaptation mechanisms (women's full or partial withdrawal from the labor market, more precarious or informal female employment, delegation of tasks to other members of the family, generally to other women, and in many cases, to girls and female adolescents), to the scarce public service supply or to the education and care services provided by the community.

In Argentina, women spend almost twice as much of time as men to unpaid care work, which partly explains why women's labor force participation rate is almost 20 percentage points lower than that of men. In 2018, 62% of women aged between 16 and 59 were employed as against 81% of men (EPH, 2018). Between 2003 and 2018, female labor participation remained at around 60% and the gender gap in terms of time became steady. Care responsibilities are one of the main determinants of gender gaps in the labor market. In families with children under 18 years of age, the gender gap in labor participation rate is broader as male parents increase their participation to a greater extent than female parents. In addition, a higher number of children correlates with a broader gender gap in labor participation rate. Another determinant factor in women's labor participation is strongly associated with a higher educational level: the labor participation gap is narrower between men and women who attain a higher educational level (Díaz Langou et al., 2019).

Besides, the care sector represents 24% of total employment and 86% of care workers are women. A study conducted for Argentina links the lack of infrastructure for pre-school childcare with a stronger tendency of women towards unemployment (Sanchís & Katzkowicz, 2014, on Díaz Langou et al., 2019), and other studies reveal a positive link between female labor participation and an enhanced care infrastructure (Contreras, Puentes & Bravo, 2012; Vegas & Santibáñez, 2010; Attanasio & Vera-Hernández, 2004, on Díaz Langou et al., 2019). In such countries where care policies are universal the gender gap between men and women's labor participation is narrower (Sonneland, 2014, on Díaz Langou et al., 2019). In this regard, it is necessary to modify the current and unequal social organization of care work (which fundamentally lies with families, especially women), as well as to strengthen care services within the Argentine social protection system, considering their quality in connection with care workers' training and working conditions. As mentioned above, care work is performed by women; though, among migrant women, it is the main sectoral niche (47%) (Maguid, 2011).

Therefore, considering that these policies would allow women to regain the time currently spent on care work and would create jobs mainly to the benefit of women, they would contribute towards reducing existing inequalities and discrimination among socioeconomic and ethnic sectors, as well as the gender inequalities present inside households and in the world of work.

This JP seeks to address two key issues (see Graph in Annex 3): firstly, the existence of social and territorial gaps impairing the full exercise of the rights of children under 6 years of age, in particular, of those who belong to populations suffering multiple forms of discrimination; and secondly, the existence of barriers to women's financial independence and to care workers' access to their labor rights. The viewpoint proposed in this document is more effective as it considers the links between both issues and proposes a comprehensive approach to address them.

The support of the UNS to improve and increase the supply of quality care services for early childhood, as well as enhance their accessibility, may speed up the achievement of Agenda 2030-related goals in a manner that is both strategic and innovative. By mitigating the inequalities related to childcare, addressing significant barriers that prevent women from gaining access to paid work and improving the employment conditions of care workers (mainly women), this JP follows a transformative and gender-sensitive approach which would have an accelerating and synergic effect on multiple SDGs. Gender-based domestic and employment inequalities would be reduced. Additionally, early childhood care services would be strengthened, which would benefit their present and potential users. Lastly, the employment conditions of workers at those centers would be improved.

The project's gender equality marker is 2 as it is expected to enhance women's financial independence, contribute to decreasing gender stereotypes and women's burden of early childhood care, and facilitate their entry into the formal labor market; thus, reducing household poverty. Consequently, it will have an impact on early childhood development, with a greater emphasis on women and girls with disabilities and indigenous women and girls. Furthermore, the proposal budget will cover gender equality specific activities.

Connection with the CCA / UNSDCF

The 2015 CCA titled "Informe de país. Avances y desafíos de desarrollo en Argentina Año 2015" ["Country Report. Development Advances and Challenges in Argentina - 2015"] has recommended that especially the [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework \(UNSDCF\)](#) should include "a line of cooperation linked to **integral protection actions for vulnerable groups**" (p.ix), including **sectoral programmes** which diminish the

impact of other factors that restrict the enjoyment of fundamental rights, such as education and health, among which the following are noteworthy: **“Child labor, violence, sexual and reproductive health, adolescent pregnancy, deficiencies in care institutions, gender inequalities, etc.”** (pg.46).

The 2015 Country Report specifies the need to place greater emphasis on the cooperation strategy for such groups which still suffer hindrances to access and enjoy their rights; highlighting that **“the populations suffering aggravated forms of discrimination face more vulnerabilities in the provinces; therefore, the degree of territorial action and regional strengthening becomes relevant** in these topics” (p34).

With respect to the **group of children and adolescents** (NNyA, in Spanish), the 2015 Country Report stated the need to **“improve assistance and care systems to prevent and assist NNyA victims of sexual abuse and different forms of violence.”** As to this group, the Report also warns about **the deficiencies in care systems** (which more alarmingly affect NNyA with no parental care); the **limited access to early education, the high mortality rates recorded in some regions** - to a great extent associated to avoidable factors-, and **children’s malnutrition**, among other causes for concern. Additionally, this group is intertwined with others whose characteristics aggravate some issues. Such is the case of **children’s malnutrition in indigenous peoples, access to education and health for NNyA with disability and migrants”** (p.47).

On the basis of these guidelines, the 2016-2020 UNSDCF establishes that “the agencies of the UNS in Argentina will support the strengthening of the country’s capacities in terms of design, implementation, coordination and evaluation of **public policies bridging the gaps for equal access to social services, education and health**. This will be accomplished by means of an equality approach, in order to attain **enhanced social inclusion, especially for population groups at a greater disadvantage.**” (p.15). In such regard, “the promotion of a **comprehensive care service**, available during the entire life cycle addressing the **most vulnerable groups, constitutes a priority to increase both service demand by rights holders and service supply, as well as to improve the intersectoral implementation of care policies**” (p.15) (For further information, see Annexes, Table 9).

1.2 Target groups

According to population estimates, in 2019, the number of children between 0 and 6 years of age might be around 5.2 million in Argentina. This would equal 12% of the aggregate population and 38% of children and adolescents (Basch et al, 2015). Around 53% of children in Argentina reside in households with insufficient income (over 13% in households whose income is insufficient to afford the basic food basket) (INDEC, 2019).

Among the groups that will directly benefit from the JP are children between 0 and 6 years old; particularly, children with disabilities, indigenous children and children living in low-income households, as this population group is the target of the proposal to enhance the care system by supporting the ENPI.

The aggregate population of children under 6 years old in such jurisdictions where Provincial Early Childhood Strategies are currently being designed (Jujuy and Salta) is 285,800 children. The incorporation of two new jurisdictions (Chaco and Buenos Aires) will increase the number of children in provinces with designed EPPIs by 2,175,000 children (Basch et al, 2015).

The actions contemplated in this JP will also directly benefit early childhood care workers, mostly women, performing these activities at CDIs. The existing data is insufficient either to determine the total number of workers of early childhood care centers, or to specify the percentage of female workers. This evidences the need to rebuild the care system map in Argentina, in line with the proposal of this JP.

Moreover, the CDIs involved in this JP located in rural areas will also benefit rural workers who will access childcare services or will be employed by them.

Additionally, enhancing and strengthening care policies contributes to a fairer balance between family life and work life, generating conditions for women's enhanced entry to the labor market, defamiliarization of care activities and breaking the intergenerational poverty cycle.

Indirectly, girls and female adolescents responsible for taking care of their younger siblings (one form of child labor) will also benefit from this initiative, as well as migrant women who perform care work. Also, trade unions representing workers of the care sector will be affected by this policy.

In this regard, the main addressees of this JP are in line with the groups identified as priority groups in the 2015 CCA/Country Report and the 2016-2020 UNSDCF, comprising the *vulnerable groups* which require integral actions, namely:⁴ children, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, adolescents and migrants. Through an approach based on human rights, the UNSDCF has placed "*special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups within the Argentine population,*" including the above-mentioned groups.⁵

Children between 0 and 6 years old, children with disabilities, indigenous children, and children from low-income households. According to population estimates, in 2019, the number of children between 0 and 6 years of age might be around 5.2 million in Argentina. This would account for 12% of the aggregate population and 38% of children and adolescents (Basch et al, 2015). In terms of vulnerability, around 53% of children in Argentina reside in households with insufficient income (over 13% in households whose income is insufficient to afford the basic food basket) (INDEC, 2019). Besides, 48% of children suffer the infringement of some basic and essential rights related to education, sanitation, social protection, etc. Out of this 48%, 20 percentage points represent severe deprivations. Among children under 4 years old, the relevant figures are 37.8% and 7.7%, respectively. Such figures exceed by far the incidence figures of the aggregate population: 27% and 38%, for monetary poverty and non-monetary deprivation, respectively (UNICEF, UNGS, IELDE-UNS and "Equidad para la Infancia", 2018).

In relation to attendance to CDIs and early education centers, in 2012, only 32% of children between 0 and 4 years old residing in urban areas attended a child development or early education institution. Attendance levels increased among older children: the percentage of attendance of children under a year old was 3.1%, though it increased to 8.4% among one-year-olds and reached 20.2% among two-year-olds. Among 3-year-olds, this percentage reached 50.5% and increased to 76.7% among 4-year-olds. There are clear differences between social groups: in the poorest quintile, 20.7% of children aged between 0 and 4 years attended a child development center, whilst the attendance level reached 52.1% in the wealthiest quintile (UNICEF – MDS: 2013).

⁴ See 2015 Common Country Analysis/CCA, pg. ix.

⁵ See 2016-2020 UNSDCF, pg. 9.

In particular, the JP considers **children with disabilities** as a vulnerable group among children who are between 0 and 6 years of age. Even though the information available on this group is not abundant, as shown in the 2015 Country Report,⁶ it is possible to affirm that the rate of disability prevalence among children who are between 0 and 5 years old is 2.7. Whilst the disability prevalence rate recorded among boys is 4.1, the prevalence rate among girls is 1.4 (INDEC, Estudio Nacional sobre el Perfil de Personas con Discapacidad 2018 [2018 National Study on the Profile of People with Disabilities]). As it has been pointed out by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its recommendations to Argentina in 2018, the State should develop an integral and holistic policy related to care, which includes children with disabilities and reinforces measures aimed at increasing access in all provinces, especially for children between 3 and 4 years of age.

Argentine children with disabilities –just like adults– must request the Disability Certificate (Certificado Único de Discapacidad - CUD, in Spanish), which gives them access to health care services and other benefits granted by Argentine legislation. According to the latest data available, 26% of persons with disabilities holding a CUD are under 15 years of age (7.8% are children aged 0-4 and 10.4% are children aged 5-9). When comparing the composition of the population with disabilities holding a CUD issued in 2010 with such population holding a CUD issued in 2017, it may be noted that there is an increase among children aged 0-4 and even a greater increase among those aged 5-9. Among children between 3 and 4 years old holding a CUD, 40% of them are not enrolled in the formal education system and such percentage rises to 16% among those aged 5. Eleven percent of children between 6 and 11 years old do not attend school (ANDIS, 2017).

Another vulnerable group considered by this JP consists of **indigenous children**. The information available indicates that the indigenous population represents 2.4% of the aggregate population and mostly lives in the poorest provinces. Children and adolescents account for 46% of the indigenous population (INDEC, 2010). Historically, the attitude of the national State towards indigenous peoples has adopted different forms of denial and make these peoples invisible. Over the last decades, a policy based on the recognition and expansion of rights has been promoted as shown, among other initiatives, by the specific data collected on these communities by means of the 2010 National Population, Households and Dwellings Census (See Annex, table 10). However, children still experience gaps between formal rights and rights in practice, depending on their place of birth and their household's socioeconomic and labor characteristics. The poverty of indigenous children is linked to the systematic impoverishment to which their peoples have been subjected (ECLAC-UNICEF 2012). The absence of records and documentation, restricted access to basic services, and lack of updated social protection data disaggregated by ethnicity make this people invisible and exacerbate inequality.

Moreover, enhancing the care service supply as proposed by this JP will indirectly benefit children and adolescents (NNyA) who perform caring activities within their households, which is one form of child labor. Ten percent of NNyA aged between 5 and 15 carry out child labor activities, and 4.8% engage in intensive domestic work (as against 3.8% who conduct market activities and 3% who perform self-care activities). In the rural scene, this percentage almost doubles, since 8% of NNyA perform intensive domestic work considered child labor; as compared to 4.3% of children residing in urban areas. Additionally, it may be noted that the participation of girls and female adolescents is higher, as about 57% of intensive domestic

⁶ The 2015 Country Report stated that “Argentina has a legal framework which enables and guarantees rights to health, education and employment for persons with disabilities; however, the population's access to such statutory benefits is unequal, cumbersome and even more difficult for the most vulnerable families. There is also *scarce information on this group.*” (p.viii).

work is performed by them in both areas (Encuesta de Actividades de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes [Survey on the Activities of Children and Adolescents], INDEC, 2017).

The JP is aligned, in this regard, with the 2015 Country Report which recommended that the UNSDCF incorporate a "*a line of cooperation linked to integral protection actions for vulnerable groups*" (p.ix), including sectoral programmes which diminish the impact of other factors that restrict the enjoyment of fundamental rights, such as education and health, among which the deficiencies in care institutions are noteworthy." (p.46). Strengthening and broadening the scope of the ENPI will make it possible to enhance care institutions' quality and coverage, enabling children from the most vulnerable groups to fully exercise their rights again.

Women. Gender equality has gained ground as an ethical and practical objective of public policy. In this scenario, it has become extremely relevant the fact that investing in early childhood has a positive impact since it reduces gender inequality, while it contributes to the transformation of social rules in favor of promoting joint responsibility in caring activities within the household. Nevertheless, in spite of the increased participation of women in the labor market over the last decades, they are still the main care givers within their households. Their labor participation is, in general, concentrated on informal employment and they have an intermittent career path, experiencing ups and downs in the labor market.

Women always spend almost 3 hours more on caring activities than men; and this gap narrows only in the case of overworked women, for whom the time spent on these activities is slightly reduced to 5 hours per day on average. Men spend slightly over 3 hours on these activities per day on average, regardless of whether they are employed and how many hours they spend at work. Moreover, this unequal distribution of care work intensifies if there are children under six years old in the household. In these cases, female parents spend an average of 9.3 hours per day on these activities, i.e., 3 hours more than women who are not parents and 5 hours more than male parents (Díaz Langou et. Al, 2019). This issue affects the most vulnerable women more significantly, i.e. those having either a lower educational level or a lower income level, which impacts on the persistence and infantilization of poverty. In households with a lower income, there tends to be a higher proportion of families with children under 18 years of age and a larger number of children per household.⁷

In light of this scenario, the manner in which societies organize the care supply has, as a result, a significant impact not only on the enforcement of children's rights but also on gender equality. In societies where major social and territorial gaps persist -as in Argentina-, early childhood development left only to the fate of families' environmental conditions, capacities and resources may hinder basic children's rights; thus, increasing such inequality gaps. For this reason, the JP promotes an enhanced supply of public care services which will result in increased gender equality and will enable the exercise of children's rights to education and care to a greater extent, in line with the 2015 Country Report/CCA.⁸

Early childhood care workers. Eighty-six percent of early childhood care workers are women and a third of all female workers perform this type of activities (Esquivel, 2010). Three groups may be identified within the early childhood care supply (ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, CIPPEC, 2018), namely: female domestic workers, early educators, and care workers of social organizations and community centers.

⁷ During the first half of 2018, 66% of households in the first quintile of income had at least one child under 18 years old, whilst the proportion decreases to 17% in the wealthiest quintile. In these households, women's labor participation rate is lower and the rate of unpaid work is higher (Díaz Langou et al, 2019).

⁸ See Country Report 2015, pg. 46; and See UNSDCF, pg. 9.

Domestic workers are mainly women from the poorest segments of the population, migrant women (from bordering countries or the interior of the country) and single mothers with dependent children. Thirty-four percent of women aged between 14-49 belonging to households with the lowest income per family member (30%) perform paid domestic work, as against only 2.8% belonging to the group of households with the highest income (30%) (Lupica and Cogliandro, 2013, on ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, CIPPEC, 2018). This is a barely professionalized activity which is at the bottom of the salary scale; 81.2% of workers lack social benefits and only a small percentage receives other social benefits, such as the thirteenth month salary, paid vacations, sick leave, or health care (EAHU, 2013), in spite of the government's actions tending towards formalization by the enactment of the Special Regime for Domestic Workers' Employment Contracts (Law No. 26,844) in 2013.⁹

Early educators are mostly women (95.1%) of a young age (85.4% of them are between 25 and 49 years old) and qualified (97% of them have a tertiary degree) (2004 Educators' National Census, Esquivel, 2010). The legal framework governing the working conditions of the public sector is set out in the Educators' Regulations, and in the private sector by the Employment Contract Regime. The State is the main employer: out of the aggregate number of teaching positions in early education in Argentina (113,290), 64.7% are managed by the state and 35.3% are managed by the private sector (DINIECE, 2010).

Care work in social and community organizations is extremely feminized. These women have previously performed domestic and care work (domestic workers, office cleaners or home care givers) (Zibecchi, 2013, on ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, CIPPEC, 2018). Their income is low, precarious and fluctuating, which makes it more difficult to form steady quality care teams. Despite the enactment of the Social Voluntary Labor Law (No. 25,855/2004) many female workers are not governed by such law as they perform assistance and education tasks. Many of them have no safeguards as to their families' care, as their employment is unregistered or incorrectly registered with the social security system.

As to their training levels, there is no data available on the conditions of workers comprising the totality of the organizations providing care services. One of the studies available indicates that 60% of workers of early childhood centers are in direct contact with children. Among this group, 57.7% of workers have finished tertiary studies (52%) or university studies (5.7%) (Rozengardt, 2014). Most recent data gathered by the Undersecretariat of Early Childhood reveal that there are broad training gaps among the personnel of the CDIs which are part of the National Early Childhood Plan. On average, 29% of them are early educators; however, whilst they represent 31% of the staff in the Central region, this percentage lowers to 12% in north-eastern Argentina and to 8% in Patagonia (SSPI, 2018).

The JP will contribute to follow-up and implement the following HR recommendations: UPR 2017, CEDAW 2016, CRC 2018, CERD 2017, ESCR 2018, CCPR 2016 and SRVW 2016 (more detail in Cover Page). It is also aligned with the guidelines of the 2015 CCA, as an enhanced care supply will necessarily impact on the formation and working conditions of caregivers – mostly women, some of whom are migrants-; thus, resulting in higher quality care service for children and enhanced conditions in terms of vulnerability for the exercise of their rights.

⁹ Until the enactment of Law No. 26,844, domestic work was governed by Executive Order No. 326 dated 1956, excluding said workers from the safeguards set forth in Law No. 11,544 (Working Hours), Employment Contract Law No. 20,744, Family Allowance Law No. 24,714, Retirement and Pensions Law No. 24,241, Health Care Providers' Law No. 23,660 and Labor Risks Law No. 23,557 (ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, CIPPEC, 2018).

1.3 SDG targets

In its [Voluntary National Review](#) (2017, p. 70), the government has established priorities as to the fight against poverty and has focused social investment on the most vulnerable groups. With the aim of attaining sustainable development, national plans and policies are implemented to achieve healthy development in early childhood; improve educational quality; promote gender equality and women empowerment; foster inclusion and provide comprehensive assistance to people with disabilities, among others (IVN 2017, p.70-71).

The general purpose of the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI) -to be supported by this JP- is to reduce the social and territorial gaps that impact on the overall development of early childhood, in order to promote their full citizenship. The actions contemplated are intended to cover children aged from 0 to 6 years old. Addressing early childhood from the public policies standpoint involves the development of a strategy to reverse inequality situations that restrain the full development of children, both at present and in the future.

Five large areas identified in this Strategy require State intervention to guarantee the gradual closing of the currently existing gaps: 1) Life and Health (SDGs 2 and 3); 2) Identity (SDG 16); 3) Conditions to guarantee upbringing (SDG 1 and 8); 4) Education and care for development (SDG 4 and 1); 5) Rights promotion and action when facing risks and/or infringements (SDG 5, 10, 16). Within the ENPI, each of the above may in turn be subdivided into more specific sub-dimensions, which must be adequately addressed. To attain the above-mentioned objectives, a gradual strategy is proposed which will span to 2030. This timescale is in line with the schedule for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by Argentina.

Although the JP is intended to support the implementation of the ENPI, it focuses particularly on actions aimed at creating a care system for early childhood. The support to improve and increase the supply of quality care services for this population group, as well as to enhance accessibility, may speed up the achievement of the goals related to the 2030 Agenda as well as the realization of human rights in a strategic and innovative manner.

In this regard, the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals to which this JP is intended to contribute more directly are the following:

- Target 4.2. Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.
- Target 5.4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family.
- Target 8.5. Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

The three targets mentioned above are linked as follows: a comprehensive early childhood development, care and preprimary education policy targeting the most vulnerable (SDG target 4.2) also seeks to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by mitigating care work inequalities and facing obstacles that prevent women from obtaining decent paid work (SDG target 5.4). In addition, by generating decent care jobs, childcare policies and services expand the care workforce, sustaining the demand for female and male employment and contributing to full and productive employment for all (8.5).

The JP will also contribute indirectly to some other SDG Goals, such as:

- Target 1.3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and most vulnerable.
- Target 10.2. Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

In Argentina, the [National Council for Social Policy Coordination](#) is the body entrusted with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the follow-up on the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (Executive Order No. 499/2017).

Under its leadership, in the early 2016 the National Inter-institutional Commission for the Implementation and Monitoring of SDGs was created, which comprises over a hundred technical experts and officials belonging to 23 agencies from Argentina's National Public Administration responsible for the fulfillment of the targets (CNCPS, 2018b). The members of such Commission and of the Expert Group have prepared a methodology document titled "[Metadatos de los indicadores de seguimiento de los SDGs](#)" ([Metadatos of SDGs' follow-up indicators](#)). Said document compiles the fact sheets of 242 indicators used for SDGs' follow-up in Argentina. The calculation method, source and frequency of each indicator are stated in such document (CNCPS, 2019).

In 2017, the CNCPS has prepared the [First Voluntary National Review](#), which was presented by Argentina before the 2nd United Nations High-Level Political Forum (CNCPS, 2017). The process for follow-up and progress analysis started following the presentation of the Review and achieved a relevant milestone in 2018, when the "[2018 Country Report](#)" was published. Said report contains the baseline value, the updated figures (2016 y 2017), the 2023 mid-term target and the 2030 final target for each of the defined targets (CNCPS, 2018a: 236 – 267). It is worth mentioning that the amount of information for each target differs, depending on the frequency of the sources of information available.

Annex 11 contains basic information about each target to which this JP will directly contribute (baseline, latest figure recorded, mid-term target, source of information). Additionally, said Annex includes a reference to other sources of information available, which, despite not being considered official sources for SDGs' follow-up, will provide us, at the completion of this JP, with data to assess the progress made in terms of the key issues addressed by this initiative.

1.4 Stakeholder mapping

Developing and putting into operation this intervention entails a process which involves social dialogue and collective negotiation, following short and medium-term perspectives, with a strong mainstreaming imprint. For this reason, its effective implementation requires strategic agreements with multiple stakeholders, which would contribute towards establishing an operational framework at a political and institutional level, and its corresponding leadership.

The specific stakeholders involved in this JP, at a national, provincial and local level, are listed below. Such stakeholders represent different sectors, namely: government agencies, legislators, civil society organizations, workers' and employers' associations, the private sector, academia, citizenship and international agencies.

Government – Executive Power:

- The National Council for Social Policy Coordination and the National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENNAF, in Spanish), which will play a part in the JP's Steering Committee according to their role in the coordination and governance of social policy and children's policy, respectively.
- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology and the Secretariat of Health, as these areas are involved in the design and implementation of the ENPI.
- Government areas related to labor (the Ministry of Production and Labor and the Labor Risks Superintendence), which will have access to new evidence to design policies for improving employment conditions of workers in early childhood care services, and will participate in the definition and implementation of training plans with skills certification.
- The National Social Security Administration (ANSeS), given its connection with actions aimed at employment formalization in care services organizations.
- The National Commission on Eradication of Child Labor (CONAETI, in Spanish) and the Provincial Commissions on Eradication of Child Labor (COPRETI, in Spanish), which will have access to information about caring activities performed within households as input for the elaboration of programmes and plans.
- The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC), given the use of the Permanent Household Survey (EPH) and the chance to propose links to the Time-use Survey.
- Other areas which develop policies and programmes aimed at groups suffering multiple forms of discrimination, who are the target of this JP. At a national level, such areas are the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs (INAI) and the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ANDIS).
- The National Institute for Women (INAM, in Spanish), for its role in designing and implementing policies aimed at attaining gender equality.

Considering the federal structure of the country, the engagement of the highest authorities at a provincial and local level is an essential requirement. This support is fundamental, for example, given the current distribution of competencies in health, education and employment, which are key areas when providing comprehensive assistance to children and their families, as well as to caregivers.

Legislative Power:

- Legislators both at a national and provincial level, as they are those who will have access to information which may allow them to pass laws and regulations based on new evidence regarding an estimated demand of care services and the characteristics of the organizations and persons offering such services.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):

- Social organizations providing early childhood care services, which might be given guidance and training, and ultimately might experience an increased demand for their services.
- Expert organizations of the third sector, which might provide the services that will be financed by innovative financing tools.
- Civil society organizations working on gender equality, women's financial independence and care issues.
- Civil society organizations safeguarding the rights of people with disabilities and indigenous peoples.

Workers and workers' associations:

- Workers of organizations providing care services, who will gain access to improved working conditions, including professionalization, skills certification and employment registration.
- Workers' unions related to care services will be able to obtain information on labor conditions, as well as to supply professionalization actions. In Argentina, the main labor unions related to care services are educators' unions and the Domestic Workers' Trade Union (UPACP, in Spanish).

Private sector:

- Socially motivated investors will be able to engage in funding actions aimed at solving public issues through innovative financing tools for care services.

Academia:

- Universities and research centers conducting studies on care-related issues might have access to new evidence regarding demand and supply in this area.
- Universities and software development centers, which would act as vendors in the development of an IT system and a prototype platform on the care service supply.

Citizenship:

- Families requiring early childhood care services, who will gain access to information on the supply available in order to make use of it, and within this group, particularly, such families including children with disabilities.
- Women, who will increase their chances of employment, as they make use of the care service supply available.
- Indigenous communities, who will access an intercultural care service supply with a gender-based perspective.

International agencies:

- Other agencies of the UN System in Argentina, such as FAO, UN Women, PAHO/WHO and UNESCO.
- Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training (CINTERFOR/ILO).

2. Programme Strategy

2.1. Overall strategy

Argentina lacks a comprehensive care policy to address the present challenges related to poverty and gender inequality, as well as future challenges, such as population ageing. In this regard, the existence of early childhood care services holds great potential to fulfill care needs, modify the current social organization of care (a burden mainly borne by households and, within them, by women) and foster the creation of decent work opportunities.

Within this context, the purpose of this JP is to support the implementation of the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI), designed by the Government of Argentina. The ENPI is intended for children between 0 (prenatal period) and 6 years old. The decision to support the ENPI is based on different reasons.

In the first place, the ENPI entails a comprehensive approach that addresses the different dimensions of children's development. These dimensions are consistent with SDGs' perspective and conducive to their achievement. One of these dimensions is the supply of quality care services. Also, the ENPI prioritizes children in the most vulnerable situations, since it aims to reduce social and territorial gaps that impact early childhood development in order to ensure their full citizenship. In addition, the ENPI's guiding principles (rights, gender and equality approaches) as well as its management assumptions (co-responsibility, integrality and quality) are consistent with the work perspective of the agencies of the UN System.

Therefore, it was resolved that the ENPI will be supported, particularly regarding its implementation at a subnational level and the development of actions aimed at improving the early childhood care services supply. This commitment reflects the priorities marked by the Government of Argentina, through discussions with the National Council for Social Policy Coordination (CNCPS, in Spanish) and with the National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENNAF, in Spanish). It is also in line with the purpose pursued by UN agencies, which expect the JP to help the early childhood care policies issue become the center of the public agenda and, therefore, be regarded as the first milestone for moving towards the definition and building of a broad care system.

The ENPI is innovative because it is the first federal, comprehensive and inter-sectoral strategy designed by Argentina for this population group. The process initiated in two provinces of the country (Jujuy and Salta) is also unprecedented, aimed at defining Provincial Early Childhood Strategies. The purpose of this JP is to enhance this innovative process for Argentina, contributing towards: a) the systematization of work methodologies enabling the upscaling of initiatives implemented in different areas; b) the development of innovative devices and tools that will make it possible to produce new and better evidence and to renew institutional mechanisms; c) the opening to social dialogue, particularly including care workers, based on the evidence produced and in order to influence on the decision-making process; and d) strengthening the competencies of the stakeholders related to early childhood care policies (further details in section 2.2).

For all of the above, the support provided by the UN System through this JP may contribute strategically to accelerate the accomplishment of the goals related to the 2030 Agenda. By mitigating the inequalities related to childcare, addressing significant barriers that prevent women from gaining access to paid work and improving the employment conditions of care

workers (mainly women), this JP follows a transformative and gender-sensitive approach which would have an accelerating effect on multiple SDGs. Gender-based domestic and employment inequalities would be reduced. Additionally, early childhood care services would be strengthened, which would benefit their present and potential users. Lastly, the employment conditions of workers at those centers would be improved.

This proposal has been developed taking into account [UNSDG Operational Guide on the Leave No One Behind Pledge for United Nations Country Teams](#) (UNCTs), and mainstreaming the human rights and gender perspective. Furthermore, it includes the recommendations derived from UN protection mechanisms (such as UPR, CERD, ESCRC, CPDR and CRC, among others), which pointed out the need for Argentina to adopt a comprehensive policy to fight against racism and racial discrimination, foster social inclusion and reduce the high levels of poverty particularly affecting indigenous children and children with disabilities. In this regard, the JP will contribute towards the implementation of international human rights obligations undertaken by the Argentine State, as well as to the follow-up and implementation of human rights mechanisms' recommendations.

The "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) pledge is a cross-cutting issue of the proposal, as the reasons for inequality and discrimination will be addressed, promoting an effective access to rights through the implementation of care services for the most vulnerable populations, such as children in extreme poverty, children with disabilities and/or indigenous children. Likewise, this JP includes the development of innovative methods for data collection and analysis to make up for the lack of disaggregated data on those groups. Such evidence will contribute towards the development of specific actions within the framework of the ENPI.

The development of this JP entails the coordinated work of different UN System agencies, for which the Spotlight Initiative work dynamics will be taken as reference, given its success in this regard. Furthermore, it is worth highlighting that the agencies have vast experience in the work areas they have committed to and are currently developing different initiatives in connection with the purpose of this JP, which will allow for the achievement of the results proposed in this document (for further details see chart 1 of the Annex).

UNICEF has prioritized early childhood policies. It provides technical assistance for the formulation and implementation of the ENPI, supports the design and application of the Reporting and Monitoring System for the childhood development centers under the National Plan and provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance for analyzing social investment in childhood and early childhood. Also, it supports the National Plan to Reduce Unintended Pregnancy in Adolescence (PENIA, in Spanish) and advises the National Council for Social Policy Coordination (CNCPS, in Spanish) on the follow-up and adaptation of the 2030 Agenda, focusing on childhood.

UNDP provides direct support to the National Programme "Early Childhood – Guidance on Upbringing" (Primera Infancia - Acompañamos la crianza, in Spanish) (. It provides assistance to the CNCPS on the follow-up and adaptation of the 2030 Agenda and supports the implementation of the PENIA. Together with UNICEF and ILO, it organized a series of dialogues on care policies. In addition, it is experienced in innovative approaches for supporting public policies.

The link with ILO arises mainly from two initiatives: "The future of work" ("El futuro del trabajo", in Spanish)) and "Women in the labor market" ("Las mujeres en el mercado de trabajo"), in which UNDP is also involved. It has developed a comprehensive evaluation which

helped to understand the characteristics of the care sector in Argentina and made efforts to promote social dialogue on this issue. This enabled a greater protection to care workers, including the enactment of Law No. 26.844, the ratification of Convention No. 189 and the implementation of recommendation No. 204 on the transition to formal economy.

ECLAC played an important role in the design and implementation of the National Care System of Uruguay. It covers not only early childhood but also the elderly and persons with disabilities, including caregivers as a key pillar of the system. Therefore, its involvement in this JP is relevant to support the design of institutional mechanisms that will make it possible to advance towards an equally broad coverage in Argentina. ECLAC is also experienced in mainstreaming new technological tools for policy implementation and will be able to contribute towards the territorial approach on structural gaps.

The intended effects of this JP are those described in the UNSDCF Argentina, particularly direct outcomes 2.3, 1.2 and 1.3 (for further details see section 2.2).

2.2 Theory of Change

Summary: The fact that children face vulnerabilities inherent to their age group (in addition to the vulnerabilities affecting their families and communities) draws attention to the need to advance towards child-sensitive social protection contemplating, among other things, the dynamic and multidimensional nature of child poverty, as well as the particular factors that impact on certain groups, such as indigenous children and children with disabilities (UNICEF, 2012). In particular, early childhood is especially relevant for children's development and is also an extremely demanding stage in terms of care. In order to address the challenges inherent to this stage, Argentina is facing coverage, quality and integrality issues in its public policies. Besides, there are major obstacles to women's financial independence, which is also affected by the lack of public quality care services for early childhood, and to care workers' effective access to labor rights. In order to reverse this situation, progress must be made towards more efficacious and comprehensive early childhood care policies.

Detailed explanation: this JP seeks to foster the implementation of the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI), especially those actions related to care services for children under 6 years old. This decision is supported by a diagnosis of the lack of a comprehensive care system for early childhood. For such purpose, the approach proposed in this JP focuses on three closely interconnected aspects, namely: a) families' access to care services and the enhancement of the service quality provided; b) improved employment conditions of care workers; and c) a contribution to women's financial independence in relation to meeting early childhood care needs and, consequently, to their chances of participation in the labor market.

In this regard, the **initial situation** is characterized by the following: a) children under 6 years old face social and territorial gaps that hinder the full exercise of their rights, particularly of those belonging to populations that face multiple forms of discrimination (children in low-income households, children in indigenous communities, children with disabilities); b) there are barriers to women's financial independence and access to labor rights by care workers.

In view of this situation, this JP proposes a **strategy** aimed at a) the gathering of evidence and systematization and exchange of good practices and experiences; b) the strengthening of capacities; c) the development of innovative devices and tools; d) the establishment of strategic alliances; and e) advocacy and incidence actions. The JP is divided into 4 outputs

and 23 activities. All of them follow an approach that addresses human rights, gender, intercultural interaction and equality perspectives. There follows a detailed explanation of the **relation between the proposed activities and the expected changes**, for the furtherance of this JP's outcomes.

Output 1: Support the national and subnational implementation of the ENPI

The systematization of the Provincial Strategies and Early Childhood Local Boards experiences carried out in 2019 (activity 1) will serve as reference for its replication in the provinces of Chaco and Buenos Aires (activity 2). Also, the fact that this information is systematized will facilitate any eventual replication in other provinces or municipalities that might be interested in it. The upscaling of these experiences will allow for a greater number of jurisdictions to develop intersectoral and participatory spaces for diagnosing and planning the early childhood policy. The fact that those methodologies consider the participation of government areas related to gender, indigenous populations and disability policies will allow for a better representation of these groups' specific interests and needs. Therefore, a contribution will be made towards the enhanced quality of early childhood policies, following an approach that will consider the population facing multiple forms of discrimination and mainstream an intercultural interaction and gender equality approach.

Output 2: Development of innovative instruments for a comprehensive care strategy, based on coordination and integration of public policies for early childhood

The evaluation of feasibility, design and testing of an information system on early childhood care services (activities 3 and 4) will make it possible to have more detailed and systematic data on service supply. Having systematized and available information through an online platform on early childhood care services supply (activity 5) will help policy makers have new and complete evidence available about an issue on which there is not sufficient information so far.

Also, different and original financing instruments will be analyzed, evaluated and subjected to pilot tests in order to find alternative and/or supplementary funding for the development of early childhood care policies (activities 6 and 7), based on international experience, so as to increase the volume and efficacy of care services financing. All of the above, in addition to government officers' training on the use of such tools (activity 8) will lead to the enhanced effectiveness of interventions in early childhood care policies.

The systematization of innovative devices for indigenous populations residing in rural areas (intercultural scheme to provide early childhood care services and early education scheme) (activities 9 and 11) will serve as reference for its subsequent replication (activities 10 and 12) within the framework of this JP. Additionally, the systematization of these experiences will facilitate their replication in other provinces or municipalities that might be interested in them. The upscaling of these experiences will contribute towards an enhanced coverage of early childhood care services, from a perspective that takes into account the population facing multiple forms of discrimination and mainstreams an intercultural interaction approach. Offering care services that take into account the specific characteristics of these population groups may contribute towards a better use of such services by households and may also facilitate the fulfillment of early childhood care needs in a respectful manner, in cultural terms.

Output 3: Design and implementation of a strategy aimed at estimating the

demand of employment for early childhood caregivers and improving working conditions of workers in the care sector

Building new knowledge on the employment demand for early childhood caregivers (activity 13) and the potential size, characteristics and competencies of the supply (activity 14) disseminated through a series of meetings to promote social dialogue (activity 15), will contribute towards the design of evidence-based public policies, particularly intended to improve the supply so as to meet the existing demand. A better consistency between early childhood care services demand and supply may contribute both towards greater time availability for women (mostly responsible for caring activities performed within households) and towards a reduction in domestic child labor.

The definition of a framework of occupational profiles and competencies relevant to the early childhood care sector (activity 16) and the development of training materials (activity 17) will enable training for trainers for the implementation of training plans intended for workers of the early childhood centers included in the ENPI (activity 18). This will result in a greater level of professionalization of said workers and, consequently, in the quality improvement of the services provided at the centers. Furthermore, skills certification will help care workers (mostly women) to increase their chances of being employed in other caring activities, hence improving their income.

Output 4: Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation, using big data and other analytical tools

The availability of information on early childhood care needs of local households (activity 19) will help produce evidence that will contribute towards the decision-making process regarding policies aimed at improving their coverage and quality. Also, it will make early childhood care services more accessible in cultural terms, particularly for populations in rural areas and indigenous communities.

Conducting specific studies on the impact of women's labor market participation at a local level (activity 20) and building an integrated system of indicators related to the ENPI (activity 21) will enable the collection of information and the performance of analyses on the monitoring of the aforementioned National Strategy (activity 22). Moreover, they will help boost the use of the sources of information already available, both of the records and systems included in the ENPI (Reporting and Monitoring System of Childhood Development Centers – SIM CDI, in Spanish, and Assessment of Receptive Interactions in Argentine Classrooms – MIR.Ar, in Spanish) and of other mainstreaming records and systems (like the National Tax and Social Security Identification System – SINTyS, in Spanish) and new statistics that identify childhood gaps (2019 National Survey of Children and Adolescents). In addition, the availability of this input plus government officers' training on the use of the evidence produced (activity 23) will contribute to the strengthening of technical abilities for a better follow-up on the actions implemented, as well as for the design of evidence-based early childhood care policies.

The aforementioned activities will have contributed, each with their specific contribution, towards the creation and strengthening of an early childhood care policy that takes the actions included in the ENPI as reference. Thus, the **intended situation for the future** is characterized by the following: a) children under 6 years old have access to quality care

services, particularly those belonging to populations that face multiple forms of discrimination; b) women encounter less barriers to access the labor market; and c) care workers have better opportunities to access formal and quality employment.

The statement of the intended situation is in line with the **JP's outcomes**, which in turn take into account some of the outcomes described in the UNSDCF Argentina. These are as follows: a) the country will have designed and implemented social inclusion and protection policies for the full exercise of social rights through universal access to essential quality services with a gender-based approach, placing special emphasis on groups suffering aggravated forms of discrimination (UNSDCF outcome 2.3) and; b) the country will have coordinated employment, education and training policies for decent work that foster the reduction of informal economy and of all forms of discrimination, particularly promoting gender equality and the eradication of child labor (UNSDCF outcomes 1.2 and 1.3).

For the achievement of these results, different **risks** have been identified at a general level, as well as specific risks related to some of the activities. The risks, as well as the actions intended for their mitigation, are explained in Annex 8.

Assumptions: The main assumptions underlying this plan are as follows: a) there is a sustained political willingness from the government (national and provincial) to develop public policies on early childhood care services and to prioritize, in the early childhood, the population facing multiple forms of discrimination (children in low-income households, children in indigenous communities and/or children with disabilities); b) there is access to the information required to conduct studies, experience systematizations and tool building (systems and platforms) related to early childhood care; and c) decision makers show they are willing to use the new evidence resulting from the project to re/design early childhood care public policies.

The first of these assumptions is particularly complex, given that, this JP will start at a time during which the chart of authorities of each of the governmental agencies involved will be undergoing a reconfiguration process.

2.3 Expected results and impact

This JP seeks to promote two UNSDCF outcomes, expressed in the following terms:

- The country will have designed and implemented social inclusion and protection policies for the full exercise of social rights through universal access to essential quality services with a gender-based approach, placing special emphasis on groups suffering aggravated forms of discrimination (UNSDCF Argentina outcome 2.3).
- The country will have coordinated employment, education and training policies for decent work that foster the reduction of informal economy and of all forms of discrimination, particularly promoting gender equality and the eradication of child labor (UNSDCF Argentina outcomes 1.2 and 1.3) (for further details on the expected intermediate results see section 2.2).

To achieve this, the proposed actions are divided into 4 outputs and materialized in 23 activities, as shown below and in the Results Matrix (Annex 2.2). All of them follow an approach that addresses human rights, gender, intercultural interaction and equality perspectives. At the level of each of these outputs, intermediate results will be verified (set forth in section 2.2), all of which contribute towards the aforementioned outcomes.

Output 1: Support the national and subnational implementation of the ENPI

During 2019, the Provincial Early Childhood Strategies (EPPI, in Spanish) preparation process began in Chaco, Salta and Jujuy. Also, the Early Childhood Local Boards were put into operation in four municipalities, including Almirante Brown and Tres de Febrero (in the province of Buenos Aires). As part of this output, the **methodology** used in said provinces and municipalities is expected to be **systematized** and **implemented in the province of Chaco** (where the process started in 2019 but was interrupted due to the electoral context), **as well as replicated in the province of Buenos Aires**. Special attention will be paid to the proposed mechanisms to make visible those groups facing multiple forms of discrimination or left behind (women, children in low-income households, children with disabilities and children in indigenous communities) by calling upon and involving the governmental areas responsible for these issues / populations, for the designed Strategies to mainstream courses of action for their special consideration.

Activity 1: Systematization of methodologies to prepare Provincial Strategies and to bring Local Boards into operation so that the ENPI may be implemented at a subnational level, based on the pilot experiences already implemented (UNICEF)

Activity 2: Design of a Provincial Early Childhood Strategy for two additional provinces (Chaco and Buenos Aires), replicating the systematized methodology (UNICEF)

Output 2: Development of innovative instruments for a comprehensive care strategy, based on coordination and integration of public policies for early childhood

To date, Argentina lacks a device to identify the total supply of early childhood care services. As part of this output, it is suggested that **analyses be conducted on the legal, technical and administration feasibility** of creating an **information system** to gather data on the organizations (public and private) and individuals providing care services in certain territories, mainstreaming aspects such as the conditions under which the service is provided and/or workers' certifications, among others. The **platform prototype** will allow decision makers to access such information. This output will include and boost the Reporting and Monitoring System of Childhood Development Centers (SIM-CDI, in Spanish), as designed and applied by the Argentine Undersecretariat of Early Childhood and supported by UNICEF, which is part of the ENPI and covers a portion of the current supply.

Activity 3: Analysis of the legal and technical feasibility of the system and platform prototype featuring information on the total supply of care services (public and private) (ECLAC)

Activity 4: Design and testing of an information system on the total supply of care services (ECLAC)

Activity 5: Design and testing of a platform prototype featuring the information uploaded to the system (ECLAC)

As part of this output, different innovative financing mechanisms will also be analyzed to improve the care services provided by early childhood centers.

Activity 6: International experience analysis to improve the care services provided by early childhood centers (UNDP)

Activity 7: Preparation of a pilot experiment on an innovative financing tool (UNDP)

Activity 8: Training of government officers on innovative tools (UNDP)

Lastly, it is expected that **two innovative devices to assist children and families of indigenous communities residing in rural areas be systematized and subsequently replicated**. The actions addressing these populations require an innovative, intercultural and gender-based approach. The initiatives to be systematized and replicated are currently supported by UNICEF and have been identified (though not analyzed in detail) during the design process of the Provincial Early Childhood Strategies (EPPI) of the jurisdictions where they are being currently implemented (Salta and Chaco, respectively).

Activity 9: Intercultural scheme experience systematization for the provision of care services to indigenous populations residing in rural areas (UNICEF)

Activity 10: Start-up of an intercultural scheme for the provision of care services to indigenous populations residing in rural areas, replicating the systematized methodology (UNICEF)

Activity 11: Systematization of experience of early education scheme in rural areas (UNICEF)

Activity 12: Start-up of early education scheme in rural areas, replicating the systematized methodology (UNICEF)

Output 3: Design and implementation of a strategy aimed at estimating the demand of employment for early childhood caregivers and improving working conditions of workers in the care sector

As part of this output, it is expected that a **prospective analysis to estimate the demand of employment** in the early childhood care sector (dimension, estimates due to demographic and socioeconomic changes) be conducted **and that a study on the supply** of workers in the early childhood care sector also be conducted, particularly focusing on ENPI-related supply and demand. **The results** of the different analyses conducted will be **disseminated** so that any new evidence may be known and used in decision-making processes.

Activity 13: Study to estimate the demand of employment in the early childhood care sector (ILO)

Activity 14: Study of the potential size, characteristics and competencies of early childhood care workers supply (ILO)

Activity 15: Series of meetings to disseminate studies' outcomes and promote social dialogue (ILO)

Output 3 also considers the **definition of the framework of occupational profiles and competencies relevant** to the early childhood care sector, with a view to **preparing a training for trainers programme** to implement training plans. Therefore, different key

players (from the government, employers’ organizations, workers’ associations and the civil society) **will attend training courses** to be able to replicate skills certification and training strategies based on updated professional profiles. These strategies will include aspects such as the dissemination of labor rights, the role played by supervision, and the importance of having strong labor unions.

These activities considered the experience of joint work between the Argentine Undersecretariat of Early Childhood and the National Institute of Technological Education (INET, in Spanish) for preparing a training course for early childhood caregivers with skills certification, which is part of the ENPI. Also, the experience between ILO and the National Office of Professional Training (Secretariat of Labor) was taken into account to define the training plan on childhood care and assistance.

Activity 16: Definition of the occupational profiles and competencies framework relevant to the early childhood care sector (ILO)

Activity 17: Design of materials to implement training plans intended for workers providing care services included in the ENPI, with skills certification (ILO)

Activity 18: Training of key players from the government, employers’ organizations, workers’ associations, and the civil society to replicate training plans (ILO)

Output 4: Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation, using big data and other analytical tools

The activities included in this output will provide information to the remaining JP outputs in order to improve their implementation and contribute to the monitoring of activities.

A **participatory study on local early childhood care needs** will be conducted. This study seeks to gather information on households in rural and indigenous communities to help the early childhood services offered in such locations be more accessible. To that effect, local workshops will be conducted and the information already available will be used, such as the data collected under the programme “Early Childhood – Guidance on Upbringing”), with vast experience in the country, implemented with the UNDP’s support and part of the ENPI. In addition, a local analysis on the **impact of the access to care services in women’s labor market participation** will be conducted.

Moreover, big data will potentially be applied at different government levels, promoting innovation in the collection, processing and usage of big data for the follow-up and monitoring of the National Strategy. This includes the evidence gathered as part of this JP, as well as other sources of information already available and included in the ENPI (Reporting and Monitoring System of Childhood Development Centers – SIM CDI, in Spanish, Assessment of Receptive Interactions in Argentine Classrooms - MIR.Ar, in Spanish), other mainstream sources (like the National Tax and Social Security Identification System – SINTyS, in Spanish) and new statistics that identify childhood gaps (2019 National Survey of Children and Adolescents).

Thus, an **integrated system of indicators** will be created, based on which **follow-up and monitoring studies** on the National Strategy will be conducted. Special emphasis will be placed on the analysis of those population groups facing multiple forms of discrimination (children and women in rural and indigenous communities, children with disabilities). The government officers involved will also take part in **training** activities.

Activity 19: A participatory study on local early childhood care needs in households, particularly those in rural areas and indigenous communities, to make services accessible and available (UNDP)

Activity 20: A study to measure impact of care services to favor women's labor market participation (UNDP)

Activity 21: Building of an integrated system of indicators linked to the ENPI, including, for instance, mapping of early childhood care centers (with existing or potential qualitative-quantitative information), the assisted children population, and the demand for services (UNDP and ECLAC)

Activity 22: Preparation of ENPI follow-up and monitoring reports, using the information contained in the integrated system of indicators, including, for instance, a diagnosis of weaknesses and limitations aimed at fulfilling early childhood specific care demands at a local level (UNDP and ECLAC)

Activity 23: Technical training to government officers on the importance, implementation and use of an integrated system of indicators linked to the ENPI, in particular, and of early childhood care services in general (UNDP and ECLAC)

The development of several activities specified in this document for the different outputs entails actions aimed at the exchange of good practices and experiences with other countries of the region, strengthening the South-South cooperation.

By the end of the second year of the project, it is expected that: a) the Provincial Strategies will have been replicated, with the engagement of the government areas related to gender policies, indigenous populations and disability; b) innovative tools in terms of information systems and alternative financing mechanisms for early childhood care policies will have been designed and tested; c) the care service supply will have been broadened and enhanced, particularly, for populations suffering multiple forms of discrimination; d) new evidence on employment demand and supply in the early childhood care sector, as well as on the impact of access to care services on women's labor participation will have been collected; e) a System of Indicators for ENPI follow-up will have been built; and f) the competencies of public officials and early childhood care workers will have been strengthened.

The sustainability of these achievements will be guaranteed by the strategy proposed for this JP, which includes actions aimed at strengthening capacities, advocacy and incidence, and the establishment of strategic partnerships, among other things. Also, the recent publication of Executive Order No. 750/2019 approving the National Early Childhood Strategy in the Official Gazette contributes towards the reinforcement of its institutionalization and continuity. The JP is expected to contribute to the continuity of ENPI in the governmental transition, as well as to strengthen its implementation in the coming years.

Besides, once this JP has been completed, it is expected to have helped to: a) increase the percentage of children attending quality learning and care spaces, particularly those suffering multiple forms of discrimination; b) contribute to reduce gender gaps through actions that promote women's access to formal employment, taking into special account the specific realities of indigenous women; c) contribute to improve the labor conditions of early childhood care workers. Annex 11 lists such indicators associated to the SDGs targets towards which

this JP is intended to collaborate directly. It states the baseline and the expected mid-term value for each indicator, according to the sources available in each case.

Finally, in the medium-term, it is expected that this JP will contribute towards both incorporating the care issue into the political and social agenda and strengthening institutions and actors linked to the policy sector. Thus, the foundations for building comprehensive care policies will be laid down to cover other population groups.

2.4 Financing

The implementation of the ENPI poses great opportunities and challenges simultaneously, given the present economic and political context of the country. This proposal aims to be a catalyzer for the launch and support of policies seeking to prioritize early childhood care quality.

According to population estimates, in 2019, the total number of children between 0 and 6 years of age is around 5.2 million in Argentina, and this would equal approximately 12% of the aggregate population and 38% of children and adolescents (Basch et al, 2015). Given the the size of that population group and the high return rates of investing in early childhood, the long-term impact of this investment is very high. In terms of vulnerability, around 53% of children in Argentina reside in households with insufficient income (over 13% in households with income insufficient to afford the basic food basket) (INDEC, 2019). Therefore, the JP seeks to strengthen the main stakeholders in the implementation of a strategy that has been widely regarded as necessary and that provides long-term guidelines for the measures to be developed. Investing in early childhood education and care is one of the most cost-efficient social policies to guarantee the country's economic development in future years.

Each of the agencies involved will contribute their experience in their specific area to the JP and will be able to capitalize on the different initiatives that are currently being developed to create synergies that result in savings and boosting effects. Thus, the fact that each agency will invite the stakeholders with whom a communication channel has already been established over years of collaboration, to take part in round table meetings will broaden the scope of the initiative and reduce the efforts and costs that would be otherwise incurred if newcomers were to embark on a similar initiative.

An estimated in-kind contribution of USD 600,000 will be added to the proposal by the implementing agencies as co-funding in order to strengthen the implementation of the JP.

Similarly, it is expected that an estimated USD 300,000, will be provided by private initiatives working to support the ENPI and mobilized through the innovative financing instruments that will be designed. These innovative financing instruments seek to create a system involving the private sector to strengthen initiatives leading to early childhood care quality improvement, as supplemental to public provision. This is part of the global UNDP strategy to support governments, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders to mobilize resources for the acceleration of the SDGs through impact investment. UNDP Argentina encourages impact investment in the country through the implementation of different actions. While impact investment is still in an incipient state in Argentina, UNDP is creating spaces for

knowledge sharing and the participation of impact investment organizations to use experiences and identify pending challenges. In this sense, it works with organizations, institutional investors and the private sector, trust funds and individuals with relevant financial assets that aim to improve their portfolio in investments related to social impact. The Global Compact Network in Argentina will be a key partner for this purpose.

Therefore, from a requested amount of USD 2,000,000, the UN agencies are expecting to co-fund around USD 600,000 and USD 300,000 will be mobilized from the private sector, representing a very good value for money.

Furthermore, by influencing policy-making at a time of governmental transition, the JP will seek to leverage broader resources for actions directed towards care in early childhood, be it from government agencies or international partners such as the Interamerican Development Bank that have shown interest in this area of work. By strengthening capacities of local governments, it is expected that they, in turn, will leverage resources on their own ensuring greater sustainability of the JP's actions.

Not only does the proposal target the most vulnerable children, but it also promotes women's rights. The entire initiative is aimed at improving the working conditions of an activity which has been traditionally carried out by women as a result of the sexual division of labor, as well as at facilitating children care options to favor women's labor market participation and to remove the obstacles that still exist. Even though the actions performed by each agency will contribute towards gender equality, UNDP will conduct specific studies to measure women needs at the local level regarding early childhood care and the impact of care services to favor women's labor market participation.

The budget will be divided among the four agencies for it to be applied within their areas of competence. Coordination expenses are expected to be incurred in order to ensure consistency among actions and to be able to make joint communications, share lessons learned and conduct proper monitoring and evaluation processes, with the RCO's active participation. Then, each agency will use these funds as well as resources of their own in coordination/consultation with main stakeholders, to guarantee the performance of the activities planned. The agencies will rely heavily on expert advice, especially for the design of the information systems and software platforms planned. Likewise, given the geographic extent of the initiative and the different players that must be involved, a significant percentage of the budget will be allocated to technical assistance and support missions.

2.5 Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

Engaging national and subnational governmental organizations is a key factor to ensure the reinforcement of the capacities of institutions so that the results sought in this proposal may be upscaled and sustained. This constitutes a particularly relevant challenge given that this JP will start at a time during which the chart of authorities of each of the governmental agencies involved will be undergoing a reconfiguration process.

The Argentine Government has already committed to this JP, supporting the proposal through a note signed by the Executive Secretary of the National Council for Social Policy Coordination. The ENPI, which this JP seeks to support, is a strategy prepared by the highest authorities of

the National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENNAF, in Spanish) jointly with the authorities of the Secretariat of Health and of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, with UNICEF's technical support. The ENPI's institutional framework involves different areas of the Argentine government, as well as provincial and local governments.

In 2019, this National Strategy began to be implemented at a subnational level, with the development of Provincial Early Childhood Strategies in three provinces (Chaco, Jujuy and Salta) and the start-up of Early Childhood Local Boards in four municipalities. In addition, a costing exercise of the ENPI was performed so as to ensure the availability of sufficient resources under the National Budget for its effective implementation at a national and a subnational level. To achieve solid political support, the Argentine Government has recently approved an Executive Order (Nro 570/19) defining the ENPI as a national public policy with goals and courses of action aimed at bridging early childhood territorial gaps throughout the country in the coming years. The JP's support to this process will facilitate its sustainability, replication and scalability.

Also, the Ministry of Production and Labor and the Tripartite Commission for the Future of Work are highly committed to the design of policies aimed at improving the working conditions of workers in the care sector (including the formalization of paid care work) to ensure the equal allocation of care work and support unpaid caregivers who want to regain access to paid work. In addition, Argentina joined the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030).

The work performed by UN agencies is highly appreciated by the Argentine State, with whom close dialogue is maintained and to whom technical and political assistance is provided on different issues. PUNOs support social protection initiatives, including the development of national care systems, the design and implementation of social protection and inclusion programmes in different communities, and the adoption of specific measures to protect children's rights pursuant to the laws in effect, the Argentine Constitution and international treaties on human rights (see section 2.1 and Annex 1 for further details on the actions for which each agency is responsible).

This JP involves the actions of UNICEF, UNDP, ECLAC and ILO, under the RCO's coordination. These agencies have a supplemental specialization, and may also contribute their vast experience, knowledge and skills. All of them have developed extensive networks with key public and private international, national, provincial and local stakeholders. Such networks facilitate social dialogue at a national level, which enables the proper implementation and sustainability of the proposal. The Interagency Group on Gender and Human Rights has been working consistently for over 6 years. It is jointly coordinated by the UNDP, UNICEF and OHCHR. The successful formulation of the Spotlight initiative is one of its most significant achievements. To sum up, the expertise of the agencies involved is valuable to promote the inter-sectoral and inter-institutional coordination required for the execution of this JP and, therefore, to support the implementation of the ENPI.

As to IFIs, the JP will seek to interact mainly with the Inter-American Development Bank, which currently supports the government in the expansion of the scope of public services aimed at promoting the development of the physical, linguistic, cognitive and social-emotional skills of children from 0 to 5 years old. The purpose of the IDB loan for \$200 million is to reinforce those interventions, particularly focusing on children between 45 days and 4 years old in social vulnerability situations, prioritizing those residing in the northeast

and northwest provinces and in the Buenos Aires outskirts, where poverty reaches the highest levels.

The JP seeks to design new instruments with the help of new technologies, in order to improve the quality of the information available, promote awareness, improve the access to and use of the existing or future care system institutions, and facilitate a better consistency between early childhood care services supply and demand. Specifically, the development of this JP entails the involvement and engagement of different stakeholders in dialogue, participatory design and co-delivery stages, as specified below for each of the outputs:

Output 1: Support the national and subnational implementation of the ENPI

The preparation of the Provincial Early Childhood Strategies (EPPI) entails a participatory process in which governmental stakeholders from different sectors take part, both at a national and at a provincial and municipal level. Special attention will be paid to the calling and involvement of the areas responsible for designing and implementing policies aimed at children with disabilities and indigenous communities. At a local level, organizations providing care services are also included, as they take part in the discussions held on priority issues and the strategies to address them.

The systematization of the methodology used to execute the Provincial Strategies and Local Boards will also entail consulting key stakeholders at a provincial and local level, to learn their opinion of the manner in which these processes were conducted and to identify any possible adjustments to the initially planned dynamics.

It is also worth noting that the formulation of the National Strategy (ENPI) entailed a joint development process among the authorities of the Social Development (Childhood, Adolescence and Family), Education and Health areas. The ENPI design was presented to different groups of stakeholders, including organizations providing early childhood care services, NGOs, foundations, companies making private investments in early childhood, academic centers and international organisms.

Output 2: Development of innovative instruments for a comprehensive care strategy, based on coordination and integration of public policies for early childhood

The potential building of an information system and a prototype platform on the supply of care services for early childhood requires a coordinated work with different government areas, both at a national and a provincial level, as well as with other institutions (public and private) which are able to provide care services to this population group.

The innovative financing tools will help align the efforts of the government, the private sector and the organizations specialized in solving different social issues. These initiatives include expert organizations, usually from the third sector, whose services help supplement public supply.

In addition, innovative experiences will be systematized and replicated as part of this output: an intercultural scheme for providing early childhood care services to indigenous populations residing in rural areas and an early education scheme in rural areas. After their systematization, and prior to their replication in new provinces, validation will be sought with key players of the indigenous communities where these experiences are to be implemented.

These communities will be contacted through the pertaining government areas (for instance, through the area responsible for policies addressing indigenous peoples and/or bilingual intercultural education).

Output 3: Design and implementation of a strategy aimed at estimating the demand of employment for early childhood caregivers and improving working conditions of workers in the care sector

The results of the studies which are part of this output will be presented to public organizations at a national and provincial level, trade unions in this area and academia (universities or research groups working on this issue) in dialogue spaces. Dissemination and validation actions are key to ensure the effective use of these findings to redesign public policies.

Joint work will also be carried out with key players from the government, employers' organizations, workers' associations and civil society organizations to define the framework of occupational profiles and competencies relevant to the early childhood care sector, as well as to validate the materials to be used in the training plans intended for care workers. Also, employers' organizations, workers' associations and civil society organizations will be able to attend training courses to subsequently replicate this training in the territory.

These activities will contribute to generate synergies with other ILO policy initiatives/programmes that support the promotion of decent employment for women through inclusive growth policies and investments in the care economy.

Output 4: Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation, using big data and other analytical tools

As part of one of the activities included in this output, a participatory survey will be conducted on the local early childhood care needs in households, particularly those in rural areas and indigenous communities, to make the services accessible and available to them. To that end, workshops are expected to be conducted in 4 districts.

The creation of the integrated system of indicators to follow-up on and monitor the ENPI calls for a coordinated work with different government areas, both at a national and a provincial level. The training activities intended for government officers will be particularly relevant so as to ensure the use of the information available and the future sustainability of the system's operation.

Over the last few years, an increasing number of regional countries have made efforts to raise awareness of the predominant role of women in unpaid caring activities, as well as to design and implement care policies and programmes for dependent populations. Nevertheless, these efforts are still insufficient not only because of restrictions in terms of knowledge and capacities but also due to the significantly heterogeneous population of the territory. In this regard, the Project will promote South-South cooperation with leading countries in terms of design and implementation of comprehensive care systems, as is the case of Uruguay or Costa Rica, focusing on the design and expansion of quality care service coverage. To that end, partnerships may be established and developed with different academic institutions (universities, study centers).

3. Programme implementation

3.1 Governance and implementation arrangements

The specific governance of this JP involves the appointment of:

1. **A Steering Committee (SC)**, which will comprise the following members:

- United Nations Resident Coordinator
- Executive Secretary of the National Council for Social Policy Coordination
- Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family
- Representatives of each Participating United Nations Organizations (PUNOs): UNICEF, UNDP, ILO and ECLAC

The SC will meet once a year and it will:

- guide and supervise the implementation of the JP;
- ensure coordination and synergies between the JP and other country initiatives;
- encourage a participative implementation, aligned with the national priorities, the SDGs, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2016-2020);
- approve the JP's Work Plan and the reports agreed upon;
- promote the necessary adjustments and review the risk management strategy.

The SC will reflect the principles of inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, consensus-based decisions, country participation and JP ownership.

2. **A Follow-up Committee (FC)**. It will consist of a representative of the RCO/UN Argentina, a representative of the Leading Agency (UNICEF), a technical representative for each of the remaining PUNOs and a coordinator of the JP.

Among other things, it will:

- supervise program management, promote necessary adjustments, and act as a first instance conflict resolution mechanism;
- ensure adequate coordination and communication of the JP at a national and subnational level;
- revise and submit to the SC the Annual Plan, the M&E Plan, and the Baseline;
- reach agreements and make exchanges, as required, to ensure consistent outcomes, coordination between the persons responsible for implementing each activity and JP monitoring;
- support participatory programme implementation at a national and subnational level;
- promote, if deemed necessary, adjustments to the implementation strategy;
- review risk management strategies and promote actions aimed at ensuring that the programme is pro-actively managing and mitigating risks;
- develop a resource mobilization strategy and provide assistance in resource mobilization to the RC.

3. An Advisory Group (AG): The JP entails the active engagement of both governmental (at a national, provincial and local level) and non-governmental stakeholders who will form an Advisory Group (AG). The AG will meet twice a year.

At a national governmental level, key players of the CNCPS and the National Early Childhood Strategic Unit (UENPI), comprising senior officials from the SENNAF, Health and Education, the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs (INAI), the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ANDIS) and other agencies will participate in such group, among others.

At a provincial level, it will comprise the representatives of the early childhood inter-ministerial boards, and at a local level, the representatives of Early Childhood Local Boards with several key players of the local sphere.

At a non-governmental level, the AG will include: social organizations, study centers, companies, foundations, and trade unions.

The AG is expected to:

- advise on the JP's strategic management at a national, provincial and local level;
- become a partner to advocate at the highest level and facilitate political dialogue;
- support efforts to disseminate key messages to different audiences, especially to marginalized groups and to the most relevant media;
- advise on strategic priorities and the likelihood of linkage with other ongoing initiatives;
- support the resource mobilization strategy;
- act as a space for interaction, dialogue and learning;
- provide relevant information, analysis and lessons learned which might serve as input for future programming and advocacy efforts;
- monitor the implementation of the JP informally, and provide feedback to the Programme;

With the support of the RCO, the Resident Coordinator will ensure overall project performance and accountability, providing leadership and interacting with the highest-ranking government officials, the PUNOs and related partners. Besides, the Resident Coordinator shall participate in the resolution of any conflicts that may arise in the coordination of work among the different agencies and/or institutional counterparts, in such cases where they cannot be solved at the CS. The RCO shall also support the leading agency in the exchange and coordination among UN agencies, participate in the resolution of any potential conflicts and support joint efforts with the highest authorities.

The RCO will coordinate the JP ensuring coherence, while the leading agency will provide specialized technical assistance, and supervise JP implementation, in coordination and working closely with the PUNOs, the RCO, and the Government. The PUNOs shall lead the implementation of activities within the framework of the agreements reached at the CS. This also entails assuming programmatic and financial responsibility for performance and accountability to the agency in charge of programme coordination for the completion of its tasks.

In addition to the particular features of this JP, the proposed governance structure takes into consideration the positive aspects of implementing the Spotlight Initiative in Argentina, with a strong leadership by the Resident Coordinator and the RCO (and, in the case of this JP in particular, boosting the role of the leading agency) as well as joint implementation by a group of UN agencies and the Government, both at a national and sub-national level. Governance and coordination mechanisms strengthen a joint execution modality and a virtuous relationship with implementation partners.

Additionally, it is supported by the existing institutional structure at the UNS level, with the special technical support given by UNDAF Results Group 2 (Protection and Universal Access to Essential Services); UNDAF Results Group 1 (Inclusive Economic Development); and the inter-agency group on gender and Human Rights.

3.2 Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be results-oriented, and evidence based. Each PUNO will provide the Convening/Lead Agent with the following narrative reports prepared in accordance with instructions and templates developed by the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat:

- *Annual narrative progress reports*, to be provided no later than one (1) month (31 January) after the end of the calendar year, and must include the result matrix, updated risk log, and anticipated expenditures and results for the next 12-month funding period;
- *Mid-term progress review report* to be submitted halfway through the implementation of Joint Programme¹⁰; and
- *Final consolidated narrative report*, after the completion of the joint programme, to be provided no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the activities of the joint programme.

The Convening/Lead Agent will compile the narrative reports of PUNOs and submit a consolidated report to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, through the Resident Coordinator.

The Resident Coordinator will be required to monitor the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data and information when requested. As a minimum, joint programmes will prepare, and submit to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, 6-month monitoring updates. Additional insights (such as policy papers, value for money analysis, case studies, infographics, blogs) might need to be provided, per request of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat. Joint programme will allocate resources for monitoring and evaluation in the budget.

Data for all indicators of the results framework will be shared with the Fund Secretariat on a regular basis, in order to allow the Fund Secretariat to aggregate results at the global level and integrate findings into reporting on progress of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs will be required to include information on complementary funding received from other sources (both UN cost sharing, and external sources of funding) for the activities supported by the Fund, including in kind contributions and/or South-South Cooperation initiatives, in the reporting done throughout the year.

PUNOs at Headquarters level shall provide the Administrative Agent with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with its accounting and reporting procedures, consolidate the financial reports, as follows:

- Annual financial reports as of 31st December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint SDG Fund Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period; and

¹⁰ This will be the basis for release of funding for the second year of implementation.

- A final financial report, after the completion of the activities financed by the Joint SDG Fund and including the final year of the activities, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closing of the project activities.

In addition, regular updates on financial delivery might need to be provided, per request of the Fund Secretariat.

After competition of a joint programmes, a final, *independent and gender-responsive*¹¹ *evaluation* will be organized by the Resident Coordinator. The cost needs to be budgeted, and in case there are no remaining funds at the end of the joint programme, it will be the responsibility of PUNOs to pay for the final, independent evaluation from their own resources.

The programme will be subject to a joint final independent evaluation with established arrangements for managing the joint evaluation. The final evaluation will be managed jointly by the PUNOs as per established process for independent evaluations, including use of a joint evaluation steering group and dedicated evaluation managers not involved in the implementation of the joint programme. The evaluations will follow the United Nations Evaluation Group's (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System, using the guidance on Joint Evaluation and relevant UNDG guidance on evaluations. The management and implementation of the joint evaluation will have due regard to the evaluation policies of the PUNOs to ensure the requirements of those policies are met; and with use of appropriate guidance from PUNOs on joint evaluation. The evaluation process will be participative and will involve all relevant programme's stakeholders and partners. Evaluation results will be disseminated amongst governments, donors, academic institutions and stakeholders of civil society (including workers' and employers' organizations) and a joint management response will be produced upon completion of the evaluation process to be made publicly available on the evaluation platforms or similar of the PUNOs.

3.3 Accountability, financial management, and public disclosure

The Joint Programme will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent (AA) under which the funds will be channeled for the Joint Programme through the AA. Each Participating UN Organization receiving funds through the pass-through has signed a standard Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

Each Participating UN Organization (PUNO) shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Programme in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. Each PUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs will be 7%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs.

¹¹ How to manage a gender responsive evaluation, Evaluation handbook, UN Women, 2015

Funding by the Joint SDG Fund will be provided on annual basis, upon successful performance of the joint programme.

Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

Each PUNO will take appropriate measures to publicize the Joint SDG Fund and give due credit to the other PUNOs. All related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, provided to the press or Fund beneficiaries, will acknowledge the role of the host Government, donors, PUNOs, the Administrative Agent, and any other relevant entities. In particular, the Administrative Agent will include and ensure due recognition of the role of each Participating Organization and partners in all external communications related to the Joint SDG Fund.

3.4 Legal context

Agency name: UNICEF

Agreement title: UNICEF Cooperation Programme in the Argentine Republic. Plan of Action of the 2010-2014 Country Programme document.

Agreement date: December 2009

Agency name: UNICEF

Agreement title: Country Programme Document (approved by UNICEF's Executive Board, 2016 First regular session)

Agreement date: February 2-4, 2016

Agency name: International Labour Organization

Agreement title: Agreement between the Argentine Republic and the International Labour Organization

Agreement date: April 6, 1970

Agency name: ECLAC

Agreement title: Cooperation Agreement between ECLAC and the Government of Argentina for the Programming and Funding of the Activities of ECLAC's Office in Argentina

Agreement date: July 31, 2014

Agency name: UNDP

Agreement title: Standard Basic Assistance Agreement -SBAA- between United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Argentina.

Agreement date: February 26, 1985 (approved by Law No. 23,396 on October 10, 1986)

D. ANNEXES

Annex 1. List of related initiatives

Name of initiative/project	Key expected results	Links to the joint programme	Lead organization	Other partners	Budget and funding source	Contract person <small>(name and email)</small>
Support to the National Early Childhood Strategy	Definition and approval of the National Early Childhood Strategy Design and implementation of a Monitoring and Reporting System for Early Childhood Spaces and preparation of an initial baseline survey.	This support will enable the approval of a final document at a political level, establishing the guidelines of the National Early Childhood Strategy on which the JP is based.	UNICEF	SENNAF National Office of Maternal and Child Welfare Ministry of Education FLACSO Grupo Pharos	USD 112,000	Carolina Aulicino – Social Policy Officer caulicino@unicef.org
Promotion of a new law governing family leaves	Discussion and passing of new regulation governing leaves of absence in Congress. Contribution to amendments to social rules related to gender and promotion of a more equitable distribution of caring activities Sensitization of the private sector on care issues fostering changes in corporate policies and turning them into partners in the promotion of more equitable public policies	One of the objectives of the National Early Childhood Strategy is to amend the law on leaves of absence and implement more equitable legislation in terms of gender as regards the time available for caring	UNICEF	SENNAF Argentine Congress ELA Group Promoting Enterprises that Care	USD 31,000	Carolina Aulicino – Social Policy Officer caulicino@unicef.org
Implementation of nominal records of girls, boys and adolescents in the	Design and implementation in all 24 provinces (i.e., as a national public policy) of a tool to manage and report	The implementation at a national level of RUN is one of the priorities established in the	UNICEF	SENNAF Provincial childhood areas Provincial technology and	USD 60,000	Hernán Monath – Data Protection Specialist

social protection system	information on children and adolescents within the protection system named Single Nominal Registry (RUN, in Spanish).	National Early Childhood Strategy		modernization areas Federal Council of Childhood, Adolescence and Family Grupo Pharos		hmonath@unicef.org
Non-violent upbringing	Parental skills for the non-violent upbringing of children and adolescents and gender equality developed through workshops which enable prevention of child abuse and gender-based violence from early childhood	Preventing and addressing violence in early childhood is a priority initiative within the National Early Childhood Strategy	UNICEF	Provincial Childhood Bodies ELA	USD 84,000	Sabrina Viola – Rights Protection Officer sviola@unicef.org
Early Education Mapping	Evidence gathered about early education in Argentina	The information collected will enable us to communicate the National Early Childhood Strategy and Provincial Strategies	UNICEF	CIPPEC	USD 60,000	Bárbara Briscioli – Education Officer bbriscioli@unicef.org
Integral education proposal - Early education in rural areas	Educators trained on early literacy and games proposals, as well as enhanced children’s opportunities for learning in rural communities	Within the framework of expected result 2.3, the lessons learned from this initiative developed in the province of Chaco are expected to replicate in rural communities with the presence of indigenous people	UNICEF	OEI	USD 150,000	Bárbara Briscioli – Education Officer bbriscioli@unicef.org
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)	Data updated on the situation of children and adolescents, including a specific module on early childhood	The information gathered will enable us to communicate the National Early Childhood Strategy and Provincial Strategies	UNICEF	National Council for Social Policy Coordination INDEC	USD 5,000,000	Sebastián Waisgrais – Social Inclusion and Monitoring Specialist swaisgrais@unicef.org

Training on IODI (Children’s Development Observational Instrument)	Health teams trained on the use of IODI	A broader use of IODI to detect developmental delays is one of the priorities of the National Early Childhood Strategy	UNICEF	Secretariat of Health		Julia Anciola – Health Officer janciola@unicef.org
Offside Project: Marking the field! Improving the Capacity of Labor and Agriculture Stakeholders to Address Child Labor in Agricultural Areas in Argentina ARG/18/01/USA	1.Increased common understanding of the challenges and opportunities for addressing child labor in agriculture. 2. Increased capacity of labor and agriculture stakeholders to address child labor in agriculture.	Offside will contribute to Outcome 3 and outputs 3.1 and 3.2, providing evidence through the conduct of childcare centers studies in the provinces of Santa Fe, Mendoza and Buenos Aires.	ILO BA	Ministry of Production and Labour Ministry of Agroindustry National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) Province of Santa Fe Province of Buenos Aires Province of Mendoza RENATRE UATRE CRA UIA FAO UNICEF	USD 2,500,000 US Department of Labor.	María Eugenia Figueroa figueroa@ilo.org
MAP16 - Measurement, awareness-raising and policy engagement to accelerate action against child labour and forced labour (GLO/18/29/USA)	1. Improved knowledge and understanding of the prevalence, causes and consequences of child labor and adolescent work through the analysis of the data provided by the EANNA. 2. Increased awareness on the prevalence, drivers and effects of child labor and adolescent work	MAP16’s results will contribute to output 3.1 and inform activities under output 3.2	ILO	Ministry of Production and Labour	USD 140,000	Alejandra Pángaro pangaro@ilo.org

	through accessible knowledge products, knowledge sharing and evidence-based advocacy.					
Project ARG/16/015 "Support to the implementation of the Early Childhood Policy in Argentina"	Strengthening capabilities of families in vulnerable situations. The results as of 2019 are as follows: Training and qualification of 1490 Facilitators on institutional practices for childhood and upbringing at a local level; guidance given to 11,700 families by means of home visits; 600 sensitization , dissemination and training workshops in community environments, especially in coordination with neighborhood and childhood networks set up in the territory.	<p>Providing guidance to families and strengthening upbringing practices are some of the priorities established within the National Early Childhood Strategy.</p> <p>This programme will be the platform on which agreements will be defined, consultations will be made, and the activities implemented at a subnational level will be supported.</p>	UNDP	National Council for Social Policy Coordination of the Argentine Presidency	USD 6,540,577	Felisa Vanini (felisa.vanini@undp.org) and Maria Eugenia Oviedo (maria.eugenia.oviedo@undp.org)
Project UNDP ARG 18006 Promoting impact investment for accomplishing SDGs in Argentina	<p>UNDP will contribute to promoting social and environmental impact investment to advance in the accomplishment of SDGs in order to attain, as a pilot experiment, the following results:</p> <p>Diagnosis: supporting the strengthening of financing frameworks for SDGs at the country level through a Development Financing</p>	It will provide evidence and a methodology for implementing activities related to design and pilot experiments of a performance contracting tool.	UNDP		USD 480,000	UNDP

	<p>Assessment (DFA) to analyze the existing financing frameworks and the allocation of resources for SDGs, as well as introducing political and institutional recommendations to promote impact investment in the country.</p> <p>Eco-system: foster an eco-system of impact investment by calling social enterprises, governments and investors under a single platform to exchange ideas and best practices on impact investment.</p> <p>Instruments: developing specific impact investment instruments (in the form of impact investment funds or social impact bonds - BIS) to finance initiatives for social/environmental impact and foster the development of sustainable productive fabric in the country, as well as priority social benefits.</p>					
<p>Women in the labor market: a liability and an opportunity</p>	<p>Make gender inequalities in the labor market visible, including the individual and collective harm they cause.</p>	<p>The data obtained from these studies will contribute towards shedding light on care and gender issues in</p>	<p>UNDP, ILO, UNWOM, EN</p>	<p>CIPPEC</p>	<p>USD 42,000</p>	<p>Alejandra Garcia (Alejandra.garcia@undp.org)</p>

	Reinforcing access to the labor market, work experience and women's engagement in managerial positions and in more dynamic sectors of the economy	Argentina, which will serve as input for this initiative.				
Dialogue on care policies	Contribute towards the reinforcement of public care policies in Argentina based on the creation of a space appropriate for exchanging and discussing information among governmental officers and other stakeholders to inform the public debate on this matter.	These spaces have strengthened the links between UN agencies and the Government of Argentina and have furthered dialogue on care issues.	UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, UNFPA	CIPPEC	N/A	Alejandra Garcia (Alejandra.garcia@undp.org)
National Early Childhood Plan (Executive Order N° 574/16)	Promote and strengthen Childhood Development Centers (CDIs, in Spanish) for comprehensive care of children between 45 days old and 4 years old	The promotion and strengthening of CDI is one of the priorities established in the National Early Childhood Strategy	Undersecretariat of Early Childhood	Governmental organizations (local or provincial) and NGOs in charge of CDI	USD 7,535,000 (2018)	Javier Quesada (jqquesada@se.naf.gob.ar)
Training course for early childhood caregivers	Foster children caring skills among CDI caregivers and certificate these skills	This initiative is one of the priorities established in the National Early Childhood Strategy and will be considered for the development of activities 16, 17 and 18 of this JP	Undersecretariat of Early Childhood	National Institute of Technological Education (INET, in Spanish)	USD 3,408 (2018)	Javier Quesada (jqquesada@se.naf.gob.ar)
Assessment of Receptive Interactions in Argentine	Offer a baseline about the quality of the interaction processes between	This initiative is part of the priorities established in the National Early Childhood Strategy and	Undersecretariat of	IADB, Social Protection and Health Division	N/A	Javier Quesada

Classrooms (MIR.Ar, in Spanish)	<p>caregivers and children who attend the CDI.</p> <p>Based on this information, training needs will be identified and the changes made will be verified.</p>	will be considered for the development of activities 21, 22 and 23 of this JP	Early Childhood			jquesada@se.naf.gob.ar
Early Childhood Centers in rural areas of Salta	<p>Offer early childhood care services in a context of rural, dispersed, extreme and multi-ethnic vulnerability.</p> <p>It is implemented in the departments of the northern part of the province, where the greatest social and territorial gaps are registered.</p>	This initiative is part of the priorities established in the Provincial Early Childhood Strategy of the province of Salta, and will be considered for the development of activity 9 of this JP	Ministry of Early Childhood – province of Salta	National Ministry of Health and Social Development	N/A	Carlos Abeleira (cfabeleira@gmail.com)
Care centers as part of a strategy to prevent and eradicate child labor	<p>Offer early childhood care services for families performing temporary work activities</p> <p>Some examples worth highlighting are “Harvest Kindergardens” (Jardines de Cosecha, in Spanish) in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy and Misiones, the “Good Harvest Programme” (Programa Buena Cosecha) and the “More work, less child</p>	These initiatives contribute to the priorities established in the National Early Childhood Strategy and will be considered for the development of different activities of this JP	Ministry of Production and Labor (Dirección de Protección e Igualdad Laboral)	Provincial governments, stakeholders such as RENATRE, UATRE and the private sector through Chambers and “Network of Enterprises against Child Labor” (Red de	N/A	Cecilia B. Garau (CGARAU@trabajo.gob.ar)

	labor Programme” (Más cuidado, menos trabajo infantil) in the province of Buenos Aires			Empresas contra el Trabajo Infantil, in Spanish)		
Networks of social organizations that provide early childhood care services	Offer early childhood care services for population in the outskirts of province of Buenos Aires, where the greatest social and territorial gaps are registered	These initiatives contribute to the priorities established in the National Early Childhood Strategy and will be considered for the development of different activities of this JP	Fundación de Organización Comunitaria (FOC) Fundación El Encuentro Fundación Andando	Grassroots social organizations that are part of these networks	N/A	Elisa Pineda - FOC (elisapineda@gmail.com) Ana Gravina y Marina Peroña - Red El Encuentro (redcomunitariaelencuentro@gmail.com) Luján Rosales y Claudia Ibáñez - Red Andando (redandando17@gmail.com)
Training course: Care and attention of children	Foster children caring skills among caregivers and certificate these skills	This is a training initiative that has already been completed, but it is planned to resume it for the development of activities 16, 17 and 18 of this JP	Ministry of Production and Labor (Coordinación de Formación para la Equidad y el Trabajo Decente)	ILO	N/A	Estela Barba (EBARBA@trabajo.gov.ar)

Annex 2. Overall Results Framework

2.1. Targets for Joint SDG Fund Results Framework

Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021
1.1: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope ¹²	2 (a)	5 (b)
1.2: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scale ¹³	1 (c)	5 (d)

(a) Refers to: (1) estimation assessments of employment demand in the early childhood care sector; (2) defined competencies framework and relevant occupational profiles for the early childhood care sector.

(b) Refers to: (1) an information system with data on the early childhood services supply designed and tested according to legal and technical feasibility; (2) a software platform prototype with data on the total supply of care services, designed and tested according to legal and technical feasibility; (3) tested innovative financing tools for care services in early childhood centers; (4) assessments of potential size, characteristics and competencies of the workforce supply in the early childhood care sector; and (5) a study to measure impact of care services to favor women's labor market participation.

(c) Refers to: 1) a participatory study on local early childhood care needs in households, particularly in rural areas and indigenous communities, aimed at making services accessible and available, carried out in 4 districts.

(d) Refers to: (1) Provincial Early Childhood Strategies designed in Chaco and Buenos Aires; (2) an intercultural device aimed at providing early childhood care services to indigenous populations residing in rural areas replicated in one province; (3) an early education scheme in rural contexts replicated in one province; (4) Key players from the government, employer organizations, workers' associations, and civil society organizations trained to replicate the training plans for workers in early childhood centers; (5) an integrated system of indicators linked to the ENPI and public officers trained on how to use it.

¹²Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

¹³Scale=geographical expansion: local solutions adopted at the regional and national level or a national solution adopted in one or more countries.

Joint SDG Fund Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021
3.1: # of innovative solutions that were tested ¹⁴ (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	--	3 (a)
3.2: # of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead		4 (b)
3.3: # and share of countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened	1	1

- (a) Refers to: (1) an information system featuring data on the total supply of early childhood care services; (2) a software platform prototype featuring data on the total supply of early childhood care services; and (3) innovative financing tools for care services in early childhood centers.
- (b) Refers to: (1) Provincial Early Childhood Strategies designed in Chaco and Buenos Aires; (2) an intercultural scheme for providing early childhood care services to indigenous populations residing in rural areas replicated in one province; (3) an early education scheme for rural contexts replicated in one province; and (4) an integrated system of indicators linked to the ENPI built.

Joint SDG Fund Outcome 2: Additional financing leveraged to accelerate SDG achievement

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021
2.1: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scope ¹⁵ (disaggregated by source)	TBD (*)	TBD (*)
2.2: Ratio of financing for integrated multi-sectoral solutions leveraged in terms of scale ¹⁶ (disaggregated by source)	TBD (*)	TBD (*)

(*) Note: Even though private sector and social investors are expected to contribute to public investment, the size of such contribution cannot be calculated until innovative financing tools have been outlined, which are part of one of the activities of this JP.

¹⁴Each Joint Programme in the Implementation phase will test at least 2 approaches.

¹⁵Additional resources mobilized for other / additional sector/s

¹⁶Additional resources mobilized for the same multi-sectoral solution.

Joint SDG Fund Output 4: Integrated financing strategies for accelerating SDG progress implemented

Indicators	Targets	
	2020	2021
4.1: # of integrated financing strategies that were tested (disaggregated by % successful / unsuccessful)	--	1 (a)
4.2: # of integrated financing strategies that have been implemented with partners in lead ¹⁷	--	1 (b)
4.3: # of functioning partnership frameworks for integrated financing strategies to accelerate progress on SDGs made operational	--	1 (c)

- (a) Innovative financing tools for care services in early childhood centers
- (b) Innovative financing tools for care services in early childhood centers
- (c) Innovative financing tools for care services in early childhood centers

Joint SDG Fund Operational Performance Indicators

- Level of coherence of UN in implementing programme country¹⁸
- Reduced transaction costs for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other joint programmes in the country in question
- Annual % of financial delivery
- Joint programme operationally closed within original end date
- Joint programme financially closed 18 months after their operational closure
- Joint programme facilitated engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector)
- Joint programme included addressing inequalities (QCPR) and the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”
- Joint programme featured gender results at the outcome level
- Joint programme undertook or draw upon relevant human rights analysis, and have developed or implemented a strategy to address human rights issues

¹⁷ This will be disaggregated by (1) government/public partners (2) civil society partners and (3) private sector partners

¹⁸ Annual survey will provide qualitative information towards this indicator.

- Joint programme planned for and can demonstrate positive results/effects for youth
- Joint programme considered the needs of persons with disabilities
- Joint programme made use of risk analysis in programme planning
- Joint programme conducted do-no-harm / due diligence and were designed to take into consideration opportunities in the areas of the environment and climate change

2.2. Joint programme Results framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	2020 Target	2021 Target	Means of Verification	Responsible partner
Outcome 1 – Argentina will have designed and implemented social protection and inclusion policies aimed at the full exercise of social rights through universal access to essential quality services with a gender perspective and with particular emphasis on groups subjected to aggravated forms of discrimination.					
Number of jurisdictions with a Provincial Early Childhood Strategy designed	2	3	4	Provincial Early Childhood Strategy Documents	UNICEF
Outcome 2 – The country will have articulated employment, education and training policies for decent work aimed at reducing the informal economy and all forms of discrimination, especially promoting gender equality and the abolition of child labor.					
Percentage of workers of early childhood care centers in provinces incorporated into the JP who have attended some training programme on child development in the last 12 months	(*)	(*)	(*)	Reports from the Childhood Development Centers (CDIs) Reporting and Monitoring System (SIM – CDI)	ILO
Percentage of workers of early childhood care centers in provinces incorporated into the JP who received more than 50 hours of training in the last 12 months.					
Percentage of workers of early childhood care centers in provinces incorporated into the JP who received 25 to 50 hours of training in the last 12 months.					
Percentage of workers of early childhood care centers in provinces incorporated into this JP who have certified competencies.	(*)	(*)	(*)	Administrative records of the Undersecretariat of Early Childhood and records of the JP	ILO

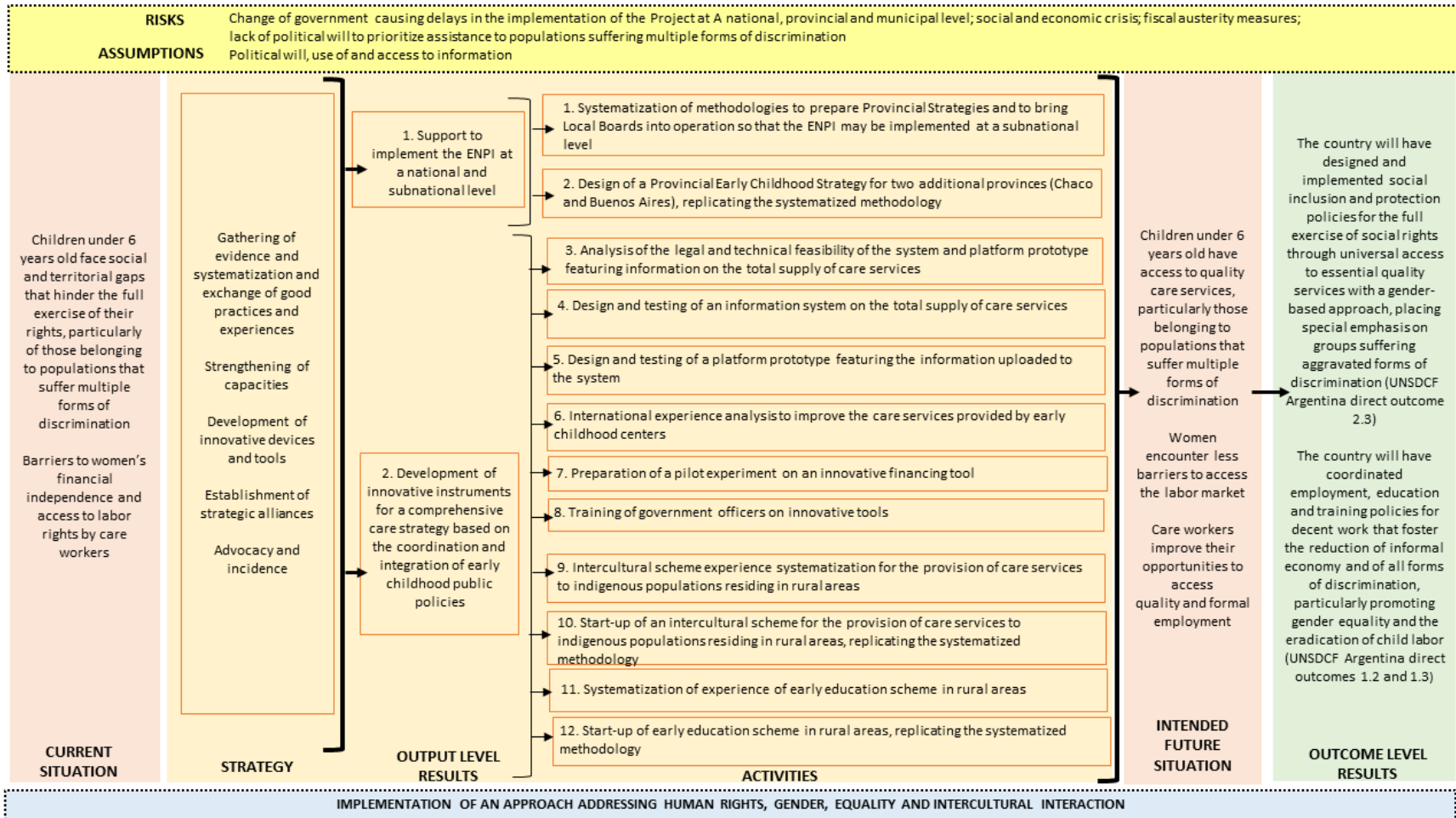
(*) Note: the information that will help define the baseline and goals for the next two years is currently being systematized. Data are expected to be available by December 2019.

Result / Indicators	Baseline	2020 Target	2021 Target	Means of Verification	Responsible partner
Output 1: Support the national and sub-national implementation of the ENPI					
Existence of a methodology for designing the Provincial Early Childhood Strategies	0	1	1	Methodology systematization document	UNICEF
Existence of a methodology for starting up Early Childhood Local Boards	0	1	1	Methodology systematization document	UNICEF
Number of Provincial Early Childhood Strategies designed replicating the designed methodology	2	3	4	EPPI documents	UNICEF
Output 2: Development of innovative instruments for a comprehensive care strategy, based on coordination and integration of public policies for early childhood					
Existence of a legal, technical and administration feasibility study on the system and a prototype platform featuring information on the supply of care services for early childhood	0	1	1	Feasibility study	ECLAC
Existence of a designed and tested information system prototype featuring data on the total supply of care services for early childhood	0	0	1	Document containing system design and testing	ECLAC
Existence of a software prototype (Minimum Viable Product) that helps account for the information entered into the system	0	0	1	Minimum Viable Product (MVP)	ECLAC
Report on the testing of the information system and the software platform that states the challenges for their effective application, information needs, strategies for accessing this information, and its potential utilization by users	0	0	1	Report on information contained in the platform	ECLAC
Existence of an assessment of international experience in improving care services in early childhood centers	0	1	1	Document containing experiences assessment	UNDP
Existence of a tested innovative financing tool for improving care services in early childhood centers	0	0	1	Document containing tool testing results	UNDP

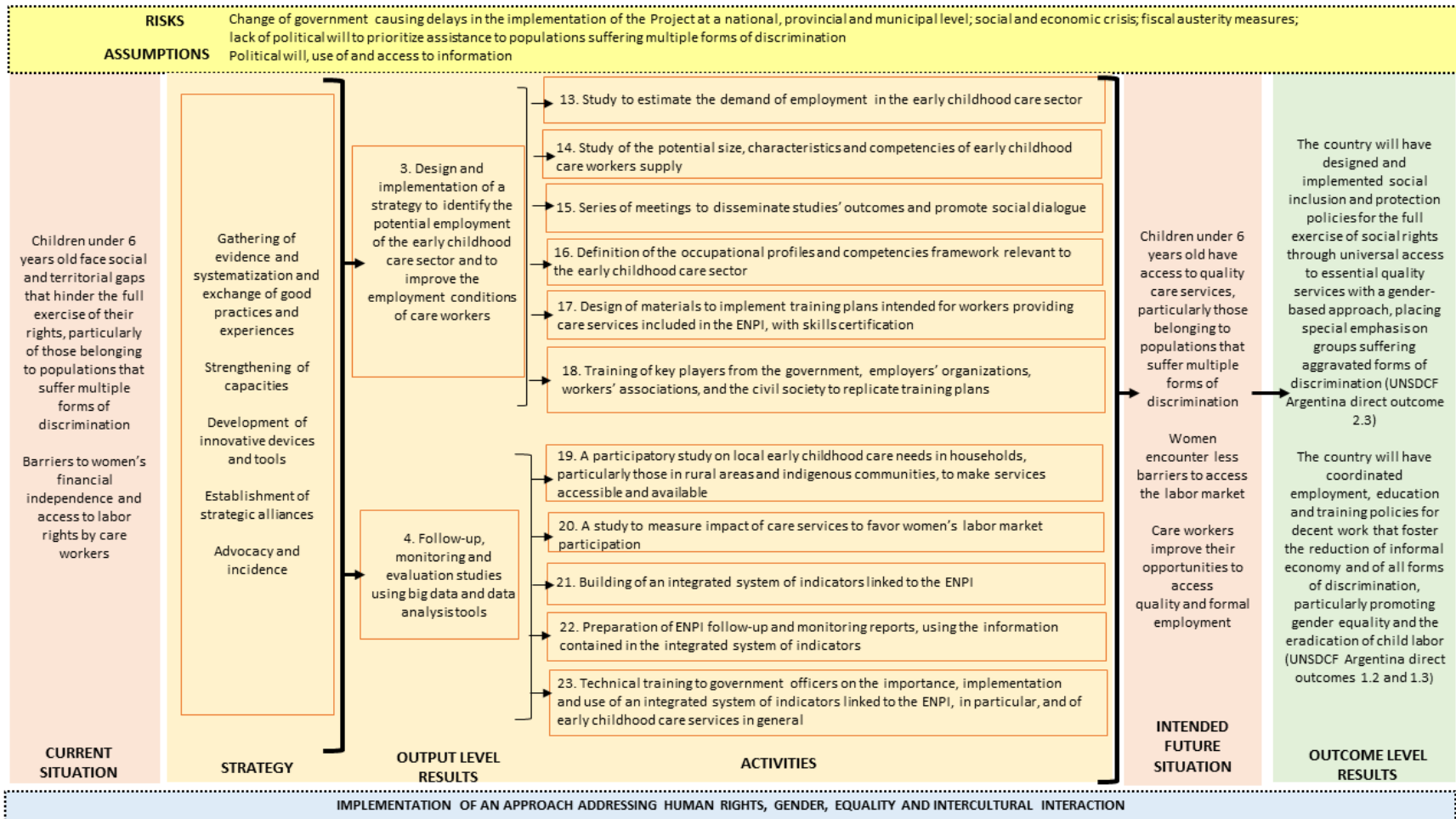
Number of public officers trained on the use of innovative tools, disaggregated by sex	0	0	60	Internal project records	UNDP
Existence of a systematization of intercultural scheme experience for providing early childhood care services to indigenous population residing in rural areas	0	1	1	Methodology systematization documents	UNICEF
Number of provinces that replicate the intercultural scheme to provide early childhood services to indigenous population residing in rural environments.	0	1	1	Internal project records	UNICEF
Existence of a systematization of early education scheme experience in rural areas	0	1	1	Methodology systematization documents	UNICEF
Number of provinces replicating the experience with early education scheme in rural environments	0	1	1	Internal project records	UNICEF
Output 3: Design and implementation of a strategy aimed at estimating the demand of employment for early childhood caregivers and improving working conditions of workers in the care sector					
Existence of studies estimating the demand for employment in the early childhood care sector	0	2	1	Documents of the studies	ILO
Existence of studies of potential size, characteristics and competencies of the supply of early childhood care workers	0	0	2	Documents of the studies	ILO
Number of meetings held in order to disseminate the results of the studies and promote social dialogue	0	0	5	Report of meetings held	ILO
Number of key stakeholders attending the meetings held, disaggregated by sex	0	0	150	Report of meetings held	ILO
Existence of a framework for defined competencies and occupational profiles relevant to the early childhood care sector	0	1	1	Document detailing the framework of competencies and occupational profiles	ILO
Number of materials designed for implementing training plans for the early childhood care workers included in the ENPI	0	0	1	Training materials designed	ILO
Number of training sessions carried out for replicating training plans	0	0	5	Internal project records	ILO

Number of key players from the government, employer organizations, workers' associations and civil society organizations who received training, disaggregated by sex	0	0	30	Internal project records	ILO
Output 4: Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation, using big data and other analytical tools					
Existence of a participatory study of local care needs in households, particularly in rural areas and indigenous communities, in order to make services accessible and available	0	1	1	Documents of the study	UNDP
Number of districts in which the participatory study was carried out	0	4	4	Internal project records	UNDP
Number of participants in the participatory study, disaggregated by sex	0	200	200	Internal project records	UNDP
Existence of a study to measure impact of care services to favor women's labor market participation	0	0	1	Document of the study	UNDP
Existence of an integrated system of indicators linked to the ENPI	0	0	1	Internal project records	UNDP - ECLAC
Number of monitoring and follow-up reports prepared on the ENPI, applying the information contained in the integrated system of indicators	0	0	4	Monitoring and follow-up reports	UNDP - ECLAC
Number of training sessions carried out	0	0	4	Internal project records	UNDP - ECLAC
Number of public officers trained on the use of the integrated system of indicators linked to the ENPI, disaggregated by sex	0	0	60	Internal project records	UNDP - ECLAC

Annex 3. Theory of Change graphic (part 1)



Annex 3. Theory of Change graphic (part 2)



Annex 4. Gender marker matrix

Indicator		Score	Findings and Explanation	Evidence or Means of Verification
N°	Formulation			
1.1	Context analysis integrate gender analysis	2	<p>The document analyzes how the unequal allocation of care activities impacts on women's labor market participation and how this relates to the existence of childcare spaces.</p> <p>Available statistical data were included in the document.</p>	Section 1.2 carries out a specific analysis, and section 1.1 includes references too
1.2	Gender Equality mainstreamed in proposed outputs	2	<p>At least two activities of the project exclusively contemplate the incorporation of the gender-based approach, carrying out specific studies on care needs at a local level and analyzing how the existence of early childhood care services favors women's labor market participation.</p> <p>The other activities will produce effects in terms of gender equality and women empowerment, though not exclusively.</p>	<p>Exclusively linked activities: 19 and 20</p> <p>The other activities are not exclusively linked. Their expected results are discussed in section 2.2.</p>
1.3	Programme output indicators measure changes on gender equality	2	<p>Gender-linked indicators represent 50% of the total set of 30 output indicators stated in the Results Framework (Annex 2.2).</p> <p>Such indicators include: (a) output indicators for those activities exclusively addressing the gender agenda (4 indicators for activities 19 and 20); (b) indicators measuring outputs that, owing to the fact that they refer to on-site activities, are expected to contribute to reducing gender inequalities with regard to early childhood caring activities, and thus contribute to improving women's labor participation (7 indicators measuring activities 1, 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12); and (c) indicators that will provide information disaggregated by sex (4 indicators for activities 8, 15, 18 and 23).</p>	Table of indicators (Annex 2.2)
2.1	PUNO collaborate and engage with Government on gender equality and	2	The government agencies involved use a gender-based approach.	National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENNAF, in Spanish) and National Council for

	the empowerment of women			Social Policy Coordination (CNCPS, in Spanish)
2.2	PUNO collaborate and engage with women's/gender equality CSOs	2	At least two organizations addressing gender perspective in care systems participate in the consultation to civil society.	ELA and CIPPEC (below is a list of organizations invited to the validation workshop)
3.1	Program proposes a gender-responsive budget	2	<p>Fifty-six percent of total direct costs of the JP are allocated to gender-related activities.</p> <p>This includes 2 activities exclusively linked to the gender agenda (activities 19 and 20, considered at 100% in this assessment).</p> <p>The Budgets for the other activities, which are not exclusively related to effects in terms of gender approach, were considered in these proportions: 50% (activities 1 to 15); 70% (activities 21 to 23) and 80% (activities 16 to 18).</p>	Annex 7.3
Total scoring		2		

Supplement to section 2.2 – List of organizations invited to the validation workshop

	Type of stakeholder	Organization	Key Player/s
1	NGO	Organización Mundial para la Educación Preescolar (OMEP)	Elvira Milano
2	NGO	Fundación IPNA	Cecilia Gasco / Eduardo del Aguila
3	NGO	Fundación CIPPEC	Gala Diaz Langou
4	NGO	ELA	Natalia Gherardi
5	NGO	Grupo Pharos	Erika Roffler
6	NGO	Fundación Kaleidos	Alejandra Scialabba
7	Academia	UBA Maestría en Primera Infancia	Mercedes Mayol
8	Academia	FLACSO	Pablo Vinocour / Raúl Mercer
9	Academia	UCA Observatorio	Ianina Tuñón

10	Scientific societies	Sociedad Argentina de Primera Infancia	Marcela Armus
11	Scientific societies	Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría	Gastón Pablo Pérez
12	Grassroots organizations	Fundación de Organización Comunitaria (FOC)	Elisa Pineda
13	Grassroots organizations	Movimiento Evita	Daiana Anadón
14	Corporations and foundations	Fundación Telefónica	Ignacio Chavero
15	Corporations and foundations	Fundación Petropack	Inés Artusi
16	Corporations and foundations	Banco Itaú / Fundación Itaú	Silvia Calvini / Alejandra Saldías
17	Workers' associations	Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT)	Gerardo Martínez, representative before the ILO's Governing Body / Marta Pujadas, head of the Legal Affairs Department / Susana Santomingo
18	Employers' organizations	Unión Industrial Argentina (UIA)	Pablo Dragún, representative before the ILO's Governing Body / and Laura Giménez, head of the Legislation and Social Policy Department.

Annex 5. Communication plan

1) Overall narrative of the joint programme

In Argentina, children and adolescents suffer higher poverty levels than other age groups, with 52,6% of children aged 0 to 17 residing in households with insufficient income (over 13,1% live in extreme poverty) (INDEC 2019). It is therefore imperative to act now in order to guarantee their rights and ensure a better future for them and for the country.

The challenges faced by early childhood care require an intersectoral approach in order to adequately address the different dimensions of children's development. One of such dimensions is related to the provision of care. Although the number of institutions offering these services has increased, there is still room for improving integrality and consistency to achieve a scale commensurate with a current and future demand of care that is sustainable in fiscal terms.

This JP aims to strengthen the implementation of the National Early Childhood Strategy (ENPI) seeking to reduce the social and territorial gaps affecting children's development during their early childhood, so as to ensure their full citizenship. The programme focuses on care workers and families who use care services, as well as on policy makers, and it is a joint effort between UNICEF, UNDP, ECLAC and the ILO, with the overall guidance of the RCO.

The JP targets girls and boys from the poorest households, particularly those from indigenous communities and those with disabilities, who experience multiple factors of exclusion and discrimination. Good practices at a provincial level will be systematized with the aim to replicate and escalate them to other jurisdictions and innovative instruments using new technologies will be developed such as: a public care services platform; innovative funding initiatives to strengthen care services; and comprehensive strategies addressing scattered rural areas with indigenous populations, and children with disabilities. An estimation of the demand for the employment of early childhood caregivers will also be developed to identify the potential volume, characteristics, and skills of the supply of workers in the care sector; as well as a strategy to improve the working conditions and the professionalization of these workers. Finally, big data and other analytical tools will be used for monitoring and evaluation of progress in the care services.

The support of the UNS to improve and increase the supply of quality care services for early childhood, as well as to enhance their accessibility, may speed up the achievement of Agenda 2030-related goals in a manner that is both strategic and innovative. A comprehensive early childhood development, care and preprimary education policy targeting the most vulnerable (SDG target 4.2) also seeks to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by mitigating care work inequalities and facing obstacles that prevent women from obtaining decent paid work (SDG target 5.4). In addition, by generating decent care jobs, childcare policies and services expand the care workforce, sustaining the demand for female and male employment and contributing to full and productive employment for all (8.5).

Argentina is committed to the accomplishment of the SDGs. In particular, this JP supports the idea that enhancing and strengthening care policies contribute to a fairer balance between family life and work life, generating conditions for women's enhanced labor participation, defamiliarization of care activities and breaking the intergenerational poverty cycle.

2) Strategic approach to key audiences

The strategic communication plan has a human rights, gender and intercultural approach with key messages that reinforce strategic lines and JP's objectives. The programme coordinator, in conjunction with the Resident Coordinator's Office and in collaboration with the implementing team, will be responsible for defining the necessary actions according to the targeted audiences.

Advocacy activities will be included in order to incorporate early childhood care into the public agenda, aiming at reducing inequalities and advancing the SDGs. Additionally, actions will be taken to raise awareness of the current bias in the burden of unpaid care, which lies mainly with women, so as to promote change.

Such messages must fundamentally address the structural discrimination and stereotypes faced by women, indigenous children and persons with disabilities by means of awareness and sensitization campaigns, plus specific training actions; thus, empowering the communities involved with knowledge.

The communication plan, as well as the materials produced, will seek effective communication and advocacy as an integral part of the process for implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Argentina, and will follow the communication guidelines for the SDGs and donor visibility requirements to ensure a consistent message and UN's strategic positioning in the country.

The strategic communication plan will take into account different recipients and target audiences and will include specific messages and differentiated actions for each case:

- National authorities: the main strategic partners of the JP (CNCPS and SENNAF) will contribute towards periodically disseminating key messages reinforcing the different strategic lines and objectives of the JP; thus, boosting its impact. Moreover, training will be given to officials; and advocacy activities derived from the diagnoses and evidence gathered within the framework of the JP will be conducted in order to strengthen capacities and contribute to decision-making processes.
- Provincial and local authorities: advocacy and incidence activities will be conducted to enable replication of the schemes developed in the pilot provinces / municipalities. Also, key messages will be agreed upon to disseminate and enhance programme strategy at a sub-national level.
- Legislators (both national and provincial): advocacy activities will be conducted to further the enactment of legislative frameworks.
- Families in charge of small children: specific dissemination, sensitization and training material will be prepared, with targeted messages (campaigns, brochures, face-to-face workshops, etc.), having regard to the specific features of indigenous populations, people with disabilities, and rural populations.
- Care centers workers in the pilot communities: specific dissemination and training materials will be prepared with targeted messages (campaigns, brochures, face-to-face training; etc.).
- Civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and labor unions: the aim is to enhance the partnership framework and the commitment of different stakeholders with quality care in early childhood.

As part of the strategic communication plan within the framework of the JP, at least one workshop will be conducted per district with the aim to analyze the care issue among users of early childhood services. In these spaces, discussions will revolve around gender stereotypes and the sexual division of labor in order to contribute towards reflection and to promote changes facilitating an equitable allocation of caring activities between men and women. Moreover, said discussions will enable the adaptation of messages and communication strategies so as to align them with the views gathered.

3) Objectives of strategic communication plan

The overall objectives of the strategic communication plan are to:

- advocate for the inclusion of early childhood care into the public agenda, aiming at reducing inequalities and advancing SDGs;
- support the dissemination of information available and knowledge for evidence-based decision making;
- raise awareness among families with small children, particularly mothers, of their rights and their children's, providing them with further information for their upbringing;
- reinforce the reputation of care workers and their working conditions to foster quality service;
- mobilize resources, efforts and commitments of several stakeholders to strengthen care services in early childhood.

An important element of communication will be a strong digital strategy which will accompany all project activities. A joint strategy will be agreed upon among all agencies to boost the regular means of dissemination and to share messages. Social networks will be used for awareness raising campaigns and disseminating information and updates on the project. Besides, training and/or engagement opportunities will be ideal for reinforcing key messages.

To measure the progress and the effectiveness of the communication plan and its objectives, the Program will be looking, among others, at the following key performance indicators that will particularly make use of social media:

- Potential reach. Sum of viewership for publications and websites in which the coverage is featured.
- Earned traffic. The number of visitors driven to the microsite website.
- Share of voice. Percentage of coverage for the JP, messages or high-profile spokesperson and analyze the corresponding media coverage.
- Social media engagement. Number of followers, shares and comments the campaign receives.
- Sentiment. Tone of the articles mentioning the JP and topics related.
- Media outreach. The number of press releases and pitches the JP is sending out and how they are performing, and measure of the progress in building relationships with journalists.
- Quality of coverage. The placement of the JP mention (headline, body) and its prominence in the article's content.
- Geographical presence. Volume of coverage based on location.
- Number of participants. How many people are taking part or participating in events, workshops, conferences and partnerships.

The JP will make use of the different UN agencies’ communication channels in order to maximize the reach of its key messages. News on the JP will be regularly published on the websites of each agency and other colleagues will be periodically briefed on the developments so they can also serve as spokespeople of the programme.

4) Main activities

The programme coordinator will be in charge, together with the communication departments of each agency, of developing a specific communication workplan at the beginning of the JP, aligned and instrumental to the delivery of the JP’s outputs. An exhaustive list of activities, with the appropriate methods and channels, milestones and a timeline will be developed but will include, among others, the following activities:

- Designing and developing the strategic communication plan according to brand guidelines
- Designing a digital and a face-to-face strategy
- Organizing public events jointly to disseminate achievements and results
 - Strategic moments:
 - Project launch
 - Political instances according to the scenario in each province
 - Launching particular activities: for example, beginning the process for the Preparation of Provincial Strategies, conducting participatory diagnoses, launching a care services digital platform, meetings for disseminating the studies performed, among other activities
 - Project Closure
- Developing multimedia material (banners, infographics, videos, testimonials, articles, etc.)
- Ensuring traditional media presence by giving interviews to journalists
- Finding an Ambassador/Ambadress among local celebrities to represent the cause
- Developing a space on UN Argentina’s website to disseminate and share all the information, findings, and results of the project
- Developing materials for the media (press releases, etc.)
- Designing the closure strategy sharing materials to disseminate results, lessons learned and a final report

Communication channels that will be used include:

- Media
- Social networks
- Printed material
- Public relations: celebrities, influencers, journalists
- Face-to-face events
- Advertising (pro bono)

The programme coordinator will dispose of a budget of USD 27,000 for communication for the whole JP and resources have been assigned to each UN agency for them to carry out

specific communication activities, making use of their own infrastructure, network and according to the timeline of their planned activities. Notwithstanding, the programme coordinator, in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator's Office will monitor and report on the communication plan, ensuring that it serves the objectives of the JP.

Annex 6. Learning and Sharing Plan

1) Strategic approach to learning and sharing

The main goal of this JP is to prioritize the implementation of the National Early Childhood Strategy, raise awareness on the need to safeguard children's rights and guarantee certain quality care standards. The strategy devised to share knowledge and learning will go hand in hand with the communication plan seeking changes in attitude, behavior and legislation to prioritize children's care, particularly in the provinces where the project will be implemented. Many of the planned activities consist in increasing the knowledge base and sharing it with relevant stakeholders, in such a way that the learning and sharing plan will, in essence, be the effective delivery of the JP.

A fundamental part of the JP will be surveying and systematizing information, which will provide the JP and policy makers, with a valuable instrument to create structured knowledge. The systematization of the experiences in the Provincial Strategies and Early Childhood Local Boards experiences carried out in 2019 (activity 1) will serve as reference for its replication in the provinces of Chaco and Buenos Aires (activity 2) and will be crucial in identifying the necessary adaptations to scale up the models; capturing best practices during the implementation process; understanding the critical elements and risks related to the implementation process and fundamental in facilitating a transfer of models, experiences and lessons learned to different provinces.

The JP will also gather new evidence linked to care actions. Innovative platforms will be used to collect data on the supply of early childhood care services and, additionally, a study will be conducted on the potential volume, characteristics and competencies of care workers. Furthermore, a study estimating the demand for employment in the early childhood care sector and a participatory diagnosis to survey household's care needs will be conducted. These studies will be useful to understand more thoroughly the scenario where the National Early Childhood Strategy is to be implemented.

Evidence gathered during the JP will be discussed and validated with the institutional counterparts, to create awareness and sensitize policy makers, focusing on problems that are being solved, and how the selected alternatives work in its solution. Training will be provided to policy makers and the social actors involved in this area and within the priority territories. Technical support will be given to authorities in order to facilitate knowledge ownership conducive to informed decision making, and the necessary capacities will be built to continuously feed the sources of information created, once the JP has been completed.

The aim of making the issue of early childhood care visible and training the main stakeholders with reliable information will be to promote the changes required at a governmental and legislative level, and to empower the populations suffering multiple forms of discrimination. Thus, the work will also be focused on knowledge dissemination through gatherings, publications, media presence and the agencies' websites. Besides, key players representing the government, social organizations, employers and workers will be trained on the use of

the new tools and platforms created in order to replicate the training plans designed within the programme framework, multiplying the effect on actions.

The knowledge gathered during the programme will be disseminated within the scope of the periodical meetings of UN interagency groups in Argentina (UNCT, UNSDCF results groups, the interagency group on gender and Human Rights, the interagency group on communications), as a means to foster feedback with other parallel initiatives. Given the simultaneous implementation of the Spotlight programme, for instance, which mainly addresses the rights of women, it is possible to delve into social dynamics affecting the early childhood care sector which are not covered by this programme. Thus, the findings of either programme will be shared periodically by means of meetings, platforms and reports to reinforce their dissemination and maximize the scope of advocacy as well as to maximize the opportunities to continuously improve and feed the JP from the experience of other programmes.

2) Objectives of learning and sharing

We expect to gather and share knowledge and systematize work methodologies, good practices and lessons learned, in order to attain the JP's desired results, maximizing the impact on enhanced children's care conditions.

Progress will be assessed with the studies planned, their dissemination, and the way they are used to design policies, such as, other provincial Early Childhood strategies, new programmes or any enacted or amended legislation. A comprehensive list of indicators designed to measure the progress of the learning and sharing plan will be developed by the programme coordinator in close collaboration with all the involved UN agencies at the beginning of the programme.

3) Main activities

Almost all the activities planned in this JP consist in either gathering knowledge or disseminating the lessons learned by them with relevant stakeholders to assist in policy making. Each agency will be responsible for keeping a record of the progress made in their activities, investing the necessary resources to systematically gather information and communicating the lessons learned to the members of the JP to provide feedback on the work of all outputs.

The programme coordinator, in conjunction with the Resident Coordinator's Office and in collaboration with the implementing team, will be responsible for defining a means for sharing knowledge and lessons learned and monitoring the achievement of milestones and overall progress. S/he will set a timeline establishing the instances in which information and knowledge is to be shared. UNICEF, as the leading agency, will be in charge of providing updates to all agencies on the progress made with respect to the ENPI as well as assistance in the incorporation of findings into the activities performed in any exchanges with the government. Additionally, each agency will contribute to sharing the knowledge gained in collaboration with their counterparts, by means of the activities planned and/or the communication channels established in this JP.

Annex 7. Budget and Work Plan

7.1 Budget per UNSDG categories

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	PUNO 1 (UNICEF)		PUNO 2 (CEPAL)		PUNO 3 (OIT)		PUNO 4 (PNUD)		TOTAL	
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)
1. Staff and other personnel	27.700	407.902	55.000	93.300	132.000	86.300		12.498	214.700	600.000
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	0		0				12.059			
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	0		0		2.800		5.000		7.800	
4. Contractual services	206.400		300.000		160.000		651.800		1.318.200	
5.Travel	112.000		20.000		42.201		43.000		217.201	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	0		0		0				0	
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs					66.199		33.000		99.199	
Total Direct Costs	346.100		375.000		403.200		744.859		1.869.159	
8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	24.227	26.250	28.224	52.140	130.841					
TOTAL Costs	370.327	407.902	401.250	93.300	431.424	86.300	796.999	12.498	2.000.000	600.000
1st year	200.000	203.951	125.000	46.650	150.000	43.150	410.000	6.249	885.000	300.000
2nd year	170.327	203.951	276.250	46.650	281.424	43.150	386.999	6.249	1.115.000	300.000

The total requested budget of USD 2,000,000 is evenly distributed amongst the different agencies, approximately 20% of which is allocated to each of these. Direct costs amount to USD 1,869,159, while indirect costs amount to USD 130,841. UNDP is allocated a higher percentage of the budget since it will be dealing with the logistic coordination of the JP, led by the RCO. To that end, a project coordinator and an administrative assistant will be hired. Around 65% of the budget will be allocated to consulting and external contracts for the specific outputs sought to be developed by the JP, which require specialists in different areas. Personnel costs represent 10% of the total budget, and the same proportion is expected to cover mission trips to the different provinces. Given the territorial and topic scope of the JP, it will be essential for consultants, project personnel and specialists from the different agencies to be able to travel to the target territories.

All agencies will make in-kind contributions by allocating a percentage of their personnel, which percentage will vary depending on the agency, to ensure the proper implementation of the JP. UNICEF will make a greater contribution in this regard, given that it is currently implementing two projects of associated initiatives, specified in annex 1, which provide a direct contribution to this JP. One of these projects is related to "Early education in rural areas", while the other project is the "MICS" survey, which provides data updated on the situation of children and adolescents, including a specific module on early childhood, the results of which will be essential for all JP actions.

7.2 Budget per SDG targets

SDG TARGETS		%	USD
4,2	Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education	33,33%	966.667
5,4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family	33,33%	966.667
8,5	Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	33,33%	966.667
TOTAL		100,00%	2.900.000

The budget will contribute towards three SDG targets, namely:

4.2 Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family

8.5 Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Given the interconnection of these three targets and the special characteristics of early childhood labor, encompassing issues such as social protection, gender, the value of unpaid care work and informal work, the JP budget was allocated in equal parts to each of these targets, that is to say, USD 966,667 to each SDG target impacted by the proposal. Also, the work performed by each of the agencies within the framework of this proposal will contribute towards all of the SDG targets selected, recognizing that decent work may not be achieved without acknowledging unpaid care and domestic work and vice versa; and neither may protection systems be applied without reliable and updated data.

7.3 Work plan

Outcome 1			Argentina will have designed and implemented social protection and inclusion policies aimed at the full exercise of social rights through universal access to essential quality services with a gender perspective and with particular emphasis on groups subjected to aggravated forms of discrimination																	
Output	Annual target/s		List of activities	Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET				PUNO/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved			
	2020	2021		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)	Total Cost (USD)					
Output 1 Support the national and subnational implementation of the ENPI	1 methodology systematization document; 3 EPPIs	1 methodology systematization document; 4 EPPIs	Methodologies systematization to prepare Provincial Strategies and to bring Local Boards into operation	X	X	X	X								Consulting work focused on the proposed mechanisms aimed at the involvement of the most vulnerable groups (women, children in low-income households, children with disabilities, and children in indigenous communities). It involves missions to the aforementioned provinces and meetings held with the government areas responsible for these issues / populations.	150.000	173.600	323.600	UNICEF	Provincial Governments, National Council for Social Policy Coordination, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENNAF, in Spanish).
			Design of a Provincial Early Childhood Strategy for two additional provinces (Chaco and Buenos Aires), replicating the systematized methodology			X	X	X	X	X										
Output 2 Development of innovative instruments for a comprehensive care strategy, based on coordination and integration of public policies for early childhood	1 Feasibility study; 1 Document featuring tool design	1 Document featuring system design and testing; Minimum Viable Product (MVP); 1 Report of the information contained in the platform	Analysis of the legal and technical feasibility of the system and platform prototype featuring information on the total supply of care services (public and private)	X	X	X								Research and consulting for the feasibility study, design and testing of a digital platform of care services. It involves the use of existing information (i.e.: Reporting and Monitoring System of Childhood Development Centers, - SIM-CD) and other information currently dispersed. It involves meetings held with the relevant organizations.	305.000	46.650	351.650	ECLAC	SENNAF and provincial governments (Education and Social Development areas)	
			Design and testing of an information system on the total supply of care services			X	X	X												
			Design and testing of a platform prototype featuring the information uploaded to the system						X	X	X	X								
	1 Document featuring tool design	1 Document featuring tool design; 1 Document featuring tool testing results; 60 officers trained	International experience analysis to improve the care services provided by early childhood centers	X	X	X								Consulting work to design an innovative tool and to implement it. Afterwards, officers will receive training on the use of such tools.	300.000	6.249	306.249	UNDP	Private sector, SENNAF and organizations from the third sector	
			Preparation of a pilot experiment on an innovative financing tool			X	X	X												
			Training of government officers on innovative tools							X	X	X								
1 Methodology systematization document; 1 Province replicates the intercultural scheme	1 Methodology systematization document; 1 Province replicates the intercultural scheme	Intercultural scheme experience systematization for the provision of care services to indigenous populations residing in rural areas	X	X	X	X							Consulting work to survey and document intercultural experiences. It involves missions to the aforementioned provinces and meetings held with representatives of indigenous populations.	196.100	250.002	446.102	UNICEF	Provincial Governments (education and social development areas, areas responsible for policies aimed at indigenous populations, persons with disabilities and gender policies)		
		Start-up of early education scheme in rural areas, replicating the systematized methodology				X	X	X	X	X										
		Systematization of early education scheme experience in rural areas	X	X	X	X														
		Start-up of early education scheme in rural areas, replicating the systematized methodology					X	X	X	X										

Outcome 2			The country will have articulated employment, education and training policies for decent work aimed at reducing the informal economy and all forms of discrimination, especially promoting gender equality and the abolition of child labor.																	
Joint programme management			List of activities	Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET			PUNO/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)			Total Cost (USD)			
Output 3 Design and implementation of a strategy aimed at estimating the demand of employment for early childhood caregivers and improving working conditions of workers in the care sector	2 studies	1 study	Study to estimate the demand for employment in the early childhood care sector	X	X	X	X	X	X					Consulting for research and publication of results.	403.200	70.600	473.800	ILO	Provincial Governments (education and social development areas, areas responsible for policies aimed at indigenous populations, persons with disabilities and responsible for gender policies), Ministry of Production and Labor, Labor Risks Superintendence (SRT), National Institute of Technological Education (INET), National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC), Employers' Organizations, Trade Unions	
		2 studies	Study of the potential size, characteristics and competencies of care workers supply			X	X	X												
	1 Document detailing the framework of occupational profiles and competencies	5 meetings with 150 participants	Series of meetings to disseminate studies' outcomes and promote social dialogue					X	X	X										It involves seminars for dissemination in tripartite spheres.
		1 Document detailing the framework of occupational profiles and competencies	Definition of the framework of occupational profiles and competencies relevant to the early childhood care sector			X	X	X	X				Consulting work after dialog with relevant stakeholders. Production of training materials and training cycles in the provinces.							
		1 training kit	Design of materials to implement training plans intended for workers providing care services included in the ENPI, with skills certification			X	X	X												
		5 training sessions with 30 qualified key players	Training of key players in the government, employers' organizations, workers' associations, and in civil society organizations to replicate training plans (trainer training)					X	X	X	X									
Output 4 Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation, using big data and other analytical tools	1 Diagnosis document; 4 participatory diagnosis workshops	1 Diagnosis document; 4 participatory diagnosis workshops	Participatory study on local household early childhood care needs, particularly those in rural areas and indigenous communities, to make services accessible and available		X	X	X	X	X					It involves missions to the provinces, conducting interviews and workshops with target populations.	44.000	6.249	50.249	UNDP	Provincial and municipal governments, representatives of indigenous communities	
		1 study	Simulation study of the impact of access to care services on the enhanced participation of women in the local labor market					X	X	X										
	4 monitoring and follow-up reports	1 integrated indicators system	Building of an integrated indicators system related to the ENPI				X	X	X	X			Consulting for research and design of an integrated system. Publication of reports and training seminars for government officers.	150.000	46.650	196.650	UNDP and ECLAC	National Tax and Social Security Identification System – SINTY5, SENNAF, INDEC, National Social Security Administration (ANSeS), provincial governments		
		4 training sessions	Technical training to government officers on the importance, implementation and use of an integrated indicators system related to the ENPI, in particular, and of early childhood care services in general					X	X	X	X									
Programme Management Costs																				
Programme Coordination				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Programme coordinator costs, coordination trips, administrative assistant and office expenses (including the acquisition of computers)	200.359					
Monitoring and Evaluation				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	It represents 5% of the Monitoring and Final Evaluation budget	93.500					
Communications				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	It includes dissemination and visibility costs which are supplemental to the specific activities	27.000					
Total Direct Costs															1.869.159	600.000				
Programme Support Costs (7%)															130.841					
Total Costs															2.000.000					

The budget is divided into 4 main outputs for which different agencies are responsible. Tool and platform development and research activities will be conducted mostly during the first year, while in the second year the focus will be placed on disseminating the results obtained and training the relevant counterparts. Workshops will be conducted, and knowledge will be disseminated within the UN, among the government, constituents and the general public. For the performance of these activities, budgets have been allocated to each agency, and a budget item has been specifically included to reinforce communication from the JP's coordination, following the communication plan established.

ECLAC, UNICEF and UNDP will all contribute to the design of innovative tools, while ILO will be responsible for designing and implementing a strategy to identify the employment potential in the early childhood care sector and to improve care workers' working conditions as part of output 3. Under output 4, follow-up, monitoring and evaluations will be conducted, using big data and other analytical tools (UNDP and ECLAC). Even though the actions performed by each agency will contribute towards gender equality, UNDP will conduct, under output 4, specific studies to measure early childhood care needs at a local level from the point of view of women and the impact of care services to favor women's labor market participation.

Finally, USD 93,500 are expected to be allocated to follow up on the progress made throughout both years and to conduct a final evaluation to analyze the consistency and the results of the JP as a whole.

Annex 8. Risk Management Plan

Risks	Risk Level:	Likelihood:	Impact:	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks					
Change of government causing delays in the implementation of the Project	16	4	4	Strengthening work with sub-national government levels. Working with Presidential candidates from different parties in order to position the early childhood agenda	UN Agencies
Aggravation of the economic and social crisis causing childhood issues to be relegated to the bottom of the political agenda	12	3	4	Developing advocacy and incidence activities with governments so that they prioritize early childhood care in their political agendas	UN Agencies
Fiscal austerity measures implying reduced investment in early childhood care	16	4	4	Developing advocacy and incidence activities with the governments so that they prioritize early childhood care in their political agendas	UN Agencies
Lack of political will to prioritize assistance to populations suffering multiple forms of discrimination	8	2	4	Including communication and awareness raising activities from the outset of the project, focusing on the use of evidence	UN Agencies
Programmatic risks					
Lack of governmental interest in developing a Provincial Strategy in Chaco and Buenos Aires	9	3	3	Substituting them for any other similar province that has shown an interest in developing its EPPI and for which governmental approval has already been obtained	UNICEF
Lack of legal feasibility to set up an information system and a software platform featuring the entire supply of care services (particularly information	6	3	2	Building an information system and the software platform exclusively regarding organizations that offer care services, or fostering the use of	ECLAC

about individuals or private institutions)				specific technologies (e.g. blockchain) to encrypt the users' personal data	
Insufficiency of relevant stakeholders to participate in initiatives concerning innovative financing mechanisms, owing to poor knowledge of these initiatives	9	3	3	The UNDP will partner with existing organizations in the country that have already been working on innovative financing schemes and will maximize the participation opportunities for new stakeholders	UNDP
Insufficiency of funds to attain financial sustainability of the innovative instrument at an experimental level	9	3	3	The UNPD will advocate with the government to create appropriate and favorable environments for the incorporation of non-traditional stakeholders	UNDP
Lack of will of provincial authorities to finance the implementation of an intercultural scheme to provide care services to indigenous populations residing in rural areas and/or the education scheme in rural environments	16	4	4	Inclusion of a costing exercise with defined funding sources in order to measure the expected provincial investment, as part of the systematization of experiences to be carried out	UNICEF
Lack of available information that makes it possible to estimate the demand for care services at a regional or provincial level	9	3	3	Carrying out the study at a country level, based on existing data	ILO
Difficulty in reaching an agreement with the Child Development Centers which take part in the ENPI regarding the minimum required quality standards with relation to working conditions of their workers	16	4	4	From the outset of the Project social dialogue initiatives will be set up which will make it possible to agree on decent working conditions	ILO
Institutional risks					
Weak planning capacities of provincial teams	12	4	3	Inclusion of technical support to provincial teams as part of the strategy of this JP	UNICEF
Poor willingness of decision-makers to use the information generated for monitoring the ENPI and (re)design policies	8	2	4	Inclusion of communication and awareness-raising activities from the outset of the project, with a focus on the use of evidence	UN Agencies

Fiduciary risks					

As regards the future scenarios that may have a bearing on the implementation of the JP, one of the main **contextual** risks lies in the potential effects of the changes of government resulting from national and provincial executive and legislative elections across the country in 2019. This is likely to bring about a delay in the implementation of the JP at a national level. To mitigate this risk, action will be taken to strengthen work with sub-national governments, with which joint efforts have already been made as part of the ENPI. Additionally, UNICEF has been working with the main presidential candidates, both the candidate of the political party currently in office and the candidate of the opposition, in order to highlight the importance of continuing the efforts of the ENPI. Specifically, this was included in one of the main recommendations made in the [position paper](#) and campaign designed by UNICEF for the presidential election, which was presented and discussed in special meetings held with the President and the main opposition candidate.

Additionally, with regard to the change of government authorities, a number of scenarios might arise where fiscal austerity policies are implemented, leading to reduced investment in early childhood care, or even the aggravation of the economic and social crisis. In order to mitigate its effects, communication, advocacy and incidence actions are contemplated with the governments so that they prioritize early childhood assistance and care in their political agendas, particularly in populations subjected to multiple forms of discrimination. In connection with the foregoing, another risk is a potential lack of political will to prioritize assistance to populations subjected to multiple forms of discrimination, for which purpose the communication and awareness-raising activities planned at the outset of the project will be carried out, focusing on the use of evidence. All agencies involved in the project will participate in these mitigation measures.

One of the main **programmatic** risks for **Output 1** is that the provincial governments of Chaco and Buenos Aires reduce or simply lack any interest in developing their respective Provincial Strategies. This possibility is based on the declining interest of the government of Chaco in developing its provincial strategy and the recent incorporation of the province of Buenos Aires into the project. If any of these scenarios should materialize, UNICEF will choose to substitute these provinces for other similar provinces which have expressed an interest in developing their EPPIs and for which governmental approval has been obtained.

The main risks affecting **Output 2** involve three of the activities contemplated. Firstly, a risk has been identified with regard to the lack of legal feasibility to set up an information system and a software platform featuring the total supply of care services (particularly information regarding individuals or private institutions), for which the ECLAC proposes two alternative mitigation strategies: either building the platform featuring information exclusively on organizations offering care services, excluding individuals, or using specific technologies (e.g. blockchain) to encrypt users' personal data. Additionally, in relation to the innovative financial instruments, two risks exist: a potential insufficiency of relevant stakeholders due to poor knowledge of these instruments in Argentina and the insufficiency of funds to attain the financial sustainability of the pilot instrument. In order to address these risks, it is expected that the UNDP will partner with existing organizations in the country that are already working

on this agenda, and that opportunities for new stakeholders to participate will be maximized, with a view to addressing the former risk; also, advocacy activities are to be conducted with the government to create appropriate environments and set up favorable policies for incorporating non-traditional stakeholders, with a view to addressing the latter risk.

Lastly, with regard to Output 2, a scenario may arise where provincial authorities may lack political will to finance the implementation of the intercultural scheme aimed at providing care services to indigenous population residing in rural areas and/or the education scheme in rural environments. As a mitigation measure, UNICEF plans to include a costing exercise that involves defining financing sources – in order to size the expected provincial investment – as part of the systematization of experiences.

As regards **Output 3**, one of the main risks concerns the lack of available information that helps carry out a study estimating the demand for care services at a regional or provincial level. The proposed mitigation strategy is to carry out the study on a country level, on the basis of existing data. Another risk involves potential difficulties in reaching an agreement with the Child Development Centers that make up the ENPI with regard to the minimum quality standards required in connection with the working conditions of their workers. Faced with such a situation, social dialogue initiatives will be arranged at the outset of the project which will make it possible to agree on decent working conditions for them.

Institutional risks include potential weaknesses in the planning capacities of the provincial teams. In order to address these risks, technical support has been included as part of the strategy of this JP, for which UNICEF is responsible. Finally, it has been considered that decision makers may have little willingness to use the information gathered to monitor the ENPI and (re)design policies. In connection with this, we anticipate communication and awareness raising activities to be carried out from the outset of the project with a view to mitigating these risks.

ANNEX 9 – Cooperation areas, direct outcomes and outputs of the UNSDCF linked to this Joint Program

Cooperation Area	Outcome	Outputs
<p>COOPERATION AREA 1: Inclusive and sustainable economic development</p>	<p>Outcome 1.2: The country will have coordinated employment, education and training policies for decent work, particularly among the young, aimed at raising employment levels and employment quality, also promoting the development of human resources consistent with the needs of productive development.</p> <p>Outcome 1.3: The country will have implemented strategies that foster the reduction of informal economy and of all forms of discrimination, particularly promoting gender equality and the eradication of child labor.</p>	<p>Output 1.2.1. Employment. The capacities of the government and social stakeholders for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies have been strengthened for creating employment and improving professional competencies, with a gender perspective.</p> <p>Output 1.3.1. Reduction of informality. New strategies have been promoted and new knowledge has been gained to reduce informality, unregistered employment and job insecurity with a focus on critical sectors and vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>COOPERATION AREA 2: Protection and universal access to essential services</p>	<p>Outcome 2.3: The country will have designed and implemented social inclusion and protection policies for the full exercise of social rights through universal access to essential quality services with a gender-based approach, placing special emphasis on groups suffering aggravated forms of discrimination</p>	<p>Output 2.3.1. Social Protection. A contribution has been made to help improve the quality of social protection/security, and to expand its coverage, and its governance through technical assistance, generating discussion initiatives, evaluations, sustainability studies and reviews of the legal framework.</p> <p>Output 2.3.2. Care Policies. Efforts have been made to promote the development of a comprehensive care policy that implies promoting personal autonomy and assistance to dependent persons.</p>
<p>COOPERATION AREA 3: Citizenry and Promotion of Human Rights</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1: The country will have implemented public policies aimed at preventing, addressing and reducing inequalities, and all forms of discrimination and/or violence based on gender, age,</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1. Inequality and discrimination. A contribution has been made to apply laws, public policies, programs and institutional schemes aimed at eradicating inequality and discrimination based on nationality (migrant persons, refugees and asylum</p>

	sexual orientation, ethnic origin, nationality or disability.	seekers) and ethnic origin and against vulnerable persons (i.e. persons with HIV, persons deprived of their freedom, drug users, sex workers and disabled persons).
		Output 3.1.3. Protection of children and adolescents. A contribution has been made to help strengthen protection systems for children and adolescents at the various jurisdictional levels.

Annex 10: Information on indigenous populations in the provinces of Chaco, Jujuy, Salta and Buenos Aires

	Chaco	Jujuy	Salta	Buenos Aires
Percentage of population who recognize themselves as indigenous	3.9%	7.8%	6.5%	2%
Percentage of indigenous population who live in urban areas	58.5%	66.9%	57.4%	93%
Percentage of indigenous population who live in rural areas	41.4%	33.1%	42.5%	7%
Illiteracy rates among: a. indigenous men b. indigenous women	a. 12.4% b. 16.3%	a. 2.0% b. 5.4%	a. 6.8% b. 11%	a. 1.6% b. 1.3%
Percentage of indigenous population over 3 years who: a. currently attends an educational institution b. attended one c. has never attended one	a. 39.5% b. 46.6% c. 13.9%	a. 39.1% b. 56.2% c. 4.7%	a. 39.9% b. 51.1% c. 9.6%	a. 36.4% b. 61.6% c. 2.0%
Rate of activity among: a. indigenous men b. indigenous women	a. 59.9% b. 31.6%	a. 70% b. 47.7%	a. 62.3% b. 36.1%	a. 79.4% b. 58%

Source: author's compilation based on the 2010 Population, Households and Dwellings National Census.
2010 Census of Native Peoples. Argentine Northeast Region, Argentine Northwest Region and Argentine Pampean Region.

Annex 11: SDGs targets to which this JP will contribute

Target 4.2. Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education.

Indicator	Baseline	Latest updated figure	Mid-term target
<p>4.2.1. Rate of enrollment in early childhood education within a specified period (1 year) prior to enrollment in primary education</p> <p>Definition: Percentage of first graders or primary school pupils who attended preschool level 5.</p>	<p>97.30</p> <p>Source: 2014 Annual Survey - Directorate of Educational Infraestructure and Equipment (DIEE, in Spanish). Argentine Ministry of Education</p>	Unknown	<p>100.0</p> <p>2021 Target</p>
<p>4.2.2. Rate of enrollment in early education – 4-year-old level</p> <p>Definition: Percentage of the population enrolled in each educational level whose age corresponds with the expected age of course attendants, as against the aggregate population of such age group.</p>	<p>80.70</p> <p>Source: 2014 Annual Survey - DIEE. Ministry of Education of Argentina</p>	Unknown	<p>100.0</p> <p>2021 Target</p>
<p>4.2.3. Rate of enrollment in early education – 3-year-old level</p> <p>Definition: Percentage of the population enrolled in each educational level whose age corresponds with the expected age of course attendants, as against the aggregate population of such age group.</p>	<p>38.28</p> <p>Source: 2014 Annual Survey - DIEE. Argentine Ministry of Education</p>	Unknown	<p>52.10</p> <p>2021 Target</p>

Source: CNCPS, 2018a

According to the Survey on Living Conditions of Children and Adolescents (ECOVNA, in Spanish) (UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Development, 2013), out of the aggregate of children aged 0-4 residing in urban areas in Argentina, 32% attended some form of children development center.

The National Survey of Children and Adolescents, which is currently being updated, will provide more recent information. This may be considered an additional datum supplementing the official information, gathered by the CNCPS to follow up on the SDGs targets.

Target 5.4. Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family.

Indicator	Baseline	Latest updated figure	Mid-term target
5.4.1. Gap between the time spent on unpaid care work by men and women per day Definition: Ratio between the average daily hours spent on unpaid work by women and those spent by men.	The gap between the average time spent on unpaid work between women and men is 1.88 times Source: Survey on Unpaid work and Time-use (INDEC) – 2013	Unknown	Bridge the gap between the time spent on unpaid domestic work to 1.69 2023 Target

Source: CNCPS, 2018a

Target 8.5. Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value¹⁹.

Indicator ²⁰	Baseline	Latest updated figure	Mid-term target
8.5.1. Employment rate for the working age population Definition: Coefficient between the employed working age population and the working age	62.8% Source: Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social	63.6% 2017	64.2% 2023 Target

¹⁹ This target was adapted for Argentina. Its final wording is as follows: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all and equal pay for work of equal value.

²⁰ It incorporates such indicators defined for target 8.5 which are mostly linked to the issue addressed by this JP.

population (aged 16 to 65) expressed as a percentage.	Security (MTEySS, in Spanish), on data from the Permanent Household Survey and the Generation of Income Account, Projections of CNPyV, INDEC; Children's Activities Survey – MTEySS and Administrative Records of Social Security, ANSES and AFIP – 2016		
8.5.2. Employment rate recorded Definition: Coefficient between the employed population registered with Social Security and the working age population (aged between 18 and 65).	43.5% 2016 (same source as previous data)	44.0% 2017	47.5% 2023 Target
8.5.4. Gender gap in terms of pay Definition: Inequality between men and women in the allocation of income from the labor market. The value 100 reflects equality, lower figures reflect women's unfavorable conditions.	92.3% 2016 (same source as previous data)	91.9% 2017	96.2% 2023 Target

Source: CNCPS, 2018a

Also in this case, some supplementary data gathered by the CNCPS to follow up on the SDG targets may be considered in addition to official data. There follows additional information on the indicators mentioned above, for the specific group of care workers (according to the employment criterion) and workers of the care sector (based on the activity criterion), both of them

disaggregated by gender²¹. They result from the data processed by ILO, on the basis of the Permanent Household Survey (EPH) for the 2nd quarter of 2019.

	EPH- 2nd quarter of 2019					
	Workers in care occupations			Workers in care sectors		
	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men
8.5.1. Care employment rate (care workers as percentage of the population older than 14 years old)	7.66	11.2	3.7	11.34	17.68	4.28
8.5.* Share of care employment (care workers as percentage of total employment)	14.41	25.31	5.87	21.34	39.92	6.79
8.5.2. Formal (registered) care employment rate (formal care workers as percentage of total care employment (aged 18-65))	28,77	28,85	28,51	34,68	34,22	36,82

²¹ Care workers are identified following both an occupational and a sectoral approach. Thus, “workers in care occupations” are those classified as health professionals, teaching professionals and personal care workers. “Workers in care sectors” are workers in education, human health activities, residential care activities and social work activities without accommodation.

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