



With the scientific collaboration of:



What does father involvement in child development and care mean?

From concepts to data informing policy and program development

12th of June 2024, 11:00 – 13:00

Organized by **ISSA** in collaboration with **Centro per la salute del bambino (CSB)**



4E-PARENT project is co-funded by the CERV-2022-DAPHNE Programme of the European Commission, Grant Agreement n. 101095956. The content of this document represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

MY DAD'S JOURNEY



Agenda

- Brief introduction
- Brief presentation of a proposed set of policy and outcome indicators on fathers' involvement in young child's care
- Panel discussion:
 1. What type of data regarding men engagement is collected (or not) at country, regional or global level and to what extent is focusing on the young age of children?
 2. What can be learned from existing data collected at program/service, country, regional, global level regarding father/men engagement in child's development and care which can inform the formulation of indicators for policy influencing?
 3. To what extent such a set of indicators can be useful for guiding the development of programs targeting families, particularly fathers or fathers-to-be and professionals working with families and families, in countries?
 4. What other indicators would be useful to be monitored through various services targeting parents/fathers to inform policies and programs aimed at increasing fathers' engagement and participation?
- Concluding remarks



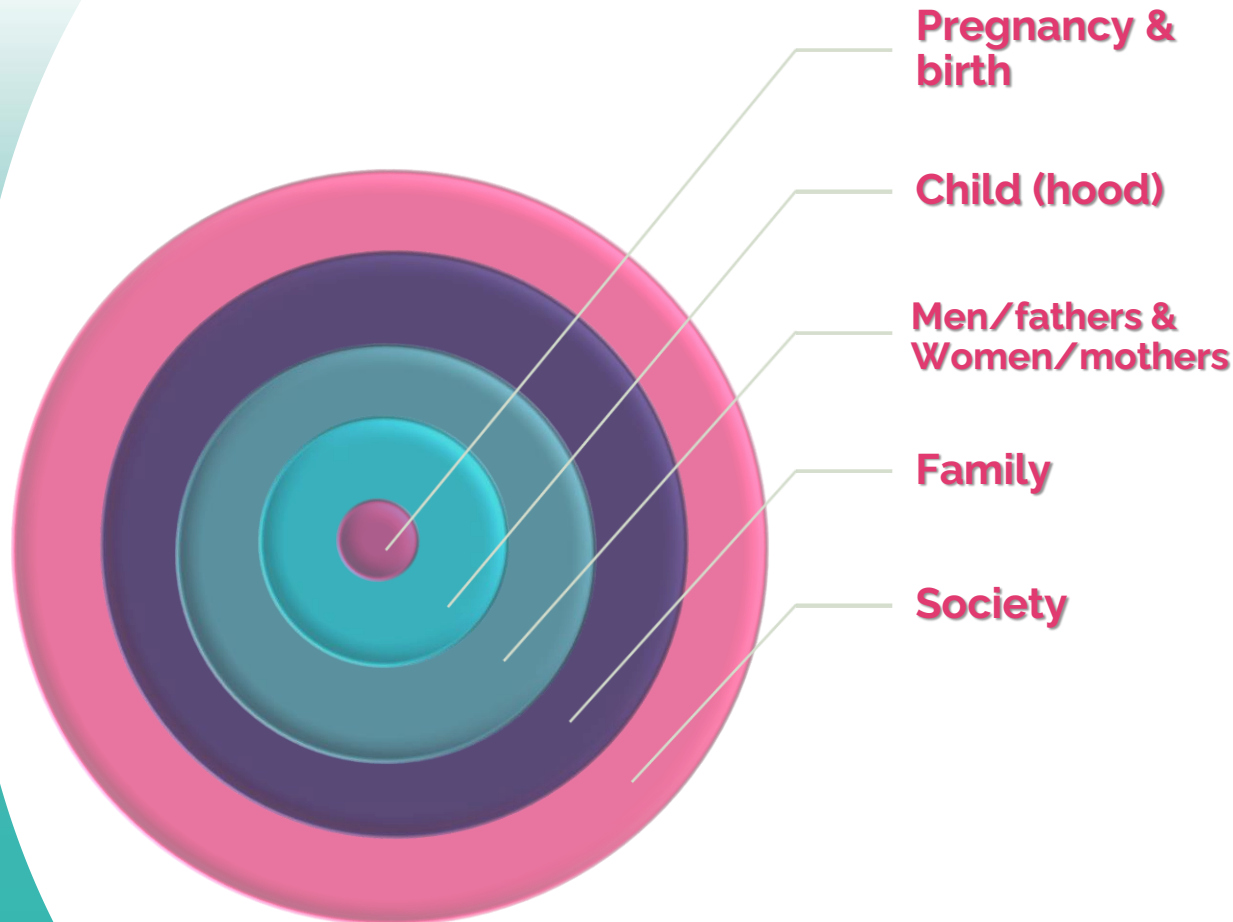
Panelists:

- **Giorgio Tamburlini** – Chairperson, Center for Child's Health in Italy
- **Clara Alemann** – Director of Programs, Equimundo
- **Suna Hanoz-Penney** - Director of Strategy, International Programs, Partnerships at AÇEV- Mother Child Education Foundation, Turkey
- **Jan Peeters** – Senior Advisor at the Center of Innovation in Early Years (VBJK) in Belgium
- **Eberhard Schäfer** - Founder & Senior Counsellor & Therapist, Berlin Fathers' Center in Germany

Discussants:

- **Manuela Naldini** - Professor of Sociology, University of Turin, Italy

Engaging men – multiple levels of benefits



Pregnancy & birth

Child (hood)

Men/fathers & Women/mothers

Family

Society

- ✓ More likely to get medical access in emergencies & birth complications.
- ✓ Better developmental outcomes for children
- ✓ Father's hormonal & cerebral changes to respond to baby's signals.
- ✓ More healthy life-styles adopted by men.
- ✓ Men's and women's well-being and life satisfaction (individual and as a couple).
- ✓ Less likely for women to have post-partum depression.
- ✓ Reduction of physical punishment, sexual abuse and domestic violence in families.
- ✓ Empowerment of women, participation in labour market.
- ✓ Coherence in society, gender equality.

Proposed set of policy and outcome indicators of father involvement in early care

Giorgio Tamburlini



Centro per la
Salute del
Bambino

Purpose

To foster policy development and implementation with respect to early engagement of fathers in child's nurturing care

Policy indicators stimulate policy development and implementation through public visibility and cross-national benchmarking. See for example the positive experience of introducing policy indicators alongside outcome indicators in the countdown to 2015 (>2020) initiative.



Policy indicators can contribute globally to policy development and implementation. Two examples

“Through its global and country-level tracking efforts and its policy-oriented communications, **Countdown** provided a broad-based and objective assessment of progress towards MDGs 4 and 5, and pioneered accountability for women's and children's health”.

Victora C. *Countdown to 2030 for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition*. The Lancet Global Health, 2016.

The Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative. Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria. Ten steps to successful BF promotion

Rationale for the choice of indicators

- a) evidence showing that specific practices regarding fathers' early engagement in childcare, when implemented along the first 1000 days, have a positive and direct impact on responsive fatherhood and/or indirectly on child health development and wellbeing, maternal wellbeing and co-parenting;
- b) current or potential availability of reliable sources of information.



Sectors involved

Health services (prenatal, perinatal and post natal care, growth and development monitoring)

ECEC services (day care)

Home NC practices

Official statistical data and monitoring systems

As reported in current service records

As reported by caregivers and/or home visiting services

Proposed indicators – pre and perinatal services

Key periods and settings/ services	Key content	Policy indicator (yes/no/partial)	Outcome indicator (measurement)	Source of data and comments
Pregnancy	Presence at “morphologic” ultrasound* (US)	Health authorities that provide the service ensure that fathers are invited to attend the US consultation and prenatal classes	% attendance of fathers at US	US Unit records (and surveys)
	Participation to prenatal classes		% fathers’ attendance of prenatal classes that specifically address issues regarding child health and development and parenting issues	Service records (and surveys) General surveys carried out by national statistics
Birth and postpartum	Participation and active involvement	Hospital authorities provide information and public adverts within the information given in prenatal encounters about rights ensured and practices encouraged at delivery and immediate post-partum	% access to delivery room	Ad hoc survey National birth record systems
	Active involvement	Health/Hospital authorities ensure that Staff working in delivery rooms (doctors, midwives, nurses) are trained to encourage fathers’ participation at delivery with baby-holding, skin-to-skin immediately after birth, and rooming-in	% actively involved	Service records (and survey)



Proposed indicators – postnatal health services

Key periods and settings/ services	Key content	Policy indicator (yes/no/partial)	Outcome indicator (measurement)	Source of data and comments
Well-child visits	Participation to planned well-child visits	Health authorities and professional institutions recommend that fathers are systematically invited to participate in well-child visits by pediatricians/other professionals working in pediatric clinics	% participation to 1st visit (first month) % participation to all planned visits	Paediatric clinic record
Immunizations	Participation	Health providers ensure that relevant info is given to parents when registering the baby for health care (pediatric care, immunizations) Health authorities provide info to parents about benefits of fathers' engagement Pediatricians & immunization services plan visits in order to facilitate father participation and engagement	% participation	Immunization service records (and survey)

Proposed indicators – ECEC, home, national stats

Key periods and settings/ services	Key content	Policy indicator (yes/no/partial)	Outcome indicator (measurement)	Source of data and comments
Day care	Involvement in initial day care “roll-in” activities	Education authorities that manage day care centres include specific actions aimed at involving fathers in roll-in activities. Education authorities that manage day care centres include specific actions aimed at providing info to parents about benefits to fathers’ engagement	% fathers involved in “roll-in” % father’s participation in encounters with parents	Service record (and survey)
	Involvement in parent-teacher meetings	Day care centres specifically plan to involve fathers with targeted invites	% fathers involved	Service record (and survey)
Home	Fathers involved in shared reading	Health and/or education authorities provide recommendations to parents-to be and new parents about shared reading	% fathers involved	Survey
	Fathers involved in playful interactions	Health and/or education authorities provide recommendations to parents-to be and new parents about shared reading playful interactions	% fathers involved	Survey
National stats and surveys	Fathers’ involvement included in National Systems	Fathers’ involvement indicators included in national stats and surveys/degree of coverage	Any outcome measured	National Stats and surveys official reports

Main references

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2. Bakermans-Kranenburg BJ, Lotz A, Alyousefi-van Dijk K, van IJzendoorn M. Birth of a father: fathering in the first thousand days. *Child Development Perspectives* 13:4, 2019, 247–253.
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6. Wang D and Chen L Father involvement in centre-based early childhood programs: A systematic review. *Children and Youth Services Review* 157 (2024) 107407.
7. Levy-Shiff RB, Hoffman MA, Mogilner S, Levinger S, Mogilner MB. Fathers' hospital visits to their preterm infants as a predictor of father-infant relationship and infant development. *Pediatrics.* 1990;86:289–293.
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11. Kok R, et al. Normal variation in early parental sensitivity predicts child structural brain development. *J. Am. Acad. Child Adolesc. Psychiatry.* 2015;54:824–831.

If today's discussion finds the idea worth pursuing



An updated version of the document is produced and shared with 4e-PARENT and EMINC partners



Wider circulation and consultation within and outside the communities working on parenting, early fathers' engagement, gender equality, health and early learning programs for young children.



*Can data contribute to positive
father engagement in
childcare?*

*Clara Alemann
June 12*





State of the World's Fathers Reports

SOWF's goal:

- Present research and data to promote men's full engagement in caregiving as a key piece of the political and global agenda for gender equality.
- Collect data from research studies and reports, quantitative & qualitative data from countries, cross-country analysis, covering all countries in the world with available data and conduct literature reviews.

Number of reports: 5

Since when: 2015

Number of countries: Gathered data from 30+ countries



SOWF

2015

2017

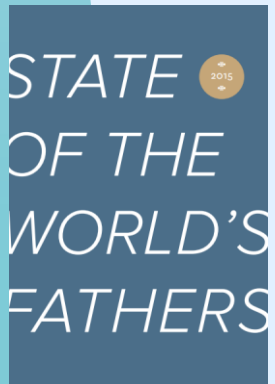
2019

2021

2023

SOWF 2015

A global agenda for involving men & boys: landmark analysis of fatherhood and caregiving



SOWF 2017

Call to Action and Agenda: men and boys doing 50% of the world's unpaid care work



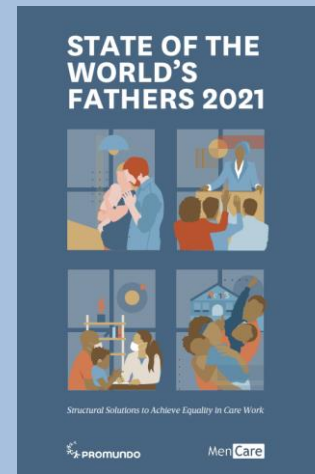
SOWF 2019

Workplace culture and factors supporting parental leave



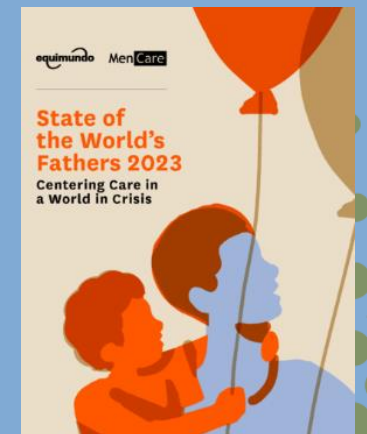
SOWF 2021

Structural barriers to equitable caregiving and provision of 7 solutions for implementation



SOWF 2023

the world is calling for care to be central; men and boys need to center care as much as women and girls do



Who did we study?

	Women	Men	Other Gender Identities	Total
Argentina	287	395	7	689
Australia	192	214	19	425
Canada	335	466	8	809
Chile	284	410	7	701
China	336	461	3	800
Croatia	332	461	7	800
India	233	597	-	830
Ireland	267	232	8	507
Lebanon	159	217	27	403
Mexico	226	410	8	644
Portugal	360	435	14	809
Rwanda	218	493	18	729
South Africa	331	467	10	808
Spain	199	402	30	631



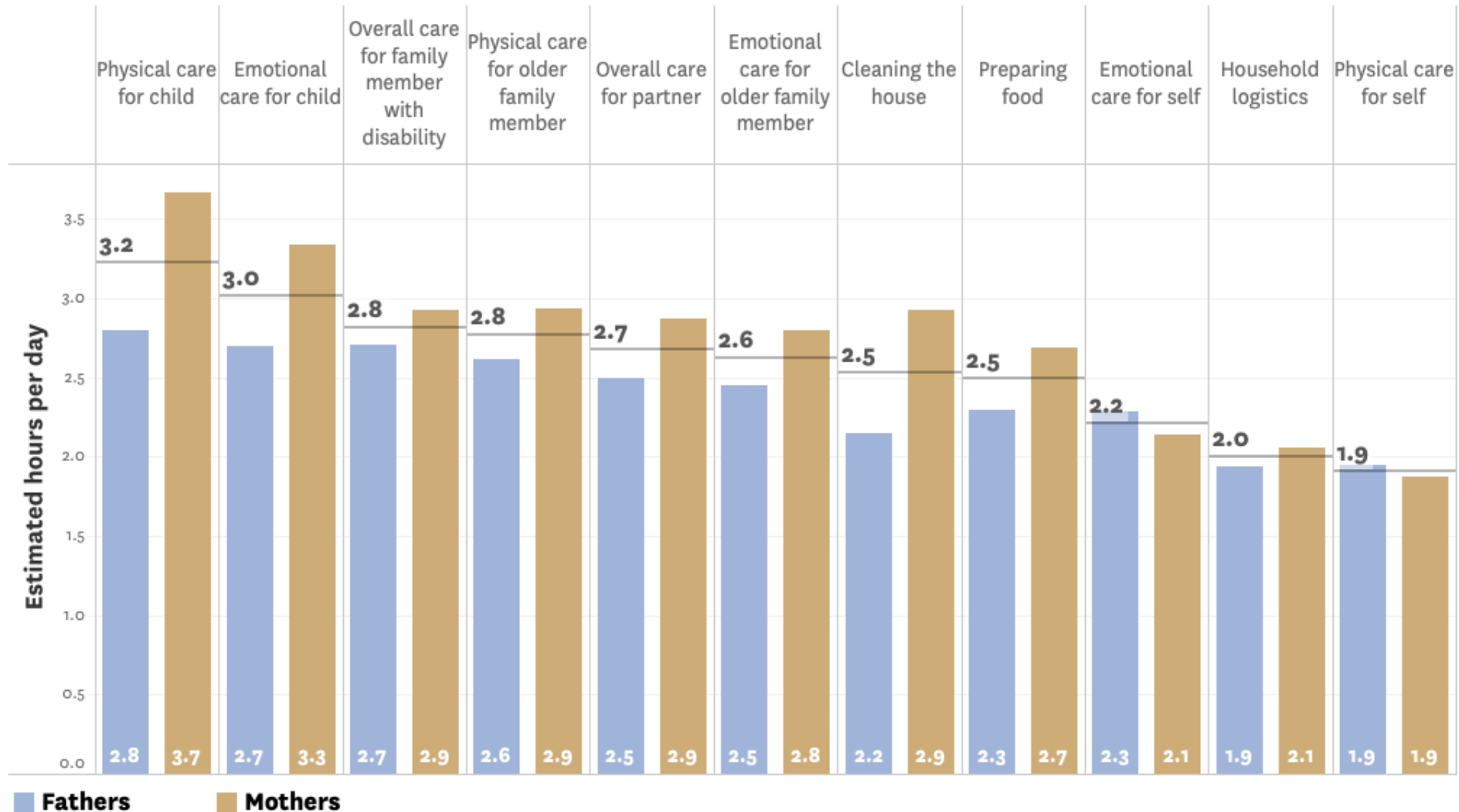
The face of caring is changing...slowly

Men say they are doing care, and they are willing to take action to do more. But many barriers – structural, norm-based, individual, and financial – to this equal sharing remain. While our new research finds hope, we also find – as do other data – that the pace of change is far too slow.



Mothers report more daily time spent on all care tasks than fathers, except self-care.

Fathers' and mothers' care work, multi-country averages, by task



The Road to Equal Care

The State of the World's Fathers 2023, using new data on caregiving from 17 countries, shows a mix of advances and setbacks on the winding road to care equality.

You've got a better understanding of the state of care in the world! Read the recommendations for what you can do to help achieve a more caring world.

Parents with the highest **economic hardship** are the most likely to speak of care work as more exhausting than enjoyable.

23

The majority of both men and women say they take some action each week to **care for the planet.**

25

24

In 14 countries, the majority of fathers say that 'caring for my children is worth giving up some career opportunities for.'

19

18



22

21

20

74% of people say they have already **talked to their friends and family** about the need for better care policies.

16

17

55% of women and 50% of men say that the way they share care work at home is **a source of stress** for them.

15

Men and women who are satisfied with their involvement in care are **1.5 times more likely** to feel more gratitude and purpose in their lives.

8

13

14

12

Men who practice **emotional self-care** are much more likely to take care of their children and family members.

11

Many parents say they don't get enough childcare support due to **cost and lack of publicly funded childcare.**

10

7

START!

Your journey to achieving a more caring world starts here, but look out! There are some snakes that show the policies, behaviors, and attitudes that hinder a fully supported caring world. As you move through the board, reflect on each statistic and think about where you are on this journey.

1

90% of parents say that caring for children is one of the **most enjoyable things** in their lives.

3

4

Across 17 countries, mothers do **1.36 times the house cleaning** and 1.32 times the physical childcare that fathers do.

5

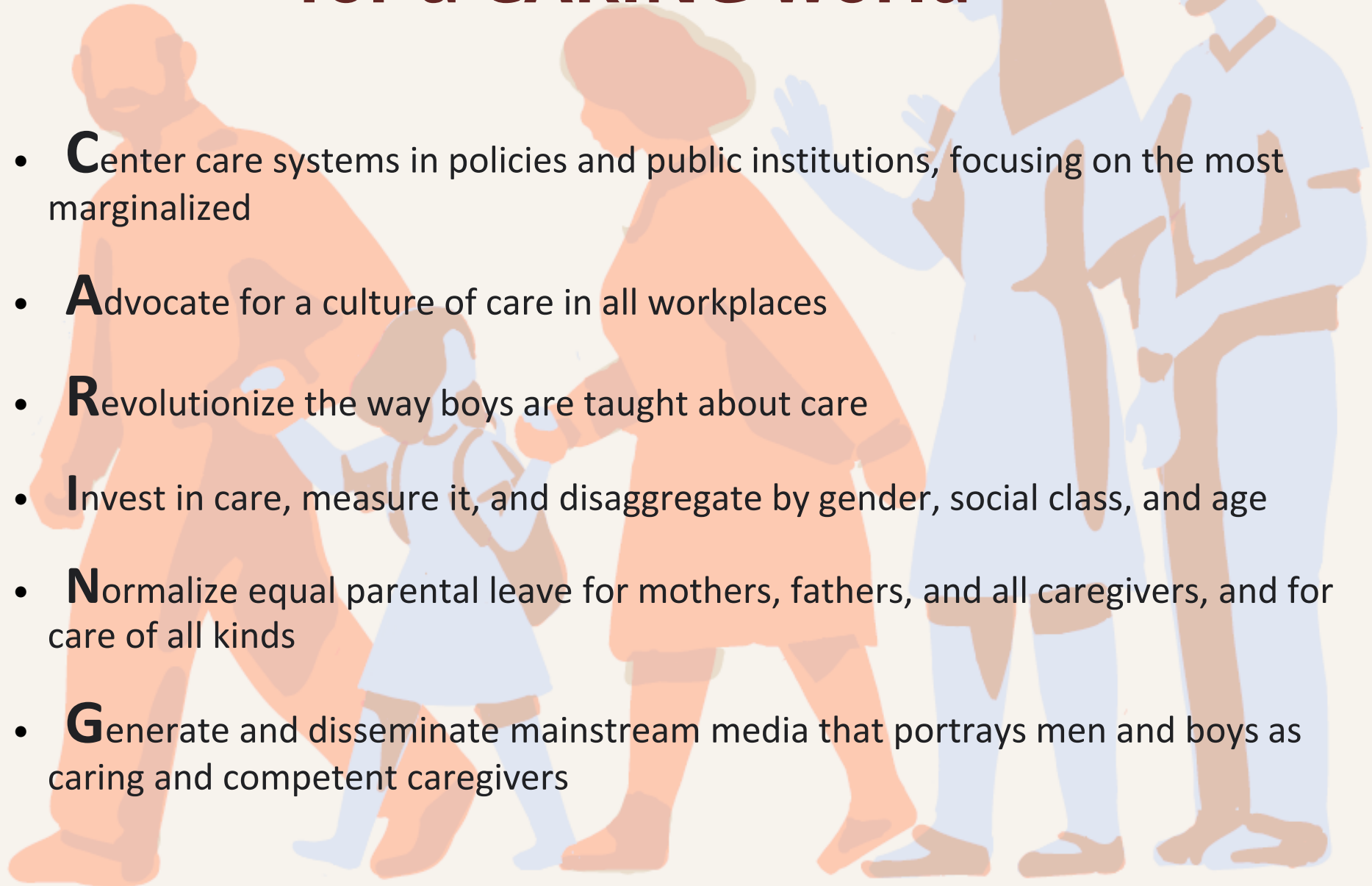
6



equimundo

Our recommendations for a CARING world

- **C**enter care systems in policies and public institutions, focusing on the most marginalized
- **A**dvocate for a culture of care in all workplaces
- **R**evolutionize the way boys are taught about care
- **I**nvest in care, measure it, and disaggregate by gender, social class, and age
- **N**ormalize equal parental leave for mothers, fathers, and all caregivers, and for care of all kinds
- **G**enerate and disseminate mainstream media that portrays men and boys as caring and competent caregivers



Thank you!





Panel discussion

A photograph of a man in a white shirt holding a young child with curly hair. The man is looking down at the child with a gentle expression. The background is blurred, showing other people in a bright, indoor setting.

Q1: What type of data regarding men engagement is collected (or not) at country, regional or global level and to what extent is focusing on the young age of children?

A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a white t-shirt, holding a baby in his arms. The man is smiling and looking at the baby. The baby is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and light blue pants. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white. The image is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent white circle on the left side of the slide.

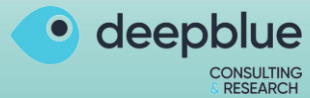
Q2: What can be learned from existing data collected father/men engagement in child's development and care to inform the formulation of indicators for policy influencing?


A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a white t-shirt, holding a baby in his arms. The man is smiling and looking at the baby. The baby is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and light blue pants. The background is a plain, light color.

Q3: To what extent such a set of indicators can be useful for guiding the development of programs targeting fathers or fathers-to-be and professionals working with families in countries?

A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a white t-shirt, holding a baby in his arms. The man is smiling and looking at the baby. The baby is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and light blue pants. The background is a plain, light color.

Q4: What other indicators would be useful to be monitored through various services targeting parents/fathers to inform policies and programs aimed at increasing fathers' engagement and participation?



With the scientific collaboration of:  iris
Istituto Ricerca
Intervento Salute



Thank you!

4E-PARENT website (in Italian)

<https://4e-parentproject.eu/>



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