



**Fourth International Conference
on Financing for Development (FfD4)**

June 30 – July 3, 2025

**Care Advocacy
Toolkit**

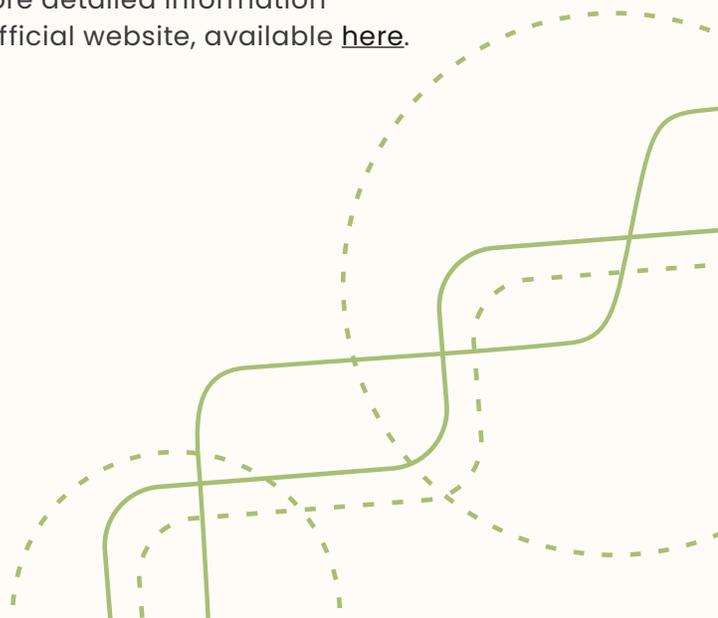


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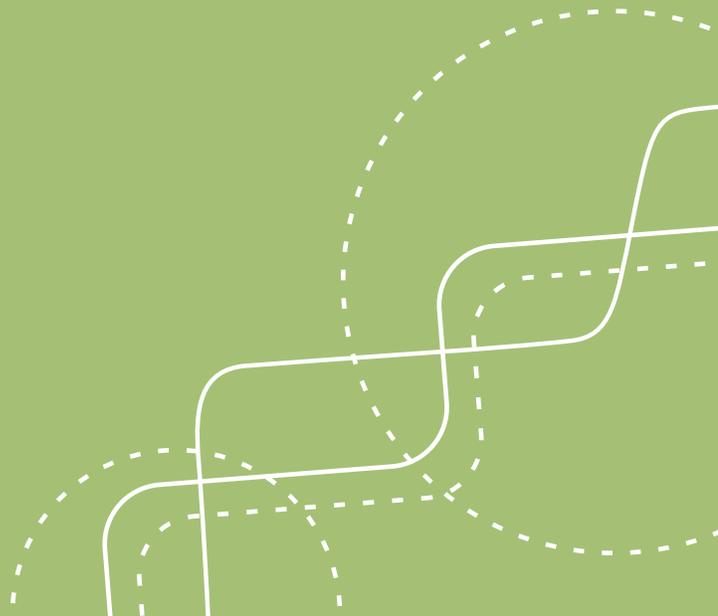
**Care Advocacy
Toolkit**

 This report was prepared by the Technical Secretariat of the Global Alliance for Care. Its content does not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Alliance's members. For more detailed information about the conference, please consult the official website, available [here](#).



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Introduction

In its 2025–2030 Strategic Priorities, the Global Alliance for Care (GAC) identified the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)** as a key multilateral space to advance discussions on sustainable care financing and to influence policymakers and stakeholders to take concrete action to place care at the center and recognize its fundamental role in achieving sustainable development. FfD4 is also a significant opportunity for the Global Alliance for Care to promote its transformative vision of care and advocate for increased investment in care systems and policies.

Building on members' insights and ongoing advocacy efforts, this FfD4 Advocacy Toolkit is designed as an information resource for Alliance members seeking to participate in FfD4 and promote a transformative vision of care within and beyond the conference. It provides general background information on the Conference, details on its relevance to the care and support agenda, advocacy opportunities, and additional resources produced by members.

Check previous care advocacy toolkits [here](#).

What is FfD4 and why is it important?

Financing for Development (FfD) refers to a United Nations (through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)-led process that began in 2002, aiming to bring together government leaders, international and regional organizations, financial and trade institutions, businesses, civil society, and the United Nations System to foster high-level dialogue on global financial needs and development challenges. Its goal is to generate tangible commitments to mobilize capital and ensure the financial resources necessary to achieve sustainable, fair, and inclusive development worldwide.

Since 2002, **three International Conferences on Financing for Development have been held**, each building on the outcomes of the previous one. Together, they have shaped a deeper understanding of financing for development and highlighted the shared responsibility of governments, the private sector, and international organizations in mobilizing sufficient resources to achieve inclusive development worldwide.

Table 1: Overview of International Financing for Development Conferences

Conference	Location & Year	Key Results
1st Conference (Monterrey)	Monterrey, Mexico 2002	Monterrey Consensus: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First global agreement to comprehensively address how to finance development• Call for increasing Official Development Assistance• Emphasized the principle of shared responsibility:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Each country is primarily responsible for its own development➤ The international community must create a supportive global economic environment

2nd Conference (Doha)	Doha, Qatar 2008	<p><u>Doha Declaration:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed progress since the Monterrey Consensus • Introduced key new commitments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integration of a gender perspective across all financing policies ➤ Urgent scaling up of climate finance to address global challenges
3rd Conference (Addis Ababa)	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 2015	<p><u>Addis Ababa Action Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted as a foundation framework for financing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) • Emphasized the role of development banks in sustainable development, leading to the creation of the Finance in Common network • Introduced the concept of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)¹ • Integrated economic, social, and environmental dimensions into a unified financing framework • Adopted mechanisms for monitoring and follow-up, including the annual ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD Forum)

Source: Prepared by the Technical Secretariat with information from *Financing for Development: A Primer* (2025).

Financing for Development participants

Like most United Nations spaces, the Financing for Development conferences bring together diverse stakeholders across sectors.

United Nations Member States lead official negotiations, make decisions on the final outcome document, and participate in high-level meetings. Other actors—including United Nations Agencies, international organizations, civil

¹ Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) are country-led strategic tools that help align and coordinate all sources of financing, public, private, domestic, and international, with national sustainable development priorities, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They support countries in strengthening planning processes and addressing barriers to financing sustainable development at the national level.

society², business and industry, philanthropies and foundations, academia and think tanks— may also engage in sessions, advocate with decision-makers, and provide inputs and assessments on the outcome document.

The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

The **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)** will take place from **30 June to 3 July 2025 in Seville, Spain**. The conference will review progress on the commitments outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and propose innovative mechanisms to address underfunding in both the climate agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also represents a key opportunity to reflect on current geopolitical challenges, rising debt levels in many countries, and cuts to development aid funding.

FfD4 offers a unique opportunity to highlight the central role of care in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; to call for an end to funding cuts to the gender equality agenda; and to advocate for sufficient resources to support the implementation of policies, infrastructure, and services that recognize, reduce, redistribute care, as well as reward, and represent care workers.

The FfD4 negotiations are structured around seven action areas, described in the final draft of the outcome document:

- Domestic public resources
- Domestic and international private business and finance
- International development cooperation and development effectiveness
- International trade as an engine for development
- Debt and debt sustainability
- International financial architecture and systemic issues
- Science, technology, innovation, and capacity-building

² The Civil Society FfD mechanism was created as an avenue for joint advocacy and campaigning for that sector.

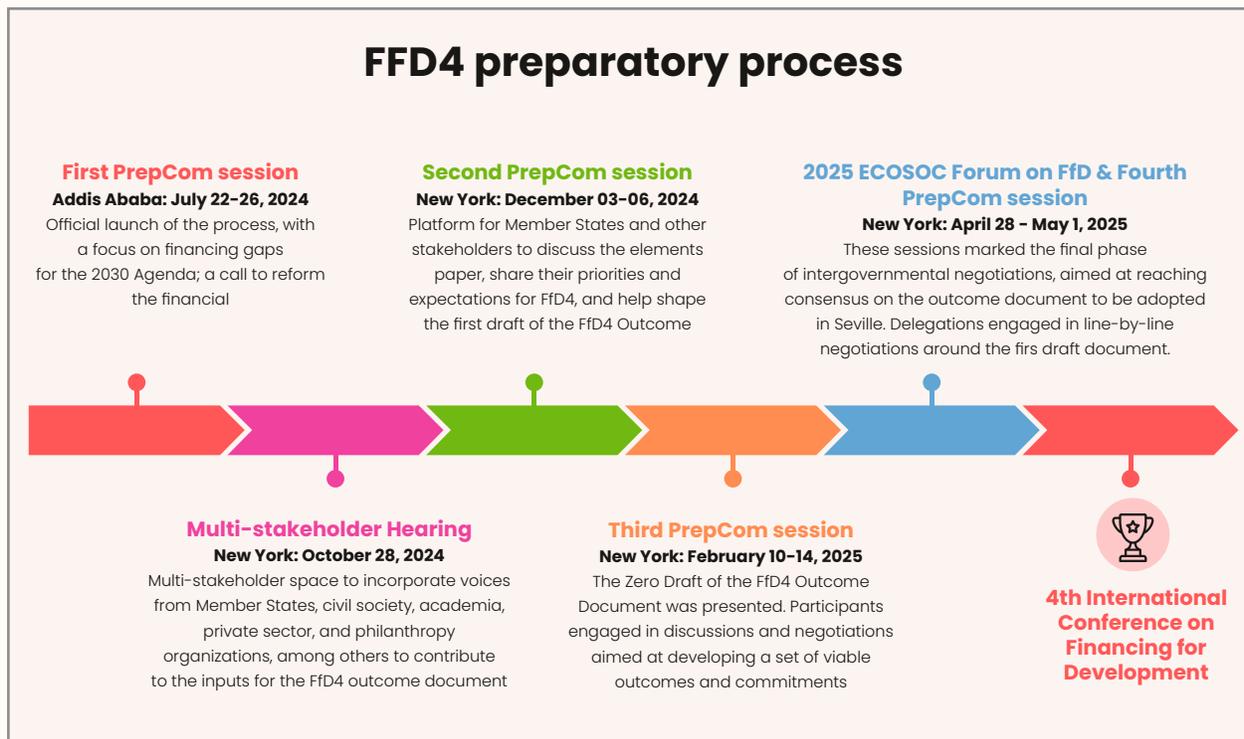
i. FfD4 preparatory process

The FfD4 conference is preceded by a broad intergovernmental process that began in December 2023, following the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution [A/RES/78/231](#), which established a **Preparatory Committee (PrepCom)** mandated to organize the conference and negotiate its outcome document.

Burundi and Portugal co-chair the PrepCom. The Committee also includes South Africa (representing African States); China, Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan (representing Asia-Pacific States and serving as vice-chairs on a rotational basis); Poland and the Russian Federation (Eastern European States); Brazil and Colombia (Latin American and Caribbean States), and Canada (Western European and other States). Mexico, Nepal, Norway, and Zambia serve as co-facilitators for the negotiations of the final document.

As part of the preparatory process, four sessions of the Preparatory Committee and one multisectoral dialogue have been held since July 2024. This process aimed to ensure the inclusion of diverse sectors and to gather input that contributes to the development of a draft outcome document, which addresses current challenges related to financing for development—including the geopolitical context, persistent resource gaps, the need for financial system reforms, rising debt levels, and international cooperation mechanisms. The sessions have been complemented by side events and parallel activities, which have enriched the discussions and deepened reflections around financing for development.

Figure 1: FfD4 Preparatory Process.



Source: Prepared by the Technical Secretariat with information from *Road to Sevilla 2025*.

ii. Key documents

- **FfD4 Elements Paper**

The Elements Paper of FfD4 was released by the co-facilitators of the outcome document on November 22, 2024 and is based on inputs from Member States, United Nations entities, international financial institutions, civil society, the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders. The paper serves as a preparatory document, outlining key points, topics, and initial proposals to guide discussions at the conference. It provided a foundation for Member States and other stakeholders to reflect, debate, and share their priorities and expectations, which were then incorporated into the draft of the final outcome document.

While the Elements Paper discussed financing for gender equality repeatedly, it did not include any direct mention of investing in care policies.

- **Zero Draft of the Outcome Document of FfD4**

The Zero Draft, published on January 17, 2025, was the first complete and preliminary version of the conference’s outcome document. It served as a basis for negotiation among Member States and reflected proposals and priorities identified in earlier stages of the process, such as the Elements Paper, regional and thematic consultations, and contributions from key actors.

The Zero Draft included strong language on gender equality, as well as a specific mention to care through the commitment to: “increase investment in the care economy and recognize, value, and equitably redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work done by women” (paragraph 19).

- **First Draft of the Outcome Document of FfD4**

Building on comments to the Zero Draft, the First Draft, released on March 10, 2025, was the first revised version of the expected outcome document for FfD4. It was based on inputs from previous PrepCom sessions, ongoing intergovernmental discussions, contributions from United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, and recommendations from civil society, academia, and the private sector.

The first draft acknowledged the importance of progress on gender equality in sustainable development and retained the Zero Draft’s commitment to “investment in the care economy and recognize, value, and equitably redistribute the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work done by women” (paragraph 11).

- **Final Draft of the Outcome Document of FfD4/“Compromiso de Sevilla”**

The final draft of the outcome document, titled the “Compromiso de Sevilla” (Seville Commitment), was released on June 16, 2025, and adopted by the Preparatory Committee on June 17, 2025, during the resumed fourth session. It will be recommended for adoption by all Member States during FfD4. The final draft retains the language from earlier versions on the care economy and introduces new references to additional gender-related issues, such as gender-based violence and the feminization of poverty (paragraph 11).

iii. Sevilla Platform for Action (SPA)

An open call to submit initiative proposals for the [Sevilla Platform for Action \(SPA\)](#) was launched under FfD4. Its main goal is to accelerate progress on implementing the conference's outcomes by fostering coalitions—including countries, foundations, NGOs, or private sector actors—that can carry out concrete, measurable actions to improve sustainable development financing.

A **special event will take place on June 30, 2025**, the first day of FfD4, to officially launch the Sevilla Platform for Action. After the launch, a press area will be available at the conference for countries and organizations to announce their SPA initiatives. Additionally, implementing entities will be invited to share progress updates during future editions of the Financing for Development Forum (FfD Forum).

iv. Other activities around FfD4

- **Feminist Forum:** The Feminist Workstream of the Civil Society FfD Mechanism is also organizing a Feminist Forum prior to the Civil Society Forum 2025, which will serve as a space for feminist activists and organizations to convene and formulate joint positions. The Forum will offer reflections on feminist concerns for FfD4, facilitate exchanges between participants, and discuss strategies at and beyond FfD4. The Forum will address care as a central pillar of development finance.
- **Civil Society Forum:** The [FfD4 Civil Society Forum](#) is a two-day event organized by the Civil Society FfD Mechanism, preceding the official conference. It will take place from June 28 to 29, 2025, in Seville, Spain. This Forum gathers activists, civil society organizations, networks, federations, and social movements actively engaged in the FfD process. It is open to all interested civil society organizations, regardless of their status with the United Nations system. Its goal is to provide a dedicated space to civil society to dialogue, engage with, and contribute to FfD4 through policy recommendations.

- **International Business Forum:** The International Business Forum (IBF) serves as the main platform for engaging the private sector in financing sustainable development. It will be held from June 30 to July 3, 2025, in Seville, Spain, the Forum bringing together high-level representatives from governments, the private sector, development finance institutions, and the United Nations system. The IBF aims to accelerate the mobilization of private capital toward the SDGs by fostering public-private partnerships.
- **Side Events:** FfD4 side events are 90-minute sessions organized by governments, United Nations agencies, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to foster dialogue on financing sustainable development. These events may take place on-site, off-site, or virtually, and are selected based on thematic relevance, diversity, and collaboration. Side events enhance the conference by broadening discussions, showcasing innovative approaches, fostering partnerships, and enhancing stakeholder engagement on key financing issues.

How is care related to FfD4?

Care work—both paid and unpaid—is the foundation that sustains all other economic and social activity. However, it remains undervalued, underfunded, and disproportionately borne by women and girls. As such, it is usually not captured by traditional indicators that shape economic and social policy, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP)³. In 2018, unpaid care and domestic work were estimated to amount to 9% of global GDP—approximately USD 11 trillion—yet this value is largely ignored when discussing resources and financing for development.⁴ **Financing care is not only a matter of social justice and gender equality, but a strategic investment that supports broader development goals.**

³ Parvaez Butt, A. et al. (2023). *Radical Pathways Beyond GDP: Why and how we need to pursue feminist and decolonial alternatives urgently*. Available [here](#).

⁴ ILO (n.d.). Care Policy Investment Simulator (n.d.) [here](#)

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the global investment gap in the care economy is estimated to reach USD 5.4 trillion annually by 2035, equivalent to 4.2% of the total annual global GDP⁵. FfD4 presents a critical opportunity to reshape global financing frameworks in ways that promote inclusive and sustainable development.

It is essential to shift from perceiving care as an expense to recognizing it as an investment. According to the World Economic Forum, allocating just 2% of GDP to the care sector could increase overall employment rates by 2.4% to 6.1%, creating approximately 21.72 million jobs in OECD countries⁶. Investing in social jobs, including those in the paid care sector, could yield triple rewards in terms of GDP returns, well-paid jobs created, and enhanced social mobility⁷.

Economists and researchers have estimated the costs and returns of care services—including social protection, paid parental leave, childcare, long-term care, and support services⁸. They have also explored models for financing and investing in care systems, including tax reforms, debt restructuring, combating illicit financial flows, co-payments, blended finance, budget reallocations, and other measures⁹ ¹⁰. These proposals must inform debates on investments and financing, encouraging them to direct their attention to care systems.

On the other hand, global financial flows have significant impacts on the social organization of care. Women, through unpaid care work, act as shock absorbers when societies face cuts in public services and social protection due to austerity, debt servicing, trade liberalization, and privatization. These conditions also affect paid care workers, whose conditions become more precarious under these conditions¹¹.

⁵ L. Addati, U. Cattaneo y E. Pozzan (2022). *Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender equal world of work*. Available [here](#).

⁶ World Economic forum (2024). *The Future of the Care Economy*. Available [here](#).

⁷ *Idem*.

⁸ ILO (n.d.). *Care Policy Investment Simulator*. Available [here](#).

⁹ L. Scuro, C. Alemany and R. Coello Cremades (2022). *Financing care systems and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean: contributions for a sustainable recovery with gender equality*. Available [here](#).

¹⁰ V. Serafini and A. I. Arenas (2025). *Systematization of the Learning Community on Taxation and Care: Realities and challenges regarding the financing of care policies and systems*. Available [here](#).

¹¹ Public Services International and ActionAid (2022). *The Care Contradiction - The IMF Gender and Austerity*. Available [here](#)

These structural issues are at the heart of FfD4 discussions, making the conference an essential space for advocating for financial systems that prioritize gender-transformative care systems and investments in care for sustainable development.

The Global Alliance for Care at FfD4

During FfD4, there will be several advocacy, networking, and outreach opportunities for members of the Global Alliance for Care (GAC). Attending, participating in, or consulting the GAC's various FfD4 initiatives and resources will foster collaboration, promote dialogue on care, and build on the collective efforts of its members.

The GAC Care Pavilion

For the first time, and as a pilot initiative before the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Global Alliance for Care will launch a Care Pavilion on the sidelines of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). The Pavillion is organized with the support of the Ministry of Equality of the Government of Spain, the Provincial Council of Seville, and the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI) and in collaboration with the International Development Research Center, the EU-LAC Foundation, Oxfam and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

The Pavilion will be a physical space hosted at Casa de la Provincia (Pl. del Triunfo, 1, Casco Antiguo, 41004 Seville, Spain), where GAC members can network, collectively reflect on experiences, and organize activities related to care and FfD4. Initiatives may range from panel events to multimedia exhibitions and will include Global Alliance for Care staples such as the Members' Breakfast. If you are in Sevilla, come to visit us from June 28 to July 3, 2025.

In addition to the programming at the GAC Care Pavilion, several other activities will involve the Global Alliance for Care and its members:

- **Official FfD4 side event: GAC Flagship Event “Financing Care Systems for Gender Equality and Economic Prosperity: A multistakeholder approach”:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025, from 2:30 to 4:00 PM at the Conference and Exhibition Centre of Seville (Palacio de Exposiciones y Congresos, FIBES), Side Event 3.
- **Events organized with the support of the GAC:** Activities led by members with the support of the GAC, tackling multiple facets of the care agenda, including biregional cooperation, financing care systems, care and beyond GDP, and local financing, among others.
- **Other members’ events and initiatives:** GAC members’ care-related convenings on the sidelines of FfD4.

You can read the complete agenda of GAC activities, including the activities of the Pavilion, [here](#).

What is the GAC transformative vision that members bring to FfD4?

The Global Alliance for Care’s transformative vision and 2025–2030 Strategic Priorities offer a set of collective principles and messages that can be amplified, positioned, and connected to other issues during FfD4:

- Care work comprises two overlapping activities: **direct, personal, and relational care** activities, such as feeding a baby or nursing an ill partner; and **indirect care activities**, including tasks like cooking and cleaning. Care can be unpaid, as in the case of housework or community caregiving, or paid, such as domestic work or work in other care sectors (health, education, among others).

- Care work is essential to our societies and economies, enabling people to work, study, have a healthy environment, and participate in society. **Despite its essential role, care work is undervalued and underfunded.**
- The current social organization of care is also unsustainable for individuals who require care and support, as it fails to provide quality, accessible, and sufficient services, and does not guarantee the right to autonomy and independent living.
- Care is a **cross-cutting issue central to sustainable development**. It intersects with numerous other issues, including decent work, climate change, conflict and violence, migration and forced displacement, as well as demographic trends, among others.
- Care must be recognized **as work, as a right, and as a public good**. All individuals and sectors of society **share responsibilities** for care work. While States are the primary duty-bearers for the provision of public care services, the private sector, households, and communities also have a role to play. Men must also be equally engaged in caregiving.
- Governments must develop **universal and progressive comprehensive care systems and policies**, including care-supporting infrastructure, childcare, long-term care, and other essential care services.
- Governments must also sustainably **invest and finance public care policies** and expand fiscal space. Other co-responsible sectors, such as philanthropies, donors, and international cooperation agencies, should also provide funding opportunities and support projects directed toward transforming care systems.
- **Care is not a cost; it is an investment. Financing** care systems is essential for **economic resilience, gender equality, and inclusive development**. The global financial architecture must **prioritize the care and needs of both care and support workers and recipients**.

How can the care agenda be positioned at FfD4?

Member States, United Nations agencies, international organizations, businesses and industry, civil society organizations, philanthropies and foundations, academia and think tanks, may attend— and in some cases, address—the Conference.

In addition, stakeholders may want to take advantage of heightened conversations on the aforementioned issues to explore and raise awareness of intersections between care and financing for development through the following activities:

- Attend activities at the GAC Care Pavilion and participate in debates, networking, and discussions on care.
- Engage in dialogue with Member States to advocate for a care lens at FfD4 and commitments to financing care systems.
- Organize and participate in events and convenings that facilitate conversation on issues related to care, investments, and finance.
- Produce, compile, and disseminate useful research and data to support advocacy efforts focused on financing care systems.
- Launch engaging multimedia campaigns that offer an accessible narrative and key messages on care and topics featured at FfD4.
- Promote active engagement with the Global Alliance for Care as a multistakeholder platform for action on these issues and beyond.

Additional Resources

Download

Global Alliance for Care:

- Care in Focus Statistics Sheet
- *Systematization of the Learning Community on Taxation and Care: Realities and Challenges Regarding the Financing of Care Policies and Systems (2025)*



The African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET)

- An African Feminist Perspective on FfD4 (2025)



Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and UN Women:

- *Financing care systems and policies in Latin America and the Caribbean: contributions for a sustainable recovery with gender equality (2022)*



International Trade Union Confederation:

- *Investing in the Care Economy (2016)*



International Labor Organization:

- Care Policy Investment Simulator (n.d.)
- *Costs and benefits of investing in transformative care policy packages: A macrosimulation study in 82 countries (2022)*
- *Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender equal world of work (2022)*



Oxfam

- *Care at the Center: Tax Systems for Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean* (2025)



Public Services International

- *The Care Contradiction: The IMF, Gender and Austerity* (2025)



UN Women

- *Financing of Comprehensive Care Systems: Proposals for Latin America and the Caribbean* (2022)



If you have any additional resources you'd like to add to this toolkit, kindly send them to info@globalallianceforcare.org.



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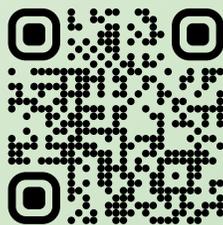


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