



IDB's Work on Care Systems

An Interactive Menu

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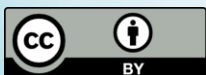
Graphic Design: Wagner Rech

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Introduction

Care is essential work and a fundamental pillar for economic growth and well-being. Everyone will require care at some point in their life. Care includes healthcare, household care, care for dependent people and caregivers, and self-care.

Due to social norms, attitudes, and stereotypes, most care work in society is carried out by women in homes, as unpaid or paid work, as well as in institutional settings. The lack of care services in Latin America and the Caribbean contributes to women's time poverty and low labor market participation. In the region, women do three times more unpaid care work than men, limiting their economic opportunities.

Investing in care services can reduce gender inequality, improve social and economic outcomes, and enhance climate resilience. Expanding care services will increase women's labor force participation which, in turn, will contribute to economic growth.

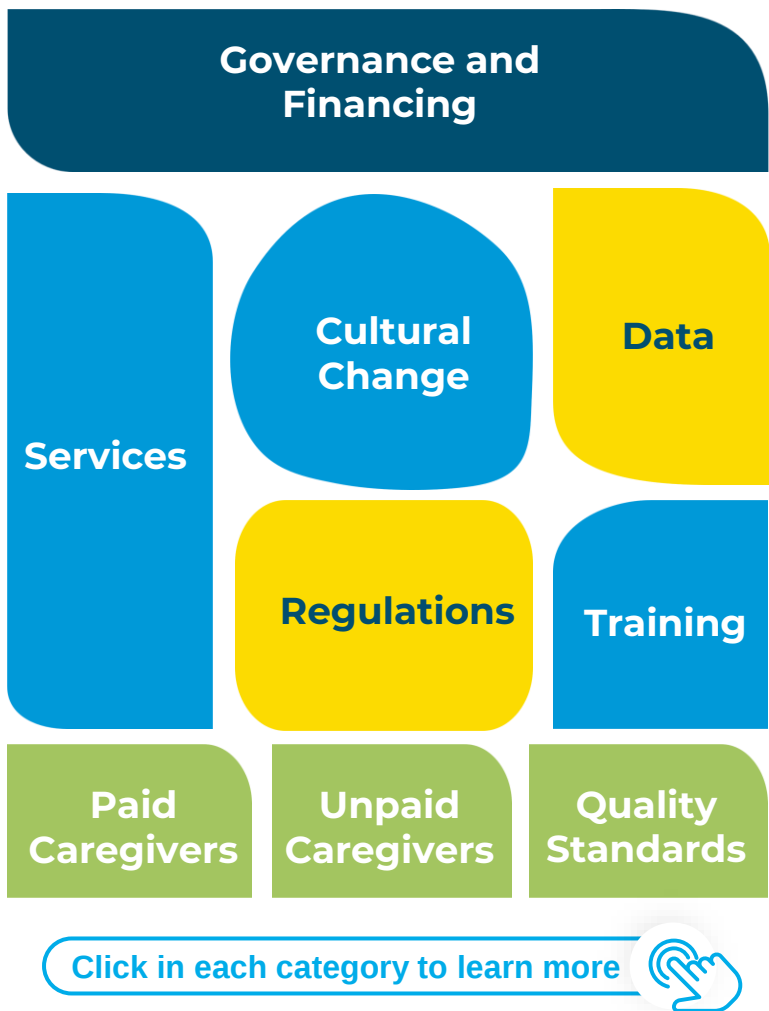
Demographic and social transformations make constructing care systems a policy priority. These efforts will create opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. For example, with rapid population growth, the need for paid caregivers for older people will grow by five times by 2050, reaching 14 million workers.

However, this growing demand also presents an opportunity to create jobs and expand care services, driving economic growth. Investing in care services and infrastructure for children, older adults, and people with disabilities is essential for sustainable economic growth and for reducing inequality, particularly gender inequality, in Latin America and the Caribbean. This investment fosters a more inclusive and equitable society, laying the foundation for long-term economic stability and social well-being.

Governments in the region are increasingly adopting a systemic perspective on care, encompassing regulations, institutions, and policies that address the needs of four populations: children, persons with disabilities with support needs, older people with care needs, and paid and unpaid caregivers. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) supports these efforts by partnering with the public and private sectors to implement care policies and systems.

The following interactive menu* of care solutions features some of the latest programs and projects in which the IDB has supported governments in Latin America and the Caribbean. Each category shows the breadth of the work covering different dimensions of integrated care systems such as governance and financing, services, cultural change, data, regulations, training, quality standards, and support for paid and unpaid caregivers.

*The interactive menu includes programs and projects implemented up to February 2025.



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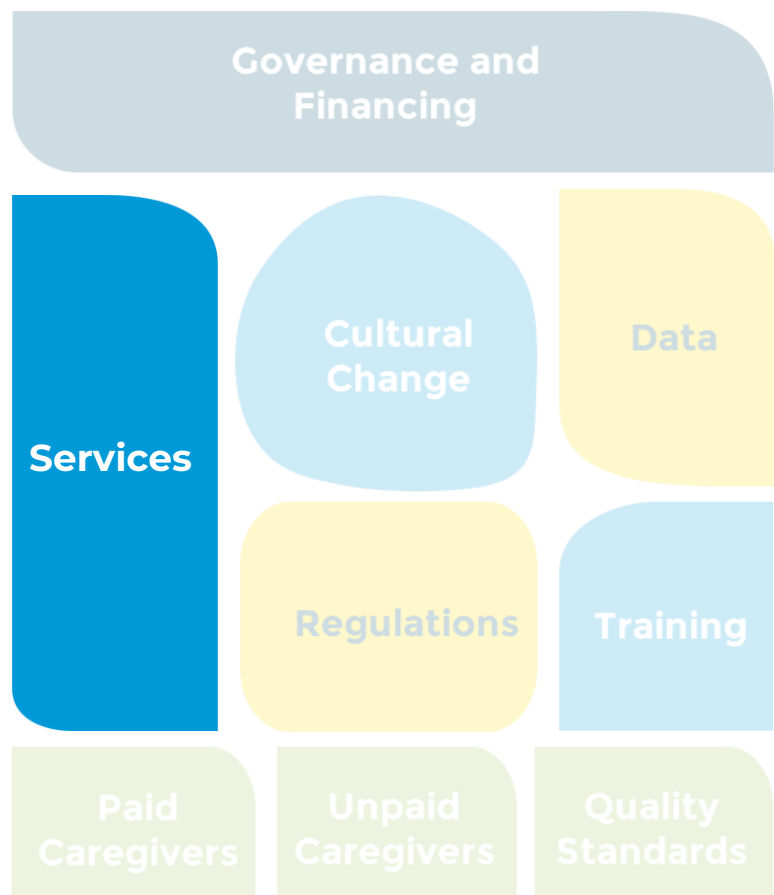
An Interactive Menu

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- [Care Systems](#)

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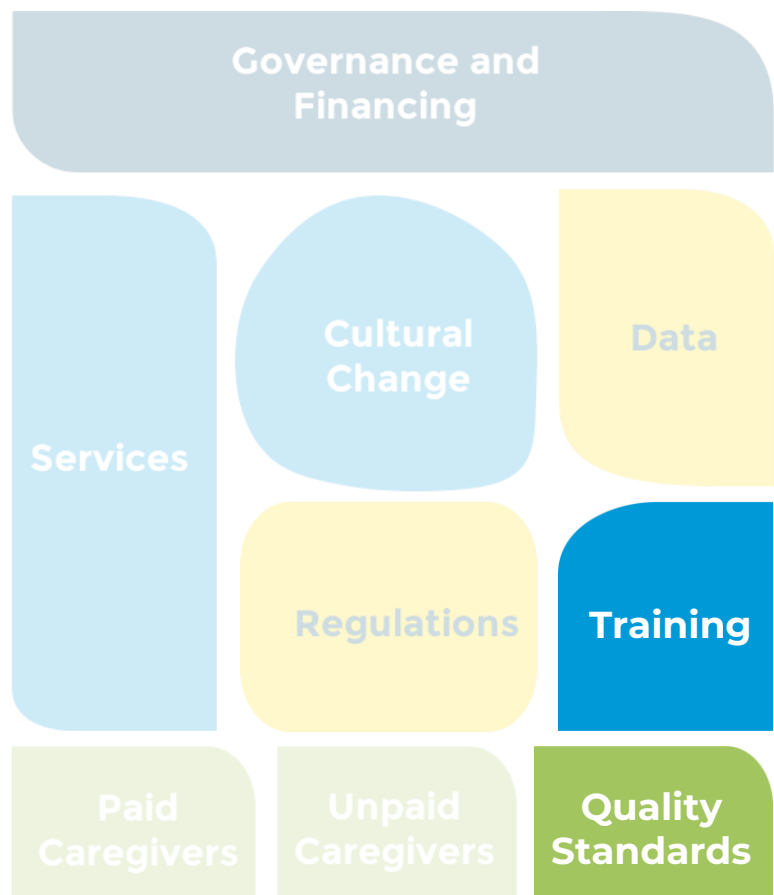
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Our work on Services

- Early childhood development:
 - [Building regional services in early childhood development](#)
 - [Strengthening early childhood development services](#)
 - [Early childhood development centers](#)
- School-age children:
 - [Extended school day and teenage pregnancy in the Dominican Republic](#)
 - [Exchange of experiences about extended school-day policies](#)
- Persons with Disabilities:
 - [Social inclusion and digitalization in Panama](#)
 - [Care in schools for children with disabilities](#)
- Long-term care:
 - [Home-based care in Uruguay](#)
 - [Day-care centers in Mexico](#)
 - [Telecare in Costa Rica](#)
 - [Private sector innovation](#)
 - [RedCuidar, a regional platform](#)
 - [Women caregivers: Pillars of an aging society](#)
 - [Plan for building an entrepreneurial ecosystem for long-term care in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
 - Pilots of integrated care systems in the [Dominican Republic](#) and [Panama](#)

Care Systems



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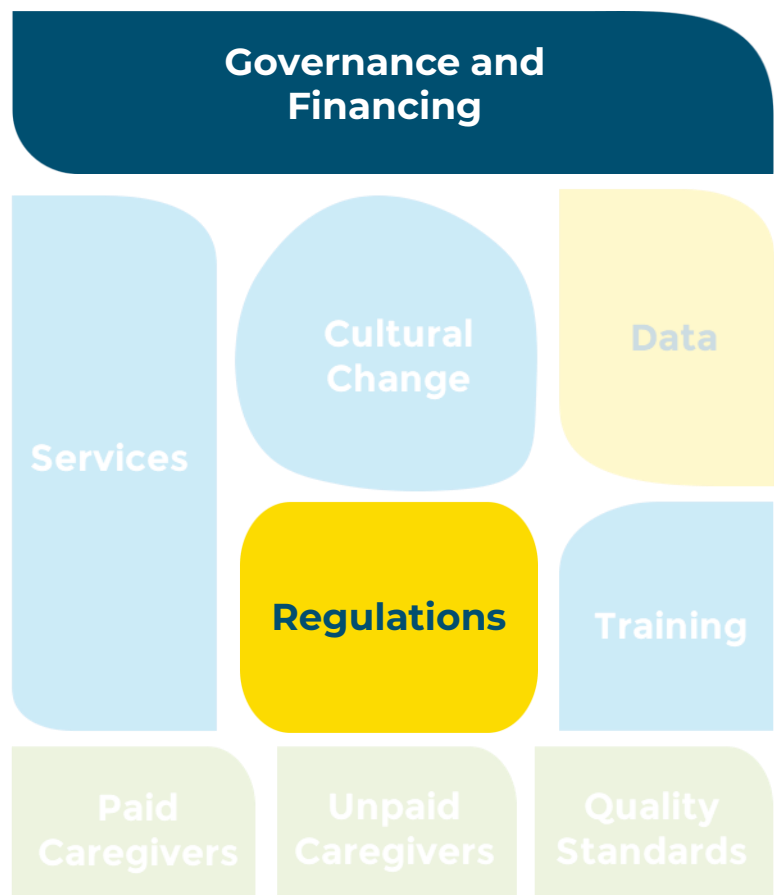
Our work on Quality Standards

- Develop [quality standards and mechanisms to monitor and enforce them](#) among public and private providers
- [Harmonize standards across different public providers](#) (national and local governments)
- Provide support for [continuous quality improvement](#)
- [Expand quality interventions](#)
- [License providers](#)
- [Design curricula and methodological guides](#)

Our work on Training

- Pre-service and in-service training for the workforce:
 - Training – Caregivers of older people in [Uruguay](#) and [Panama](#)
- Coordination with higher-education institutions to expand the care profession
- Improve institutional and technical capacity

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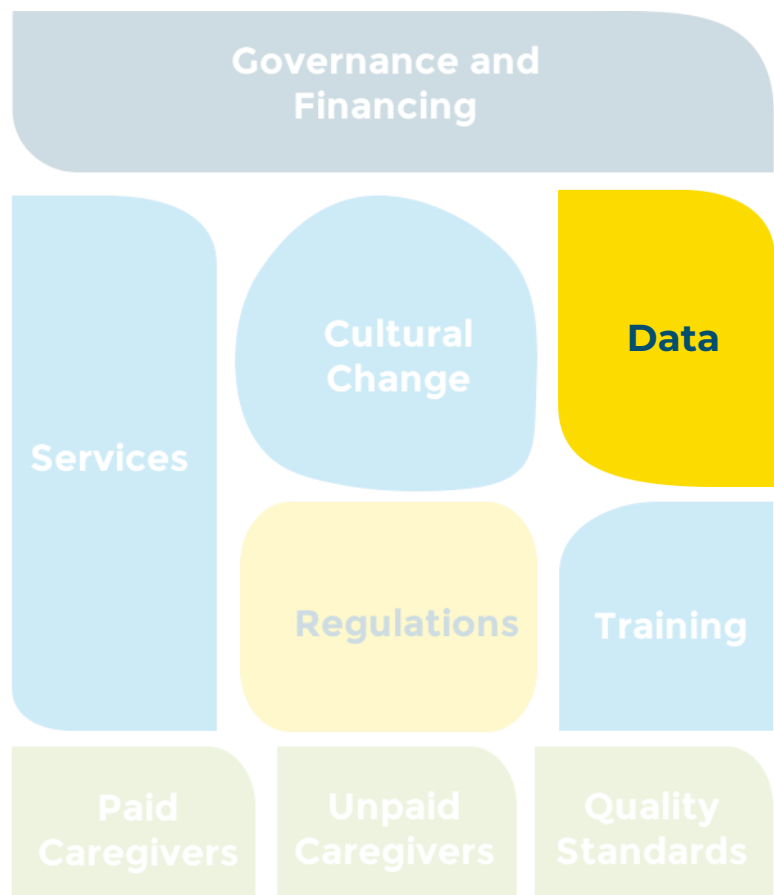
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Our work on **Governance and Financing** **Regulations**

- Regulations to facilitate coordination across all the actors of the national care systems:
 - [Vertical coordination across levels of government and horizontal coordination across sectors](#)
 - [Strengthen equality and equity policies for women and diverse populations](#)
- Regulations needed to assure quality and sustainable financing
- Dialogue and planning:
 - [Gender and Diversity and Social Protection and Health Division Policy Dialogue](#)
 - [Public/Private sectors Dialogue](#)

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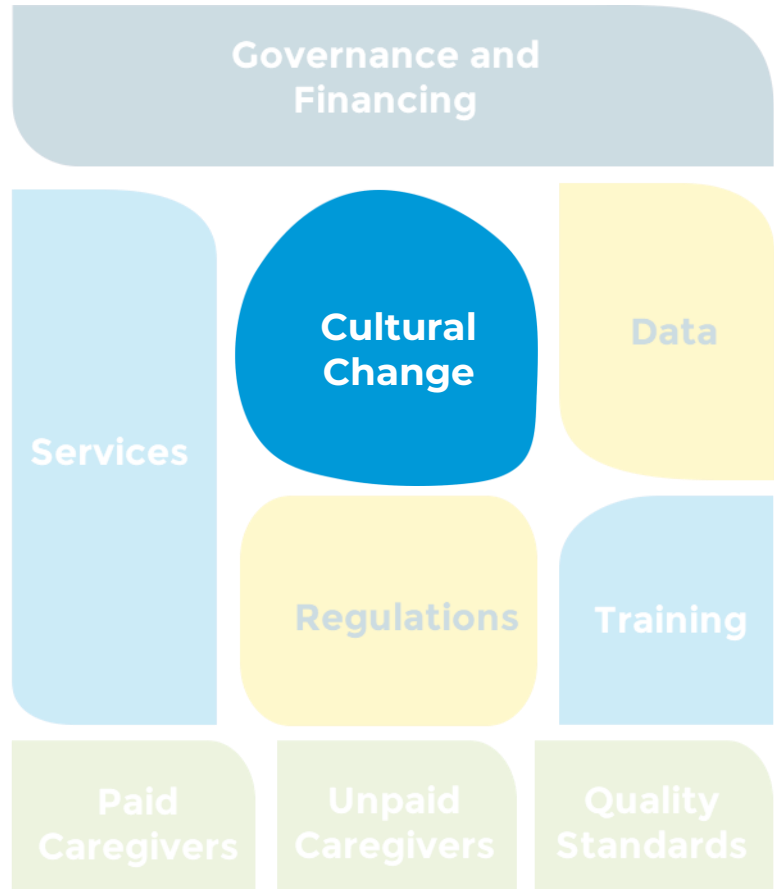
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Our work on Data

- Evaluate impact:
 - [Childcare quality and child development](#)
- Develop information systems:
 - [Innovative information systems](#)
- Develop rigorous research to address the gender gap in care:
 - [GDLab](#)
- Scale quality services through data analysis:
 - [Expanding coverage based on data](#)
- Innovative data collection:
 - [Online survey of caregivers for older persons](#)

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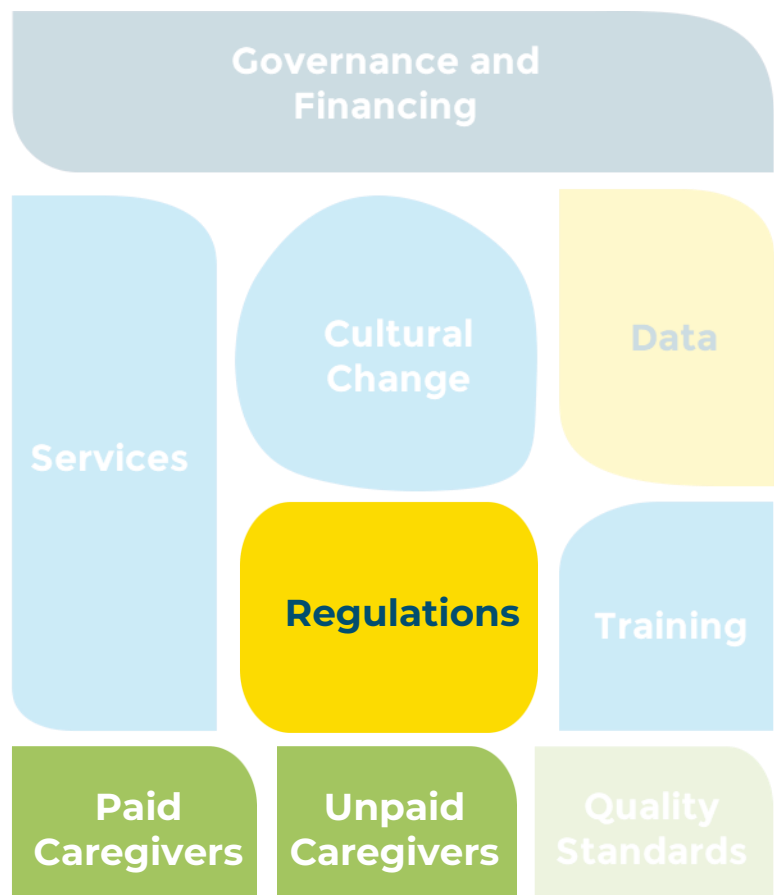
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Our work on Cultural Change

- [Close gender gaps in home care](#)
- [Engage men and boys in care](#)
- [Engage companies in care](#)
- [Gender norms in childhood](#)
- [Care and gender pay gap](#)
- [Care for ageing population and people with disabilities](#)
- [Inclusive early childhood services](#)
- [Care for persons with disabilities](#)

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Our work on Paid Caregivers Regulations

- [Formalization of the workforce](#)
- Policies to improve working conditions through the definition of [professional qualification profiles](#)
- Mentoring and continuous career growth:
 - [Caregivers of children](#)
- Formalization of [home-care workers](#)
- [Promote care jobs in collaboration with the private sector](#)

Our work on Unpaid Caregivers Regulations

- [Respite and self-care services for caregivers](#)
- Expand coverage and quality of interventions to [improve parenting practices](#)
- Labor force policies and regulations for families such as [paternity leave](#)

