



**GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SOCIAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

**THIRD GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**PROJECT PROPOSAL PAPER**

**FOR**

**GPSA GRANT**

**US\$ 680,000**

**TO**

**SAVE THE CHILDREN (Georgia Office)**

**GEORGIA**

**Improving Preschool Education in Georgia through Social  
Accountability Processes**

**April 20, 2016**

## DATA SHEET

### GEORGIA

#### Improving Preschool Education in Georgia through Social Accountability Processes

### ECA

### Education

Basic Information									
Date:	April 20, 2016			Sectors:	Education (100%)				
Recipient: Save the Children – Georgia Office									
Executing Agency: Save the Children – Georgia Office									
Contact:	Ms. Tamta Golubiani				Title:	Team Leader			
	Tel +995 (5) 9170 3328				Email:	<a href="mailto:tamta.golubiani@savethechildren.org">tamta.golubiani@savethechildren.org</a>			
Project Financing Data(US\$M)									
<input type="checkbox"/> Loan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant			<input type="checkbox"/> Other					
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit	<input type="checkbox"/> Guarantee								
Expected Disbursements (FY/US\$)									
Fiscal Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3						
Annual	\$254,539	\$217,176	\$208,285						
Cumulative	\$254,539	\$471,715	\$680,000						
Project Development Objective(s)									
The Project's Development Objective is to improve the delivery of—and resource allocation to—pre-school education services through collaborative monitoring and feedback (benchmarking) activities between civic, educational and municipal partners.									
Components									
Component Name:									Cost (US\$)
<b>Component 1:</b> Developing a comprehensive monitoring system for quality preschool service delivery and improved social accountability.									<b>\$271,931</b>
<b>Component 2:</b> Establishing a national mechanism for (a) capacity development of preschool service providers and (b) improving social accountability practices for bettering service delivery									<b>\$273,564</b>
<b>Component 3:</b> Knowledge& Learning - Creating an enabling environment to scale-up the newly-created monitoring system grounded on the benchmarking methodology									<b>\$134,505</b>

## **I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

### **A. PDO**

The Project's Development Objective is to improve the delivery of—and resource allocation to—pre-school education services through collaborative monitoring and feedback (benchmarking) activities between civic, educational and municipal partners.

Georgia's decentralized preschool system currently faces a number of challenges, including (1) a lack of data on children enrolled in or left out of the system, (2) the absence of a measurement system to assess the quality of service delivery, and (3) a lack of feedback mechanisms from service users (children and their parents) on the effectiveness and efficiency of preschool services. To address this, Save the Children–Georgia and its partner, Civitas, propose to: (1) design and establish a monitoring and feedback (benchmarking) system for all relevant stakeholders to assess and collaboratively improve pre-school education services in 27 of 71 municipalities, and (2) establish a National Preschool Association (NPA) to extend this benchmarking approach, and other social accountability practices, to all Georgian municipalities and pre-schools.

The new draft Law on Early and Preschool Education (which will be effective September 2016) requires municipalities to provide oversight and monitoring of preschools in the implementation of national standards (education, nutrition and food safety, sanitation and hygiene, and physical environment). Through the implementation of the benchmarking system municipalities will be better prepared for assuming the obligations set by the new Law and more accountable for quality service delivery in preschool education.

Civitas Georgia and SC have already signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) about cooperation in the preschool sector. A similar MoU will be signed with the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA) and with all targeted municipalities. The memoranda will stipulate roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in the project.

The project will continue to work in close cooperation with UNICEF and other international and local NGOs active in the field to ensure joint advocacy, close collaboration and avoid any duplications. Also, as envisaged, the proposed benchmarking methodology will likely reveal a number of areas of improvement in the preschool sector, and many local and international NGOs can get involved in addressing the problems identified and supporting the municipalities.

### **B. Project Beneficiaries**

***The Project's direct beneficiaries include:*** Preschool age children and their parents, teachers and care-givers in 27 of Georgia's 71 municipalities (38%). Some 50,000 people will directly benefit from the project. The first seven municipalities have already been selected, based on the following criteria: i) mix of small and large municipalities, ii) municipalities with mix of urban and rural populations, iii) municipalities with large ethnic minority populations, and iv) municipalities where the applicant organizations have already established strong professional ties and have gained substantial trust among local stakeholders. The seven municipalities are: Lanchkhuti,

Ozurgeti, Gori, Khashuri, Marneuli, Akhaltsikhe, and Rustavi. The remaining 20 will be selected on a demand-driven basis. The project will also benefit the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), which is responsible for developing teaching methodologies, and the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs (MoLHSA), which oversees sanitation, hygiene and nutrition standards.

***The Project's indirect beneficiaries include:*** all Georgian municipalities and pre-schools, which will be introduced to the social accountability tools, approaches and lessons of this project via the outreach of the National Preschool Association.

## II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### A. Project Components

#### **Component 1: Developing a comprehensive monitoring system for quality preschool service delivery and improved social accountability.**

The objective of this component is create, through a collaborative stakeholder process, the benchmarking and monitoring system that will be used to assess pre-school services in Georgia. This includes:

1. Development of (a) two sets of benchmarking tools for assessing, planning, implementing and monitoring purposes, including data and feedback collection and analysis along with its (b) guidelines to evaluate municipal preschool service provision through participatory process.
2. Piloting the proposed benchmarking methodology (tool and guidelines) in 7 selected municipalities (Year One) and document pilot results (lessons learned and best practices).
3. Holding a joint workshop with all participant pilot municipalities to discuss the pilot results, common issues and gaps and to further refine/revise the developed tool.
4. Organization of individual meetings/events with each pilot municipality to assess the benchmarking results and develop improvement plans.

#### **Component 2: Establishing a national mechanism for (a) capacity development of preschool service providers and (b) improving social accountability practices for bettering service delivery**

The objective of this component is to establish a national network of stakeholders committed and empowered to roll out similar processes to all pre-schools in Georgia. This will be accomplished via:

1. The establishment of a National Preschool Association (NPA). Initially, the NPA will unite service providers from the 27 target municipalities. Subsequently, all municipalities will be invited to participate.
2. Building the capacities of the NPA members via a Training of Trainers effort to roll out the benchmarking methodology to assess and improve (a) quality care and development, resource allocation and accessibility issues; and (b) social accountability i.e. parents and community members feedback mechanism
3. The establishment of a platform for exchange of experiences and good practices among municipalities and the NPA through regular meetings, the dissemination of information and the strengthening of partnerships between the MoES and the NPA.

**Component 3: Knowledge& Learning - Creating an enabling environment to scale-up the newly-created monitoring system grounded on the benchmarking methodology.**

The objective of this component is to raise broad awareness about the SAcc tools, methods, results and learning from the above-described experiences so that they can be scaled and further improved over time in Georgia, and potentially beyond. To do so, the project will:

1. Communicate the benchmarking results to national and local government bodies countrywide
2. Advocate replication/scale-up of benchmarking methodology in all municipalities of Georgia
3. Raise public awareness (through TV and radio programs, events/meetings, and printed materials) about social accountability mechanisms initiated by the project

## **B. Project Financing**

The financing instrument elected for this project is a Recipient Executed Trust Fund (RETF) Grant. The source of financing for this Grant is the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA), housed within the World Bank. As per World Bank Trust Fund guidelines, given that this Trust Fund is smaller than US\$5 million this Project is subject to World Bank procedures related to project preparation and supervision of Small RETF Grants. The Project cost is estimated to be US\$680,000 to be financed completely by the GPSA grant. Additionally, the World Bank will commit an annual Project supervision budget in the amount of US\$20,000.

<b>Project Costs</b>	<b>Total Project Cost (US\$)</b>	<b>GPSA Grant Financing (US\$)</b>	<b>CSO Financing (US\$)</b>	<b>WB Financing* (US\$)</b>	<b>GPSA Financing (%)</b>
<b>Component 1</b>	\$283,884	\$283,884	0	0	100
<b>Component 2</b>	\$285,589	\$285,589	0	0	100
<b>Component 3</b>	\$110,526	\$110,526	0	0	100
Total Base Cost	\$680,000	\$680,000	0	0	100
Other costs	\$60,000	0	0	\$60,000	0
Total Project Cost	\$740,000	\$680,000	0	\$60,000	92%
* Annual World Bank Project supervision budget of US\$20,000.					

## **III. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **A. Implementation Arrangements**

**Project Implementing Agency:** The project will be led by Save the Children—Georgia (SC). SC is responsible for overall management, operational and fiduciary responsibilities. It will ensure overall quality control concerning: the development of the benchmarking tools and processes, the constructive engagement with all stakeholders (national and local government, UNICEF, service providers/recipients), and the Knowledge & Learning activities.

SC will partner with Civitas Georgia to implement this initiative. Civitas will build from its prior and ongoing experiences working with UNICEF to improve practices across Georgia at the pre-

school level. It will be in charge of establishing the National Pre-School Association, building its capacities and ensuring robust peer to peer education.

Civita Georgia is a non-governmental organization established in Georgia in 1996 to assist the transformation processes in Caucasus region. The organization has rich experience in promoting/assisting democratic reforms and advancing competent public participation in local decision-making. The history of continued productive cooperation with a majority of municipalities in Georgia is one of the key assets of the organizations and key strength for the implementation of this project.

**Flow of Funds:** Save the Children – Georgia will directly draw down on the Designated Account in order to ensure smooth flow of funds for implementation of Project activities. An Indicative Schedule of Advanced Payments and Final Reimbursement will be included in the Disbursement Letter. Requests for withdrawal of Grant funds will be made in accordance with a schedule (milestones) agreed between Save the Children–Georgia and the World Bank.

## **B. Results Monitoring and Evaluation**

SC and the World Bank will monitor the PDO level indicators, as well as implementation of activities supported by each Project component. SC will use a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) approach to: 1) track progress against key indicators; 2) ensure quality implementation of the project; 3) capture beneficiaries and stakeholders' feedback, and 4) share findings with relevant partners. The MEAL Plan developed by SC and its partner will be guided by the following principles: 1) use of relevant indicators to measure project output and outcomes; 2) use of qualitative and quantitative indicators 3) participatory monitoring and evaluation; 4) interpretation of data for impact assessment, timely decision-making and needed revisions/adjustments.

The focus of the monitoring will be to discern whether the benchmarking exercise is used effectively, sustained over time, leads to tangible improvements as defined by local stakeholders, and is transferred and adopted by non-participating municipalities via the NPA or other means.

## **C. Sustainability**

The project's approach to sustainability is the following:

- Ensure deep buy-in of all stakeholders so that the benchmarking and action-plan processes are owned locally;
- Work collaboratively at local level with all stakeholder to foment change that is appreciated, and that people want to replicate and sustain
- Ensure the development of a constituency-based national association of pre-schools to roll out the learning, experiences and processes developed in the initial 27 municipalities to all 71 municipalities.
- Monitor the above over time.