



Improving Preschool Education in Georgia through Social Accountability Processes (P161435)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA | Georgia | Governance Global Practice |
 Recipient Executed Activities | Investment Project Financing | FY 2017 | Seq No: 1 | ARCHIVED on 13-Jun-2019 | ISR31421 |

Implementing Agencies: Save the Children – Georgia Office, Save the Children – Georgia Office

Key Dates

Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date: 24-Mar-2017

Effectiveness Date: 10-Apr-2017

Original Closing Date: 16-Jan-2020

Revised Closing Date: 16-Jan-2020

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The objective of the Project is to empower citizens through social accountability interventions, to improve the delivery of and resource allocation of pre-school education services in targeted municipalities of the Member Country.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components

Name

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	--	● Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	--	● Satisfactory

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

Implementation Progress is assessed as *Satisfactory* as bulk of the project's intermediate outcome indicators are on track and key activities well advanced. As of May 10, 2019, the grant has disbursed 69 percent of the proceeds, about 470,000 USD from the total grant amount of 680,000 USD.

The benchmarking methodology was developed, which is instrumental for generating data for social accountability. The new tool collects data from 3 different sources to monitor kindergarten performance and collect feedback from service recipients. Benchmarking system consists of 4 main areas: (i) management of kindergartens; (ii) cooperation with parents and local community; (iii) educational and developmental processes; and (iv)



infrastructure and environment. The data is collected through financial questionnaire for reporting on kindergarten spending by different categories, kindergarten self-assessment questionnaire that collects information on how the kindergartens are managed and collaborates with communities, educational processes and infrastructure environment, and parent surveys. The latter is the main tool to support the social accountability approach and ensure service receivers voice is heard by the decision makers. The data allows managers to understand where the kindergarten stands vis-à-vis pre-defined quality criteria and what is needed to further develop and get to the advance level. The project covers municipalities with ethnic-minorities, particularly Marneuli municipality having one of the largest ethnic minority – Azeri population in Georgia. As field visits showed that majority of kindergarten staff had difficulty understanding Georgian language, the project supported translation of benchmarking tools into Azeri language.

As of today, Benchmarking was implemented in 7 pilot municipalities under the project to assess performance of selected 13 kindergartens. The benchmarking tools were fine-tuned following the pilot and finalized for application in all kindergartens of 42 municipalities. The generated data has been entered in the specially designed software. The data produced through benchmarking is already applied by National Preschool Association (NPA) members to advocate the most burning issues revealed during the exercise. The benchmarking data will shortly become publicly available.

The grant supported wide-range of capacity building activities. National Preschool Association was established under the grant in October 2018 to support kindergartens. NPA currently enrolls 42 municipalities instead of originally planned 27 municipalities. NPA board members from the 27 municipalities have received targeted trainings to improve capacity in public speaking, monitoring and social accountability; moreover, the trainings supported professional development of 16 teachers from Rustavi to attend 6-day training HEART (Healing and Education through Art) program that is art-based approach to support children's emotional well-being and development. Additional time will be needed to support capacity building of new member municipalities.

The project is supporting the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports in planning and decision making through data and evidence generated from the benchmarking exercise. The project is governed by a Steering Committee composed of all relevant governmental agencies responsible for Early Childhood Education.

Risks

Overall Risk Rating

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Overall	--	--	● Low

Results

Project Development Objective Indicators

► Number of targeted municipalities undergo benchmarking assessment (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	42.00	27.00
Date	31-Jan-2017	--	10-May-2019	16-Jan-2020

Comments
On Track.



►The percentage of surveyed respondents in the target communities who confirm positive changes due to newly established benchmarking system (Text, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	n/a	--	The work toward the achievement of indicator is in progress but baseline and follow on surveys have been postponed. During the initial meetings in 7 pilot municipalities the potential positive impact of benchmarking system has been identified and discussed with kindergarten staff; The external evaluation will define the percentage increase of an indicator. The baseline shall be conducted during the second round of benchmarking, that will take place in Summer 2019.	20% increase
Date	31-Mar-2017	--	10-May-2019	16-Jan-2020

►Percentage of identified issues addressed in annual municipal programs and financial plans as a results of benchmarking (Text, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	n/a	--	The work toward the achievement of indicator is in progress; the initial meetings with representatives of 20 self-government executive and representative bodies have been conducted and agreed that the benchmarking results	30 percent



will be included in the municipal program planning process; As more municipalities joined the benchmarking process than originally planned, by the end of the 2nd year, the grant will generate benchmarking results from all 42 municipalities and it will be possible to calculate what challenges have been revealed and what percentage of them have been addressed;

There is an early evidence on the application of the benchmarking results in pilot municipalities. The benchmarking exercise revealed that only 0.16 of total municipal spending on preschool education is spend on the kindergarten staff training, which creates serious concerns for adequate professional development of preschool teachers. As a result, one of the municipalities (Ozurgeti municipality) already created a new line for teacher training in their annual budget plan.

Date	31-Mar-2017	--	10-May-2019	16-Jan-2020
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Overall Comments

Intermediate Results Indicators



► Developed Monitoring and Feedback (Benchmarking) Methodology finalized after piloting in 7 municipalities; (Text, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No System in Place	--	Achieved. New benchmarking system was developed, piloted in 7 municipalities and finalized reflecting pilot experience in consultation with municipal and state authorities.	Methodology finalized in consultation with municipal and state authorities.
Date	31-Jan-2017	--	10-May-2019	31-Jan-2020

► Number of municipalities (out of 71) constructively engaged in consultations on finalization of benchmarking methodology through established online platform. (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	42.00	27.00
Date	31-Jan-2017	--	10-May-2019	31-Jan-2020

Comments

7 municipalities are engaged in consultations on finalization of benchmarking methodology through mailing list and Facebook group. By the end of year 2, additional 20 municipality will join the discussions.

► Comparative analytical reports evaluating local and sectoral political economy contexts in 7 pilot municipalities to inform the pilot and manage risks (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	1.00	3.00
Date	31-Jan-2017	--	10-May-2019	31-Jan-2020



►Percentage of National Preschool Association (NPA) members capable to deliver/apply benchmarking. (Text, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0 percent	--	The capacity building of 27 municipalities has been finalized; Capacity building of the remainder, newly joined municipalities will take place in the coming months.	100 percent
Date	31-Jan-2017	--	10-May-2019	31-Jan-2020

Comments

This activity is behind the schedule given the expansion of NPA membership from intended 7 municipalities to 27; NPA was established in June 2018 with seven municipalities and additional kindergartens from 20 municipalities joined in December 2018; capacity building activities have been postponed to prepare and include all 27 municipalities in the training.

►Fully Functional National Preschool Association represented in all targeted municipalities. (Number (Thousand), Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	27.00	27.00
Date	31-Jan-2017	--	10-May-2019	31-Jan-2020

►Number of learning sessions dedicated to program improvement based on project implementation findings. (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	10.00	12.00
Date	31-Jan-2017	--	10-May-2019	31-Jan-2020

Comments

The project Team both from Save the Children and Civitas Georgia meets every month to discuss project progress, challenges, lessons learned and to identify improved implementation modalities as needed.



►NPA uses information from knowledge products to adapt the benchmarking process to their political context. (Text, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	Not in place	--	On track. NPA is still nascent institution, but gradually becoming functional. The NPA has reviewed the tools and provided feedback how to improve it to adapt to the local features of the member kindergartens. Recommendations have been considered by project team.	NPA uses information from knowledge products to adapt the benchmarking process to their political context.
Date	31-Jan-2017	--	10-May-2019	31-Jan-2020

Overall Comments

Data on Financial Performance

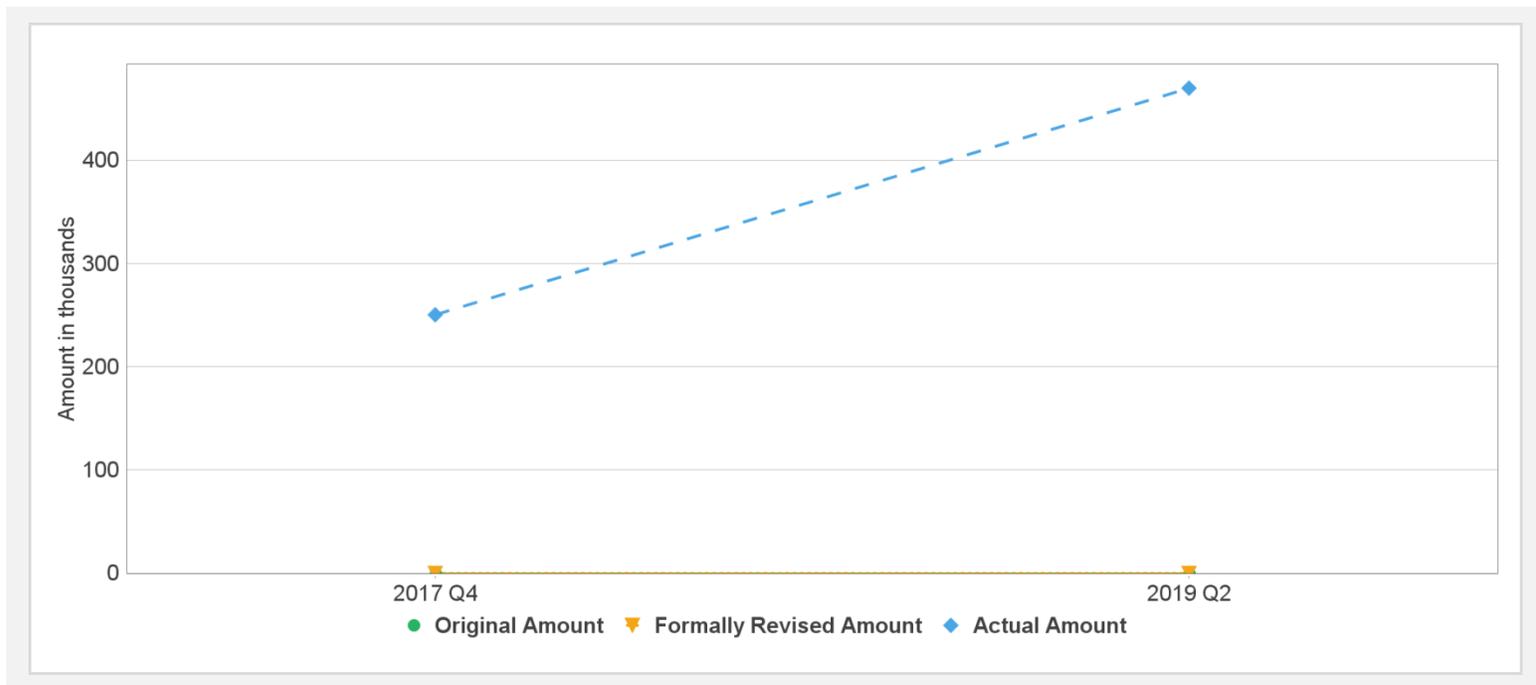
Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Disbursed
P161435	TF-A4473	Effective	USD	0.68	0.68	0.00	0.47	0.21	 69%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P161435	TF-A4473	Effective	24-Mar-2017	10-Apr-2017	10-Apr-2017	16-Jan-2020	16-Jan-2020

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.