

TERMS OF REFERENCE

on ECCD Policy Development and Plan of Action in Azerbaijan

Background

Within the framework of the Master Plan of Operations 2000-2004 signed by the Government of Azerbaijan and UNICEF, the Ministry of Education initiated an assessment for ECCD in Azerbaijan to assess both in quality and quantity terms by assistance of UNICEF.

- ❖ ECCD fact-finding was carried out and facilitated by Dr, Martha Llanos, the UNICEF's International expert in 2000 year. The mission was directed to set up a methodological basis for the development of indicators and a participatory assessment of ECCD in the country.
- ❖ ECCD seminar was carried out for the senior leadership of the Ministry of Education on introduction into ECCD, understanding and ensuring support to ECCD in the country;
- ❖ A multisectoral workshop on ECCD organized with the participation from the Government Ministries such as Health, Education, Labor and Social Protection of Population, Youth and Sports, Finance, State Committee on Statistics, State Committee on Women's Issues, national and international NGOs.
- ❖ MICS and EFA Assessment 2000 included substantial data and findings with regard to ECCD.
- ❖ Ministries of Education and Health have developed cooperation to review health standards of preschool and nutrition content for teachers.
- ❖ Proposal on emphasis on family and community approaches for ECCD services have been developed.
- ❖ In November, MoE, World Bank and UNICEF organized seminar on education policy development and discussed the rationale for investing in ECCD, and the implications of both ECCD and the educational reform. The current situation of the pre-school system was discussed, new visions were developed and the need for partnerships in this area was generally recognized.

As the follow up on ECCD policy development the following actions agreed on and adopted by ECCD Task Force:

- First group: Basic information for planning ECCD (review proposed indicators see Attachment 1)
- Second group: Specific studies to strengthen ECCD (cost analysis and family child values and rearing patterns)
- Third Group: Analysis of pre-school components and training
- Fourth Group: Communication Strategy, strengthening ECCD in all sectors. Mobilization at Local levels.

Goal - Purpose

Facilitate the process for ECCD in the country through guiding the different groups and proposing short-term and long-term plan of actions on ECCD policy development.

The ECCD mission aims to enable the country:

- Facilitate capacity building capacity of "critical mass of educators and other service providers" at national and district levels, with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to advocate for and create child-centered, effective programs for all children from early childhood through basic education
- Mobilize resources through an inter-sector working groups for policy development, planning and the provision of quality services
- Explore the possibilities for expanding child care settlements promoting holistic approach and are responsive to local conditions and community needs

The findings and recommendations will be useful for policy-makers, planners, managers and practitioners. The assessment will assist to identify essential, core indicators on ECCD; develop and use a diversity of methods, instruments, and data sources (both traditional and innovative in nature); and focus community, family and children in risk. Particular attention will be focussed on capacity for development of non-formal community- or family- based ECCD models in Azerbaijan.

The process will also provide an opportunity to refocus attention on a child's survival, development, protection and participation, and reinvigorate efforts to meet a young child's rights and needs.

Methodologies

- Develop essential, core indicators
- Develop appropriate assessment methods and instruments
- Qualitative and quantitative
- Standardised and non-standardised
- Usable and useful at all levels (home, local community and government, national)
- Use innovative methodologies
- Collect and disaggregate data by sex and age

Data collection sources and systems

- Statistics from available sources and data collection systems (e.g., census, Government and non-government reports)
- Results from the available and ongoing UNICEF, World Bank, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA studies concerning early child development situation, policies, and programmes
- Community-based monitoring systems -- which trace and track all children, especially those at risk, through all important milestones

- Registration
- Immunisation
- Enrolment
- Meetings, roundtables, field visits

Assignment

- Facilitating roundtable discussion with the *first group of ECCD Task Force* on initial data collected (available measurement instruments, review pre-school policy docs, current curriculum, analysis of human resources for ECCD, review of training component, in-service training) with focus on ECCD indicators and standards; to identify other sources of data with the perspective of a broader ECCD vision.
- Visit kindergartens, review and analyze UNICEF/MOE ECCD model "The Parent and Children Development Program" to develop recommendations, suggest materials and training contents to ensure holistic approach.
- Facilitate roundtable for broader discussion UNICEF/MOE ECCD model "The Parent and Children Development Program" to build up proposal for sustainable development of the program and cover as much children as possible.
- Propose a set of indicators and develop methodology and guidelines for comprehensive evaluation of ECCD areas
- To advocate ECCD in the country
 - a) To study the strengths and limitations and the information needs of different related sectors, agencies, groups for ECCD.
 - b) Have a vision of the network that can be created for ECCD at central and local level
 - c) Carry out one-day seminar for Heads of districts education departments and deputy heads of Local Executive Committees on issues of Culture, Education and Science for a broader dissemination of ECCD in Azerbaijan
 - d) Facilitate roundtables with ECCD Task Force to develop "Long-term and Short-term ECCD Advocacy and Communication Strategy in Azerbaijan" and Plan of Actions in ECCD with special emphasis on the most vulnerable in the line of Dakar follow up and develop recommendations, suggest materials, training contents and other for a broader dissemination of ECCD in Azerbaijan

Outcomes:

- Long-term and short-term ECCD Advocacy and Communication Strategy and Plan of Action in ECCD for expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the country.

- one-day roundtable with ECCD Task Force to analyze ECCD basic information; initiate analysis of all components of current pre-school programmes; indicators and standards.
- One-day workshop for Heads of districts education departments and deputy heads of Local Executive Committees on issues of Culture, Education and Science.
- Meetings, roundtables with key partners and one-day workshop for ECCD Task on development ECCD advocacy and communication strategy to promote ECCD in the country.
- Recommendations and guidelines to strengthen UNICEF/MOE ECCD model "The Parent and Children Development Program" to ensure holistic approach and reaching out to as much children as possible; Recommendations, suggest materials and training contents.
- Presentations of main finding at the working meeting with Government people, NGOs, etc.
- Set of indicators and methodology and guidelines for comprehensive evaluation of ECCD areas
- Preparation of a mission report with detailed data analyses for planners and senior administrators.

In carrying out its task consultant will need to meet and discuss regularly with the following:

<i>Government:</i>	Ministry of Education Ministry of Health Ministry of Labour and Social Protection Ministry of Youth and Sport State Committee on Statistics AzTV and Private channels
<i>Education Institutes:</i>	Public kindergartens, Soros (Open Society Institution) Programms UNICEF/MOE "Parent and Children Development Program"
<i>NGOs:</i>	Azerbaijan Children Organization "Center of Development" "Labirant" Art Center "Women and Development"
<i>UN Agencies:</i>	UNDP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNFPA.

Reporting

- Long-term and shot-term ECCD Advocacy and Communication Strategy and Plan of Action in ECCD for expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the country (draft hard copy and electronic copy on diskette should be submitted).

- Project proposal on strengthening UNICEF/MOE ECCD model "The Parent and Children Development Program" to ensure holistic approach and reaching out to as much children as possible; Recommendations, suggest materials and training contents (hard copy and electronic copy on diskette);
- Developed proposals and recommendations to enhance work process and successful ECCD program implementation
- A set of indicators and methodology and guidelines for comprehensive evaluation of ECCD areas (hard copy and electronic copy on diskette).
- Training materials.
- Mission report

Tentative Time Organization

Time required 40 days

10 days (out of the country) - Preparation of materials

20 days (in the country)

- Workshops, field visits, roundtables, presentations
- Long-term and short-term ECCD Advocacy and Communication Strategy and Plan of Action in ECCD for expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the country.
- Recommendations, suggest materials and training contents on UNICEF/MOE ECCD model "The Parent and Children Development Program" to ensure holistic approach and reaching out to as much children as possible.
- Set of indicators and methodology and guidelines for comprehensive evaluation of ECCD areas
- Developed proposals and recommendations to enhance work process and successful ECCD program implementation
- Training materials.
- Mission report

10 days (out of the country)

- Finalization of report and project proposals

Proposed period is 40 days in November -December 2001

ATTACHMENT 1

Basic information for planning ECCD

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Coverage: | 1. Gross enrolment
2. Parent education programmes
3. New entrants to Grade 1 |
| Quality: | 4. Number of children per adult
5. % of "qualified" staff
6. Physical environment
7. Interaction (or curriculum) |
| Political will: | 8. Presence of ECCD policy/plan
9. % of education budget for ECCD |
| Costs/expenditures: | 10. Cost per child
11. Cost per child as % of GDP
per person
12. Average family expenditure per child |
| Effects on children | 13. Child development measure
14. School readiness measure
15. Nutritional status
16. Health status |