MULTI-COUNTRY EVALUATION OF UNIVERSAL PROGRESSIVE HOME VISITING (UPHV) FOR YOUNG CHILDREN HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION (ECAR)

**Background**

Global evidence from neuroscience and child development research has underlined the critical importance of the early years, as well as a significant knowledge and practice gap of policy makers, practitioners, and families. That in view of almost universal access to health services in the region, the health sector through universal progressive home visiting services provides one of the best entry points to reach families, in particular the most disadvantaged, to promote comprehensive young child well-being (including responsive feeding and health), and cognitive and psychosocial development to create a strong foundation for lifelong health, wellbeing and achievement. Almost all COs are supporting home visiting reforms to include early childhood development.

**Methodology**

The multi-country evaluation (MCE) builds on experiences from the 5 MCE’s conducted in the region over 2013-2015. It will be highly participatory and involve an extensive review of existing documentation (including several existing evaluations of UPHV), complemented by field missions to 3-5 countries to collect additional information. UNICEF/UNEG norms and standards for evaluation will be applied. The evaluative framework will be constructed based on the good practices promoted in the Home Visiting Resource Manual, developed by the RO in 2015. The scope of the MCE will include all countries in the region who have implemented universal progressive home visiting (UPHV) programmes over the period 2012-2017. The role and contribution of the Regional Office and HQ will also be considered within the scope of the MCE. Reference groups for the MCE will be established at both regional and country level comprising country, regional, global representation of key stakeholders interested in UPHV.

**Potential Impact**

Results of the MCE will be measured by assessing the extent to which the conclusions and recommendations from the evaluation inform the design of new Government programmes and UNICEF interventions in the region and beyond – that put the furthest behind first.

**Dissemination**

The main audiences for the multi-country evaluation are: UNICEF management responsible for designing and approving UNICEF programmes in the region, UNICEF Programme Division, Government partners who are designing and overseeing UPHV programmes, and UNICEF technical networks working on young child health and well-being initiatives. The results of the evaluation will be first validated internally and with all partner governments. Final results will be presented and discussed at a conference with the participation of all partner governments.

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