

Voices from the Field

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

The Importance of Cost-Efficiency in Evaluating Interventions by *Elena Laur and Larisa Virtosu, UNICEF Moldova*



Cost-efficiency has been clearly specified under the purpose of the [*Evaluation of Modelling of Services for Children under three*](#), supported by UNICEF. Efficiency was also incorporated in the evaluation questions that were asked.

The project was implemented in collaboration with local public authorities and the private sector, who co-funded the setting up of crèche groups. Parents also contributed in-kind and financially. The efforts led to the intervention being cost-efficient and sustainable.

The CEA was based on an assessment of outputs in relation to inputs, costs and planned timelines. All requested documentation was provided to the Evaluation team (national experts guided by the International team-leader). However, there was paucity of comparable data and benchmarking, which were addressed through a fully-fledged [cost-effectiveness analysis of ECD services](#) carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers.



Other key elements of cost-effectiveness related to use of human resources, structure and level of various budget categories compared to market rates and good practices, cost-sharing mechanism, which were also analysed. When data was unavailable, qualitative methods were applied to better understand the efforts made to achieve efficiency gains and savings. The findings of the evaluation showed that the model was implemented in a professional, timely and culturally-sensitive manner and funds were spent in an accountable and cost-efficient way. The evaluation proved that investments in early childhood education and development can bring about tremendous returns in the future for the individuals, communities and Moldovan society at large.

For more details on this, please contact [Elena Laur](#), M&E Officer and [Larisa Virtosu](#), ECD Officer.