

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)  
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC87159

<b>Project Name</b>	Improving Preschool Education in Georgia through Social Accountability Processes
<b>Region</b>	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
<b>Country</b>	Georgia
<b>Lending Instrument</b>	IPF
<b>Project ID</b>	P161435
<b>Borrower Name</b>	Save the Children – Georgia Office
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Save the Children – Georgia Office
<b>Environment Category</b>	C - Not Required
<b>Date PID Prepared</b>	08-Nov-2016
<b>Estimated Date of Approval</b>	15-Dec-2016
<b>Initiation Note Review Decision</b>	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

**I. Introduction and Context**

**Country Context**

Since Georgia's 2003 transition it has fundamentally transformed its political, economic and governance systems. It saw periods of rapid economic growth throughout the 2000s, and consecutive governments have continued policies of limited regulation, low taxes, free markets. Georgia has placed great emphasis on the attraction of FDI and is in the process of seeking deeper integration with Europe.

Georgia remains one of the weakest performers in ECA in terms of shared prosperity. Consumption of the bottom 40 percent grew at only 0.7 percent per year compared to 2 percent for the overall population. World Bank support has become more poverty focused in recent years with a greater emphasis on investing in human capital. While public spending on education, health, and social protection has been on the rise, it remains low overall, with sub-optimal outcomes.

**Sectoral and Institutional Context**

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.

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).

In order to create the conditions on the ground for a successful implementation of the Early and Preschool Education Law, 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.

### **Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF**

The proposed Project is consistent with the World Bank's 2014-17 Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Georgia (of April 9, 2014) as one of its higher level objectives is to help strengthen the Government's capacity, at the local and central levels, to prioritize, procure, implement and monitor programs and projects, while ensuring their fiscal sustainability. Georgia is engaged in a process of decentralization that, to be effective, requires building capacity at the local level where the mandate and responsibility for social programs critical for inclusion would be transferred to local governments. The CPS supports programs such as the GPSA that bring innovative mechanisms for participatory local development and greater social accountability.

## **II. Project Development Objective(s)**

### **Proposed 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.

### **Key Results**

The key results for this project are:

- An increase in the number of targeted municipalities subjected to benchmarking assessments.
- An increased number of surveyed responders in the targeted communities confirming positive changes due to newly established benchmarking system.
- An increased number of issues are addressed by municipalities as a result of the benchmarking.

## **III. Preliminary Description**

### **Concept Description**

## **IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply**

<b>Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		<b>x</b>	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		<b>x</b>	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		<b>x</b>	
Pest Management OP 4.09		<b>x</b>	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		<b>x</b>	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		<b>x</b>	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		<b>x</b>	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		<b>x</b>	

Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

## V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.68	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
Global Partnership for Social Accountability			0.68

## VI. Contact point

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