



QENDRA PËR SHËRBIME HUMANE DHE ZHVILLIM

## CALL FOR A NATIONAL EXPERT FOR RESEARCH

**General conditions:** Service Contract – Consultancy

**Location of duty:** Prishtina

Human Services and Development Center in Kosovo (QSHHZH) is looking to engage a Expert Researcher, to undertake an end-of-project stocktaking review of the community-based ECD center's functionalization in four target municipalities, with particular focus on demand generation for enrollment of children 0-6 years old in preschool institutions, and uptake of distance learning methods by educators and parents associated with the Community-Based Centers, for five (16) days within the period 11st of January -28 February 2021

### **General Information**

The organization was established 2013 with the aim of develop unique strategies and products that strengthen, activate, and empower our citizens through projects, training, evaluations, research, humanitarian activities, infrastructure projects, and collaboration with other organizations. The organization has been striving to connect with people who share our values and through our activities make a positive difference in the lives of the people we serve. QSHHZH through her mission continues to contribute to social justice and equity by promoting Early Childhood Development and Education as a fundamental right for children. We believe that providing quality early education is a sound foundation for the well-being of children and the purposes of our activities are to contribute to making ECD a policy-making priority, and to implement effective community outreach programs.

### **General terms about the research**

Despite the weakness of the existing institutional framework in Kosovo and the lack of a policy for systematic expansion of ECD/E interventions on an equitable basis and low investment in ECE, important milestones have been achieved to advance ECD in Kosovo through the support provided by UNICEF to the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), both through direct engagement and implementing partners such as QSHHZH.



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Kosovo supported the MES in revising the Early Childhood Education Law. Among other issues, this law aims to facilitate the work licensing of various pre-school entities, especially community – based and public- private partnership kindergartens, and make kindergartens more accessible to poor families and to the most vulnerable and marginalized children, children from ethnic minorities and children with disabilities. The legal framework will set the basis for concrete interventions aimed at increasing access and quality of preschool education in Kosovo, where access remains at the low 15% of children aged 3-5 who attend an early childhood education programme, according to MICS 2020. Significant ethnic inequities are observed in access to education, where the percentage of children 3-5 years old from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities who attend an early childhood education programme is only 7.6%. Through the project supported by UNICEF, QSHHZH has been working to support efforts to narrow the equity gaps for the most excluded children, contribute to strengthen governance systems to deliver quality services at central and local levels, and to build resilience of communities and individuals. Besides working with institutions and conducting awareness raising activities on ECD, the project has led to the establishment of 4 community-based ECD centers, 3 of which have been implemented by QSHHZH, in the municipalities of Gjilan, Dragash and Lipjan, while the 4th Center in Gjakova has been implemented by Bethany Christian Services. The community-based ECD Centers enable equal access for children aged 3-6 years old from all ethnicities in the target municipalities. Established in January and February 2020, the centers have been functioning as planned and in the physical facilities, until the closure of all pre-school institutions due to the pandemic outbreak. Starting from March 2020, as most stakeholders have switched to online working, the community-based Centers have also adapted to isolation measures. Educators from three community centers are conducting their work using the digital platform “Distance Learning”, developed and launched by MEST and UNICEF, with contributions from QSHHZH, and Save the Children. The activities planned and presented on the “Distance education - care, development and early childhood education for age 0 - 6” platform were the main source of activities in which children, parents and educators were engaged particularly during the lockdown period of the pandemic.

The educators held daily meetings with the parents about the organization of the activities, provided instructions on how the activity can be most interactive for children and parents. Preschool educators also engaged in monitoring the implementation of activities, in reporting and ensure portfolio completion for each child



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## **1. ENGAGEMENT GOAL**

To undertake an end-of-project stocktaking review of the community-based ECD center's functionalization in four target municipalities, with particular focus on demand generation for enrollment of children 0-6 years old in preschool institutions, and uptake of distance learning methods by educators and parents associated with the Community-Based Centers.

## **2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- To review the implementation of project activities vis-à-vis project targets
- To analyze the challenges and benefits of transition to virtual early learning education, including the digital literacy of educators and parents and the extent of applicability of daily ECD activities in the digital platform for the home environment
- Analyze and present project results on: i) increasing awareness of parents regarding ECD, ii) increasing demand for enrollment of children 0-6 years old in the targeted communitybased ECD centers, iii) generating municipal engagement for scaling up the model of community-based ECD centers, for the four (4) community-based ECD centers
- To highlight derived learnings and key recommendations

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

The stocktaking review for the project outcomes will be conducted by the selected consultant and with inputs and supervision by the thematic expert at QSHHZH. Upon engagement, the consultant shall define the proposed methodology for implementing the stocktaking review and present it to the thematic expert at QSHHZH within 3-working days of initiation of engagement period; the thematic expert shall provide confirmation in accordance with UNICEF approval. The proposed methodology shall integrate primary and secondary data collection, including accumulation of information and documents demonstrating project results according to defined targets and outcome, and interviews with key stakeholders. The involvement of key stakeholders from each municipality where the community-based ECD Centers were established, local and central government institutions, educators, and parents should be ensured during the collection of primary data. A validation workshop shall be organized in order to confirm and collect involved stakeholders' feedback upon drafting of the stocktaking findings and recommendations. All data collection and fieldwork should be conducted in adherence to COVID-19 prevention and protection measures, including application of virtual interviews and focus group discussions.



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#### **4. PROPOSED STRUCTURE**

The consultant shall ensure that the following aspects are an integral part of the review process: - Stocktaking purpose, objectives and intended audience, methodology

- Intervention/project design, rationale and strategy
  
- Main project activities and results
  
- Key perspectives on the community-based ECD centers on the demand side for early learning programmes (i.e. parents) and supply side (i.e. municipalities, educators)
  
- Lessons learned and critical issues
  
- Final recommendations

#### **5. TIMELINE**

The national expert will be engaged for sixteen (16) working days within the period 11 January - 22 February 2021.

#### **QUALIFICATION REQUIRED:**

- A university degree in education, social sciences, health, sociology or other related field.
- Proven work record in field research and data collection, especially in the areas of education, health or social welfare services
- Strong report writing, facilitation, and communication skills
- English language required, spoken and written
- Good networking within the education to facilitate access to data as well as field work
- Previous experience in working with government and non-government agencies is an asset



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## **PAYMENT**

Payment for this commitment shall be executed according to the contract between the candidate and NGO "Center for Human Services and Development". Taxes will be deducted and paid from Bruto amount according to Kosovo's Law on Income Tax and Pension Contributions. The NGO "Center for Human Services and Development" will execute the payment through bank transfer within seven (7) working days after the approval of the report

**Application Interested candidates can apply in email address [humancenter@gmail.com](mailto:humancenter@gmail.com) at latest on 10 January 2021 at 16.00h**

## **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- Letter of interest explaining why they are the most suitable for the assignment.
- Financial proposal in Bruto amount (before tax and pension contributions deduction).
- CV
- At list two References
- Proposed methodology for this research

## **NOTE**

**Due to the high numbers of applications, QSHHZH is not in a position to respond to everyone individually. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**