



The Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

Executive Summary

***Resettlement Policy Framework
(RPF)***

Project:

Early Childhood Development Project for Kosovo's Human Capital

Project ID: P179656

October, 2023

Executive Summary – Displacement Policy Framework (DPF)

Introduction

The Government of Kosovo, through the Ministry of Finance, Labor, and Transfers, aims to secure funding from the World Bank for the implementation of the Early Childhood Development for Kosovo's Human Capital Project. The overall objective of the project is to enhance access to and the quality of early childhood development services in Kosovo. The Early Childhood Development (ECD) Project for Kosovo's Human Capital is structured to address key issues in early childhood development services in Kosovo. The project will assist Kosovo in improving access, quality, and equity in ECD and will support healthcare services in addressing children's health challenges in the country. The project will also examine ECD promotion activities to increase public awareness of the importance of ECD for health and child development, resulting in improved parenting, early identification, and reduced child mortality rates. The Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) is the lead implementing agency for project preparation and related activities and will identify environmental and social management requirements for the project's preparatory phase.

Description of the Project and its components

The objective of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) project is to improve equitable access and enhance the quality of early childhood development services in Kosovo. The key expected results from the project's implementation will be evaluated through indicators, comprising:

- ✓ *Indicator 1: Improvement in the quality of early childhood education services – categorized by the type of urban/rural institution.*
- ✓ *Indicator 2: Enhanced regulations for ensuring the quality of early childhood services in Kosovo.*
- ✓ *Indicator 3: The percentage of children assessed according to the national program/tool for child development and monitoring.*
- ✓ *Indicator 4: Increased access to childcare services: the registration rate for children aged 0-6 – disaggregated by gender, age, and minority group*

The proposed project will revolve around four key components related to improving access, quality, equity, and inter-sectoral coordination of ECD services. The first component will strengthen the quality and equity of ECD services in Kosovo. The second component will foster multi-sectorial integration in ECD service delivery. The third component will focus on increase access to preschool services for families and increase enrollment rates. The fourth component will support project management, monitoring, and evaluation.

The project components will have a national and school-level impact. Components 1 and 2 will have a nationwide scope by reforming the approach to childcare and ECD services, building the institutional and human capacities of the country. Component 3 will involve interventions at the school level by constructing, renovating, and repurposing spaces to expand access to preschool education across the country. Component 4 will help build Kosovo's expertise in project management and the conduct of research, monitoring, and evaluation.

Component 1: Strengthening the quality and equity of ECD services in Kosovo.

- *Sub-component 1.1: ECD quality and equity reforms in Kosovo*
- *Sub-component 1.2: Capacity building of ECD professionals*
- *Sub-component 1.3: Implementation of ECE module for the Education Management Information System (EMIS) in Kosovo and general overhaul of core EMIS system*

Component 2: Fostering multi-sectorial integration in ECD service delivery.

- *Sub-component 2.1: Promoting healthy nutrition*
- *Sub-component 2.2: Child monitoring and cross-sectoral integration of services*

Component 3: Increasing access to ECD services.

- *Sub-component 3.1: Repurposing, building, and renovating the preschool and ECD facilities in Kosovo*
 - *Sub-component 3.2: Equipment of ECD centers with new furniture and learning materials*
 - *Sub-component 3.3: Support for community participation and demand-side interventions*

Component 4: Project management and monitoring & evaluation.

Location and scope of the project

The proposed project has coverage at the national level and includes the administrative borders of the Republic of Kosovo. The location for the construction of the new gardens has not yet been determined at this preliminary stage and will be detailed after the project begins implementation, however, it is expected that the construction of the new gardens will be done mainly on public lands, which have been designated for this purpose according to the plans of development and are owned, or transferred to the respective beneficiary.

Purpose and Principles of the Displacement Policy Framework

The purpose of the RPF document is to provide policies and procedures to avoid and minimize the needs of the project to acquire privately owned land and as a result not to have impacts on the loss of income of the parties that may be affected. The document has been drafted in full compliance with the rules and policies of the World Bank, specifically with Standard ESS5, for land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary displacement, as well as in compliance with the legislation and regulations that apply to the government of Kosovo.

The RPF has been prepared because at this stage, the tracks of the investments that will be financed under component 3 of the Project, have not yet been determined, and therefore the exact scale and scope of the impact can only be assessed during the implementation of the project. An Action Plan for Expropriation/ Resettlement / Abbreviated Action Plan for Expropriation/ Resettlement will be prepared in accordance with the provisions of this RPF and will be submitted to the World Bank for prior approval, as appropriate.

In general, subprojects should be designed and implemented in such a way as to avoid loss of private assets. Unavoidable impacts must be addressed with mitigating measures that will be sufficient to restore the standard of living of the affected persons to the level that was before the implementation of the project. Affected people

must be adequately consulted in a meaningful way and participate in the development and implementation of mitigation measures.

- *Resolving inconsistencies or gaps between the laws of Kosovo and ESS 5 of the World Bank:*

In case of any gap or inconsistency between the legal framework of Kosovo and the World Bank Standards for Involuntary Displacement, the provisions of this RPF will be part of the international agreement signed between the Republic of Kosovo and the World Bank .

Preliminary Impact Assessment

The social impact of the project at this stage is estimated to be moderate. Given the fact that the project will finance construction works related to the rehabilitation and reuse of existing spaces as well as the construction of new kindergartens, as well as the fact that the locations of new constructions are not yet known, ESS5 is relevant, and MESTI is expected to follow the guidelines of this RPF to guide the project in dealing with land acquisition, access restrictions , or any economic and/or physical displacement.

Component 3, specifically subcomponent 3.1 is the only one that includes interventions and construction works, in the form of new constructions, renovations, extensions, reconstructions or transformations of existing spaces and buildings. Therefore, only under this Component can there be impacts related to resettlement and the need for land acquisition.

Components 1,2 and 4 are unlikely to have land displacement/acquisition impacts as no construction works are involved. However, the principles related to displacement presented in this RPF are applied in all phases of the Project and if any case of displacement and negative social impact occurs, the rules of the RPF apply. So that the latter does not need to be repeated every time.

It is anticipated that most of the rehabilitation works within the project for ECD will be carried out within the boundaries of the publicly owned areas. Rehabilitation and reuse of existing spaces will be carefully designed to exclude as much as possible intersection with private properties. New construction is expected to occur mainly on public lands, which have been designated for this purpose and are owned, or transferred to the respective beneficiary. With the aforementioned precautions, a small degree of temporary/permanent land acquisition impacts may occur during construction works. Displacement impacts will not occur according to the preliminary assessment of the project, however, if there are, they will be avoided and minimized to the extent possible.

The methodology for the selection of the design of the proposed investments and the specific site locations will be carefully analyzed by the technical design team and will be consulted with the relevant local plans and the beneficiary municipalities, in order to avoid as much as possible, the intersection with private properties/assets. The selection of construction sites according to the Project will be discussed and agreed with the World Bank before the start of construction works.

Expropriation Planning Process:

The implementation of project activities, (according to component 3 and subcomponent 3.1), may require the purchase of land. In this case, Expropriation Action Plans should be prepared in accordance with this Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), through the following steps:

- *Social Survey*

- *Census, completion date and socio-economic analysis*
- *Preparation of the action plan for expropriation*
- *Approval of the action plan for expropriation*
- *Implementation of the action plan for expropriation*

Evaluation methodology

Land: *The valuation method for compensation must take into account all available sources of information so that the value proposed for compensation reflects the market value / replacement value of the land. The main assumptions to be considered in the methodological framework can be related to the current regulatory framework for land expropriation and its recent changes; financial analysis on net income flow in locations and neighborhoods; eventual transactions (sales and leases) in the region.*

Buildings: *The value of residences, commercial structures, and other affected structures (such as fences, etc.) will be assessed at replacement value based on the type of construction, cost of materials, labor, transportation, and more. During the valuation, no deduction will be applied for depreciation and transaction costs. For partial impact (if the loss is less than 15%), compensation is paid for the replacement value of the affected structures. The estimate will also include the cost of access to the water supply if the displaced structure had access or if the replacement location does not provide access.*

Crops and trees: *Agricultural products (crops or trees) that will have to be taken from the project, will be evaluated according to different methodologies depending on their use.*

Consultations with affected parties

In order to ensure that the interests of affected persons are fully included in the process of expropriation and return of income, during the preparation of the sub-project a full consultation will be carried out with affected persons, representatives of each affected group, each interested group and various administrative and government departments.

Grievance Mechanisms:

Under the guidance of the social specialists of PIU, the grievance mechanism will make every effort to reach an amicable resolution of all grievances raised for the respective sub-projects. Complainants can send their complaints via e-mail, letters or phone calls. Anonymous submission of complaints is allowed. The grievance mechanism will respond to complainants in writing form within 10 days of receiving the complaint. If this effort fails, a Complaints Handling Committee will be organized to discuss complaints and identify solutions that are consistent with national laws and this RPF. If complainants are still not satisfied, they are free to file a court case to seek a resolution.

Implementation procedures and organization.

MESTI has the final responsibility for the implementation of all components of the project together with PIU. A committee composed of Project Authorities and affected parties will be established to be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the RAP. PIU will plan and organize field visits based on expropriation plans, background checks and data received from municipalities and other institutions. It will also cooperate with all local institutions to ensure a successful implementation of expropriation plans.

The program of Monitoring:

MESTI and PIU are primarily responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of this RPF and related expropriation action plans at the sub-project level, and will report to the World Bank the performance of RPF implementation through regular project progress. Specific monitoring standards will be:

- *Information campaign and consultation carried out;*
- *Status of land acquisition and land compensation payments;*
- *Compensation for affected structures and other assets;*
- *Relocation of affected persons, if any;*
- *Compensations for loss of income;*
- *Selection and distribution of replacement land surfaces, if necessary;*
- *Resettlement activities*
- *Complaints and their resolution*