

exception of evaluation and audit. UNICEF would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks: conducting procurement of services and grant award procedures and managing the resulting contracts, carrying out payments etc. It will contribute to achieving the objectives established under the 3 specific outcome areas, including: 1: Equitable and inclusive Access; 2: Increased quality of teaching and learning in ECD and PPE; and 3: Improved management and institutional framework for ECD and PPE.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria:

- Specific experience in support to ECD and PPE
- Specific experience in developing policy and implementing action plans
- Specific experience in multi-sectorial responses and with working with Government institutions
- Previous experience in the sector in the country
- Sufficient operational, logistical, management and financial capacities
- Development and strategic approach aligned with EU global priorities and the EUs MIP priorities in the country

UNICEF will continue playing a key role in the following main areas:

- a) Strengthen PPE and ECD workforce capacity through:
 - Working on the Professionalization of ECD educators and PPE teachers
 - Improving quality in-service training for ECD, including play-based learning
 - Teaching at the Right Level capacity building for PPE (pre & in-service), including school readiness
 - Development of nutrition guidance for ECD centres, prevention and early detection of malnutrition at ECD centres in underserved marginalized communities
- b) Strengthen capacity of implementing ministries to monitor ECD and PPE results by:
 - Reinforcing accessibility and utilization of EMIS and ECD-MIS data for decision-making and planning at national and sub-national level
 - Establishing alignment and linkages between ECD-MIS and EMIS, including the social grants database
 - Strengthening line Ministries' capacity to collect and analyse data, as well as to monitor compliance with national ECD standards
- c) Strengthen coordination and capacity building of ECD structures at national and sub-national level to improve synergies through:
 - Existing coordination forums at regional, constituency and community levels
 - Technical support for a cohesive and effective migration of agreed ECD functions from MGEPESW to MoEAC (this may include finance management analysis to inform ECD transfer operational readiness, improvements in resource allocation and budget efficiency for ECD and PPE – coordination with TA component should be sought to avoid duplication or overlapping of work).
 - Linking social grants recipients to ECD services for improved access and outcomes in marginalized communities
 - Linking health sector outreach services to ECD centres in hard-to-reach-marginalized communities (screening for malnutrition, immunization and other health services), reinforcing ECD hub function.
- d) Improving awareness and knowledge on the importance of ECD (community & parenting engagement), notably by:
 - Continued advocacy for increased investment in ECD, at central level, but also in the regions, in the communities and in the households;
 - Continuation of the awareness actions initiated under the Right Start Campaign (stronger focus on equitably addressing the campaign);
 - Parental support activities.