



Ministry of Education
and Science of
Republic of Tajikistan



Regional Ministerial Conference

**“Including All Children in Quality Learning –
Closing Equity Gaps in Education”**

***Session 10.1: “Expanding Access to Early
Learning Services”***

**Mr. Aliev Abdujabor
Istanbul, Turkey
December, 2013**



- **509 state-kindergartens** serve only **10%** preschool age children in urban areas;
- Access **remains** unaffordable, especially for **poor** and **vulnerable children**;
- Most children in Tajikistan enter school at age 7 without the skills they need to succeed;
- A school readiness assessment of in 2009 indicated poor reading, writing, and numerical skills amongst 6 year old children.



Ministry of Education
and Science of
Republic of Tajikistan

DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ECE MODELS



- Ministry of Education with support from UNICEF Tajikistan and Aga Khan Foundation developed, piloted, evaluated, costed and mainstreamed alternative school based early childhood education (ECE) models;
- A technical planning workshop organised by UNICEF in 2010 led to principal agreement amongst key actors on the parameters of the programme: curriculum hours, content, modality, staffing ratio, and others, including location.



- National Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) were developed and adopted and guides ECE curricula and programmes;
- ELDS based ECE curriculum, which promotes child-centred and inclusive approach, was developed and approved;
- Effective child-centred teacher training package, coupled with methodological guidance, was developed;
- Developmentally and culturally appropriate reading materials for preschool age children were developed.



OVERVIEW OF ECE MODEL

Programme	Framework questions	School based ECE group (Alternative model)
Staffing	Teacher/Student ratio	1:25
Curriculum	Recognition	Yes, official Early Childhood Education Curriculum for children 4-7
	Schedule	3 hours, 5 days per week Full calendar year
Enrolment	Target group	4-6 year olds, predominantly 6 year olds
Finance	Capital cost	3,400 USD (for furniture, teaching and learning materials)
	Parental fees	Total 6 USD (on average / month) Of which 5 USD – recurring costs and 1 USD – bursaries for vulnerable children



Ministry of Education
and Science of
Republic of Tajikistan

STRENGTHENING ECE POLICY FRAMEWORK



- Law on Education (adopted in 1993; amended in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2003, 2004 and in 2013 published in a new edition);
- Law on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)(adopted by the Parliament in Nov 2013).
- State Program on Developing Pre-school System 2006-2010 (Reg. #395) and 2012-2016 (Reg. #457);
- Regulation on Preschool Education Institutions (Resolution #443: 2007);
- State Standard on Preschool Education (# 388, 2009);
- National Early Learning and Development Standards (2010);
- National Strategy for Education Development 2020.



RESULTS



- 888 alternative ECE groups across Tajikistan serving about 18,000 children between the ages of 4-6 and the number of alternative models is growing steadily;
- GPE-4 will also contribute to the expansion of access to preschool education by supporting 450 additional ECE groups from 2014.





CHALLENGES

- Existing normative and regulatory framework including bureaucratic taxation procedures hinder provision of low cost ECE services;
- Lack of qualified personnel responsible for service delivery; lack of a sufficient number of teaching and learning aids; weak material and technical base in some ECE institutions;
- Programme input and process standards are not yet agreed upon and M&E framework for alternative ECE services is not yet in place;
- No mechanisms and systems for measuring and assessing child development outcomes at the national level;
- Education Management Information System (EMIS) does not include preschool education module and do not collect information on ECE/ECD indicators.



WAY FORWARD

1. Improvement of Policy Environment

Build up a clear regulatory framework and improve programme standards (input and process)

Develop comprehensive M&E framework and tools for monitoring and assessment of learning outcomes and holistic school readiness

Strengthen an effective system of professional development for teachers, and a performance management and monitoring system that is welcomed and supported by the teaching cadre

2. Expansion of ECE services

Expansion of ECE models on the principles of affordability and equal access

Promote an inclusive environment to ensure all children, including the most marginalised and children with disabilities are afforded the opportunity to ECE

Develop animated TV programme for preschool age children to increase coverage throughout the country of ECE concepts



Ministry of Education
and Science of
Republic of Tajikistan

CONTACT DETAILS



Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan

Address: Nisormuhammad, 13a, Dushanbe

Website: www.maorif.tj

Tel: +992 918297448