
ELP GRANT NUMBER TF0C3867-XK

Early Learning Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund Grant Agreement

**(Early Childhood Education and Care for Kosovo's
Human Capital Project)**

between

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

and

**INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT**

acting as administrator of Early Learning Partnership Multi-Donor Trust Fund

ELP GRANT NUMBER TF0C3867-XK

**EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND
GRANT AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT dated as of the Signature Date between the REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO (“Recipient”) and the INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (“Bank”), acting as administrator of the Early Learning Partnership Multi-Donor-Trust Fund. The Recipient and the Bank hereby agree as follows:

WHEREAS, under the Financing Agreement, the Bank has agreed to provide financing to the Recipient in the form of a Credit in an amount of eighteen million and six hundred thousand Euros (EUR 18,600,000), to assist in the financing of the project described in Schedule 1 to the Grant Agreement (“Project”).

NOW THEREFORE, the Recipient and the Bank hereby agree as follows:

**Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions**

- 1.01. The Standard Conditions (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement) apply to and form part of this Agreement.
- 1.02. Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the Standard Conditions or in the Appendix to this Agreement.

**Article II
The Project**

- 2.01. The Recipient declares its commitment to the objective of the Project. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Project through MESTI, with the technical assistance of MOH for Part 2 of the Project, and MFLT for Part 3.3. of the Project, and the participation of UNICEF for Parts 1 and 2 of the Project, as needed; all in accordance with the provisions of Article II of the Standard Conditions and Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

**Article III
The Grant**

- 3.01. The Bank agrees to extend to the Recipient a grant in an amount not to exceed two million United States Dollars (\$2,000,000) ("Grant") to assist in financing the Project.
- 3.02. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Grant in accordance with Section III of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
- 3.03. The Grant is funded out of the abovementioned trust fund for which the Bank receives periodic contributions from the donors to the trust fund. In accordance with Section 3.02 of the Standard Conditions, the Bank's payment obligations in connection with this Agreement are limited to the amount of funds made available to it by the donors under the abovementioned trust fund, and the Recipient's right to withdraw the Grant proceeds is subject to the availability of such funds.

**Article IV
Effectiveness; Termination**

- 4.01. This Agreement shall not become effective until evidence satisfactory to the Bank has been furnished to the Bank, confirming that the execution and delivery of this Agreement on behalf of the Recipient has been duly authorized by all necessary governmental action.
- 4.02. As part of the evidence to be furnished pursuant to Section 4.01, the Recipient shall furnish to the Bank an opinion satisfactory to the Bank, of counsel acceptable to the Bank, or if the Bank so requests, a certificate satisfactory to the Bank of a competent official of the Recipient, showing that this Agreement has been duly authorized and ratified by the Recipient, and that it is legally binding upon the Recipient in accordance with its terms.
- 4.03. Except as the Recipient and the Bank shall otherwise agree, the date on which this Agreement shall enter into effect shall be the date upon which the Bank dispatches to the Recipient notice of its acceptance of the evidence required pursuant to Section 4.01 ("Effective Date"). If, before the Effective Date, any event has occurred which would have entitled the Bank to suspend the right of the Recipient to make withdrawals from the Grant Account if this Agreement had been effective, the Bank may postpone the dispatch of the notice referred to in this Section until such event (or events) has (or have) ceased to exist.
- 4.04. *Termination for Failure to Become Effective.* This Agreement and all obligations of the Parties under it shall terminate if it has not entered into effect by the date ninety (90) days after the date of this Agreement, unless the Bank, after consideration of the reasons for the delay, establishes a later date for the purpose of this Section. The Bank shall promptly notify the Recipient of such later date.

**Article V
Amendments**

- 5.01. Without limitation to Section 7.01(b) of the Standard Conditions, any modification to this Agreement shall be executed by written instrument agreed by the Parties hereto. Such amendment shall become effective once the Recipient has furnished evidence satisfactory to the Bank that the amendment has been duly authorized and ratified by all necessary governmental action, and any other condition specified in the amending agreement has been fulfilled.

**Article VI
Recipient's Representative; Addresses**

- 6.01. The Recipient's Representative referred to in Section 7.02 of the Standard Conditions is its Minister of Finance, Labor, and Transfers.
- 6.02. For purposes of Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions:

- (a) the Recipient's address is:

Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers
New Government Building
Mother Teresa Street
10000 Pristina
Republic of Kosovo; and

- (b) the Recipient's Electronic Address is:

Facsimile:	E-mail:
+383-38-213-113	dbnf.mf@rks-gov.net

- 6.03. For purposes of Section 7.01 of the Standard Conditions:

- (a) the Bank's address is:

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America; and

- (b) the Bank's Electronic Address is:

Telex:	Facsimile:	E-mail:
248423 (MCI) or 64145 (MCI)	1-202-477-6391	mpaolucci@worldbank.org

AGREED as of the Signature Date.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

By

Hekuran Murati

Authorized Representative

Name: Hekuran Murati

Title: Minister

Date: 28-Jun-2024

**INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
acting as administrator of ELP**

By

Massimiliano Paolucci

Authorized Representative

Name: Massimiliano Paolucci

Title: Country Manager, Kosovo and North Macedoni

Date: 28-Jun-2024

SCHEDULE 1

Project Description

The objective of the Project is to improve the quality and equitable access to early childhood education and care services in Kosovo.

The Project consists of the following parts:

Part 1. Improving the quality of ECEC services

1.1. ECEC regulatory updates and development of the new ECEC quality and monitoring frameworks

- (a) conducting of a review of the existing ECEC regulatory framework;
- (b) developing a National ECEC Quality Framework;
- (c) developing the national ECEC assessment and observation framework and conducting classroom observations and assessments of child outcomes;
- (d) adapting or developing the child assessment tool that would be aligned with and adapted to national goals; and
- (e) improving regulations defining the quality of ECEC learning environments, their pedagogical role, and preparing the guidelines and blueprints for ECEC infrastructure expansion/adaptation, as well as development of the equipment standards and requirements for teaching and learning materials in ECEC centers.

1.2 Capacity building of ECEC professionals

- (a) developing the national ECEC teacher continuous professional development framework based on the existing legal framework and the ECE Curriculum;
- (b) designing training programs for pre-service and in-service ECEC workers;
- (c) training, retraining, requalification, and capacity building of ECE teachers, childcare workers, municipal managers and other decision-makers;
- (d) capacity-building activities, including study visits, information exchanges, and seminars and learning events;
- (e) Strengthening the teacher training and development capabilities of the MESTI through identifying one existing ECEC facility and equipping it with the necessary tools to integrate training center capabilities, as well as expanding this center with a function of the recycling center for ECEC learning materials; and
- (f) strengthening MESTI's financial planning capacity.

1.3. development and implementation of cross-sectorial ECEC module for the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and improvement of the core EMIS system

- (a) assessing the physical and institutional requirements of transitioning from the current data management system to an EMIS;

- (b) purchasing of software and hardware needed to transition to an EMIS that covers all levels of education and ECEC;
- (c) developing, piloting, and rolling out of an EMIS that adequately responds to the data needs across the education sector; and
- (d) training, communication, and capacity building on the EMIS for users at all levels of the education sector and relevant agencies involved in ECEC.

Part 2. Fostering multi-sectorial integration in ECEC service delivery

2.1 Early stimulation and promoting healthy nutrition.

- (a) provision of training on stimulation for the first 1,000 days of life to healthcare providers in MFMCs, using training packages developed under Part 1.2.; and
- (b) (i) development and implementation of a comprehensive communications strategy and campaign materials with approaches to target young mothers; and (ii) training of healthcare and education providers on the promotion of breastfeeding and healthy nutrition as part of parent interactions in their settings.

2.2. Child monitoring and early childhood intervention program

- (a) development and institutionalization of an Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program and standardization of procedures for early identification and timely referral and data reporting and monitoring;
- (b) piloting of the ECI Program in Pristina city and up to two rural/vulnerable selected municipalities followed by the national rollout of the ECI Program;
- (c) infrastructure investments in MFMCs across the country and procurement of basic medical supplies to allow for implementation of the ECI Program; and
- (d) training of providers and advocacy for national adoption of the ECI Program.

Part 3. Increasing equitable access to ECEC services

3.1. Green and universal repurposing, building, and renovating ECEC facilities.

- (a) construction of up to eighteen new ECEC Centers in selected municipalities;
- (b) rehabilitation and/or repurposing/upgrading of existing ECEC spaces and other public spaces for ECEC use, and refurbishments of kitchens to implement new nutrition guidelines; and
- (c) development and establishment of one new or renovated ECEC Center to include the training center for teacher preparation and a recycling center of supplies for ECEC Centers.

3.2. Equipping of ECEC Centers with new furniture and learning materials

Provision of equipment, supplies, and learning materials to accommodate different teaching methodologies and play-based curricula in ECEC Centers.

3.3. Support for the participation of Vulnerable Children in the Voucher Program

Design and implementation of the Voucher Program.

Part 4. Project management and monitoring and evaluation.

Technical assistance and operational support to PIU for Project management, monitoring and evaluation and, including *inter alia*, for:

- (a) design and implementation of an impact evaluation study relying on the observations and assessment supported under Part 1.1 of the Project;
- (b) verification of PBC targets; and
- (c) carrying out of outreach and communication activities to raise awareness to families on the ECEC benefits.

SCHEDULE 2

Project Execution

Section I. Institutional and Other Arrangements

A. Institutional Arrangements.

1. The Recipient, through MESTI, shall establish, and thereafter operate and maintain, at all times during Project implementation, a PIU with functions and responsibilities satisfactory to the Association, as set forth in the POM, including, *inter alia*, providing support for coordination, procurement, financial management, and reporting and monitoring of the Project, including translation services, with resources and staffing (with qualifications, experience and under terms of reference) satisfactory to the Association.
2. The Recipient, through MESTI, shall ensure that the PIU is at all times during Project implementation adequately staffed with professionals necessary to fulfill its functions, including, *inter alia*, (a) a Project coordinator; (b) a procurement specialist; (c) a financial management specialist; (d) an environmental and social specialist; (e) a monitoring and evaluation specialist; (f) an education specialist for Part 1; (g) a health/ECEC specialist for Part 2; (h) a chief engineer for Part 3; and (i) a Voucher Program coordinator, if needed, as further described in the Project Operations Manual.
3. No later than two (2) months after Effective Date of the Financing Agreement, the Borrower, through MESTI, shall establish, and thereafter operate and maintain, throughout Project implementation, a steering committee (the "Steering Committee") with functions, resources and composition acceptable to the Bank, as further detailed in the Project Operations Manual, which shall be responsible for Project oversight, strategic guidance, coordination and monitoring.

B. Project Operations Manual.

1. The Recipient, through MESTI, shall:
 - (a) not later than two (2) months after Effective Date of the Financing Agreement, develop and adopt the Project Operations Manual ("POM"), in form and substance satisfactory of the Association; and
 - (b) carry out the Project in accordance with the Project Operations Manual ("POM") containing, *inter alia*, (i) detailed guidelines and procedures for the implementation of the Project, including with respect to the establishment of the PIU, its structure, functions, and responsibilities; Project administration and coordination; monitoring and evaluation; financial management; procurement and accounting procedures; and environmental and social standards; (ii) corruption and fraud mitigation measures; (iii) a grievance redress mechanism;

(iv) Personal Data collection and processing in accordance with good international practice; (v) criteria for selecting the municipalities and ECEC facilities for purposes of Part 3.1. and 3.2. of the Project; (vi) criteria for selecting Childcare Service Providers for purposes of Part 3.3 of the Project; (vi) PBC targets, and Verification Protocols; and (vii) other arrangements and procedures.

- (c) Except as the Association shall otherwise agree, the Recipient, through MESTI, shall not to assign, amend, abrogate, or waive, or otherwise fail to enforce the POM or any of its provisions thereof. In case of any inconsistencies between the POM and the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

C. Independent verification agent

The Recipient, through MESTI, shall hire a credible verification agent, with qualifications and under terms of reference acceptable to the Bank, to assist in the verification of achievement of the PBC, as set forth in Section III.B.1 (b) of this Schedule 2.

D. Environmental and Social Standards.

1. The Recipient, through MESTI, shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards, in a manner acceptable to the Association.
2. Without limitation upon paragraph 1 above, the Recipient, through MESTI, shall ensure that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (“ESCP”), in a manner acceptable to the Association. To this end, the Recipient, through MESTI, shall ensure that:
 - (a) the measures and actions specified in the ESCP are implemented with due diligence and efficiency, as provided in the ESCP;
 - (b) sufficient funds are available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP;
 - (c) policies and procedures are maintained, and qualified and experienced staff in adequate numbers are retained to implement the ESCP, as provided in the ESCP; and
 - (d) the ESCP, or any provision thereof, is not amended, repealed, suspended or waived, except as the Association shall otherwise agree in writing, as specified in the ESCP, and ensure that the revised ESCP is disclosed promptly thereafter.
3. In case of any inconsistencies between the ESCP and the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
4. The Recipient shall, through MESTI, ensure that:

- (a) all measures necessary are taken to collect, compile, and furnish to the Association through regular reports, with the frequency specified in the ESCP, and promptly in a separate report or reports, if so requested by the Association, information on the status of compliance with the ESCP and the environmental and social instruments referred to therein, all such reports in form and substance acceptable to the Association, setting out, inter alia: (i) the status of implementation of the ESCP; (ii) conditions, if any, which interfere or threaten to interfere with the implementation of the ESCP; and (iii) corrective and preventive measures taken or required to be taken to address such conditions; and
 - (b) the Association is promptly notified of any incident or accident related to or having an impact on the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, in accordance with the ESCP, the environmental and social instruments referenced therein and the Environmental and Social Standards.
5. The Recipient shall, through MESTI, establish, publicize, maintain and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances of Project-affected people, and take all measures necessary and appropriate to resolve, or facilitate the resolution of, such concerns and grievances, in a manner acceptable to the Association.
6. The Recipient shall, through MESTI, ensure that all bidding documents and contracts for civil works under the Project include the obligation of contractors, and subcontractors and supervising entities to: (a) comply with the relevant aspects of ESCP and the environmental and social instruments referred to therein; and (b) adopt and enforce codes of conduct that should be provided to and signed by all workers, detailing measures to address environmental, social, health and safety risks, and the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and violence against children, all as applicable to such civil works commissioned or carried out pursuant to said contracts.

Section II. Project Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

The Recipient shall furnish to the Association each Project Report not later than one month after the end of each calendar semester, covering the calendar semester.

Section III. Withdrawal of Grant Proceeds

A. General

1. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Grant in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article III of the Standard Conditions; and (b) this Section; to finance Eligible Expenditures in the amount allocated and, if applicable, up to the percentage set forth against each Category of the following table:

Category	Amount of the Financing Allocated (expressed in USD)	Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes, except VAT)
Goods, consulting services, Training, Operating Costs and Voucher Payments for Part 3.3 of the Project	2,000,000	100% of the amount up to the withdrawal ceiling and subject to the conditions set forth in the table in Schedule 3 to this Agreement
TOTAL AMOUNT	2,000,000	

B. Withdrawal Conditions; Withdrawal Period

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this Section, no withdrawal shall be made:
 - (a) for payments made prior to the Signature Date; and
 - (b) for any payments unless and until the Bank has received:
 - (i) evidence satisfactory to the Bank, in accordance with the Verification Protocols set forth in the Project Operations Manual, that the PBC set forth in Schedule 3 to this Agreement for which payment is requested have been met and verified in accordance with the Verification Protocol and the Project Operations Manual; and
 - (ii) evidence, in form and content acceptable to the Bank confirming that relevant expenditures in an amount equal to at least the amount to be withdrawn in respect of each PBC, have been incurred, and that said expenditures have not been presented before to the Bank as satisfactory evidence for withdrawals under this Agreement.
2. The Recipient may request withdrawals of Bank financing when the relevant expenditures have been incurred, but prior to the PBC Targets having been met, provided that the Recipient, shall: (a) meet such PBCs no later than the Closing Date; and (b) submit to the Bank evidence of such PBCs having been met no later than the Disbursement Deadline Date and satisfactory to the Bank in its form and content, and following the requirements set forth in the Project Operations Manual and the Disbursement and Financial Information Letter.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this Section, withdrawal shall not exceed the Financing amount allocated to the respective PBC Target in Schedule 3 to this Agreement.
4. If by or before the Disbursement Deadline Date the Recipient, through MESTI has failed to provide the Bank evidence satisfactory to the Bank that the PBC Target have been met, the Recipient shall, upon notice from the Bank, promptly refund to the Bank the Withdrawn Grant Balance related to the respective Category. Except as the Bank may otherwise determine, the Bank shall cancel all amounts refunded pursuant to this Section.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Section, if the Bank shall determine, based on the evidence provided by the Recipient, under paragraph 2 of this Section, that any PBC Target has not been met or has been partially met by the year by which such PBC is set to be achieved in accordance with Schedule 3 to this Agreement, the Bank may in its sole discretion, by notice to the Recipient:
 - (a) withhold in whole or in part the amount of the Financing allocated to any such PBC Target;
 - (b) disburse in whole or in part the amount of the Financing allocated to such PBC Target at any later time when such PBC Target is met; and/or
 - (c) reallocate in whole or in part any amount of the Financing allocated to such PBC Target to other PBC Target(s).
6. If the Bank determines, at any time, that an amount of the Grant was used to make a payment for ineligible expenditures; the Recipient shall, promptly upon notice from the Bank, refund an amount equal to the amount of such expenditures financed by the Bank. All amounts so refunded to the Bank pursuant to the abovementioned request will be subsequently cancelled.
7. The Recipient shall not request withdrawals for Eligible Expenditures that have already been financed by, or for which withdrawals have been requested under any other Bank financed loan or grant.
8. The Closing Date is June 30, 2027.

SCHEDULE 3

Performance-Based Conditions

Baseline	Period 1 – CY 2024	Period 2 – CY 2025	Period 3 – CY 2026	Period 4 – CY 2027
PBC: Increase in participation of vulnerable children in childcare services through voucher mechanism (Percentage)				
<p>Children of 3-5 years old enrolled in childcare representing families on record in SAS [104]/ All children of 3-5 years representing families on record in SAS [4469]</p> <p>Currently 2.33%</p>	<p>Guidelines for Voucher Program identifying the targeting criteria, transfer mechanism, and monitoring procedure developed and enacted. Childcare Service Providers participating in the Voucher Program have received training.</p>	<p>% point increase over initial baseline Social Assistance Scheme (SAS) enrolment ensured by vouchers and at least 6 months attendance per a given year of 3-5 year old vulnerable children in childcare.</p> <p>Each % point will bring USD 78,750</p> <p>PBC Target: 8%</p>	<p>% point increase over initial baseline SAS enrolment ensured by vouchers and at least 6 months attendance per a given year of 3-5 year old vulnerable children in childcare.</p> <p>Each % point will bring USD 78,750</p> <p>PBC Target: 8%</p>	<p>% point increase over initial baseline SAS enrolment ensured by vouchers and at least 6 months attendance per a given year of 3-5 year old vulnerable children in childcare.</p> <p>Each % point will bring USD 78,750</p> <p>PBC Target: 8%</p>
PBC Allocation (USD)	110,000.00 <i>(Non-Scalable)</i>	630,000 <i>(Scalable)</i>	630,000 <i>(Scalable)</i>	630,000 <i>(Scalable)</i>
Total Amount for PBCs (USD)				2,000,000

APPENDIX

Section I. Definitions

1. “Anti-Corruption Guidelines” means, for purposes of paragraph 2 of the Appendix to the Standard Conditions, the “Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Credits and IDA Credits and Grants”, dated October 15, 2006, and revised in January 2011, and as of July 1, 2016.
2. “Category” means a category set forth in the table in Section III.A of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
3. “CY” means calendar year.
4. “Disbursement Deadline Date” means the final date, established by the Bank, for the receipt by the Bank of applications for withdrawal and supporting documentation; according to the DFIL is established as four months after the Closing Date.
5. “Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” or “ESCP” means the environmental and social commitment plan for the Project, dated April 11, 2024, as the same may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions thereof, which sets out the material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out to address the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project, including the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and any environmental and social instruments to be prepared thereunder.
6. “Environmental and Social Standards” or “ESSs” means, collectively: (i) “Environmental and Social Standard 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts”; (ii) “Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions”; (iii) “Environmental and Social Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management”; (iv) “Environmental and Social Standard 4: Community Health and Safety”; (v) “Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement”; (vi) “Environmental and Social Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources”; (vii) “Environmental and Social Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities”; (viii) “Environmental and Social Standard 8: Cultural Heritage”; (ix) “Environmental and Social Standard 9: Financial Intermediaries”; (x) “Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure”; effective on October 1, 2018, as published by the Association.
7. “Childcare Service Providers” means any private, public-private, and/or community-based center that provides full-day childcare services and which is licensed by MESTI

and eligible to participate in the Voucher Program according to the criteria defined by MESTI.

8. “ECE Curriculum” means the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Education.
9. “ECEC” means Early Childhood Education and Care and includes education services for children from 0 to 6 years old.
10. “ECEC Centers” means any of the following type of childcare: center-based public, public-private, and community-based centers that are built, repurposed using unutilized facilities, expanded in existing ECEC spaces, and/or renovated for improved provision of the ECEC services.
11. “ECI Program” means an Early Childhood Intervention Program designed to support children from birth to 3 years old and up to 6 years of age who are at risk of or have developmental challenges or delays.
12. “Education Management Information System” or “EMIS” means the digital platform accumulating the administrative data of the education system on students, teachers, institutions, implemented programs, assessment results, and other data defined by the MESTI allowing to generate reports and analytics for statistics and policy making purposes.
13. “Financing Agreement” means the agreement entered into between the Recipient and the Association for the Project of the same date as this Agreement, as the same may be amended from time to time; “Financing Agreement” includes all appendices, schedules and agreements supplemental to the Financing Agreement.
14. “Grant” means the estimated amount referred to in the preamble of this Agreement, or such final grant amount reflected in the Grant Agreement formally executed by the World Bank and the Republic of Kosovo.
15. “Grant Agreement” means the grant agreement between the Recipient and the World Bank for the Project of the same date as this Agreement, as such grant agreement may be amended from time-to-time; “Grant Agreement” includes all appendices, schedules and agreements supplemental to the Grant Agreement.
16. “Main Family Medicine Centers” or “MFMCs” means the centers in the Recipient’s municipalities providing primary healthcare and early diagnostic services to population, including families with children.
17. “MESTI” means the Recipient’s Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, or any successor thereto.

18. “MFLT” means the Recipient’s Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers, or any successor thereto.
19. “MOH” means the Recipient’s Ministry of Health, or any successor thereto.
20. “National ECEC Quality Framework” means the framework defining the elements of the quality such as (i) ECEC quality standards and quality assurance, including school reporting and accountability, (ii) requirements to ECEC learning environments and teaching and learning materials, (iii) teachers’ and caregivers’ professional standards, and (iv) standards for health and nutrition services and child monitoring; the National ECEC Quality Framework shall also define minimum standards of structural and process quality that need to be ensured by the providers of services, to be developed based on existing regulations, the existing ECE Curriculum, and international best practices for a quality ECEC system.
21. “Operating Costs” means reasonable incremental expenses directly incurred on account of the implementation, management, and monitoring of the Project by the Recipient; such costs may include, as relevant, and as the Association may agree, Project audits, office supplies, office rental, vehicle rental, office and equipment maintenance and repair, communications, translation and interpretation (not covered under Training), publication fees, ownership of intellectual property rights, PIU staff salaries (but excluding consultants’ services and salaries of officials of the Recipient’s civil service); and other miscellaneous expenses directly associated with the Project and agreed between the Association and the Recipient. Such Operating Costs shall not include expenses financed by IDA under other projects or financed by other financiers.
22. “PBC Targets” means the targets defined under Schedule 3 of this Agreement.
23. “Performance-based Condition” or “PBC” means the condition set out in the table in Schedule 3 to this Agreement for the purposes of Part 3.3 of the Project.
24. “Personal Data” means any information relating to an identified or identifiable individual. An identifiable individual is one who can be identified by reasonable means, directly or indirectly, by reference to an attribute or combination of attributes within the data, or combination of the data with other available information. Attributes that can be used to identify an identifiable individual include, but are not limited to, name, identification number, location data, online identifier, metadata and factors specific to the physical (including biometric data), physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of an individual.
25. “PIU” means the project implementation unit established and maintained by the Recipient within MESTI in accordance with Section I.A.1 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

26. "Project Operations Manual" or "POM" means the project operations manual acceptable to the Bank, referred to in Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, as the same may be amended from time to time with the prior written agreement of the Bank.
27. "Procurement Regulations" means, for purposes of paragraph 85 of the Appendix to the General Conditions, the "World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Recipients", dated September 2023.
28. "SAS" or "Social Assistance Scheme" means the mechanism used by the MFLT to identify the citizens that need specific social assistance and defined by the national regulations.
29. "Signature Date" means the later of the two dates on which the Recipient and the Association signed this Agreement and such definition applies to all references to "the date of the Financing Agreement" in the General Conditions.
30. "Standard Conditions" means the "International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association Standard Conditions for Grant Financing Made by the Bank out of Trust Funds", dated February 25, 2019.
31. "Steering Committee" means the Steering Committee referred to in Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2, with functions, resources and composition acceptable to the Bank.
32. "TEACH ECE" means the instrument of the classroom observation that provides the rating of the ECE service quality on a 5-point scale.
33. "Training" means the reasonable expenditures associated with training under the Project, including study tours, training courses, seminars, workshops and other training activities, not included under service providers' contracts, including costs of training materials, space and equipment rental, travel, accommodation and per diem costs of trainees and trainers, trainers' fees, and other training related miscellaneous costs.
34. "UNICEF" means United Nations Children's Fund a specialized agency of the United Nations (a body established and operating pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations signed on June 26, 1945 and entered into effect on October 24, 1945), with which the Recipient shall enter into the Standard Output Agreement as set out in Section I.B of Schedule 2 of this Agreement.
35. "VAT" means Value Added Tax.
36. "Verification Protocols" means the Recipient's protocols, which form part of the Project Operations Manual, setting forth the basis and methodology for verification of the achievement of PBC Targets, as the same may be modified from time to time with the prior written agreement of the Bank.

37. “Voucher Program” means a program to be established by the Recipient to provide vouchers for selected Childcare Service Providers to deliver demand-driven childcare services to Vulnerable Children
38. “Voucher Payments” means a payment made or to be made by MESTI to selected Childcare Service Providers under the Voucher Program to cover enrollment and transportation costs in childcare programs.
39. “Vulnerable Children” means children from poor families receiving social assistance, children from Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities, and children with disabilities.