2017 Annual Report

Save the Children: *Armenia*
2017 Annual Report

I. Progress Toward the Breakthroughs

Survive: n/a

Learn:
- **Accomplishment**: In 2017, 5 school-based ECD services were established in 5 remote rural communities (the target achieved by 100%). Apart from the local contribution towards the establishment, the local authorities took over the maintenance and operating costs, which guarantees the sustainability of the services. Total of 111 children (55% of all preschool age child population of the targeted 5 communities) benefited from these services in 2017. Fifteen preschool teachers were trained on inclusive ECD and DRR education demonstrating 27 p.p. knowledge increase in average. The trainings are followed by regular supportive supervision sessions by leading experts in the country. Five parent resource centres established and operational at the preschool services (1 per each). Based on this successful model, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Development has reached out to the CO with a request to conduct a research on alternative preschool services that can be feasible for various types of communities in order to mainstream preschool ECD services to the extent possible.
- **Why/how**: In 2017 the SC Armenia CO conducted a research on Access to and Quality of Preschool Education in Armenia. According to the research, there is a big gap in access opportunities between urban and rural communities. While the overall enrolment rate of children 3-6 y.o. is estimated at 60% across the country, the rate for rural communities constitutes 38,5%.
- **Evidence**: Assessment on Access of Children to Pre-School Education in Armenia, Analytical Report, Save the Children, 2017, Yerevan; Progress Report on Action for Child Health and Education Project, Phase 3, January 2018

Learn:
- **Accomplishment**: As a result of the EU-funded SIVEE project there is 42% increase in enrolment of YPWD into TVETs. Thirty-six (36) YPWD found employment with 5 social enterprises established by SC and through internships.
- **Why/how**: While Armenia has adopted Education for All strategic direction, the main emphasis is drawn on school education. SC in Armenia advocates for inclusiveness of preschool and vocational education. With this, The CO trained faculty (917 teachers) of 46 TVETs on principles of inclusive education, supported to introduce short-term (3-6 months) classes and enrol 445 young PwD into TVETs.
- **Evidence**: Final Report on EU-funded SIVEE project, January 2018 (final evaluation report in progress, will be available upon request in March 2018).

Be Protected:
- **Accomplishment**: The Law on Foster Care drafted by SCI Armenia CO as part of the new Family Code adopted by the Govt and Parliament in 2017. As a result of continuous lobbying, the number of state supported foster family quote increased from 25 to 94, with corresponding increased state funding from 39 to 153 million AMD.

- **Why/how**: Armenia is in process of a nation-wide child protection system reform. One of the key components of the reform is deinstitutionalization. The diversified models of Foster Care, including specialised, crisis response, vocational and general, has been finally introduced as alternatives to institutional care, which is the proven best family based service in cases where the reunification of a child with the biological family is not in the best interest of the child.

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- **Evidence**: RoA Family Code adopted in December 2017, the Law on State Budget for 2018, adopted in December 2017.

Be Protected:
- **Accomplishment**: Two centres rendering professional services to CwD established by SCI Armenia CO in 2017 in Armavir and Yerevan, the Capital. Total of 238 CwD and 151 parents received quality services (71% of parents' satisfaction rate) in 2017. Three codes of International Codification of Functionality methodology adapted, then adopted by the Govt.
- **Why/how**: While Armenia is undergoing a deinstitutionalization reform along with Education for All reform, services to CwD are yet far from being sufficient. Meanwhile, having community-based services to support these 2 reforms is a critical gap that greatly impedes the pace of the reforms. Armenia CO not only established 2 of such services, but also undertook to develop the minimum quality standards for these services, based on which the Govt will be able to outsource and monitor the quality thereof.
- **Evidence**: Progress Report of CBSCD project, January 2018.

Be Protected:
- **Accomplishment**: DRM plan for preschool education facilities drafted with state and non-state stakeholders. Importantly currently a working group is formed consisting of civil society actors engaged in DRM, but also representatives of Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Emergency Situations, and Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development. The aim of this working group is to develop a practical mechanism to escalate implementation of preschool DRM plans to the accountability of community leaders. This will also link to the community budget not getting limited to very scarce preschool budgets.
- **Why/how**: DRM plans are developed for schools by UNICEF, however only few of those are referred to or implemented. The reason is that those are not put into operation or reinforced by any accountability mechanism or supported by any financial resource. This lesson learnt provided the grounds to initiate such a working group. Hopefully, the same scheme to be developed as a result of this initiative will be enacted also for the school and other DRM plans.
- **Evidence**: Interim Report on DIPECHO V project, December 2017.

Be Protected:
- **Accomplishment**: With the support of a UK-based private benefactor and in cooperation with the Ministry of Diaspora, 35 Syrian Armenian children benefitted from a summer camp activity aimed at better integration with local children.
- **Why/how**: Social integration opportunities for Syrian Armenians refuged as a result of the civil war in Syria still remain scarce.
- **Evidence**: Report by the implementing partner, August 2017.

Significant Barrier(s) and adjustment/mitigation for 2018: In March 2018 Armenia will shift from presidential to parliamentary governance. This will result in changes in the Government and Cabinet, which will take some time. In turn, this will imply rethinking and remapping of SC Armenia CO advocacy targets in terms of Govt stakeholders. It might also necessitate starting certain lobbying work from the start.

II. Operational Progress

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Operational area: CO operating model
- Accomplishment: Transition to APM
- Why/how: in 2017, the CO has smoothly transitioned into APM light operating model. The transition was managed in a paced and phased manner. It entailed a restructured and realigned org. chart, recruitment of core staff, streamlining of new/revised functions, full roll out. The latter started as of May 1.
- Evidence: SMT minutes, new org. chart, new JDs, 2017 master budget, etc.

Operational area: Emergency Preparedness Planning
- Accomplishment: Renewed EPP
- Why/how: in 2017, Armenia CO has initiated a comprehensive update of the EPP. The exercise was led by the CO DRR and Emergency Response focal point, the whole team participated in the planning process.
- Evidence: EPP document.

Operational area: Child Safeguarding
- Accomplishment: The whole CO team trained on CSG
- Why/how: In 2017, Armenia CO hosted a regional training on CSG, CSP and investigation. The whole CO team participated in general CSG training, and dedicated team members to CSP and investigation as well.
- Evidence: Training records

Operational area: Leading High Performance Organization
- Accomplishment: In 2017 the CO Team Leader participated in LHP training. The next LHP in 2018 will be held in Yerevan, Armenia.
- Why/how: Successful leadership is given a high priority within the CO.
- Evidence: Training records, certificate

Operational area: KPIs
- Accomplishment: This is the second year, when as of the Year Total, all KPIs are green! Only one "FS or PAL in place within 14 days" is red as a result of a system error (see below for details).
- Why/how: With its transition to APM, the CO revisited its distribution of roles and responsibilities, as well as streamlined operational procedures. As a result more rigorous planning and follow up processes are in place.
- Evidence: KPI report

Significant Barrier(s) and adjustment/mitigation for 2018:
- The KPI on non-cost extension rate is a challenge for small COs like Armenia. With 3-4 concurrently active awards in average, even one NCE results in 25% against the total number of awards. Meanwhile, the APM Business Case suggests that the KPIs should be revised for small and/or APM COs. It would be good to analyse the case and revise the KPIs.
- As for the FS or PAL being in place within 14 days KPI, Armenia CO was the first to start using the matching functionality of AMS, for which we were requested to change the most recent 2 awards with already approved FSs created in the old manner in order to accommodate this new functionality. This resulted in the system flagging out this change as a "red" indicator.

III.   Context & Geography

ECONOMIC CONTEXT - CHILD POVERTY

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- Overall poverty rate is 29.4% (decreased by 0.4% from 2015)[1].
- Child poverty rate is 34.2% (increased by 0.5% from 2015).
- The MPI index for Armenia is 33,33%[2].

SOCIAL CONTEXT
- Government Programme for Sustainable Development for 2017-2022 with separate focus on improving Juvenile Justice system, De-Institutionalization, Child and Family support programmes. In addition, for the first time the placement of a child in a residential institution is officially recognized to be considered as a last resort.
- New Family Code defining four models of Foster Care and corresponding bylaws regulating the sector, as well as increasing the State funding allocated for Foster Care.
- The National Strategy on Child Rights for 2017-2021 had been adopted, with particular focus on De-Institutionalization of residential care institutions.
- Two overnight institutions under the MLSI and 4 Institutions under the MOES has been closed down and restructured into alternative care services. SC Armenia is included in the steering committee for these restructuring to take place in 2018.
- The Law on Domestic Violence has been adopted by the Parliament following an extensive public debates and advocacy initiatives lasting for several years.
- Education National Programme 2017-2030 has been developed with approval pending by the Government.
- Preschool Education Law is in the process of development. Access to ECD and preschool education still remains low. Relative Enrolment Rate (3-6 y.o.) is 60%, enrolment in rural communities constitutes 38.5%.[3].
- State funding for education is insufficient. In 2018 State Expenditure Budget, only 8,68% is allocated for education, of which 0,63% (or 0,05% of the total budget) to preschool education, and 42,09% (or 3,65% of the total budget) to secondary education[4].

POLITICAL CONTEXT
- Parliamentary elections were held on 2 April 2017. These were the first ones after a constitutional referendum in 2015 that approved the reform on shifting from presidential to parliamentary government. This will imply certain changes to the advocacy work of the CO. Under this reform first presidential elections will be held on March 2, 2018.
- The EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed on 24 November, 2017.
- The rate of Syrian refugees influx to Armenia has significantly decreased.

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT
- Azerbaijani armed forces continued violating ceasefire in almost all sections of the NKR-Azerbaijani and Armenian-Azerbaijani border.
- DRR National Strategy 2017-2030 was approved by the Government of Armenia in April 2017.

IV. Portfolio

Awards Closed in 2017					
Project Title	**Thematic Focus**	**Member**	**Donor**	**Total Budget**	**Lifespan**

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[1] http://www.armstat.am/am

[2] http://www.dataforall.org/dashboard/ophi/index.php/mpi/country_briefings

[3] Assessment on Access of Children to Preschool Education in Armenia. Save the Children/Media Model, 2017, page 11.

[4] http://www.gov.am/files/docs/2575.pdf, the Law of the Republic of Armenia on 2018 State Budget

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BE PREPARED: Strengthening resilience through child-centered DRR in the South Caucasus	Inclusive DRR	SCNL	DIPECHO	81,000	1 year
Expanding alternative care, family support, and inclusive education services as a part of child-care reform	Alternative Care	SCNL	USAID	217,898 USD	30 months
Combating Gender-Biased Sex Selection in Armenia	Gender	SCNL	EU	292,266 Euro	2 years
Social Innovations for Vocational Education and Employability of Young People with Disabilities	Disability	SCNL	EU	444,444 Euro	2 years
Awards Started in 2017					
Project Title	**Thematic Focus**	**Member**	**Donor**	**Total Budget**	**Lifespan**
Institutionalisation, replication and dissemination of ECHO DRR interventions in South Caucasus	Inclusive DRR	SCNL	DIPECHO	295,316 Euro	18 months
Action for Child Health and Education Project, Phase 3	Education	SC Switzerland, SCNL	Medicor Foundation, private donations	450,000 CHF	3 years
Awards to Start in 2018					
Youth Up 4 Change	Youth	SCNL	EU	750,000 Euro	2 years

Reflections on Portfolio: In general, the size of portfolio did not alter much, including for 2018 as compared to 2016. There are 2 more proposals in the pipeline, the likelihood of which is hard to estimate, given that both donors are classified as "non-traditional" (Global EVAC pool fund and World Bank), at least for the CO and member. Herewith, no major changes are expected in terms of operational capacity and scale.

V.   Humanitarian

This year our country office responded to no emergencies.

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Emergency Preparedness:
- *Date of the last update to the CO Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP): <u>November, 2017</u>*
- *If any planned investment in EPP in 2018, please briefly describe here: n/a*

VI. Annexes

Annex A: 2017 Roadmap Reporting Template: *available upon request*

Annex B: 2017 Total Reach: *available upon request*

Annex C: 2017 Advocacy & Campaign Impact Tool *available upon request*

Annex D: 2017 Health and Nutrition Tracer Indicators <u>– n/a</u>

Annex E: Evaluation repository update *available upon request*

The evaluation repository must be completed online. All final reports and summaries that have not yet been uploaded in the evaluation repository should be uploaded during the 2017 reporting process.

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