

Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

The Comments of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (MoES) on OHCHR report on better investment in the rights of the child- Human rights Council Resolution 25/6

1. Examples of good practices undertaken to prioritize resource mobilization , allocation and spending toward child-focused sectors in national policy

In order to ensure access to general education, the states provide funding of general education during the whole 12 years. In compliance with the Law of Georgia on General Education in force since 2005, general education is financed through voucher system.

Currently, a number of initiatives are being undertaken to prioritize resource mobilization for the children: For example:

Since 2013-2014 academic year, “Program on Provision of School Children with free textbooks” has been implemented, within the scopes of which, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia has distributed free school textbooks and supplementary materials to all students of all the public schools nationwide, also private school students from socially disadvantaged families, from the families whose members perished in the war of 2008 and school children, whose school buildings have been alienated.

At the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, from January, 2013 within the scopes of “Access to General Education Program”, implementation of a new subprogram on “Access to Schools” has started. The given subprogram envisages provision of school transportation to public school children who previously had to cover long distances to go to schools.

Within the frame of 2014 fiscal year budget: 1 971 155 GEL was allocated for provision of educational institutions with ITC technologies ; 23 349 455 GEL was allocated within the frame of *My first Computer program* (the given program envisages provision of computers to schoolchildren, the aim of the initiative is to enhance the quality of education through promoting ICT based learning and teaching, at the same time, through increasing access of

children to the modern technologies, this program supports development of competitive economic capacities). At the same time, in 2014, 70 604 000 GEL was allocated for renovation of educational institutions, 13 216 000 GEL was assigned for provision of schoolchildren with free textbooks. All these activities are carried out by the Ministry's LEPL Agency for Education and Science Infrastructure Development. Report on the activities implemented by this agency is available on its website (<http://www.esida.ge>)

2. Please indicate how your national laws and policies provide opportunity for children to access budget information and participation in the budgeting and fiscal process.

It shall be noted that opportunity to access to budget information for children participation in the budgeting and fiscal process is not reflected in national legislation in force in the field of education. However, it must be stressed that elective subject "Economy and the State" is integrated in the National Curriculum approved by the Decree N36/5 (2011) of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia. The given subject is taught in XI-XII grades and it introduces the children to budgeting, fiscal and monetary policy related issues. The learning outcome of the subject is that by the end of program, schoolchildren shall be able to explain the role and function of fiscal and monetary policy in economy.

At the same time, it should be emphasized that a schoolchild is represented as a member Board of Trustees of the school together with other board members. He/she is elected by the self-governance body comprised of schoolchildren at secondary level (X-XII grades) education and is eligible to fully exercise all duties of the board of trustees of the school as prescribed in the law of Georgia on General Education. In compliance with the same law, the board of trustees, upon a proposal of the school principal, is empowered to approve the school budget and annual report drafted by the school principal, and ensures its public openness, the school board of trustees also monitor financial expenditure of the school and issues pertaining to school property.

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

The Comments of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia on OHCHR report on better investment in the rights of the child- Human rights Council Resolution 25/6

1. In July 2014, the Government of Georgia approved the National Action Plan for Human Rights (2014-2015), which determined activities and specific measures to be implemented by the State agencies in order to protect human rights.

In addition, “Action Plan for the Child’s Welfare and Protection in 2012-2015” was approved by the Government of Georgia (Decree of the Government of Georgia N762 of April 24, 2014).

The child protection activities are envisaged by this action plan, which considers the following: support of families with children and prevention of child abandonment; protection of children from violence and neglect; provision of the high quality alternative services for children under the state care.

The following programs/services are financed annually in the frames of the state social programs:

- Providing nutrition for the children under the risk of abandonment: the goal of the subprogram is to decrease the risk of child abandonment and support the upbringing of the child in the biological family through provision of the child supplementary nutrition determined by the Law of Georgia on “protection of the child natural feeding and support, infant formula consumption”. The target groups of this program are children under one year and six month old.
- Early childhood development subprogram: The goal of the subprogram is prevention of the child’s disability and abandonment through stimulation of the development of children with retardation or disabilities and their family strengthening. The target group of this subprogram is children 0-7 years old with mental and physical development retardation (including, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism and etc.).
- Child rehabilitation/habilitation subprogram: the goal of subprogram is specific rehabilitation for target group children, habilitation and improvement of their physical health, increase of their adaptation ability and support of social integration.

Targeted group children are those with child cerebral palsy, spinal muscle atrophies and related syndromes, muscle dystrophy, congenital myopathy, muscles' other primary defects (including non-defined), hemi-, para- and tetraplegy, residues of the central nervous system inflammatory and vascular diseases, residues of the inflammatory poly-neuropathies, children 3 years and older with congenital peripheral nervous system injury, also children under 3 years with similar conditions.

- Day care centers subprogram: the goal of the subprogram is support/strengthening of beneficiary families and prevention of child abandonment. The target group is children with disabilities from 6 to 18 years old, including, children with disabilities whose families receive reintegration allowance or are under the foster care; also, children with disabilities from 6 to 18 years old with severe and deep mental retardation, including children whose families receive reintegration allowance are under the foster care.
- Provision of supportive means subprogram: The goal of the subprogram is to increase the functional independence of the targeted children and enhance their integration into society through provision of the supportive devices (wheelchairs, prosthesis – orthopedic devices, hearing devices, cochlear implants, crutches, walking-crutches, walking sticks for the blind and moving frames) for persons with disabilities, including children who are in the need of such supportive devices.
- Provision of mother and child shelter subprogram: the goal of the subprogram is prevention of infant abandonment and strengthening of the child's biological family. The beneficiaries are mothers with different problems together with child or children under 10 years old, if the children are under the risk of abandonment or placement in the institutional care; also, pregnant women no less than 26 weeks of pregnancy (including those with child or children under 10 years old, if the children under the risk of abandonment or placement in the institutional care).
- Foster care subprogram: the goal of the subprogram is placement of the children without parental care in the foster families to ensure their upbringing in the family environment. The target groups are children without parental care under 18 living or to be placed in the childcare institutions also, persons above 18 living in the foster care families and undergoing general educational program who cannot be returned to their biological families.
- Small family-type homes subprogram: the goal of the subprogram is placement of the children without parental care in the small family-type homes and their upbringing in the family like environment. The beneficiaries are children without parental care

from 6 to 18 years old living or to be placed in the childcare institutions; also, children with disabilities, who cannot return to their biological families, cannot be adopted or placed in the foster care. Also, persons above 18 years old living in the childcare institutions, which undergo general educational program.

From 2014 in the frames of the State Social program, “Providing Homeless Children with Shelters” subprogram was launched which envisages children living and/or working on the street with child transit center and crisis intervention shelter. The emergency support subprogram to families with children living in crisis conditions was also launched in the frames of the abovementioned program. The goal of this program is to meet primary needs of the families with children living in poverty, granting them up to 1000 GEL value goods /services per family.

Law of Georgia on Social Assistance defines social assistance types (subsistence allowance, reintegration benefit, foster care reimbursement, adult family member care compensation, non-monetary social assistance, and social package). This law also determines persons with special needs, who are orphans and without parental care children under 18 years old, also, children with disabilities and without breadwinner.

The aggregate of reintegration benefit (monetary social assistance, which is given to the biological families or guardians who take child from the institution for upbringing the child in the family environment) and foster care allowance (monetary social assistance, which is given to the adoptive parents for the care and upbringing of the child) and the amount of the social package (monthly monetary benefit or/and sum of benefits (monetary and non-monetary), on the basis of the determination of disability status and in case of the loss of breadwinner, also - non monetary assistance for the prevention (number of activities, the aim of which is protection of child’s primary right to be raised in the family environment and avoiding his/her identification to be raised without parental care) are given to the families with children with special needs according to the Law of Georgia on Social Assistance.

Based on the evaluation of the socially unprotected families socio-economic conditions, for the support of the families registered in the socially unprotected families’ unified database, benefits are distributed, including social assistance for children.

The abovementioned social benefits:

- reintegration benefit – 90 GEL in case of child without disability status and 130 GEL in case of child with disability status;
- foster care allowance:

In case of healthy child placed in the relative foster care – 200 GEL per month;

In case of healthy child placed in the non-relative foster care – 15 GEL per calendar day;

In case of child with disabilities placed in the relative foster care – 300 GEL per month;

In case child with disabilities placed in the non-relative foster care – 20 GEL per calendar day;

Emergency foster care (including child with disabilities) - 20 GEL per calendar day.

Social package for different target categories varies from 100 GEL to 494 GEL.

Subsistence allowance – the amount of the allowance for a one-member family is 60 GEL, adding 48 GEL for the second and each subsequent family member.

2. According to the Child care standards acting in the country, the child care services support the involvement of children in decision-making process, also, consideration of their views, and wishes in the process of meeting their needs (the child care institutions have obligations to consider wishes of beneficiaries in the process of planning and providing nutrition and taking into account the service recipient's interests in the process of equipping physical environment).

3. The Programs' Monitoring Division at the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, which was created in January, 2014, ensures performance control of the child care services (Orphanages, small group homes, day care centers, foster care, families with reintegration benefit) in accordance with the requirements set forth in the child care standards and prepares recommendations to be followed by the service providers, accordingly.

4. Social workers, under the custody and care institutions, perform needs assessment of the families with children and offer appropriate services or conduct consultations with the relevant agencies. Social Agents under the LEPL Social Service Agency evaluate families according to the evaluation methodology of the socio-economic conditions of the

unprotected families (households) approved by the Decree of the Government of Georgia in order to support poor families. Based on the evaluation, the abovementioned families receive the rating score of the socially unprotected families' unified database.