

Një projekt i Agjencisë Zvicerane për
Zhvillim dhe Bashkëpunim SDC



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Agjencia Zvicerane për Zhvillim
dhe Bashkëpunim SDC

Zbatuar nga:



Save the Children



06 September 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR no. 2023/156)

Expert for conducting a mid-term economic analysis for the needs of the Project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

“Shkollat për Shëndetin” is a Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) project implemented by Save the Children. This nationwide project initiated with a 1-year Inception Phase (March 2020 – February 2021), followed by a 4-year Main Phase (March 2021 – February 2025).

The overarching goal of the project is to reduce exposure to the major risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Albanian population in general, with a particular focus on schoolchildren. More specifically, “Shkollat për Shëndetin” is intended to promote positive behavioural changes among all primary schoolchildren (aged 6-16 years) in Albania, their respective families and communities at large.

All activities of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin” are aligned with the Albanian Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) and the Ministry of Education and Sport (MoES) including their respective affiliated institutions (in particular, the Institute of Public Health [IPH] and the General Directorate of Preuniversity Education [GDPUE], respectively).

Beneficiaries of this project consist of all 9-year schools in Albania (through *online* interventions).

Furthermore, a nationwide representative sample of 120 schools will benefit from additional *onsite* interventions, through a gradual inclusion of schools. In the first implementation year (covering the period March 2021 – February 2022), there were

targeted 30 schools for in-depth (onsite) interventions in three regions of Albania (Kukës, Elbasan, Korçë). In the second implementation year (covering the period March 2022 – February 2023), there were included 30 additional schools for in-depth (onsite) interventions in three other regions of Albania (Lezhë, Durrës, Berat).

Currently, in the third implementation year (covering the period March 2023 – February 2024), there are included 30 new schools for in-depth (onsite) interventions in three other regions of Albania (Shkodër, Vlorë, Gjirokastër).

Economic Analysis

SDC requires a result-based management approach in all of its funded projects. This principle applies also to the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”, which has contributed to positive behavioural changes among Albanian schoolchildren and their families. Nonetheless, a clear causal link between project’s interventions and the related impact is difficult to establish at this early stage, considering also the presence of other simultaneously implemented programs and initiatives.

Notwithstanding these considerations, the mid-term economic analysis of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin” should aim at indicating the “value for money” of the interventions which can be eventually used in policy formulation for scaling-up the interventions in all schools pertinent to the 9-year system in Albania.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY

In this framework, Save the Children is seeking to contract a local Consultant/Expert for conducting a mid-term economic evaluation of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

More specifically, the Consultant is expected to support the project team regarding the development of a mid-term economic analysis of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”, according to the following steps:

- Identification of a suitable method/approach for conducting mid-term economic evaluation¹ of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”.

¹ The “value for money” principle should always consider the following principles: i) **target audience** (children aged 6-16 years); ii) **preventive benefits** (health promotion efforts emphasizing prevention can offer good value for money); iii) **long-term benefits** (considering the fact that interventions targeting children 6-16 years old may not yield to immediate results but instead may lead to substantial health and cost savings over time); iv) **evidence-based interventions** (current evidence on school-based and community-based health promotion interventions are more likely to prove value for money compared to unproven strategies/programs); v) **equity** (ensuring that vulnerable and underserved population categories benefit from health promotion interventions).

- Conducting the economic analysis based on the most suitable/feasible method/approach identified, including desk review and key informant interviewing.
- Writing of a technical report on mid-term economic evaluation of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”.

Of note, the project team will provide the Consultant with all the necessary materials and documents necessary for conducting the economic analysis.

“Appendix 1” presents selected examples of economic evaluation exercises that may be conducted for the activities of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”. These examples include direct project’s beneficiaries (schoolchildren, their parents/caregivers, as well as community members at large); human resources both at school level (teachers, school health personnel, and school authorities) and at local health care units (health promotion specialists and family physicians); as well as studies and surveys that may have been carried out so far in the framework of different research activities of the project.

4. SERVICE PERIOD

The service provision will be over the period **October – November 2023**.

The assignments under these “terms of reference” comprise 10 (ten) working days, anticipated to be distributed/allocated as follows:

- Office of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin” (hosted by Save the Children): 1 (one) day, during which the Consultant will work (face-to-face) with the project team.
- Key informant interviews: 3 (three) days during which the Consultant will conduct key informant interviews with relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries associated with the "Shkollat për Shëndetin" project.
- Desk-based: 6 (six) days, during which the Consultant will work independently at his/her own premises.

The time allocation for each service (task) is also indicated in the table below:

TASKS	DAYS
Identification of a suitable approach/method for the mid-term economic evaluation of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”	2 (two) days
Desk review (economic analysis)	2 (two) days
Key informant interviews (feeding into the economic analysis)	3 (three) days

Writing of the report on mid-term economic evaluation of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin”	3 (three) days
TOTAL	10 (ten) days

5. DELIVERABLES

At the end of the services, the Consultant is expected to provide the following deliverables:

- A technical report on mid-term economic evaluation² of the project “Shkollat për Shëndetin” (both in English and Albanian).
- A short narrative report on the services provided according to the terms of reference. (the template will be provided by the project in due time)

6. QUALIFICATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE CONSULTANT

The service provider (local expert) should have the following qualifications in order to address effectively and timely the specific requirements of this assignment:

- Background in economic sciences, health management, or other relevant fields.
- Proven expertise in conducting economic analysis in the past 5 (five) years), according to the requirements of this assignment.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in Albanian and English.
- Proven ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.
- Flexibility in responding to the needs of the contracting agency.

7. PROPOSAL

The *Consultant* is expected to submit a proposal, including:

- Technical proposal including the approach to the economic analysis (including desk review and key informant interviewing), the proposed work-plan, timeline, and other relevant elements.
- Financial bid/proposal: fee per day in ALL (Albanian Lekë), including taxes according to the Albanian legislation. The total number of working days will be 10

² The “value for money” principle should always consider the following principles: i) target audience (children aged 6-16 years); ii) preventive benefits iii) long-term benefits iv) evidence-based interventions) v) equity.

(ten). Of note, costs related to the key informant interviews (including travel and other relevant expenses) will be covered by the project.

- CV, including a summary of expertise areas as per requirements of these “Terms of Reference”, demonstrating previous experience in similar economic analyses.
- A copy of ID card of the consultant.

8. AWARD CRITERIA

The award criteria consist of the following:

- Technical proposal: 40%
- Financial proposal: 40%
- Qualification and experience of the expert/consultant: 20%

9. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY SAVE THE CHILDREN AND THE CONSULTANT

In order to respond to the objectives of assignment, the consultant is expected to closely work with the team of the project “*Shkollat për Shëndetin*” implemented by Save the Children Albania.

The project team will provide the Consultant with all the necessary materials and documents for conducting the economic analysis. Also, the project team will monitor, supervise and facilitate the consultant in every step of the process. No action will be taken without the approval of the project.

The consultant is responsible for conducting the required economic analysis according to the requirements and timeline included in these Terms of Reference.

10. PAYMENT MODALITY

The payment will be done as lump sum after the delivery of:

- A final report (in English and Albanian) about the economic analysis.
- A short narrative report of the service (the template will be provided by the project in due time).

The payment will be subject to the current Albanian legislation taxes.

11. ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

A contract between the project implemented by Save the Children and the Consultant will be established covering the activities defined in these “Terms of Reference”.

Interested consultants (local experts) should submit a technical proposal, a financial proposal (fee per day in ALL, including taxes according to the Albanian legislation – the total number of working days will be ten), CV and a copy of the ID card of the consultant (in a single email) to: shkollat.per.shendetin@savethechildren.org, by close of business 20 – 09 – 2023.

Submission of written questions about this call may be addressed to shkollat.per.shendetin@savethechildren.org, by close of business 08 – 09 – 2023. All questions will be responded by close of business 12 – 09 – 2023.

APPENDIX 1. Examples of outcome indicators to be used for the economic analysis

Category	Indicator	CEA or CBA
Direct Beneficiaries	Number and percentage of schoolchildren (by gender) informed and taught on health promotion topics	CEA: Investment cost per schoolchild
	Number and percentage of schoolchildren (by gender) involved in peer-to-peer education	CEA: Investment cost per schoolchild
	Number and percentage of schoolchildren (by gender) involved in awareness raising health promotion campaigns	CEA: Investment cost per schoolchild
	Number and percentage of caregivers (by gender) involved in awareness raising health promotion campaigns	CEA: Investment cost per caregiver
	Number and percentage of community members (by gender) involved in awareness raising health promotion campaigns	CEA: Investment cost per person
	Number of adults (adults) reached at PHC level through health promotion sessions relating to control and prevention of NCDs	CEA Attributable cost of health education per additional person covered at PHC level
Human Resources Development	Number and percentage of schoolteachers (by gender) of health-related disciplines trained in health promotion topics	CEA: Investment cost per trained teacher
	Number and percentage of school authorities (directors and deputy directors - by gender) trained in health promotion topics	CEA: Investment cost per trained authority
	Number and percentage of school health staff (doctors, nurses, dentists, psychologists - by gender) trained in health promotion topics	CEA: Investment cost per trained staff
	Number and percentage of health personnel at Local Health care Units (health promotion specialists, family doctors - by gender) trained and retrained in health promotion topics	CEA: Investment cost per trained staff
	Number and percentage of representatives of central level institutions (IPH, Health Operators - by gender) trained in health promotion topics	CEA: Investment cost per trained person
	Number and percentage of representatives of local government units trained in health promotion topics	CEA: Investment cost per trained person
Research	Number of implementation research / studies presented in national and international conferences and/or published	CEA: Investment cost per study presented at national and/or international level