# Terms of Reference

## Title: Nursery Care Services Situation Analysis in Shanghai

### Background

0-3-year-old infants and young children are in the early stage of their life cycle, and their life experience has a significant impact on their physical, socio-emotional, linguistic and cognitive developmental needs.

Since the opening of the "two child" policy in 2016, the situation of huge demand for nurturing care and insufficient providers supply has become increasingly fierce in China. The government, academia and the public have paid great attention to the problem of nursery care services. The general office of the State Council issued Guidance on promoting the development of care services for infants under the age of 3 in May 2019, which provided the first national development guidance for the 0-3-year-old children nursery care service industry filling in the policy blank period before.

Shanghai is at the forefront of nationwide on exploring and practicing public infant and young child nursery care services. In April 2018, Shanghai had put forward the first standards, methods and mechanisms for the management of public nursery care in China, aiming to solve the problem of the supply in this field.

### Purpose and Key Questions

The **primary purpose** of this situation analysis is to understand the context and status of 0-3-year-old infant and young child nursery service in Shanghai, which is meant to inform and support intervention programme design of Save the Children in next stage.

The situation analysis will answer the following key questions:

Policy:

To analyse the current policies in Shanghai, including content and implementation, related to support for 0-3 years old infant and young children and their caregivers in terms of health & nutrition, early stimulation and responsive care. Questions that are more specific include:

* What are the policies?
* Who are the policy makers?
* Who has the authority and power in terms of ECD in Shanghai?
* Are there any existing training systems and mechanisms for nursery care service providers? What is the gap between training provision and requirement?
* What professional certification and qualification criteria are required for nursery care service providers? What is the salary level for nursery care service providers?
* Are there any management mechanisms (registration, service quality etc.) of nursery care services institutions in family and community?
* What are the national and local qualification criteria for nursery care service institutions?
* Are there any incentive policies for different service providers?
* What is the local budget allocation for different services for children aged 0-3? What is the budget breakdown?
* Are there standards or criteria for assessing the quality of the service? Or what is being considered in this aspect?

Service Provision

To identify the type and availability of existing services for children aged 0-3 and their caregivers with a focus on early stimulation and responsive care from both government and non-government provision, including:

* What are the services, including the type, content and frequency of interaction with caregivers?
* Who will regulate the services quality? How to regulate the quality? Are there any gaps in the existing services?
* Who are service providers?
* Where is the service available? (E.g., community health centre, hospitals, nursery schools etc.)
* Where is the service coverage areas? Do these services concentrate at urban areas or rural areas?
* Who are the targeted children and how many are served?
* What are the strengths and challenges for engaging respective service providers in support of early stimulation and responsive care?

Stakeholders

To capture a snapshot of the stakeholders and to develop an understanding of how they interact with each other:

* Who are inﬂuential in shaping children aged 0-3 related programme and policy decisions in Shanghai?
* What are the links among these stakeholders?
* What is the extent of their power over the specific issue?

Children and Caregivers

* What is the total number of children aged 0-3 in Shanghai, distribution between girls and boys, sub-urban and urban areas, local and migrant populations (please include data for other vulnerable groups if available)?
* What is the developmental status of children aged 0-3 in Shanghai (age and sex-disaggregated data are preferred, and data for sub-urban and urban areas and for vulnerable groups are welcome if available)? ONLY through literature review.
* Who are the children’s caregivers? Explore caregivers’ knowledge, attitudes, positive and concerning caregiver practices, as well as capacity and competencies. Identify any differences in attitudes of different caregivers and any positive or discriminatory attitudes towards girls and boys. What is preventing caregivers from practicing a behaviour (the barriers) and what may encourage or enable them to adopt it (enablers)? Who or what influences caregiver knowledge and attitudes and how influence happens? ONLY through literature review.
* Who cannot access nursery care services and why? Is there difference between girls and boys, women and men, local and migrant populations, and other vulnerable groups?
* Who can access nursery care services? What is the type of service, and if they need to pay for service?
* Are caregivers using the services they are entitled to? If not, why? What are caregivers’ needs for nursery care services for children aged 0-3?

### Methodology

To be able to achieve the objective, this situation analysis will be expected involve:

* Desk review of existing local policy documents, as well as reports and tools on nursery care service for children aged 0-3
* Focus group discussion, key informant interview, questionnaires and field observation will be employed to collect primary data

The analysis of the data and information should be disaggregated, to the extent possible, by various characteristics of children or caregivers as relevant in each context. This may include gender, age, disability, location or remoteness, vulnerability status when applicable.

### Expected Deliverables

The expected deliverables and due dates are outlined below:

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| **Deliverable** | **Due Date** |
| **Inception report/Research plan:**  The inception report/research plan will include:   * objectives and key questions * description of the methodology, data sources, draft data collection tools (preferably against the key questions) * key deliverables, milestones and timelines * risk and issue management plan * a stakeholder communication and engagement plan * logistical or other support required from Save the Children | February 14 |
| **Data collection tools:**   * Interview instrument * Data collection mechanism | February 21 |
| **Draft of Final Report (Chinese version)** | May 11 |
| **Final Report (Chinese version) incorporating feedback from consultation on the Draft Report** | May 31 |
| **Data and analyses including all raw data, databases and analysis outputs** | May 31 |
| **PowerPoint presentation of evaluation findings (Chinese version)** | May 31 |
| **Final Report (English version)** | May 31 |
| **PowerPoint presentation of evaluation findings (English version)** | May 31 |