CIVIL SOCIETY EDUCATION FUND COSTED EXTENSION: REPORT FROM THE COUNTRY GRANTS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

For Information

1. STRATEGIC PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Board that the Country Grants and Performance Committee (CGPC) at its February 24-25, 2015 meeting made the following decision in reference to BOD/2014/12-13 – Civil Society Education Fund:

1. Based on its delegated authority from the Board of Directors (BOD/2014/12-13), the CGPC approves a grant allocation from the GPE Fund of US$5,000,000 plus US$350,000 in agency fees to UNESCO as Supervising Entity for an extension to the Civil Society Education Fund grant to December 31, 2015;
2. The CGPC requests that the Results Framework be updated prior to the April 14-16, 2015 CGPC meeting to include quantitative baselines and targets for the extension period based on latest available results and the extension proposal, and;
3. The CGPC requests that the comments outlined in paragraph 2.7 of BOD/2015/05 DOC 13 be taken into consideration in the development of the 2016-2018 CSEF proposal.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At the December 15-16, 2014 Board meeting, the Board approved the following decision with respect to the existing phase of the Civil Society Education Fund:

BOD/2014/12-13—<u>Civil Society Education Fund:</u> The Board of Directors:

1. requests Global Campaign for Education to develop a new Civil Society Education Fund proposal with a maximum indicative allocation of US$30 million for the 2016-2018 period;
2. requests that the proposal be subject to a Quality Assurance Review (QAR) encompassing a

detailed grant-level assessment to be arranged by the GPE Secretariat which shall outline any proposed conditions to funding in addition to those recommended by the GERF, and propose supervision arrangements based on the findings of the QAR process. The proposal and findings of the Secretariat's QAR shall be submitted for review by the Country Grants and Performance Committee for their recommendation to the Board of Directors at its next face-to-face meeting in May 2015; and

3. authorizes an extension of the existing Civil Society Education Fund program to December 31, 2015 with UNESCO as Supervising Entity, and delegates authority to the Country Grants and Performance Committee to review and approve a request for a costed extension of up to US$5 million plus applicable agency fees and a supervision allocation.

2.2 In accordance with the Board decision, the CGPC met on February 24, 2015 to consider the proposal from Global Fund for Education for a costed extension in the amount of US$5,000,000, along with a request from the supervising entity for applicable agency fees in the amount of US$350,000.

2.3 The Chair invited Senior Finance Officer Padraig Power to present the proposal and invited Committee members to comment.

2.4 While there was broad support for the extension request, Committee members noted that the timing of the request (February 2014) meant that any delay in approval would likely result in disruption to the program (due to end in March 2014). The timing issue needs to be taken into account when future applications are presented to ensure that Committee members have sufficient time to request clarifications where necessary without risking program disruption.

2.5 Committee members requested and obtained clarification on a number of issues related to the costs of the program, the supervision arrangements, and the proposed changes in implementation arrangements for the next proposal.

2.6 The CGPC noted that while the extension proposal itself provided information on the expected results to be achieved, this was not reflected in the results framework, and therefore the CGPC determined that the results framework should be updated to reflect quantitative baselines and targets based on latest available results and the extension proposal.

2.7 The CGPC also made the following comments that should be taken into consideration in the upcoming 2016-2018 proposal request:

- Demonstrate how the proposal will link to the GPE strategic plan and in particular how any

shift in the direction of the new GPE strategic plan that will be under development versus the existing plan can be taken into account in implementation of the proposal considering the request will be submitted before the new plan is finalized.

- Provide information on the justification for the high administrative costs of the program at all levels, and in particular how the program demonstrates value for money.
- Ensure that the results framework is very clear and includes relevant baselines, and targets for the proposed indicators.
- Ensure the proposal has a clear emphasis on lessons learned from the existing program, and how they are addressed in the new proposal.
- Ensure clear information on how conflicts of interest are managed.
- Ensure that the findings of the previous evaluations are reflected in the proposal, and in particular how the new proposal will support the issue of Girls' education.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 The decision of the CGPC would be communicated to GCE and UNESCO as soon as possible so that the Trustee may commit the funds and avoid disruption to the program. The Board would be informed of the CGPC decision at its next meeting scheduled for May 22-23, 2015.

4. PLEASE CONTACT: Padraig Power (ppower@globalpartnership.org) for further information

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1 The related CGPC paper (CGPC/2015/02 DOC 02), which includes the proposal, is located on the Committee eTeam site.