APRIL 15, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECISION VIA AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

SYRIA ESPIG ALLOCATION

Reference	Decision
BOD/2021/04-02	**Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant for Syria** The Board of Directors with respect to the application submitted in January 2021 and in reference to Board decision BOD/2019/12-11-Syria Maximum Country Allocation: 1. Notes compliance with the program standards for accessing an education sector program implementation grant (ESPIG), with Board decision BOD/2019/12-11, and with the GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies, as described in the application and summarized and assessed in BOD/2021/03 DOC 08. 2. Notes that per Board decision BOD/2019/12-11, the funding requirements, variable part, and GPE membership requirements are waived. 3. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2021/04-01 3 (c), subject to: a. Availability of funds.

b. Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for ESPIGs in annual installments.

c. GPC recommendations for funding, including (all amounts in US$):

Table 1 - Application Summary and GPC Allocation Recommendation for an ESPIG:

Syria		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	25,000,000
b.	Fixed Part	25,000,000
c.	Variable Part	N/A
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	18,746,532[1]
e.	**Allocation Recommended by GPC**	**18,746,532**
f.	Grant Agent	UNICEF
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	7% - 1,312,257.24
h.	Period	3 years
i.	Expected Start Date	April 1, 2021
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	N/A
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

4. In line with decision BOD/2019/12-11, requests the Trustee to withhold the transfer of funds beyond Year 1 (US$12,622,688) until the conditions set out in Annex A have been met.

5. Extends the validity of the MCA through June 30, 2021 and invites Save the Children, USA to serve as grant agent for the remainder (US$6,253,468) of the MCA (US$25,000,000) and submit an application in consultation with the Syrian Education Dialogue Forum (EDF) by June 30, 2021 for review by the Executive Committee and approval by the Board. The application should comply with decision BOD/2019/12-11 and align with the Intervention Matrix agreed by the Syria development partner group on October 15, 2020 (Annex C).

[1] Includes US$4,168,488 for the cost of the grant agent to perform its roles and responsibilities. The total MCA for Syria is US$25 million. However, the grant agent, in consultation with Syrian Education Dialogue Forum members, has proposed a ~75/25 percent split of the MCA and the nomination of a second grant agent, Save the Children, for Board approval. Save the Children, USA would serve as the legal grant agent with direct oversight of the implementation by Save the Children, Syria.

	6. Requests the Secretariat to: a. Include in its notification of grant approval to the grant agent and the EDF the observations and conditions set out in Annex A. b. Include an update on the conditions in the annual Grant Status Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

Annex A – GPC Observations and Condition

Arab Republic of Syria	
Observations	The Committee acknowledges the extensive consultation and collaboration between the grant agent and members of the Education Dialogue Forum (EDF) in the development of the program proposal. The Committee further notes that the program is relevant to needs and aligned with the respective United Nations (UN) resolutions, the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach, the Syrian Humanitarian Response Program (HRP) and the multi-year resilience program (MYRP) framework supported by Education Cannot Wait, and is based on an intervention matrix agreed between UNICEF and development partners on October 15, 2020.
Condition	Prior to the Trustee committing and transferring grant funds beyond Year 1, the grant agent is requested to report annually on the continued alignment of the program with the MYRP Framework. After each report-back, the Executive Committee will determine the adequacy of the report-back in order to authorize the Trustee to commit and transfer funds linked to activities for the subsequent year. The Executive Committee may refer the decision to the Board if needed.