JULY 13, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECISION VIA AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ALLOCATION FOR MULTIPLIER GRANT TO PAKISTAN SINDH

Reference	Decisions
BOD/2021/07-02	**Allocation for a Multiplier Grant to Pakistan Sindh:** The Board of Directors with respect to the application submitted in March 2021: 1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the fixed part of the Multiplier maximum country allocation (MCAM) as described in the application and summarized and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/07 DOC 02. 2. Notes compliance with meeting the requirements for accessing the variable part of the MCAM as described in the application and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/07 DOC 02. 3. Notes compliance with the requirements of co-financing, additionality, and debt sustainability for accessing the MCAM , as described in the application and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/07 DOC 02. 4. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for a Multiplier grant in the amount of US$25 million as additional funding to the ESPIG-supported Sindh Early Learning Enhancement Through Classroom Transformation (SELECT) program, as described in the application

submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2021/07-02 4 (c), subject to:

a. Availability of funds.
b. Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for Multiplier
c. Secretariat recommendations for funding, including (all amounts in US$):

Table 1 Application Summary and Secretariat Allocation Recommendations:

Pakistan Sindh		
a.	Multiplier Maximum Country Allocation	25,000,000
b.	Fixed Part	17,500,000
c.	Variable Part	7,500,000
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	25,000,000[1]
e.	**Allocation Recommended by Secretariat**	**25,000,000**
f.	Grant Agent	World Bank
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	1.75% - 437,500
h.	Period	4 years and 10 months
i.	Expected Start Date	September 1, 2021
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-post
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

5. Approves the proposed revisions to the existing ESPIG as a result of the additional Multiplier funds providing support for two additional districts, as described in the application and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/07 DOC 02.
6. Requests the Secretariat to:
   a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Pakistan Sindh the observations and requests for report-back set out in Annex A.
   b. Include an update on the requested report backs in the annual Grant Status Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

[1] Includes US$225,000 for the cost of the grant agent to perform its roles and responsibilities.

Annex A – Secretariat Observations and Report-Backs

Pakistan Sindh	
Observations	The Secretariat appreciates that the activities to be funded by the Multiplier are fully aligned with the current ESPIG/ Sindh Early Learning Enhancement Through Classroom Transformation (SELECT) program. Recognizing the importance of the program in promoting girls' education, the Secretariat encourages the Government of Sindh to continue conscious efforts to promote girls' education through: 1) prioritizing the upgrading of girls' primary schools to elementary schools under component 2 which envisages upgrading 100 cell-hub schools under the GPE Multiplier, 2) prioritizing the continuous professional development of female teachers under component 1 for improved literacy skills in the early grades, and 3) prioritizing recruitment of female teachers for the upgraded schools. Pakistan Sindh is further encouraged to make best efforts to accelerate the preparatory process to expedite the project's effectiveness. The Secretariat notes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education systems and invites the government and the grant agent, in consultation with the local education group, to consider adapting the ESPIG to emerging issues, notably the impact on children learning as a result of school closures, as needed. Other adaptations to consider could relate to mitigation measures on potential delays or other constraints that the pandemic may have on program implementation, including, if necessary, a modification of indicator targets.
Report-Backs	*For the grant agent* The grant agent is requested to include in its regular progress report updates on the risk rating and appropriate mitigation actions that will be set out in the grant agent's Environmental and Social Management Framework, following its completion of the SEAH risk assessment.