DECEMBER 4-5, 2025 – MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM – BOD/2025-12-DOC 07 – FOR DECISION

EDUCATION OUT LOUD (EOL) 2.0 - DESIGN FRAMEWORK

Please note: In accordance with the GPE Transparency Policy, documents are public only after their appraisal by the relevant governance instance. Governance officials may circulate documents to their constituency for consultation purposes, except for documents of a confidential nature.

Key issues for consideration:

- At its October meeting, the Performance, Impact, and Learning Committee (PILC) reviewed and recommended the Design Framework of the GPE Education Out Loud (EOL 2.0), for Board decision.
- Members inquired about CSO involvement in the development of partnership compacts and requested clarification on the coordination of EOL with other GPE mechanisms such as KIX and Technical Assistance Initiatives (TAIs), as well as external initiatives.
- Questions were raised on the grant agent selection process, particularly on the balance between a streamlined process and adequate due diligence, and the eligibility of a consortium as grant agents.
- Members advocated for a stronger strategy to communicate EOL's work to GPE stakeholders and national governments.
- In response, the Secretariat emphasized the strong participation of CSOs in compact development, the robust coordination with other initiatives and established due diligence mechanisms for grant agents, as well as the continuous effort to improve communication on EOL.

Objective

1. The Board is requested to review the Design Framework of the GPE Education Out Loud (EOL) 2.0, for its decision.

Recommended decision

BOD/2025/12-XX - Education Out Loud (EOL) 2.0 - Design Framework:

The Board of Directors:

1. Noting the proposed design adaptations, and their alignment with the Education Out Loud (EOL) evaluation, approves the design framework in Annex A of BOD/2025/12 DOC 07.
2. Acknowledges the proposed criteria and procedure for selecting grant agents for the upcoming phase of the initiative, as detailed in Annex C of BOD/2025/12 DOC 07.

Background and overview

1. Now in its sixth year, Education Out Loud (EOL) is the GPE's fund for advocacy and social accountability, building on its predecessor, the Civil Society Education Fund's support to civil society organizations to influence education policy and promote transparency.
2. Managed by Oxfam Denmark as grant agent and with a funding envelope of US$133 million from 2019-2027, EOL is the largest global fund dedicated to education advocacy, operating across more than 60 countries.
3. Since 2020, EOL partners have contributed to 245 policy changes related to increased and enhanced budget allocations and inclusive and evidence-based policy making in 51 countries. EOL-supported civil society organizations have enhanced the capacity of communities to collect evidence for changes to local and national policies. More than 248 publications have been produced, including budget analyses and assessments of education sector policies and plans. Ninety three percent (57 of 61) of EOL-supported National Education Coalitions (NECs) participate in local education groups, ensuring marginalized groups' perspectives are integrated in decision-making processes.
4. In 2021, the Finance and Risk Committee approved top-up funding of US$17.3 million (FRC/2021/09-03) to the original allocation of US$55.5 million approved by the Board in 2019 (BOD/2019/03–02), to ensure continued support to over 50 National Education Coalitions through 2022–2023. In 2022, following a mid-term review, the GPE Board approved a 42-month extension of EOL (January 2023 – June 2027), bringing the total budget to US$133 million (BOD/2022/06-05).
5. In April 2025, the Performance, Impact and Learning Committee (PILC) reviewed the findings and recommendations of the EOL external evaluation to inform its decisions on the value of the initiative. PILC's perspective guided a Board decision on EOL's funding continuation within GPE 2030 Eligibility and Allocation (BOD/2025/06-07). The decision allocates 3 percent of available financing from the GPE replenishment to EOL for the GPE 2030 strategic period, capped at US$100 million.
6. Consequently, the GPE Secretariat has developed a revised design framework for the next phase of EOL (Annex A), drawing on the recent external evaluation, PILC and Board discussions of the evaluation, and inputs from the Secretariat and other stakeholders. The framework will guide the implementation plan that will be developed by a competitively selected grant agent. The Board is requested to review and decide on the design framework.

7. An overview of main adaptations is presented below.

EOL Issue	**Comment**
Principles	Updated with stronger focus on: • alignment with GPE 2030 objectives and priorities
Goals and objectives	Goal updated to align with GPE 2030 as well as objectives revised to emphasize more active civil society engagement beyond policy dialogue to policy reform implementation and monitoring
Link to GPE 2030	Included in the adapted design framework
Theory of Change	Included in the adapted design framework
Core operational components	Reduced from three to two components– (a) National grants and (b) Regional/Global Grants – with emphasis on national engagement.
Governance and coordination considerations	Closer engagement with other GPE mechanisms.
Budget Prioritization	Targeted to national organizations and rebalanced from 80:20 national: regional/global to up to 90:10.

Annex A - Design Framework for Education Out Loud (EOL) 2.0
Annex B - Updated EOL Principles
Annex C – Grant Agent Selection Criteria and Process
Annex D – Response to Evaluation Recommendations