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

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM – BOD/2025-12-DOC 08 – FOR DECISION

KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION EXCHANGE (KIX) - ADAPTED 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 Adapted Design Framework of the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX 2.0), for Board decision.
- Committee Members asked for clarification on the coordination of KIX with Technical Assistance Initiatives (TAIs) and EOL, and GPE processes such as system capacity grants in view of preventing overlap and promoting synergy, both at national and regional levels.
- Some members advocated for clearer communication regarding the structure and roles of hubs, regional learning partners, and national delegations. They also suggested simplifying the terminology and processes for greater transparency and efficiency.
- Clarifications were sought on the coordination on the selection of grant agents for KIX and EOL. Concerns were also raised about potential fragmentation and increased transaction costs if separate grant agents were selected for the two KIX components.
- The Secretariat noted these inputs and emphasized the coordination with other initiatives, acknowledged the need to simplify communication, and clarified coordination with EOL during the selection of the grant agent and openness to the possibility of two grant agents for KIX, taking into consideration the transaction and operational costs.

Objective

1. The Board is requested to review the Adapted Design Framework of the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) initiative, for its decision.

Recommended decision

BOD/2025/12-XX - Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) – Adapted Design Framework:

The Board of Directors:

1. Noting the proposed design adaptations, and their alignment with the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) evaluation, approves the adapted design framework in Annex A of BOD/2025/12 DOC 08.

2. Acknowledges the proposed criteria and procedure for selecting grant agents for the upcoming phase of the initiative, as detailed in Annex E of BOD/2025/12 DOC 08.

Background and overview

1. Now in its sixth year, the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) is a reinforcing GPE mechanism to support partner countries' evidence and knowledge needs. Four regional KIX Hubs and 90 KIX applied research grants have been awarded to support knowledge generation, evidence mobilization, and capacity strengthening for evidence use in partner countries.
2. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) serves as the grant agent, core implementing partner, and co-funder of KIX, providing 8% of the overall budget of US$165.5 million for the existing program period, which runs to mid-2027.
3. More than 150 organizations and over 103,345 individuals have engaged in KIX activities since 2020. Across 65 partner countries, 332 instances of KIX research uptake in government policy development have been recorded. This includes formal expressions of interest in using KIX evidence and innovation, use or intended use of KIX evidence and innovation by governments, and citations and mentions of KIX evidence and innovation in policy documents. Led by Ministry of Education officials, more than 450 stakeholders regularly participate in Hub activities across 80 partner countries.
4. In 2022, a mid-term review of KIX informed design adaptations and decision by the GPE Board to supplement KIX with US$80 million, extending the original program end date from 2024 to 2027 (BOD/2022/12-02). In April 2025, an external evaluation of KIX was considered by the PILC and informed its recommendation to the Board for continuity of KIX beyond the current program period of June 2027.
5. In June 2025, the GPE Board approved 2% of available financing from the GPE replenishment to be allocated to KIX for the GPE 2030 strategic period, capped at US$80 million (BOD/2025/06-07).
6. Consequently, the GPE Secretariat developed an adapted design framework for the next phase of KIX, i.e. from July 2027 onwards. The framework is informed by the recent external evaluation, inputs from the Secretariat, and consultations with KIX partners. As a gateway document, the framework will steer the implementation plan to be developed with the Secretariat and selected KIX grant agent(s) in 2026. The Board is requested to consider and decide on the adapted design framework.

7. An overview of main adaptations is presented below.

KIX Issue	Comment
Principles	Revised with stronger focus on: • knowledge mobilization and evidence use • integration with GPE ecosystem • intersectional approaches to Gender Equality and Inclusion
Goals and objectives	Goal remains yet objectives are revised and emphasize Southern leadership and integration with GPE operations
Link to GPE 2030	Included in the adapted design framework
Theory of Change	Included in the adapted design framework
Core operational components	Two components maintained – (a) Regional Hubs and (b) Evidence and Research Funds – with expanded functions for Hubs and sharper focus for research funds.
Governance and coordination considerations	Adapted structure that includes advisory committee of Hub organizations and closer engagement with GPE Secretariat.
Budget Prioritazation	Targeted to Southern organizations and rebalanced from 80:20 research to Hub ratio to ≥ 50:50.

Annex A - Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) - Adapted Design Framework
Annex B – Response to Evaluation Recommendations
Annex C – Evolution of KIX Principles
Annex D – Risk and Mitigation
Annex E – Grant Agent Selection Criteria and Process