CONSENT AGENDA

Please note: Board papers are deliberative in nature and, in accordance with the GPE Transparency Policy, are not public documents until the Board has considered them at the Board meeting. It is understood that constituencies will circulate Board documents among their members prior to the Board meeting for consultation purposes.

1. OBJECTIVE

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present the Board with a consent agenda for approval. Please refer to the background section for a clarification of the meaning and purpose of a 'consent agenda.'

2. DECISIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA

BOD/2020/06-XX—December 11-12, 2019 Board Meeting Report: The Board of Directors approves the Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors in Nairobi, Kenya from December 11-12, 2019 as set out in BOD/2020/06 DOC 02 Annex 1.

BOD/2020/06-XX—March 31, 2020 Board Meeting Report: The Board of Directors approves the Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors held via videoconference on March 31, 2020 as set out in BOD/2020/06 DOC 02 Annex 2.

BOD/2020/06 XX– Operating Expenses Budget and Work Program: July 2020 – June 2021: The Board of Directors:

- Approves an incremental amount of US$40,972,000 to fund the FY21 Operating Expenses Budget as set out in BOD/2020/06 DOC 02 Annex 3 for the period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 including US$800,000 for the fifth-year budget of the Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy.
- Authorizes the GPE Secretariat to carry over any unspent FY20 funds related to multi-year initiatives and Secretariat administered program activities.

- **BOD/2020/06 XX — Trustee Budget :** The Board of Directors approves of the estimated administrative expenses of US$~~587,000~~ 761,000 for trustee services for the period of July 1, 20~~19~~20 to June 30, 202~~0~~1, and a supplementary budget of US$199,400 for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 to cover higher investment management costs resulting from a larger than anticipated average fund balance and a higher level of Trustee activities as set out in BOD/2020/06 DOC 02 Annex 3.

- **BOD/2020/06 XX —: Independent Summative Evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education**: The Board of Directors:

  1. Formally received the Independent Summative Evaluation Report at its meeting;

  2. Welcomes the findings and recommendations of the Independent Summative Evaluation Report and expresses appreciation for the work completed by the Independent Evaluators and the Independent Evaluation Committee as set out in BOD/2020/06 DOC 02 Annex 4;

  3. Considers that the Independent Summative Evaluation represents value for money and provides timely and relevant recommendations for consideration during the development of the Global Partnership's Strategic Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 A consent agenda is a meeting practice whereby all routine and non-controversial decision items that do not require deliberation and which are generally deemed to have consensus are packaged as one agenda item without discussion. All the decisions packaged in the consent agenda are passed with a single vote. This allows the Board more time to focus on strategic matters that do require deliberation.

3.2 Should any one Board member feel that a specific item on the consent agenda warrants discussion before decision, they can indicate so prior to the meeting or at the moment when the Consent Agenda is being presented by the Chair for consideration. That specific item is then removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and decision at a later stage in the meeting.

3.3 At this meeting, the following items are part of the consent agenda:

- **December 11-12, 2019 Board Meeting Report**. This summary of the previous face-to-face Board meeting was sent to the Board on January 22, 2020 and no comments were received.

- **March 31, 2020 Board Meeting Report**. This summary of the previous

videoconference Board meeting was sent to the Board on April 13, 2020 and no comments were received.

- **Operating Expenses Budget and Work Program: July 2020 – June 2021:** This paper provides the FY21 Operating Expenses Budget and Work Program for the Board's approval.
- **Trustee Budget:** This paper is to seek the approval of the Board of Directors for the estimated administrative expenses of the World Bank, acting as trustee for the Global Partnership for Education Fund (the "GPE Fund") from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 (FY21), and to provide an update to the Board of Directors on estimated administrative expenses from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 (FY20).
- **Independent Summative Evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education:** This document is to present the final findings and recommendations of the Independent Summative Evaluation Report to inform the Strategic Plan discussions.

4. ANNEXES:

Annex 1: December 11-12, 2019 Board Meeting Report

Annex 2: March 31, 2020 Board Meeting Report

Annex 3: Operating Expenses Budget and Work Program: July 2020 – June 2021

Annex 3: Trustee Budget

Annex 4: Independent Summative Evaluation of the Global Partnership for Education

ANNEX 1

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECEMBER 11-12, 2019
NAIROBI, KENYA

INTRODUCTION

The agenda and documents for the Board meeting can be found on the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) website. A list of participants can be found in Annex 1.

This report presents a high-level summary of key outcomes and decisions made.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019

The Board Chair, Julia Gillard, called the meeting to order at 9 am.

1. WELCOME, AGENDA SETTING AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1.1 The Board Chair welcomed meeting participants, including the new Board members that were introduced during the pre-Board day:

- Hon. Dr. David Moinina Sengeh, Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Sierra Leone, Alternate Board Member for Africa 3.
- Hon. Min. Cain Mathema, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Zimbabwe, Alternate Board Member for Africa 1.
- H.E. Ms. Marie Thérèse Volahaingo, Minister of National Education and Technical and Professional Development, Madagascar, Board Member for Africa 2.
- Mr. Mahesh Prasad Dahal, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Nepal. Alternate Board Member for Asia & Pacific.
- Ms. Line Baagø Rasmussen, Senior Development Adviser, Human Capital, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, Alternate Board Member for Donor 2.
- H.E. Rashed Mohamed Awadh Al-Hemeiri, Director of Development Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, UAE, Alternate Board Member for Donor 4.
- Mr. Ewen MacLeod, Director, Division of Resilience and Solutions, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Alternate Board Member for Multilateral Agency 2, who was replaced by Ms. Rebecca Telfour during the meeting.
- Mr. David Boutcher, Board member of the Global Business Coalition for Education, Board Member for the Private Sector.

- Ms. Lisa Belzberg, Executive Board Member, Global Business Coalition for Education, Alternate Board Member for the Private Sector who was unable to attend this meeting.

Opening of Board Meeting

1.2 The Board Chair opened the meeting and reviewed the objectives for the day, these included the approval of the Consent Agenda, an update from the CEO, a review of the evidence, discussions and decisions on GPE Next Strategic Plan. She reminded participants that Board decisions are only considered final after the conclusion of the Board meeting and should therefore not be disclosed prior. She also requested that Board members limit their interventions to three minutes.

Consent Agenda (BOD/2019/12 DOC 02)

1.3 The Board Chair noted that the Board and Committee Assessment had been removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion later in the meeting. No objections were received on the remainder of the Consent Agenda items.

Decisions:

1.4 The following decisions were approved:

BOD/2019/12-01—Joint Education Sector Review Funding Window in ESPDG: The Board of Directors in reference to BOD/2019/06-15—Effective Partnership Roll-Out:

1. Approves the establishment of a window for financing joint education sector reviews within the existing education sector plan development grant (ESPDG) mechanism, including the proposed administrative approach set out in BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 2.

2. Authorizes an increase of the ESPDG ceiling from US$500,000 to US$700,000 to include the additional financing of a maximum of US$50,000 annually which would be earmarked for joint education sector reviews.

3. Authorizes an increase of the Secretariat's authority to approve ESPDG applications from up to US$500,000 to up to US$700,000.

BOD/2019/12-02—Extension of GPE Multiplier Fund: The Board of Directors noting the importance of facilitating maximum uptake of the GPE Multiplier, and the need to allow sufficient time for submission of quality proposals, determines to:

1. Extend the validity of Multiplier Maximum Country Allocations that are either approved or extended by the Grants and Performance Committee at any point in 2020, to a date not to exceed December 31, 2021 as set out in BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 3.

BOD/2019/12-03–Three Lines of Defense: The Board of Directors:

1. Approves the three lines of defense model as set out in Annex A of BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 4.

2. Requests the Secretariat to review the three lines of defense model as needed, and to recommend any material changes to the Board.

BOD/2019/12-04—June 12-13, 2019 Board Meeting Report: The Board of Directors approves the Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors in Stockholm, Sweden from June 12-13, 2019 as set out in BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 5.

Announcements on contributions

Representative Phillipe Mores from Luxemburg and Board Member Sabina Handschin from Switzerland announced new levels of contributions to GPE. Luxemburg increased its contribution to GPE ten-fold, from 100,000 Euros annually to EUR 1 million annually and noted its intention to remain at this level. Switzerland announced an additional contribution of 6.5 million Swiss Francs for the current funding period.

2. REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (BOD/2019/12 DOC 03)

2.1 The Secretariat Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Alice Albright, presented her bi-annual report to the Board as set out in DOC 03. The presentation is available on the GPE website.

Discussion:

2.2 During the discussion, the following key points were raised:

- **Global Public Goods**. In the context of the UN high-level panel on digital cooperation, GPE could consider taking a leadership role in sharing and linking data and digital assets to help achieve SDGs, particularly in the education sector.
- **Private Sector**. The Board Member representing the Private Sector noted that his constituency was eager to engage with GPE and support public education, in line with SDG4. This included work in the context of the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) funding window and of a strategy on innovation and inclusive technology.
- **Partnership**. The emphasis on partnership collaboration is important beyond the funding element and includes country level work in support of government leadership.
- **Efficiencies**. While greater efficiency in operations is appreciated, caution should be taken that it does not lead to a lower level of engagement from partners, including in the Board and Committees, given the importance of partner buy-in and collaboration.

3. WELCOME FROM GOVERNMENT OF KENYA

3.1 Dr. Richard Belio Kipsang, Principal Secretary Basic Education, Ministry of Education gave welcoming remarks on behalf of Minister of Education H.E. George Magoha who was unable to attend the meeting.

3.2 Dr. Kipsang highlighted Kenya's commitment to education and training, noting that more than 25 percent of the national budget was allocated to education, and that the education sector share of GDP is over six percent. In line with GPE's vision, he noted the ongoing development of policies, strategies and guidelines in Kenya to optimize the use of resources aimed at achieving equity and quality education and lifelong learning. Dr. Kipsang further noted the curriculum reform underway towards competency-based education and efforts to improve processes related

to learning assessments and certification. Dr. Kipsang reported that for the past two years, Kenya had witnessed 100 percent transition from primary to secondary education. He noted the significant impact of the 2014 GPE grant on the Kenya teacher sub-sector in particular.

3.3 The Chair extended her gratitude to the government of Kenya for hosting the Board meeting and Dr. Kipsang for the warmth of welcome and wisdom of words.

4. EVIDENCE IN CONTEXT: LEARNING FROM THE INDEPENDENT SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

4.1 David Archer, Chair of the Strategy and Impact Committee (SIC), introduced the Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC), represented by Moses Oketch, who oversees the work on the Independent Summative Evaluation (ISE). The Evaluation team, represented by Mike Zuijderduijn, introduced the key findings from the Interim Report, the set of implications for the strategy and planned engagement with the Board in March. The presentation is available on the GPE website.

Discussion:

4.2 During the discussion, the following key points were raised:

- **Strategy.** Some Board members inquired about the connection between strategy development and the ISE timeline. The SIC Chair outlined the close interface between the two exercises and regular touchpoints in the context of the SIC, and now the upcoming March retreat.
- **Ownership, policy dialogue and innovation at country-level.** Some Board members emphasized the need to foster strong policy dialogue at country-level and raised the issue of ownership of the Partnership both at country-level and by Board representatives. They also stressed the need to encourage innovation at country-level and bold, creative solutions at the level of the school itself.
- **GPE results and effectiveness**. Board members brought up GPE's clear influence on alignment and implementation. Some questioned the way effectiveness was measured and whether to adopt a more realistic framework. Others raised the challenge for GPE to be effective both as a partnership and a trust fund. The Evaluation Team will explore the experience and dynamics of the Partnership in the second phase of the evaluation. It was also suggested that the evaluation could investigate further the role of GPE in the global architecture as well as in conflict and fragile countries.

5. GPE'S NEXT STRATEGIC PLAN: STRATEGIC SHIFTS

5.1 Building on the pre-Board day session, the Board Chair and Secretariat, including the Chief Technical Officer, Josephine Bourne, invited the Board to comment on the level of aspiration of the next strategic plan and direction of travel.

Discussion:

5.2 Common themes articulated included:

- **Partnership strengthening and leveraging.** Inclusive partnership is important in leveraging partner resources and expertise at country level and global level, for becoming a learning organization and generating more resources towards achieving GPE goals. The priority of partnership or inclusion could be made more evident in the Board agenda and decision-making.

- **Prioritizing resources.** The Board voiced support for Options C, D and E in the Board pre-read, respectively SDG 4.1 and 4.2, the full SDG agenda, and leaving no one behind. While recognizing the importance of embracing SDG in full and taking into account further dialogue by the 2030 steering committee, there is still a need to find the right balance between a broad GPE footprint and focusing on a limited number of unique metrics. Equity, inclusion and quality education are key. It was noted that GPE mobilization of domestic resources beyond the share of the budget should be a strategic aspiration. It was also noted that GPE could focus more on how to mainstream digitalization into skills and techniques.

- **DCP Ministerial Meeting.** The Board recalled the conclusions of the ministerial meeting in Dakar where it was agreed that GPE should adopt a model that is more flexible and adaptable to country context and needs. It was noted that care should be taken not to imply policy direction to countries as it undermines country leadership, ownership and empowerment.

- **Role, value-add and ambition of GPE.** The GPE mandate and value-add should be clarified in the strategic plan. Such clarity would also benefit replenishment. There was clear consensus that the core of GPE's value-add is that it supports domestic financing interventions towards an inclusive single sector plan and holistic system strengthening, particularly in low and lower-middle income countries. Support for equity and inclusion, the ability to ensure the uptake of global public goods (not necessarily creating them) were cited as a specific value-add. In line with the ISE and MOPAN recommendations, GPE should prioritize the definition of its level of ambition and the ways to measure attribution of SDG4 achievements to GPE support and investments.

- **Relationship with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and International Financing Facility for Education (IFFED)**. It was noted that while GPE is not a humanitarian aid organization, it should continue to collaborate with ECW and could operate in the same space in support of multi-year resilience plans. Similarly, it was noted that IFFED does not cover all lower-middle income countries and therefore there need not be overlap.

- **Education as a human right.** As an inclusive partnership, the strategic plan should reference quality free and public education as a human right and aspirational priority.

- **Governance.** The governance process for the development and finalization of the strategic plan should be inclusive and transparent and allow for sufficient consultation with partners.

- **Funding**. While the benefit of linking MCA to performance was noted, also was the risk that a minimum MCA allocation model could diminish predictability and sustainability that countries depend on and cause further disbursement challenges. Further, as a priority, the cost of inclusive education might be taken into consideration in the allocation of MCAs.

5.3 The Board Chair then turned to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Charles North, to present the next steps and ways of working of the strategic plan process before emphasizing the role of the Coordinating Committee (CC) in the oversight of the strategic process, per its mandate to coordinate the work of the various Committees and the Board.

5.4 The following keys points were made:

- **Role of the SIC and other Committees:** Some Board Members raised the issue of the role of the Strategic and Impact Committee in the strategy process. The SIC Chair clarified that the SIC would be substantially involved in the process by proving input, especially through both the gender and teacher reference groups and the Independent Summative Evaluation process. The Board Chair reminded that all Committees were represented at the Coordinating Committee through their Chairs and the Board requested that Committee Chairs ensure proper consultation with their Committees.

- **Role of the Coordinating Committee, timeline and inclusivity:** The Secretariat will share a clear timeline with the Coordinating Committee so that its members can facilitate the consultation process around the key deadlines of the strategy process. The need for transparency and inclusivity was stressed and the Secretariat welcomed the proposition from some Board members to submit spontaneous contributions. The issue of the DCP vacancy at the CC was raised and the Board Chair reminded that the nomination process was still open.

5.5 The Board Chair turned to Board members to approve the proposed decision. Further discussion was deemed necessary on the strategic aspirations and it was requested that the Secretariat slightly amend the language pertaining to the ways of working. The Board Chair declared that amendments to the decision language would be considered later during the meeting to enable constituencies to further consult and consolidate their proposed amendments.

5.6 Key elements of the discussion concerned the strategic aspirations and broad parameters for the prioritization of GPE resources, in relation to SDG4:

- Board members expressed different views as to whether GPE should undertake the whole SDG 4 agenda, focus its action according to country context or prioritize the poor and the most marginalized. The Board Chair reminded Board members that the issue needed to be considered in operational terms and in terms of what GPE would fund.

- Some members noted the importance of lifelong learning and adult literacy and it was suggested that these be further be discussed in March.

- Some Board members pointed to GPE's limited capacity and resources and expressed their concern of overloading GPE's mandate, while others suggested the need to rely on partners to operate beyond the current scope of GPE. Various Board members stressed the importance of defining GPE's role and actions on the needs of countries.
- The Board Vice Chair reminded GPE's endorsement of the Agenda 2030 before stressing the importance of gender, quality teachers and teaching and country priorities. Board members concurred on the need to reassert the SDG 4 agenda and the principle of leave no one behind and DCPs representatives led a consultation to put forth language that would bring consensus.

Decision:

5.7 Later in the meeting, the Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee (GEC), Nesmy Manigat, and the Minister of Education H.E David Sengeh presented revisions to the proposed language as endorsed by several constituencies. After Board members expressed their support, the Board Chair noted the consensus and declared the following decision approved as revised:

BOD/2019/12-12: <u>Strategic Plan</u>: The Board of Directors:

Recognizes the scale of the education challenge, the urgent need to respond, and the key role GPE plays within the education architecture.

Strategic aspiration

1. Re-affirms GPE's commitment to SDG 4.
2. Re-affirms our commitment to equity, inclusion, and learning, including the central role of quality teachers and teaching, and the importance of gender equality;
3. Recognizing the majority of education financing comes from domestic resources, GPE will support national governments in the planning, sustainable financing, monitoring and reviewing of holistic education systems for system-wide impact based on the principle of leave no one behind.
4. Recognizing that the detailed use of GPE resources will be determined by country level data, evidence, inclusive dialogue, and country context, noting the importance of building strong foundations from the early years, GPE implementation financing focuses on the poor and the most marginalized, and prioritizes at least one year of pre-primary education and 12 years of education and training.
5. Reaffirms that GPE's geographic footprint should be broadly consistent with that approved in 2017, namely Low Income, Lower Middle Income, and IDA eligible small island and landlocked developing states noting these countries account for the overwhelming majority of the World's out-of-school children, and those not learning;
6. Recognizes that how GPE operates in these countries will need to adapt to context and ensure alignment and coordination at global and national levels with other actors in the education sector;
7. Requests the Secretariat to develop draft language on proposed vision, mission, goals, and objectives of GPE 2025; and options on allocation and eligibility for specific GPE funding

mechanisms for consideration by the Board in March 2020.

Ways of working

8. Agrees with the broad direction proposed by the strategic shifts on ways of working; specifically, to explore how to better focus on delivery, leverage the power of inclusive partnership, and be a learning organization.

9. Requests the GPE Secretariat to prepare for the March Board retreat options to operationalize them;

Oversight

10. Agrees the Board oversight approach to strategy development detailed in BOD/2019/12 DOC 05.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

6. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

6.1 Céline Place, Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee (FRC) presented a report back from the work of the Committee and its recommendations pertaining to the financial forecast, to the grant allocation analysis, to the proposal for increasing allocations, to the additional funding for accelerated support and to the replenishment surge budget.

Financial Forecast and Grant Allocations Analysis

6.2 Padraig Power, Chief Financial Officer, presented the financial forecast and grant allocation analysis.

Discussion:

6.3 The following key points were raised:

- **Mobilization of partners and resources.** Concerned by the low disbursement rates and decrease in donor contribution, donor constituencies offered their assistance to mobilize partner efforts and resources. The Secretariat welcomed the support from partners stressing that discussions on domestic financing had caused delays in applications and was crucial to their approval.
- **Low level of disbursement and bottlenecks in grant process.** Board members welcomed the propositions from the Secretariat to improve efficiency and increase allocations in order to address the low levels of disbursement. They urged for their implementation, through EPR and the next strategic plan, while stressing the need to promote quality spending. The role of country partners and the LEG in insuring efficient delivery were also raised.
- **Grant agent fees.** The issue of grant agent fees was brought up and the Secretariat provided some explanation as to the nature and extent of these fees, emphasizing that grant agents have to justify these fees to the GPC which is closely monitoring the issue

with the FRC.

- **Currency hedging.** Some Board members requested further information on currency hedging and the Secretariat provided an update on its ongoing discussions with the trustee to come up with a viable option for donor partners.
- **Maximum Country allocation and needs-based formula.** Some developing country partners stressed the importance for the MCA to be based on country needs while others worried about the consequences of a decrease in the allocation for countries that made progress.

Decision:

6.4 The Chair declared the following decision approved:

BOD/2019/12-05 – <u>2020 Maximum Country Allocations (MCA) Options</u>: The Board of Directors:

1. Notes that a number of countries are unlikely to meet GPE's funding model requirements or apply for their MCA before the end of the current strategic plan period resulting in automatic expiry of the allocation as of 31 December 2020.
2. Requests the Secretariat to present analysis and options for consideration by both the Finance and Risk Committee and the Grants and Performance Committee on how to operationalize such MCAs including whether additional flexibility on funding model requirements is warranted, whether such MCAs should be cancelled and funds re-allocated, or whether the allocations should be extended beyond 2020.
3. This analysis and options should take into consideration proposals on eligibility and allocation of funds for the Strategic Plan period 2021-2025 and should be presented for Board decision no later than June 2020.

Recommendation on Increasing Allocations

6.5 The Chair then turned to Padraig Power, Chief Financial Officer, who introduced the two recommendations on increasing allocations: the increase in minimum ESPIG allocation size and additional financing for the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX).

Discussion:

6.6 Regarding the second recommendation, some Board members suggested to explore ways in which the upcoming calls for proposals for the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) and Education Out Loud (EOL) would allow for portfolio optimization so that quality demand which would not benefit from grants under KIX or EOL could be funded by other partners. The Secretariat notified the Board that the Chief Technical Officer had recused herself from the KIX grant approval process in the interest of preventing any conflict of interest.

Decision:

6.7 The Chair declared that the following decisions were approved after a request to include the total financial impact of the decision on increasing

BOD/2019/12-06 – **Additional Funding:** The Board of Directors recognizing the need to maximize the level of funding to support implementation of GPE 2020 and to respond to the needs of partners approves the following:

1. Increases the Maximum Country Allocation floor for ESPIG eligible Small Island and Landlocked Developing States to US$2.5 million and for all other ESPIG eligible countries to US$7.5 million. The financial impact of this decision is up to US$29 million plus any applicable agency fees.
2. In reference to BOD/2019/12-05-Application of the Variable Part, notes that non-SILDS countries with original MCAs of US$5 million and below that are submitting applications in 2020 may continue to choose whether to adopt an ex-post variable part.

BOD/2019/12-07 – Knowledge and Innovation Exchange: The Board of Directors:

1. Refers to its decisions to approve an allocation of US$58.5 million (BOD/2019/03 -01), and to consider a potential increase in funding based on available resources, initial demand, and satisfactory progress (BOD/2018/06 - 11)
2. Approves an additional US$12 million (inclusive of agency fees of US785,047) to the International Development Research Centre as Grant Agent for the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) mechanism to fund quality applications from the first global call for proposals as described in BOD/2019/12 DOC 08 Annex A

Additional Funding for Accelerated Support

6.8 The Board turned to Sven Baeten, Secretariat Country Support Team Acting Manager, who presented the recommendation on additional funding for accelerated support.

Discussion:

6.9 Board members welcomed the recommendation with some members stressing the importance of not putting additional administrative burden on the DCPs and LEGs involved and the need to coordinate the work in this context with other organizations in that space. The Board Chair clarified that all the comments and contributions pertaining to Syria would be addressed during the upcoming discussion on the Syria Maximum Country Allocation.

Decision:

6.10 The following decision was approved:

BOD/2019/12-08–Additional Funding for Accelerated Support: The Board of Directors:

1. Notes the existence of emergencies in many GPE countries that threaten progress made in education and the results that GPE seeks and the projected availability of GPE resources in the current funding period.
2. Notes that the *GPE Guidelines* for *Accelerated Support in Emergency and Early Recovery Situations* allow eligible countries to apply for Accelerated Funding to address urgent needs for an amount up to 20 percent of an existing maximum country allocation for an education

sector program implementation grant (MCA). The ESPIG MCA is consequently reduced by a corresponding amount.

3. Restores the MCAs for those countries that have already accessed Accelerated Funding in the current replenishment period by a corresponding amount as set out in Annex A to BOD/2019/12 DOC 09.

4. Invites countries with existing ESPIG MCAs that are eligible for Accelerated Funding to submit an application by end of 2020 for up to the amount set out in Annex A t0 BOD/2019/12 DOC 09 which represents 20% of their MCA, after which either:

    a. the original MCA will be restored in full or

    b. for eligible countries that have already received an ESPIG but have not received accelerated funding, up to 20 percent of the original MCA may be applied for in accelerated funding.

5. Delegates to GPC to make any changes to the Guidelines for Accelerated Support as set out in BOD/2012/11 DOC 09 to operationalize this decision, for example how to process any requests for extending the implementation period and ensuring links between the Education Cluster and the LEG.

6. In order to avoid additional transaction costs for all stakeholders and to better ensure linkages between multiple grants: Encourages (i) a single submission of the ESPIG and Accelerated Funding proposal, as applicable; and (ii) that the same grant agent is retained for the ESPIG, the Accelerated Funding grant, and any additional financing grant, unless circumstances demand a different grant agent for Accelerated Funding.

Replenishment Surge Budget

6.11 The Board Chair then turned to Charles Tapp, Manager for External Relations who presented the proposed surge budget for GPE's fourth replenishment campaign.

Discussion:

6.12 The following key points were raised:

- **Financing campaign strategy.** Further details were requested on the financing strategy: reiterating their concern regarding disbursement, some Board members asked that the Secretariat provide additional information on the level of ambition, and how it relates to the strategy, at the Board retreat in March. Some Board members also stressed the need to harness the contributions of the private sector in the context of the next financing campaign.
- **Financing Conference.** Some Board members asked about the host of the conference and possible connections with the Dubai World Expo. The Board Chair clarified that no information on the location could be disclosed at this stage as discussions with potential hosts are still ongoing. Highlighting the Dubai Expo as a critical moment, the Secretariat reasserted the importance of global and regional events to build momentum and drive political will. The Board Chair also clarified that the nomination process for the next Board Chair would have no consequence on the timeline of the pledging event.

Decision:

6.13 The Board Chair considered the following decision approved:

BOD/2019/12-09—<u>Replenishment Surge Budget</u>: The Board of Directors:

1. Approves a multi-year Secretariat surge budget for GPE's fourth replenishment campaign of US$3,665,007 over the period FY20-FY22 as set out in Annex 2
2. Notes that the budget for the financing conference will be submitted at a later date once hosts, venue and other logistical options are determined
3. Agrees to a five-year replenishment period, with a major pledging conference in mid-2021.
4. Requests the Secretariat to further refine the GPE financing strategy for discussion at the Board retreat in March.

Misuse of GPE Funds

6.14 The Chief Financial Officer presented an update on existing misuse of GPE funds cases in Chad, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia.

7. DELIVERING AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL: REPORTS FROM THE GRANTS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Update from the Grants and Performance Committee

7.1 Sally Gear, Chair of the Grants and Performance Committee (GPC) presented an update on the work of the Committee since the June Board meeting and grant pipeline. The Chair also informed the Board that the Committee had discussed whether the 2014 variable part exemption for multi-country and regional applications extended by the Board due to the small size of the individual allocations were still valid in light of the additional financing provided by the Board in 2018 and 2019. The Committee deemed that the exemption was still valid - including any future Multiplier MCAs - based on the unique challenges of multi-country and regional applications and would proceed with the applications on that basis.

7.2 Margarita Focas Licht, Chief Effective Partnership, presented an update on the roll-out of the Effective Partnership Review decisions by the Board and GPC earlier in the year.

7.3 The presentations are available on the GPE website.

Syria Maximum Country Allocation (MCA)

7.4 The GPC Chair and Secretariat presented the GPC recommendation on the operationalization of the Syria MCA, as set out in BOD/2019/12 DOC 11, which included three options.

7.5 The Board Chair then referred to alternative decision language based on operationalizing Option 2 developed by a group of GPE donors that was handed out on site in hard copy format. It was noted that similar language had been adopted by Education Cannot Wait for operationalizing

a grant to Syria.

7.6 The Board Chair noted that the alternative decision language was not a non-negotiable for the donor group and any amendments would lead them to support Option 3. It was further noted that Option 1 was not viable as no GPE donor would support direct support to the government of Syria.

Discussion:

7.7 Key comments made included:

- UNICEF extended appreciation for the efforts to find a workable solution and expressed support for the alternative decision language. It would allow support for both formal and informal education.
- Africa 3 expressed support for the alternative language, and the importance of the principle of no-one left behind, recognizing that education is a human right and enabler and children in Syria deserve education support.
- LAC expressed support for the alternative language, noting that it is opposed to any intervention but committed to ensuring that humanitarian principles and a focus on no-one-left-behind prevail in complex emergencies while avoiding stark political polarization.
- The World Bank expressed support for the selected option while stating that it wished to be recorded as not taking part in the decision, due to some language in the decision, in particular as it references that there will be no government involvement in the activities as well as the references to the inclusive political transition. It further noted that the reference to the UN restrictive measures only applies to this particular grant allocation and sets no precedent for GPE's future grants.

7.8 The Board Chair declared that there was sufficient support to adopt the alternative language.

7.9 She then provided an opportunity to those donors who did not support the alternative decision language and favored Option 3 due to national policy constraints that do not allow any form of funding to Syria at this time to read prepared statements from their governments for inclusion in the Board report. She noted that these donors had indicated that they were prepared to accept the alternative decision language.

Statement from France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States:

> *We, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the U.S., would like the record to show that we favored option 3 for Syria.*
>
> *First off, we want to reiterate that we as France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and the U.S., have given significant support to the children of Syria in our bilateral support, in Syria and neighboring countries.*
>
> *We would like to explain our position in support of option 3.*

We believe in GPE and its mandate to help our developing country partners through supporting governments to improve equity and learning by strengthening their education system. This is GPE's mandate and represents its added value. This is the lense GPE needs to use when it works in any country. In Syria, we believe GPE cannot fulfill this mandate along these lines. GPE is not a humanitarian organisation and yet the situation in Syria is entirely humanitarian. There are organizations from the Education Cluster to UNICEF to ECW whose mandate is aligned and who have the comparative advantage and appropriate safeguard and operating procedures to work in this type of high-risk contexts.

While the GPE Operating Principles for complex emergencies provide an alternative route, they are to be applied on a case by case basis. The Operating Principles are only a guide and not a requirement that GPE must work in a particular country. GPE's comparative advantage and whole model is on strengthening national systems whereas in complex emergencies it is saving the system.

As donors and based on the Contributions and Safeguards Policy we want to reiterate that we reserve the right to earmark our funds away from Syria.

Also, going forward as we develop and approve a new strategic plan including eligibility and allocation we need to think carefully about our mandate, the contexts we work in.

Statement from Denmark:

Denmark will, together with France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States, support option 3 and endorse the joint statement, hoping to be added to the statement going on record from this meeting.

Denmark recognizes the strong commitment demonstrated by the remaining donors opting for option 2 and hence will not go against the option 2 consensus. This model demonstrates the value of flexibility in the GPE partnership, which we must preserve.

Denmark does not intend to earmark funding away from Syria as a consequence of Option 2.

It is crucial for Denmark to emphasize that, despite adherence to the joint statement, GPE continues to be a relevant and valuable player in securing education in fragile contexts and recognizes the great need for education in the Syrian crises. For this reason Denmark has recently increased our funding to ECW.

Decision:

7.1o Later in the meeting the Board Chair noted that the language handed out to the Board had contained an oversight in decision point 2d which should have omitted references to utilizing processes usually reserved for accelerated funding arrangements. The Board approved the following decision:

BOD/2019/12-11–<u>Syria Maximum Country Allocation</u>: The Board of Directors:

1. Agrees that GPE may provide financial support to help address the significant education needs inside Syria, working in close collaboration with humanitarian actors, and in line with the following conditions:
   a. Funding will be deployed under applicable UN resolutions and mechanisms and in accordance with GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies.
   b. Implementing partners will be vetted by the grant agent against the UNSC sanction list and EU restrictive measures.
   c. No GPE funds will go to the Government of Syria and there will be no Government of Syria involvement in GPE activities. Cooperation with local authorities will be reduced to the minimum possible.
   d. Support will be aligned with the coordinated Whole of Syria approach, the humanitarian response plan, and with Education Cannot Wait's (ECW) Multi-year Resilience Programme (MYRP Framework).
   e. Funding will not support stabilization or reconstruction efforts and will respect international sanctions and red lines. Funding will only support reconstruction efforts, subject to board decision when a comprehensive, genuine and inclusive political transition, negotiated by the Syrian parties in the conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015) and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué, is firmly under way.

2. Agrees, on an exceptional basis, and in recognition of the particularly complex operating environment in Syria, to:
   a. Waive the DCP membership precondition and funding model requirements for grant funding
   b. Select UNICEF as the most appropriate grant agent to ensure alignment with ECW's MYRP Framework and to operate in Syria in line with UN resolutions, the 'do no harm' principle, the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality
   c. Request UNICEF to develop a GPE grant proposal in consultation with EDF for up to US$25 million for a period not to exceed three years and in alignment with the MYRP Framework, or advise the Secretariat if it is unable to take on the role of grant agent
   d. Consider for Board approval the proposal;
   e. Determines that commitment of grant funds by the Trustee shall be made on an annual basis. The commitment of any grant funds for the second, third, and any subsequent years (should the program implementation period be extended) shall be subject to annual approval by the GPC to ensure continued alignment with the MYRP Framework. The GPC can determine to refer the issue to the Board if needed.

3. Notes that any individual donor may advise the Secretariat that its funding should not be allocated to Syria in order to comply with official policy positions. Any donors adopting this position should notionally earmark funding to other countries and regions in order to comply with the GPE Contributions and Safeguards Policy (clause 3.3).

Increasing Efficiency Through Delegation

7.11 The GPC Chair presented the GPC recommendation on increasing efficiency through delegation with three options, as set out in BOD/2019/12 DOC 12.

Discussion:

7.12 The following key comments were raised:

- More efficiencies could be gained by examining the application phase where the real delays occur.
- It is not clear how the Secretariat will manage the delegation process and associated transaction costs.
- There are alternative ways to manage the heavy GPC workflow than executive decision-making.
- There are currently no procedures in place to ensure that those with an advising role in country grants have no decision-making role. A policy should be developed regulating conflict of interest issues at the Secretariat.
- To ensure a line of sight on certain political considerations, the Board should have visibility on a non-objection basis prior to the final decision by the Secretariat.
- The delegation to the Secretariat should be clarified in the decision as a delegation to the CEO.
- The 2020 Governance Review should review the delegation

7.13 The Board Chair noted that any risk framework would prioritize attention to large grants and that while bigger efficiencies needed to be gained in the grants process, it could start with delegation to the Secretariat, in addition to the GPC, given the significant volume of work for the Secretariat for the Board and Committees in the grants process. With regard to the suggestion of a non-objection decision to the Board prior to the Secretariat decision, the Board Chair noted that the Board has an opportunity at the time when it approves MCAs to make request then for any MCAs below 10 million to be deferred to the GPC or Board.

Decision:

7.14 The Board Chair noted that Option 2 would be amended to reflect that the delegation is to the CEO, and that the Board report would reflect that the Secretariat will propose how to codify the management of any conflicts of interest issues at the Secretariat, and that the governance review could include a review of the delegation. Hearing no further comments, she declared Option 2 approved.

BOD/2019/12-10 – <u>Increasing Efficiency through Delegation</u>: The Board of Directors:

1. Emphasizes the importance of reducing transaction costs, increasing the efficiency of grant approval processes, and rebalancing limited GPC time from applications to oversight of performance, while maintaining high standards of oversight and quality assurance.
2. Adopts the following risk-based approach to the delegation of grant approvals:
   a. Delegates standing authority to the GPC to approve ESPIG/Multiplier grant approvals (including accelerated financing and additional financing) not to exceed US$25 million or

its equivalent in Euros plus applicable agency fees, noting that the GPC may continue to refer applications for Board decision if deemed to be in the interests of the partnership.

b. Delegates standing authority to the CEO to approve ESPIG/Multiplier grants (including accelerated financing and additional financing) not to exceed US$10 million or its equivalent in Euros plus applicable agency fees, provided that the Secretariat's assessment is that all applicable requirements and standards have been assessed as fully met. In cases requiring deliberation/exceptions, the Secretariat shall refer the application for GPC review and decision.

c. Requests the Secretariat to notify the GPC regularly of upcoming ESPIG/Multiplier applications not exceeding US$10 million or its equivalent in Euros, to inform the GPC and Board of any such grant approvals it has made, and to make available the documentation of its assessment and decision meeting minutes of each application to facilitate oversight.

Grant Performance Report

7.15 The Secretariat presented key findings of the Grant Performance Report, previously the Portfolio Review. The presentation is posted on the GPE website.

Discussion:

7.16 The following key comments were made:

- The challenges of the operational model identified in the Grant Performance Report should be taken into account in the strategic planning process.
- More information on completion reports and what the overall performance against objectives was at the completion of the grants would be useful.

8. RECOGNITION OF BOARD SERVICE

8.1 The Board Chair and Board extended their gratitude to Sue Graves, Donor 6 and Jordan Naidoo, MLA 1 for their long-standing and dedicated Board and Committee service.

9. PSES EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES EXEMPTIONS

9.1 The Board Chair turned to the two Chairs of the GPC and the SIC, Sally Gear and David Archer, who presented the work of their Committees and the consensus reached at Committee level, and Charles Tapp who introduced the exemption policy.

Discussion

9.2 The following points were raised:

- **Engagement with the Private Sector**. Commending the work of the two Committees, the representative of the Private Sector welcomed the opportunity to engage with the GPE in its support to SDG 4 and public education.
- Although they stressed that they did not wish to go against consensus, Denmark notified

for the record that it would have preferred not to have exemptions to the June 2019 Board policy. CSO 2 read a statement for the minutes which is included below.

Statement from CSO2

Since last June 2019, CSO 2 has informed its constituency of the debates and outcomes of our Board meeting as well as engaged with it in the follow up process of developing the Exceptional Circumstance document of the PSES. We offered substantial inputs, which have been taken on board, and we do commend both committees involved in the process for their efforts and for the outcome presented to us. On the other hand, our constituency expressed its concern with the very possibility of the GPE supporting for-profit education, even under exceptional circumstances, as it may open a breach and establishes a precedent. In the past few years, at the global level, we have had resolutions from the European Parliament, the Human Rights Council and the Committee of the Rights of the Child, as well as reports of UN Special Rapporteurs for the Right to Education, that point to a very different direction that critiques public resources being channeled to for-profit provision of education. During the debates which took place over the past 6 months, our constituency interpreted that the approved PSES already catered for those developing countries whose education systems are still predominantly private, given that it referred to the nonprofit private sector. More specifically, we received letters from Haiti and Somaliland which articulated the above-mentioned concerns, and which called for a deep commitment of the GPE for strengthening their public education systems. As a constituency, we echo this call to the GPE, especially as we move towards the development of its new Strategic Plan, reaffirming that the strengthening of free public education systems is key to ensuring the right to education for all.

Decision:

9.3 The Board Chair thanked the two Committees and their Chairs for the joint efforts and sense of consensus. The following decision was declared approved:

BOD/2019/12-13 – Private Sector Engagement Strategy: Exceptional Circumstances Exemptions: The Board of Directors:

1. Approves the process outlined in Annex 1 through which exemptions to the Board policy of no GPE financing for for-profit provision of core education services may be considered in exceptional circumstances, and associated definitions, conditions, safeguards and time limits. In accordance with GPE grant processes, it is only Developing Country Partners that can apply for an exemption.

10. BOARD AND COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT

10.1 The Board Chair noted a suggestion from CSO 1 to the proposed Board and Committee Assessment set out in the Consent Agenda document to change the reference to the Secretariat providing “guidance and direction” to “strong and effective support” to signal that the Secretariat should not be propositional in its Board and Committee papers but neutral. She noted, however, that others held that a professional Secretariat should make recommendations for consideration by the Board and Committees, which may reject recommendations.

10.2 She noted that the Board and Committee Assessment would be amended in accordance with the suggestion.

Discussion:

10.3 The following key comment was made.

- Considering that the assessment will be used as one of the inputs into the GEC governance review, it is important to have visible outputs presented in the governance review along with the outputs of the 2017 review.

Decision:

10.3 The Board approved the following decision:

BOD/2019/12-14—2019-2020 Assessment of Board and Committee Performance and Effectiveness: The Board of Directors:

1. Recognizing the importance of yearly assessment of Board and Committee performance and effectiveness, endorses the proposed Assessment Questionnaire and Schedule, as presented in BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 1 rev.1.

2. Requests the Secretariat to implement the Board and Committee self-assessment in January 2020.

3. Requests the Governance and Ethics Committee to oversee the process and provide a final report in time for the March 2020 Board retreat.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 The Board Chair announced the set of Board meetings in 2020:

- March 23-25 Retreat in Washington, United States
- June 9-11 Meeting in Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- December 1-3 Meeting in Berlin, Germany

11.2 The meeting adjourned at 15:30pm.

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANTS LIST

Global Partnership for Education - Meeting of the Board of Directors Participants List				
Name	**Work Country**	**Title**	**Organization**	**Constituency**
Abdi, Omar	USA	Deputy Executive Director	UNICEF	Multilateral Agency 2 (UNICEF/UNHCR) - Board Member
Ahiya, Barakpete	Togo	Legal adviser	Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and Literacy	Africa 2 - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Akstein, Natalie	South Africa	Networks Engagement Coordinator	Global Campaign for Education	Civil Society Org. 2 (Developing Country) - Advisor to Board Member
Al Hemeiri, Rashed Mohamed	United Arab Emirates	Director of Development Cooperation	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	Donor 4 - Alternate Board Member
Albertin, Damascus Marcellus	Saint Lucia	Head, Human and Social Cluster	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States	Latin America & The Caribbean - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Albright, Alice	USA	Chief Executive Officer	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Amin, Ruhul	Bangladesh	Joint Secretary (Development)	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	Asia & The Pacific - Advisor to Board Member
Andersen, Sinead	USA	Global Advocacy Team Lead	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Apanbil, Gifty	Ghana	Deputy General Secretary	Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT)	Civil Society Org. 3 (Teaching Profession) - Board Member
Archer, David	United Kingdom	Head of Public Services	ActionAid	Chair, SIC
Aryal, Baikuntha Prasad	Nepal	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Education Science and Technology	Asia & The Pacific - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Baagø-Rasmussen, Line	Denmark	Senior Development Adviser	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	Donor 2 - Alternate Board Member
Baeten, Sven	USA	Acting Manager Country Support Team	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat

Baker, Tony	USA	Associate Director, Global Education	RESULTS Educational Fund	Civil Society Org. 1 (International/Northern) - Advisor to Board Member
Barimbui, Lucy Njura	Ghana	International Relations	Education International	Civil Society Org. 3 (Teaching Profession) - Advisor to Board Member
Baskin, Kim	USA	Global Specialist, Government & Multilateral Affairs	Teach For All	Civil Society Org. 1 (International/Northern) - Observer
Benveniste, Luis	USA	Regional Director	The World Bank	Multilateral Agency 3 (Multilat. & Regional Banks) - Board Member
Birnbaum, Alice	Canada	Senior Policy Analyst	Global Affairs Canada	Donor 3 - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Boe, Kira	Denmark	Education Policy Lead	Oxfam	Civil Society Org. 1 (International/Northern) - Board Member
Bourne, Jo	USA	Chief Technical Officer	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Boutcher, David	United Kingdom	Partner	Reed Smith	Private Sector - Board Member
Burwood, Sarah	France	Legal adviser	French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	Donor 1 - Advisor to Board Member
Charo, Ruth	Kenya	Sr. Education Specialist	The World Bank	Presenter
Cho, Jake Taesang	USA	Project Manager	Global Business Coalition for Education	Private Sector - Advisor to Board Member
Close, Stephen	Australia	Assistant Director Education Funds	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade	Donor 6 - Advisor to Board Member
Cooley, Larry	USA	Founder and President Emeritus	Management Systems International	Presenter
Cram, Julie	USA	Deputy Assistant Administrator	U.S. Agency for International Development	Donor 6 - Alternate Board Member
Croso, Camilla	Brazil	General Coordinator	Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education (CLADE)	Civil Society Org. 2 (Developing Country) - Board Member

Cutherell, Danny	Kenya	East Africa Director	World University Service of Canada	Presenter
Dabu, Maria	Philippines	Deputy Regional Coordinator	Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)	Civil Society Org. 2 (Developing Country) - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Dahal, Mahesh Prasad	Nepal	Secretary	Ministry of Education Science and Technology	Asia & The Pacific - Alternate Board Member
Desangles, Julie	USA	Board Operations Officer	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Devevey, Guigone	Switzerland	Education Advisor	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Donor 1 - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Di Vozzo, Donatella	Belgium	International Aid Cooperation Officer	European Commission	Donor 5 - Observer
Ekirapa, Martha	Kenya	Deputy Director of Education	Ministry of Education	Africa 1 - Advisor to Board Member
Fife, Paul	Norway	Director, Global Health and Education	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	Donor 4 - Board Member
Floren, Annica	Belgium	Deputy Head of Unit	European Commission	Donor 5 - Advisor to Board Member
Focas Licht, Margarita	Denmark	Chief, Effective Partnership	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Gaye, Jawara	Saudi Arabia	Global Lead Education Specialist	Islamic Development Bank	Multilateral Agency 3 (Multilat. & Regional Banks) - Acting Alt. Board Member
Gear, Sally	United Kingdom	Chair, GPC		Chair, GPC
Giannini, Stefania	France	Assistant Director-General for Education	UNESCO	Multilateral Agency 1 (UNESCO) - Board Member
Gillard, Julia	Australia	Chair, GPE Board	Global Partnership for Education	Chair, GPE Board
Goudiaby, Gisele	USA	Special Assistant to the Board Vice Chair	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Grant Lewis, Suzanne	France	Director	UNESCO IIEP	Multilateral Agency 1 (UNESCO) - Advisor to Board Member

Graves, Sue	Australia	Director, Health & Education Funds	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Donor 6 - Board Member
Grob-Zakhary, Randa	Switzerland	CEO	Insights for Education	Private Foundations - Board Member
Hacking, Cornelius	Netherlands	Lead Education Adviser	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Donor 1 - Observer
Handschin, Sabina	Switzerland	Head of Education Unit, Senior Education Policy Advisor	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Donor 1 - Alternate Board Member
Hannon, Carol	Ireland	Policy Lead-Education	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland	Donor 4 - Observer
Herbert, Alicia	United Kingdom	Deputy Director, Children, Youth and Education Department	Department for International Development (DFID)	Donor 3 - Board Member
Hernández Cruz, Luis Ramón	Nicaragua	Director General of Primary Education	Ministry of Education	Latin America & The Caribbean - Board Member
Hissard, Donatienne	France	Deputy Director for Sustainable Development	French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	Donor 1 - Board Member
Hossain, Md Akram Al	Bangladesh	Secretary	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	Asia & The Pacific - Board Member
Huber, Rudolf	Germany	Senior Policy Officer	Germany, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Donor 5 - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Jeon, Byongyoon	Republic of Korea	Consular	Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kenya	Donor 6 - Observer
Jillaow, Elyas	Kenya	Director General	Ministry of Education	Africa 1 - Board Member
Johnsen, Erling Hess	Norway	Adviser	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Donor 4 - Observer
Jules, Didacus	Saint Lucia	Director General	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States - OECS	Latin America & The Caribbean - Alternate Board Member

Kamau, Margaret	Kenya	Deputy Project Director – Girls' Education Challenge	Education Development Trust	Presenter
Keiru, Bilha Joy	Kenya	Deputy Head, Human and Social Development	DFID Kenya	Donor 3 - Observer
Khan, Maria	India	Secretary General	Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)	Civil Society Org. 2 (Developing Country) - Alternate Board Member
Kingston, Meredith	France	Education Advisor	French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	Donor 1 - Observer
Kirsztajn, Ilana	USA	Strategy Officer	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Krech, Robert	USA	Advisor	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Lervag, Astrid	Norway	Senior Adviser	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	Donor 4 - Advisor to Board Member
Lewis, Camilla	United Kingdom	Lead Adviser and Senior Responsible Owner for GPE	Department for International Development (DFID)	Donor 3 - Advisor to Board Member
Magnusson, Per Tomas	Sweden	Senior Programme Manager	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Donor 2 - Advisor to Board Member
Manek, Geeta	Kenya	Chair, Partnerships Committee, Rotary	Rotary International	Observer
Manigat, Nesmy	Haiti	Advisor	Primature	Chair, GEC
Marr, LeAnna	USA	Director, Office of Education	U.S. Agency for International Development	Donor 6 - Observer
Mathema, Ndabazekhaya Cain Ginyilitshe	Zimbabwe	Minister of Primary and Secondary Education	Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education	Africa 1 - Alt. Board Member
Mayenje, Stella Abraham	Tanzania	Program Officer	Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania	Africa 1 - Observer

Mettille, Jeff	USA	Senior Policy Adviser	U.S. Agency for International Development	Donor 6 - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Mogga Benjamin, George	South Sudan	Director Planning & Budgeting	Ministry of Education	Africa 3 - Advisor to the Board Member
Mores, Philippe	Luxembourg	Head of Multilateral Affairs	Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg	Donor 1 - Observer
Moyo, Teresia Dennis	Tanzania	Program Officer Education	Embassy of Sweden in Tanzania	Africa 1 - Observer
Mwendwa, Ng'aa Michael	Kenya	Regional Disability Inclusion Advisor, East Africa	CBM	Civil Society Org. 1 (International/Northern) - Observer
Naidoo, Jordan	France	Director Education 2030	UNESCO	Multilateral Agency 1 (UNESCO) - Alternate Board Member
Nestel, Yona	United Kingdom	Senior Education Policy and Advocacy Advisor	Plan International	Civil Society Org. 1 (International/Northern) - Alternate Board Member
North, Charles	USA	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Oduor-Noah, Linda	Kenya	Project Manager	East African Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights)	Civil Society Org. 2 (Developing Country) - Observer
Oketch, Moses	United Kingdom	Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC)	UCL	Presenter
Olavarria Perez, Maria Jose	USA	Governance Lead	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Omondi-Adeitan, Theresa	Kenya	Deputy Executive Director	Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)	Civil Society Org. 2 (Developing Country) - Observer
Panday-Soobrayan, Saadhna	USA	Education Specialist	UNICEF	Multilateral Agency 2 (UNICEF/UNHCR) - Advisor to Board Member
Pascual, Jose	USA	Senior Counsel	The World Bank	Trustee

Pellicioli, Ludovica	USA	Communications Officer	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Place, Céline	France	Adjointe au sous directeur du développement humain	French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs	Chair, FRC
Power, Padraig	France	Chief Financial Officer	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Rabbani, Fazle	USA	Senior Education Specialist	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Randrianarison, Prisca Hamintsoa	Madagascar	GPE Focal Point	Ministère de l'Education Nationale, et de l'Enseignement Technique et Professionnel	Africa 2 - Advisor to Board Member
Rooney, Theresa	Germany		GIZ	Donor 5 - Observer
Rosendahl, Anna	Sweden	Head of Unit for Global Social Development	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Donor 2 - Board Member
Sabi, Imad	United Kingdom	Senior Program Officer	Open Society Foundations	Private Foundations - Observer
Schroh, Karen	Belgium	Donor Relations Lead	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Sengeh, David Moinina	Sierra Leone	Minister	Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education	Africa 3 - Alternate Board Member
Slawich, Jennifer	Canada	Senior Policy Advisor, Education	World Vision Canada	Civil Society Org. 1 (International/Northern) - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Smyth, Nancy	Canada	Director General	Global Affairs Canada	Donor 3- Alternate Board Member
Sowa, Amara	Sierra Leone	National Programme Coordinator	Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education	Africa 3 - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Sumerfield, Douglas	USA	Senior Operations Officer	The World Bank	Multilateral Agency 3 (Multilat. & Regional Banks) - Advisor to Board Member
Tapp, Charles	USA	Manager of External	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat

		Relations, Operations and Fundraising		
Telford, Rebecca	Denmark	Chief, Education Section	UNHCR	Multilateral Agency 2 (UNICEF/UNHCR) - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Thabela, Tumisang	Zimbabwe	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Zimbabwe	Africa 1 - Advisor to Alt. Board Member
Thelusmond, William	Haiti	National Coordinator	Regroupement Education Pour Toutes et Tous (REPT)	Civil Society Org. 2 (Developing Country) - Observer
Thiam, Serigne Mbaye	Senegal	Vice Chair, GPE Board	Global Partnership for Education	Vice Chair, GPE Board
Van Dyke, Johanna	USA	Board Operations Officer	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Volahaingo, Marie Thérèse	Madagascar	Minister	Ministère de l'Education Nationale et de l'Enseignement Technique et Professionnel	Africa 2 - Board Member
Von Frantzius, Ina	Germany	Head of Education Department	Germany, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Donor 5 - Alternate Board Member
Wagshal, Julie	USA	Senior Board Operations Assistant	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Wane, Michaelle Keza	USA	Senior Board Operations Assistant	Global Partnership for Education	GPE Secretariat
Waruku, Boaz	Kenya	Program Manager	Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA)	Civil Society Org. 2 (Developing Country) - Observer
Wilbard, Lydia	Tanzania	National Director	Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED)	Presenter
Williamson, Angela	USA	Senior Financial Officer	The World Bank	Trustee

Yai, Deng Deng Hoc	South Sudan	Minister	Ministry of General Education and Instruction	Africa 3 - Board Member
Yoshida, Kazuhiro	Japan	Professor	Hiroshima University	Donor 6 - Observer
Zuijderduijn, Mike	Netherlands	Evaluation Team	MDF Training & Consultancy	Presenter

ANNEX 2

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 31, 2020
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

The agenda and documents for the Board extraordinary audioconference can be found on the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) website. A list of participants can be found in Annex 1.

This report presents a high-level summary of key outcomes and decisions made.

The Board Chair, Julia Gillard, called the meeting to order at 6:00 am (DC Time).

1. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE CALL

1.1 The Board Chair opened the meeting and thanked participants for taking the time to convene at such short notice in such challenging times. She recalled the main objective of the meeting: to focus on the proposed GPE response to the coronavirus pandemic, and turned to the Vice-Chair, Minister Thiam, and DCP partners to get a sense of the impact of the pandemic in their counties and how GPE can best support them in these trying times.

2. A VIEW FROM COUNTRY PARTNERS

2.1 The Board Vice Chair commended the swift response and stressed the urgency of the situation. He reported back on the situation in Senegal and, outlining equity challenges faced by many countries, emphasized the importance to address the needs arising from country demand. Board and Alternate Board members from Togo, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Nicaragua also reported on the situation in their countries and the challenges and measures taken for the continuity of schooling.

3. GPE PROPOSED RESPONSE TO COVID-19

3.1 The Board Chair turned to the CEO, Alice Albright, who presented the proposed GPE response. The Secretariat Chief Financial Officer, Padraig Power, and the Chief of Effective Partnership, Margarita Focas Licht introduced the detailed approach while the Deputy CEO, Charles North, reported on Secretariat preparedness. The Board representative from UNICEF, Robert Jenkins, updated on progress of the UNICEF-managed US$ 8.8 million planning grant approved by the Secretariat under delegated authority to support coordination efforts and immediate actions across 87 GPE eligible countries.

Discussion:

3.2 The following key points were raised:

- **Alignment and coordination** were deemed critical by Board members. The Secretariat reiterated its continued dialogue, engagement and coordination with other partners working to respond to the crisis, including ECW and UNESCO, in addition to the country-level coordination enabled by the US$ 8.8 million grant to UNICEF.
- **Framing GPE's action.** The Board Vice-Chair stressed GPE's decisive role in this context and the need for its quick action and response to stand out. He suggested that the COVID-19 crisis will have long-term implications, including for strategic plan discussion, namely around flexibility, responsiveness and resilience. The need for agile and flexible processes was further raised, both in terms of COVID funding application processes, as well as with respect to required grant restructuring and revisions, while maintaining due diligence and transparency.
- **Demand driven/first come first serve v. needs basis.** Several Board members argued in favor of a needs-based approach as concerns emerged that countries might lack the capacity or explicit guidance to put forward their demand in a timely manner. To strike the right balance between answering the most pressing demands and supporting countries in formalizing their needs, the Secretariat proposed and the Board agreed that the US$250 million envelope be composed of a first tranche of US$150 million, with a second tranche of US$S100 million to be reserved for a needs-based approach in the event that demand was likely to exceed supply which would be developed for approval by the Coordinating Committee; it was also agreed to consider the principles of fairness and equity in the allocation of funds, while not signifying an equal distribution of funding among all member countries.
- **Delegation of authority.** While Board members acknowledged the need for rapid grant approvals, some suggested that the delegation of authority to the CEO be time-bound and stressed the importance of adhering to governance procedures and transparency. It was confirmed that the CEO delegation would be time-bound, and that the CEO would report to the Coordinating Committee.
- The Board Chair noted the balance of opinion in favor of the option recommended by the Coordinating Committee on eligibility (67 ESPIG Eligible Countries).
- The European Commission abstained from the decision because of a technical point regarding the waver of accreditation to INGOs as not eligible to funding based on EU financial regulation.

Decision:

3.3 The Board Chair declared the following decision approved:

BOD/2020/03-04–<u>COVID-19 Supporting Response and Early Recovery</u>: The Board of Directors recognizes the serious impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children's learning, particularly on girls and the most marginalized. Considering the role of GPE in support of partner governments planning, responding and coordinating action to mitigate impacts on education, the Board:

1. Allocates an initial amount of **US$250 million** from the GPE Fund for the creation of a dedicated funding window focused on COVID-19 response and early recovery (COVID

Accelerated Funding Window) as outlined in BOD/2020/03 DOC 02.

2. Approves the eligibility criteria for and maximum allocation size from the funding window as outlined in BOD/2020/03 DOC 02. Specifically, the Board approves eligibility for the 67 ESPIG Eligible Countries outlined in Annex A.

3. Recognizing the need for rapid response in exceptional circumstances:

    a. Delegates authority to the CEO to approve all applications from the funding window through September 30, 2020, including for global and regional response mechanisms. The Board affirms that the delegation thresholds in place for all other types of grants remain unchanged. The CEO will report to the Coordinating Committee on the delegation.
    b. Waives the requirement for a formal grant-level assessment of pre-accredited international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) for allocations above US$5 million, noting the Secretariat will assess risk as part of the review of any such allocations.
    c. Delegates authority to the Coordinating Committee to oversee the roll-out of the funding window and to approve the following modifications to the funding window if necessary, to successfully respond to the emerging crisis:

        i. Adjustments to maximum allocation sizes.
        ii. The amount of funds available for global and regional public goods.
        iii. Modifications to the ***Contributions and Safeguards Policy***[1] to facilitate additional contributions.
        iv. Review the use of the COVID-19 Accelerated Funding Window every three months on whether to continue the fund and activities or to recommend to the Board to discontinue the fund and make unallocated funds available to the Board for reallocation.

4. Noting that the COVID-19 response is likely to disrupt the implementation of current grants and result in delays to the application pipeline, deferring some disbursements into the next financing period, agrees to increase the maximum financial carryover from 25 percent or US$500 million to 37.5 percent or US$750 million for the current 2018-2020 financing period. This is based on the Secretariat's assessment that GPE is likely to have sufficient liquidity to continue to commit and disburse funds for existing and new programs through June 30, 2021.

5. Noting that potential demand for the mechanism may significantly exceed the available funds, determines that the COVID-19 Accelerated Funding Window is an eligible activity for targeted funding per the *Contributions and Safeguards Policy*, and calls on new and existing sovereign donors, private foundations and the private sector to make additional contributions to the GPE Fund. Such contributions may be notionally allocated to increase the size of the funding window, and there is no restriction on the maximum contribution size that may be provided from a donor.

6. Requests the CEO to provide regular updates to the Board on GPE's response to the pandemic

[1] https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/contributions-and-safeguards-policy

and the impact on operations.

3.4 The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am (Washington time).

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANTS LIST

Board and Alternate Board Members

	Name	Constituency	Role
1	Elyas Abdi Jillaow	Africa 1	BM
2	Tumisang Thabela attending *in lieu of Ndabazekhaya Cain Ginyilitshe Mathema*	Africa 1	ABM
3	Andriamanana Josoa Iaritsambatra Rijasoa	Africa 2	BM
4	Affoh Atcha-Dedji	Africa 2	ABM
5	Awut Deng Achuil	Africa 3	BM
6	David Moinina Sengeh	Africa 3	ABM
7	Akram Al Hossain	Asia and Pacific	BM
8	Mahesh Prasad Dahal	Asia and Pacific	ABM
9	Mohammad Balkhi	EEMECA	BM
10	Luis Cruz	LAC	BM
11	Jules Didacus	LAC	ABM
12	Donatienne Hissard	Donor 1	BM
13	Guigone Devey attending in lieu of Sabina Handschin	Donor 1	ABM
14	Anna Rosendahl	Donor 2	BM
15	Signe Skovbakke Winding Albjerg attending in lieu of Line Baagø-Rasmussen	Donor 2	ABM
16	Alicia Herbert	Donor 3	BM
17	Nancy Smyth	Donor 3	ABM
18	Kari Hauge Rissoen	Donor 4	BM
19	Rashed Mohamed Awadh Al Hemeiri	Donor 4	ABM
20	Marjeta Jager	Donor 5	BM
21	Ina von Frantzius	Donor 5	ABM
22	Sarah Lendon	Donor 6	BM
23	Julie Cram	Donor 6	ABM
24	Stefania Giannini	MLA 1	BM
25	Mami Umayahara	MLA 1	ABM
26	Robert Jenkins	MLA 2	BM
27	Mamadou Balde	MLA 2	ABM
28	Luis Benveniste	MLA 3	BM
29	Amadou Diallo	MLA 3	ABM
30	Kira Boe	CSO 1	BM
31	Yona Nestel	CSO 1	ABM
32	Camilla Croso	CSO 2	BM
33	Maria Khan	CSO 2	ABM
34	Gifty Apanbil	CSO 3	BM
35	Haldis Holst	CSO 3	ABM

36	David Boutcher	Private Sector	BM
37	Randa Grob-Zakhary	Private Foundations	BM
38	Imad Sabi	Private Foundations	ABM
39	Celine Place	FRC	Chair
40	Nesmy Manigat	GEC	Chair
41	David Archer	SIC	Chair
42	Sally Gear	GPC	Chair