FIRST IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

For Information

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide a progress report to the Board of Directors on the implementation of the Global Partnership for Education's Global and Regional Activities ("GRA") program.

2. RECOMMENDED DECISION

This paper is for information only and no decision is being sought at this time from the Board of Directors.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In 2013, two Board decisions were taken through audio-conference on funding Global and Regional Activities. On 7 February 2013, the Board of Directors approved the following decision concerning the first batch of GRA concept notes:

BOD/2013/02-02 – <u>Approval of Funding of GRA Concept Notes</u>: The Board of Directors:

a. approves an allocation of up to US$ 13,515,285 from the Global Partnership for Education Fund to fund the Global and Regional Activities ("GRA") concept notes 1 to 8, as set out in the "Summary and Decision Matrix of GRA Concept Notes", Annex 1 of the Secretariat's Recommendations for GRA (BOD/2013/02 DOC 01); and

b. requests the Secretariat to prepare the second batch of GRA concept notes to be submitted for approval at the next face-to-face Board of Directors meeting in May 2013. This batch may include resubmissions from the first batch.

3.2 Following the Board's request for further analysis of the second batch of concept notes at its face-to-face meeting in May 2013, the Secretariat re-submitted the second batch for the Board of Directors' consideration. The Board of Directors discussed the concept notes at an audio-conference of the Board on 15 July 2013 and approved the following decision:

BOD/2013/07-01 — Approval of Funding of GRA Concept Notes: The Board of Directors:

a. refers to its decision taken on 22 May 2013 requesting the Secretariat to further analyze the Global and Regional Activities ("GRA") second batch of concept notes and to provide recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration by 15 July 2013;

b. approves an allocation of up to US$ 19,546,001 from the Global Partnership for Education Fund to fund the GRA proposals outlined below [see Annex 1 for the list of proposals]; and

c. notes that this is the last set of funding allocations under the GRA program and that the Secretariat will prepare options for dealing with innovation, knowledge gaps, regional issues and similar matters, for consideration by the Board of Directors at its next face-to-face meeting in November 2013.

3.3 This report complies with the requirement listed in the GRA Operational Manual requesting that the Secretariat reports to the Board of Directors annually on the progress of the implementation of GRA. The Secretariat is presenting its options for dealing with innovation, knowledge gaps and regional issues to the Board of Directors at its face-to-face meeting in Addis Ababa on 17-20 November 2013 in BOD/2013/11 DOC 04.

4. PROGRESS MADE TO DATE

4.1 Eighteen GRA concept notes were approved through the two Board of Directors' decisions referenced above for a total amount of US$ 33,061,286, allocated from the GPE Fund. The concept notes cover all five GPE Strategic Objectives ("SO"). In the first

round, there was a major focus on SO 3 (learning outcomes), SO 4 (teachers) and SO 5 (financing). In the second round, the major focus was more aligned with SO 1 (fragility) and SO 2 (girls), with additional focus on teachers and learning.

4.2 UNESCO Headquarters and its specialized institutes, UNESCO Institute for Statistics ("UIS"), International Institute for Educational Planning ("IIEP") and UNESCO International Bureau of Education ("IBE"), UNICEF, World Bank and the Center for International Cooperation in Education Development ("CICED") will act as Managing Entities. L'Agence Française de Développement ("AFD") will serve as Supervising Entity for its two GRA concept notes. Seven of the eight approved GRA proposals from the first batch are already being implemented. Implementation of the remaining proposal will start in November 2013.

4.3 Regarding the second batch of concept notes, the Secretariat has invited the applicants to prepare a full-fledged proposal. Following the 15 July 2013 audio-conference of the Board, a Board of Directors Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements was created and tasked with the review and approval of the draft results agreements for the GRA proposals of the second batch. It was agreed that the Secretariat will work with the applicants to prepare these draft results agreements which will be submitted to the Reference Group for approval. Implementation of the second batch of GRA proposals is expected to start at the beginning of 2014.

4.4 A mid-term review, to be conducted by the Secretariat, has been incorporated into all of the results agreements to ensure performance is on track and also complies with the Board of Directors' requirements.

5. OVERVIEW AND STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF GRA PROPOSALS

An overview of the specific progress on each of the GRA proposals can be found in Annex 1.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR SECRETARIAT RESOURCES

The GRA process requires the work of at least one half-time-equivalent senior staff and several months of consultant(s) work. Technical experts from the Country Support Team will also contribute to the GRA monitoring process where needed. In addition, some minor travel costs will be required. These costs are covered within existing Secretariat resources.

7. NEXT STEPS

7.1 The Secretariat will work with the applicants of the second GRA batch of concept notes to develop draft results agreements and will submit them to the Board of Directors Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements for approval. Notification letters will then be issued by the Secretariat to enable the applicants to obtain funding and start implementation.

7.2 The Secretariat will continue providing technical support and guidance to the Managing and Supervising Entities and will closely monitor implementation of the GRA proposals.

7.3 The Secretariat will prepare a report for the Board of Directors on lessons learned through the GRA process which will be circulated to the Board of Directors for information in early 2014.

7.4 The Secretariat will conduct mid-term reviews according to the individual schedule for each activity as outlined in the results agreements.

7.5 A second implementation report will be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Board of Directors at its second face-to-face meeting in 2014.

ANNEX 1: OVERVIEW AND STATUS ON THE GRA PROPOSALS CURRENTLY UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

No./ batch	Idea/ Knowledge Product	Agency/ Function	Approved Grant US$	Action/ Status in 2013
1/1	Development of methodologies to link reading assessments across regions and draw lessons regarding best early assessment practices	UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)/ Managing Entity	610,000 (462,246[1])	→Due to changes in content total amount in detailed proposal was reduced to US$ 462,246 →Results agreement (RA) agreed →Notification letter sent →Funds transferred →**Implementation began in September 2013**
2/1	Learning outcomes in early grades: integration of curriculum, teaching, learning materials, and assessment	UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)/ Managing Entity	2,999,082 (2,998,996)	→Budget now requested in detailed proposal is US$ 2,998,996 →Long negotiation on technical issues for final RA →RA agreed beginning of October 2013 →**Notification letter under preparation** and implementation intended to begin in November 2013

[1] The amount in brackets is the final amount requested in the detailed proposal and reflected in the results agreement. This amount can be less but not higher than the amount approved by the Board.

No./ batch	Idea/ Knowledge Product	Agency/ Function	Approved Grant US$	Action/ Status in 2013
3/1	Effectiveness of teaching and learning in bilingual context (School and Nat. Lang. Initiative ELAN Organisation de la Francophonie	Agence Française de Développement (AFD)/ Supervising Entity	1,408,200	→RA agreed →Notification letter sent →Funds transferred →**Implementation began in September 2013**
4/1	Teaching and learning effectiveness for learning outcomes	Agence Française de Développement (AFD)/ Supervising Entity	997,000 (996,855)	→RA agreed →Notification letter sent →Funds transferred →**Implementation began in September 2013**
5/1	Education financing - Development of methodologies to improve national reporting on financing flows	UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)/ Managing Entity	2,119,074	→RA agreed →Notification letter sent →Funds transferred →**Implementation began in September 2013**
6/1	Out of School Children: Closing the data gap	UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)/ Managing Entity	1,100,000 (1,099,527)	→Total amount reduced to US$ 1,099,527 by agency in detailed proposal →RA agreed →Notification letter sent →Funds transferred →**Implementation began in September 2013**
7/1	Significant reduction	UNICEF/	3,284,900	→RA agreed

No./ batch	Idea/ Knowledge Product	Agency/ Function	Approved Grant US$	Action/ Status in 2013
	in Out of School Children, 2nd Phase Out of School Children Initiative-OOSCI	Managing Entity		→Notification letter sent →Funds transferred →**Implementation began in September 2013**
8/1	Education financing - school grants	International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)/ Managing Entity	996,829	→RA agreed →Notification letter sent →Funds transferred →**Implementation began in September 2013**
Subtotal approved by Board for 1st batch			13,515,285 (13,366,627)	Subtotal changed to US$ 13,366,627 due to some minor changes in content and/or budget of proposals 1st batch
1/2	Pacific Early Age Readiness and Learning Program PEARL Quality/ Learning Outcomes	World Bank/ Managing Entity	8,505,075	→ Support through e-mail and full proposal submitted 08/31 →External and internal quality review September 2013 →Summarized main recommendations and individual quality reviews shared with applicant →Final **revised proposal** to be submitted **by 22 October 2013** →Preparation of **RA for submission to Board Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements**
2/2	Delivering on Teachers	UNESCO/ Managing Entity	1,984,850	→Board comments were shared and taken into account in detailed proposal →Full proposal submitted 31 August 2013 →External and internal quality review in September and October 2013 →Summarized main recommendations and individual quality reviews to be shared with applicant by end of

No./ batch	Idea/ Knowledge Product	Agency/ Function	Approved Grant US$	Action/ Status in 2013
				October 2013 →Final **revised proposal** to be submitted **by 8 November 2013** →Preparation of **RA for submission to Board Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements**
3/1	Out-of-School Children - Addressing the Out-of-School Children Data and Policy Gaps	World Bank/ Managing Entity	1,583,027	→Meeting on 29 August 2013 to ensure proper coordination with UNICEF and support through e-mail →Full proposal by 31 August 2013 →External and internal quality review in September 2013 →Summarized main recommendations and individual quality reviews shared with applicant →Final **revised proposal** to be submitted **by 22 October 2013** →Preparation of **RA for submission to Board Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements**
4/2	Disability/Health and Education in support of Learning for All	World Bank/ Managing Entity	3,000,000	→Board limited budget to US$ 3 million. Full proposal submitted by 31 August 2013 reflects this amount →External and internal quality review September →Summarized main recommendations and individual quality reviews shared with applicant →Final **revised proposal** to be submitted **by 22 October 2013** →Preparation of **RA for submission to Board Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements**
5/2	Learning Outcomes - Asia Region Learner assessment for instructional progress	UNESCO/ Managing Entity	944,061	→Full proposal by 31 August 2013 →External and internal quality review September →Summarized recommendations and individual quality reviews shared with applicant → Final **revised proposal** to be submitted **by 22 October 2013** →Preparation of **RA for submission to Board Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements**

No./ batch	Idea/ Knowledge Product	Agency/ Function	Approved Grant US$	Action/ Status in 2013
6/2	Information Feedback Processes and Tools for Increasing Accountability: Report Cards	UNICEF/ Managing Entity	878,069	→Support through e-mail, full proposal submitted by 31 August 2013 →External and internal quality review September 2013 →Summarized recommendations and individual quality reviews shared with applicant →Final **revised proposal** to be submitted **by end of October** →Preparation of **RA for submission to Board Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements**
7/2	Central Asia Learning Outcomes – Students' reasoning skills	Center for International in Education Development CICED/ Managing Entity	1,850,919	→Support through e-mail, full proposal submitted by 31 August 2013 →External and internal quality review September and beginning of October 2013 →Summarized recommendations and individual quality reviews to be shared with applicant by end of October →Final **revised proposal** to be submitted **by 8 November 2013** →Preparation of **RA for submission to Board Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements**
8/2	Addressing School Related Gender Based Violence	UNICEF/ Managing Entity	800,000	→Support through e-mail, full proposal submitted by 31 August 2013 →External and internal quality review September 2013 →Summarized recommendations and individual quality reviews shared with applicant →Final **revised proposal** to be submitted **by end of October 2013** →Preparation of **RA for submission to Board Reference Group on GRA Results Agreements**
Subtotal approved by Board for 2nd batch			19,546,001	
Grand total approved by Board			33,061,286 (32,912,628)	