Alice P. Albright
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May 15, 2020

H.E. Mr. Adriano Afonso Maleiane
Minister of Economy and Finance
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Maputo
Republic of Mozambique

H.E. Ms. Carmelita Rita Namashulua
Minister of Education and Human Development
Ministry of Education and Human Development
Maputo
Republic of Mozambique

Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding to Support Mozambique's Education Sector

H.E. Mr. Maleiane, H.E. Ms. Namashulua,

On behalf of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), I am pleased to inform you that with the delegated authority from the GPE Board of Directors, I have approved Mozambique's application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of US $15 million. I have also approved a 7% agency fees for the grant agent, UNICEF, in the amount of US $1,050,000.

The grant has a start date of May 15, 2020 and an end date of November 30, 2021. The full decision language of this approval can be found in the annex to this letter.

Please note that during the implementation period, the GPE Secretariat will require the Grant Agent to fill out a quarterly survey which will request core data on program implementation. At the end of the implementation period, the Grant Agent is expected to submit a completion report to the GPE Secretariat. Detailed information on the reporting requirement is available in the Guidelines for COVID-19 Accelerated Funding on GPE website.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Lucinda Ramos, Country Lead for Mozambique.

We look forward to working with you closely to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education of Mozambican children.

Sincerely,



Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

cc:
Members of Local Education Group (LEG)
Ms. Antuia Mogne Soverano, Director of Policy and Planning and GPE Focal Point, MINED
Ms. Marianne Kujala-Garcia, Education Counselor, Embassy of Finland
Ms. Tomoko Shibuya, Chief of Education, UNICEF
Ms. Saadhna Panday, Global Education Partnerships Lead, UNICEF
Mr. Poonam Buttan, Public Partnerships Specialist, UNICEF
Ms. Reiko Okumura, Public Partnerships Specialist, UNICEF
Mr. Sven Baeten, Acting Country Support Team Manager, GPE Secretariat
Ms. Lucinda Ramos, Country Lead and Senior Education Specialist, GPE Secretariat

Annex 1 – DECISION LANGUAGE

In line with the delegated authority granted by the Board of Directors, the GPE CEO approves the COVID-19 accelerated funding request for Mozambique in the amount of US$ 15 million plus an additional US$1,050,00 in agency fees to UNICEF as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of May 15, 2020, and an end date of November 30, 2021.

The GPE CEO recognized with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Government of Mozambique in preparing a national response plan and grant proposal that will mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the education sector as well as support the recovery of the education system from the crisis. The GPE CEO also positively noted the Government's leadership and development partners' efforts in ensuring strong Education in Emergencies (EiE) coordination and creating synergies between the post-cyclone response and the response to COVID-19.

Recognizing the GPE Board's intent to proceed with the COVID-19 funding on a timeline which acknowledges the COVID-19 emergency, the Government and Grant Agent are asked to move forward with implementation immediately while addressing the following points and reporting back to the Secretariat by May 29, 2020:

(i) To further strengthen the equity-focus of the program, the Secretariat recommends the MINEDH and the GA to prioritize distribution of textbooks and learning kits (activity 40, nationwide distribution of textbooks) to schools in rural, remote, and otherwise disadvantaged areas first.

(ii) Disaggregate by gender the core indicator "Number (and %) of children previously enrolled in grant-supported schools who return to school once the school system is reopened".

Please note that although this proposal is submitted together with a request for post-cyclone recovery, activities approved here by the GPE CEO are for COVID-19 related response and recovery. Therefore, none of the GPE Funds under this grant may be reprogrammed into other components of the post-cyclone recovery or the future ESPIG without prior agreement from the GPE Secretariat. Also, if in an unlikely situation the ESPIG program encounters delays, measures should be in place to ensure that the GPE supported COVID-19 Response Program continues to be implemented to the extent practicable.

Within the limitations mentioned in the previous paragraph, the Government and the Grant Agent may reprogram this grant, in consultation with the Local Education Group and where active the Education cluster, an amount not to exceed 25% of the allocation without prior Secretariat approval but must disclose such cases to the Secretariat. For an amount of 25% or more, as well as for any extension, advance approval from the Secretariat must be sought. The process for advanced approval will be that of non-minor revisions of ESPIG which can be found here: https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/policyeducation-sector-program-implementation-grants

Finally, the Secretariat raises the following observations:

(i) As the COVID-19 response plan is implemented and further funding is confirmed, it will be important to maintain strong coordination with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and other partner-supported activities so that overlap and duplication continues to be avoided.

(ii) The Secretariat notes that school feeding for vulnerable children is included in the COVID response plan and emphasizes that this is a critical aspect of support to ensure the most vulnerable children will be able to return to school. Since school feeding is not yet fully funded, the Secretariat encourages further dialogue among partners to ensure school feeding is prioritized through other sources of funding.