REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 29, 2020
Via Videoconference

INTRODUCTION

The agenda and documents for the Board extraordinary videoconference 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: the proposed recommendation to increase the COVID-19 funding window.

2. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO INCREASE COVID-19 FUNDING

2.1 The Board Chair turned to the CEO, Alice Albright, who provided an update on the COVID funding window current demand and the 10 approved grants. The Chief Financial Officer, Padraig Power, then introduced the detailed financial approach of the proposal and provided an overview of GPE's financial position. The Fundraising and Operations Manager, Charles Tapp, further presented on current replenishment thinking as well as implications and risks of targeted fundraising for COVID at this time.

Discussion:

2.2 The following key points were raised:

- **Carryover and MCA.** Some Board members expressed concern around the carryover while another member expressed concern that the Multiplier will not reach non-ESPIG countries and that various options should be explored to minimize this risk. The Secretariat stressed that the proposal would not be taking away prospects for MCAs in 2020 and referred to the recommended decision requesting the FRC to consider options to reduce the carryover.

- **Resource mobilization.** Board members stressed the importance of GPE's COVID

response for a successful financing campaign, and some concerns were raised about the consequences of the pandemic on the level of future donor contributions. The Secretariat emphasized efforts made to reach out to all partners, including non-sovereign donors and to work closely with donors so they meet their pledge, as well as promote aligned external contributions, domestic financing and the issue of debt.

- **Governance and due diligence in grant approval**. Some Board members pointed to the need to balance timely response and inclusive process, emphasizing GPE's core principles of concertation and consultation. The Secretariat provided information on the consultation at country-level around grant agent selection, as well as on the monitoring, reporting and equity focus of COVID grants. The role of the GPC was also clarified in the context of delegated authority to the CEO for approval of COVID-19 grants.

- **Coordination.** Board members stressed the need for coordinated efforts in the current context, both at country-level and globally. The Secretariat detailed the collaboration and consultation with ECW and the nature of their respective financing support at country-level. GPE's engagement alongside partners in a coordinated communication effort to promote the education agenda was raised.

Decision:

2.3 The Board Chair declared the following decision approved:

BOD/2020/05-05–<u>COVID-19 Supporting Response and Early Recovery</u>: The Board of Directors:

1. Refers to its decision BOD/2020/03-03 to allocate 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).

2. Notes the high demand and the exceptional response from Developing Country Partners, Grant Agents, and Local Education Groups to support the development of nationally owned response plans, and grant proposals to mitigate the immediate impact of the pandemic, support education systems recovery efforts, and build resilience to respond to future outbreaks.

3. Accordingly approves an increase in the COVID Accelerated Funding Window by US$250 million to US$500 million.

4. Determines that up to US$350 million of such funds should be reserved to support those eligible countries that have not yet been approved for a COVID grant up to the ceilings set out in Annex 1 and provided they have submitted a quality grant application no later than 30 September 2020. Should an eligible country not submit a suitable application by this date, the available funds for the COVID Accelerated Funding Window will be reduced accordingly.

5. In order to make such additional financing available:

a. Determines to reduce the funding available for the GPE Multiplier by US$50 million to a maximum amount of US$250 million for the current financing period.

b. Agrees to increase the maximum financial carryover by US$200 million to US$950 million for the current 2018-2020 financing period 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

6. Requests the Finance and Risk Committee at its October 2020 meeting to consider options for presentation to the Board on how to reduce the financial carryover to maximize the funds available in the 2021-2025 period for new allocations.

7. In light of the significant demand on GPE's financial resources, stresses the importance of GPE donors fully delivering on pledges in a timely manner, and calls on new and existing donors to increase their contributions where possible, including through targeted contributions through the COVID Accelerated Funding window.

3. FINANCING CAMPAIGN

3.1 The Manager in charge of Advocacy and Communications, Geoff Adlide, provided an update on the replenishment campaign.

3.2 The meeting adjourned at 8:40 am (Washington time).

Annex 1: List of Participants - Board and Alternate Board Members

	Name	Constituency	Role
1	Elyas Abdi Jillaow	Africa 1	BM
2	Ndabazekhaya Cain Ginyilitshe Mathema	Africa 1	ABM
3	Andriamanana Josoa Iaritsambatra Rijasoa	Africa 2	BM
4	Affoh Atcha-Dedji	Africa 2	ABM
5	David Moinina Sengeh	Africa 3	ABM
6	Akram Al Hossain	Asia and Pacific	BM
7	Mohammad Balkhi	EEMECA	BM
8	Sherzod Shermatov replaced by Mr Temurjon Komilov	EEMECA	ABM
9	Luis Cruz	LAC	BM
10	Jules Didacus	LAC	ABM
11	Donatienne Hissard	Donor 1	BM
12	Sabina Handschin	Donor 1	ABM
13	Anna Rosendahl	Donor 2	BM
14	Line Baagø-Rasmussen	Donor 2	ABM
15	Alicia Herbert	Donor 3	BM
16	Nancy Smyth	Donor 3	ABM
17	Kari Hauge Rissoen	Donor 4	BM
18	Rashed Mohamed Awadh Al Hemeiri	Donor 4	ABM
19	Marjeta Jager	Donor 5	BM
20	Sarah Lendon	Donor 6	BM
21	Stefania Giannini	MLA 1	BM
22	Mami Umayahara	MLA 1	ABM
23	Robert Jenkins	MLA 2	BM
24	Mamadou Balde	MLA 2	ABM
25	Luis Benveniste	MLA 3	BM
26	Kira Boe	CSO 1	BM
27	Yona Nestel	CSO 1	ABM
28	Camilla Croso	CSO 2	BM
29	Gifty Apanbil	CSO 3	BM
30	David Boutcher	Private Sector	BM
31	Randa Grob-Zakhary	Private Foundations	BM
32	Imad Sabi	Private Foundations	ABM
33	Celine Place	FRC	Chair
34	Nesmy Manigat	GEC	Chair
35	David Archer	SIC	Chair