ALICE P. ALBRIGHT
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OCTOBER 21, 2020

Hon. Teuea Toatu
Vice President and Minister for Finance and Economic Development
Ministry for Finance and Economic Development
Tarawa
Republic of Kiribati

Hon. Alexander Teabo
Minister for Education
Ministry of Education
Tarawa
Republic of Kiribati

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

Excellencies,

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 Kiribati's application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of **US$750,000**. I have also approved a **7%** agency fees for the grant agent, UNICEF, in the amount of **US$52,500**.

The grant has a start date of **November 1, 2020** and an end date of **April 30, 2022**. The full decision language of this approval can be found in the annex to this letter.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Daisuke Kanazawa, Country Lead for Kiribati.

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

Sincerely,



Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

cc:

Mr. Benjamin Tokataake, Secretary for Finance, Ministry of Finance & Economic Developme
Ms. Bwakura Metutera Timeon, Secretary for Education, Ministry of Education
Ms. Florence O'Connor, Program Manager Basic Education - DFAT representative, national Coordinating Agency, Australian High Commission to Kiribati
Mr. Sheldon Yett, Representative, UNICEF Pacific
Ms. Anna Smeby, Chief of Education, UNICEF Pacific
Ms. Saadhna Panday, Education Specialist, Global Education Partnerships Lead, UNICEF
Ms. Poonam Buttan, Public Partnerships Officer, UNICEF
Ms. Reiko Okumura, Public Partnerships Specialist, UNICEF
Ms. Jo Bourne, Chief Technical Officer, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Sven Baeten, Team Lead of Grant Operations, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Nilse Ryman, Regional Manager, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Daisuke Kanazawa, Country Lead and Senior Education Specialist, GPE Secretariat

Annex – 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 Kiribati in the amount of US$750,000 plus an additional US$52,500 in agency fees to UNICEF as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of November 1, 2020, and an end date of April 30, 2022.

The GPE CEO recognized with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Government of Kiribati 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 Secretariat raises the following points of observation, which are recommendations rather than requirements:

Observations

a) Given the urgency of the crisis, grant implementation to commence on schedule and the Grant Agent to submit a cash transfer request within two weeks of approval to facilitate the timely release of funds in support of program implementation.

b) We note that the program includes funding for activities that may not be needed if school closures are averted, such as SMS messages and broadcasting radio programs. Please note that funds may be reprogrammed for an amount up to 25% of the allocation without prior Secretariat approval but must be disclosed. Should funds not be utilized during the program implementation period, they should be returned to GPE upon closure of the program.

Reporting

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.

Reprogramming

The Government and the Grant Agent may reprogram this grant, in consultation with the Local Education Group and where active the Education cluster, for 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/policy-education-sector-program-implementation-grants