JUNE 28, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECISION VIA AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ALLOCATION FOR AN ESPIG TO PAKISTAN BALOCHISTAN

Reference	Decisions
BOD/2021/06-14	**Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant to Pakistan Balochistan:** The Board of Directors: 1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the fixed part of the maximum country allocation (MCA) for an education sector program implementation grant, as described in the application and as summarized and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/06 DOC 07. 2. Notes compliance with meeting the requirements for accessing the variable part of the MCA and approves the indicators on Equity, Efficiency, and Learning and their means of verification as described in the application and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/06 DOC 07 3. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2021/06 14 3 (c), subject to: a) Availability of funds. b) Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for ESPIGs in annual installments.

c) Secretariat recommendations for funding, including (all amounts in US$):

Table 1 Application Summary and Secretariat Allocation Recommendations:

Pakistan Balochistan		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	20,006,250
b.	Fixed Part	14,004,375
c.	Variable Part	6,001,875
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	20,006,250[1]
e.	**Allocation Recommended by Secretariat**	**20,006,250**
f.	Grant Agent	UNICEF
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	7% - 1,400,437.50
h.	Period	5 years
i.	Expected Start Date	September 1, 2021
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-post
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

[1] Includes US$952,362 for the cost of the grant agent to perform its roles and responsibilities.

Annex A – Secretariat Observations and Report-Back

Pakistan Balochistan	
Observations	The Secretariat finds the proposed program to be relevant to the context of Balochistan and aligned to the BESP. The program components contribute to achieving sector development goals. The Variable Part indicators for equity, learning and efficiency contribute to sector results and their transformational nature is clear. The Balochistan Student Learning Improvement Program (BSLP) builds on and complements previous initiatives in the province, those supported by other development partners and ongoing provincial education initiatives. The Secretariat appreciates the BSLP's focus on improving student learning, which represents serious efforts at addressing the learning crisis in Balochistan. Given the stark gender-based inequality and its root causes as stated in the Balochistan Education Sector Analysis, the BSLP could take a more systematic approach towards ensuring that it addresses gender inequality in all aspects of the program. The Government of Balochistan is encouraged to strengthen the gender responsiveness of all elements of the program by screening the whole program with a gender lens and incorporating all measures that can promote girls' education and gender equality. The Secretariat notes that Balochistan will be organizing annual joint sector reviews, with the participation of the LEG members, the Planning and Development Department, the Finance Department, and representatives of teacher organizations and civil society. Finally, the Secretariat notes that BSLP has stated the intention of the Balochistan Government and the Grant Agent to keep program activities and key strategies flexible to mitigate uncertainties related to the pandemic's impact on education and to adjust the activity level based on the results and impact on student learning. The Secretariat recommends that the government and the Grant Agent, in consultation with the LEG, consider adapting the proposed program to emerging issues and other constraints that the pandemic may have on program implementation, and consider mitigation measures on

	potential delays, including, if necessary, a modification of indicator targets.
Report-Back	*For the government* The Government is requested to report annually, in consultation with the Grant Agent, through the JSR on the implementation of gender-responsive actions.