JUNE 9, 2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECISION VIA AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ALLOCATION FOR A COSTED RESTRUCTURING OF THE BURUNDI ESPIG

Reference	Decisions
BOD/2021/06-02	**Allocation for a Costed Restructuring of the Education Sector Program Implementation Grant to Burundi (Additional Financing):** The Board of Directors in reference to BOD/2019/03-02 Allocation for an ESPIG to Burundi and with respect to the application submitted in January 2021: 1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the additional maximum country allocation (MCA), as described in the application and summarized and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/05 DOC 15. 2. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for the costed restructuring of the ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2021/06-02 2 (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:

Burundi		
a.	Additional Maximum Country Allocation	21,300,000
b.	Fixed Part	21,300,000
c.	Variable Part	N/A
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	21,300,000[1]
e.	**Allocation Recommended by Secretariat**	**21,300,000**
f.	Grant Agent	AFD
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	7% - 1,491,000
h.	Implementation Period	4 years 5 months
i.	Expected Start Date	July 30, 2021
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-ante
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

3. Approves the proposed revisions to the parent ESPIG, including an extension of the grant end date by 18 months to December 31, 2025, and changes to variable part indicators and targets on Equity, Efficiency, and Learning as described in the application and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/05 DOC 15.
4. Requests the Secretariat to:

   a) Include in its notification of grant approval to Burundi the observations and requests for report-back set out in Annex A.

   b) Include an update on the requested report backs in the annual Grant Status Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

[1] Includes US$880,000 for the cost of the grant agent to perform its roles and responsibilities.

Annex A – Secretariat Observations and Report-Backs

Burundi	
Observations	The Secretariat commends the Government and the grant agent for the quality of the application, developed under highly constrained circumstances. School networks have been recognized by the Government and its partners as key to implementing the sector's strategy to improve learning conditions through in-service teacher training and professional development. The Twige Neza program will support this strategy through the roll-out of the school networks at the national level with relatively large funding. The Secretariat encourages national authorities and their partners convened under the local education group to ensure sustainability of the school networks in the longer term under the next education sector plan and its medium-term budgeted action plans. Finally, the Secretariat notes the impact of the pandemic on education systems and invites the Government and the grant agent, in consultation with the local education group, to consider adapting the proposed program to emerging issues, notably impact on children learning as a result of potential school closures, as needed. Other adaptations to consider could relate to mitigation measures on potential delays or other constraints that the pandemic may have on program implementation including, if necessary, a modification of indicator targets.
Report-Backs	*For the grant agent*: Recognizing on the one hand the challenges faced in the first year of implementation of the initial allocation as regards the confirmation of implementation modalities, and recognizing on the other hand the potential for persisting challenges with the integration of the additional allocation, the Secretariat requests that the grant agent provide a report on grant implementation every six months. *For the local education group*: The Secretariat appreciates the inclusion in the program of a study to assess gender inequalities in the education sector and recognizes the value of a study on the situation of out-of-school children that was being finalized at the time of submission of the application. The Secretariat requests that the local education

	group report annually on the use of the study findings and recommendations via the implementation report expected to be produced every year for the joint sector review.