NOVEMBER 27, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIA AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

FINAL DECISION

BOD/AV/2023/11-03 – ALLOCATION OF AN EDUCATION SECTOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION GRANT TO AFGHANISTAN

The Board of Directors:

1 Noting the Secretariat's assessment of the grant program in Annex 2 of BOD/AV/2023/11 DOC 03 and the grant program application in Annex 3.

2 Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an education sector program implementation grant in the amount of the US$50 million, as described in the application in Annex 3 and summarized in Table 1, subject to:

   a. Availability of funds.
   b. Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for implementation grants in annual installments.
   c. Positive conclusion of the grant-level assessment of the grant agent's country office for the disbursement of funds to the grant agent.

3 Approves a waiver to increase the initial disbursement prior the conclusion of the grant-level assessment of the grant agent from US$5 million to US$ 7.5 million to cover anticipated program implementation costs until end of February.

4 Notes that commitment of funds beyond year 1 will be contingent on the inclusion of specific sections on-compliance with international sanctions, Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) and grievances in an annual implementation report to be discussed with the development partners. The implementation report together with the minutes of the meeting in which it was presented with the endorsement of Development Partner Group (DPG) members must be submitted to GPE Secretariat before funds are released. After each report-back, the Secretariat will determine the adequacy of the report-back in order to authorize the Trustee to commit and transfer funds linked to activities for the subsequent year.

Table 1 Application Summary and Secretariat Allocation Recommendations

All amounts in US$		
a.	Education Sector Program Implementation Grant allocation	125,000,000[1]
b.	Reallocation requested	50,000,000
c.	**Allocation Recommended by Secretariat**	**50,000,000**
d.	Grant Agent	Save the Children United Kingdom
e.	Agency Fee % - Amount	7% - 3,500,000
f.	Period	2 years 6 months
g.	Expected Start Date	12/1/2023
h.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

[1] In April 2022, the World Bank as grant agent closed the US$125 million Afghanistan education sector program implementation grant and subsequently returned to GPE US$119,751,449.95. In August 2022, GPE CEO approved US$10 million of the Afghanistan implementation grant allocation to co-finance the completion of the thirty-eight million textbooks project, with UNICEF as grant agent. In September 2023, the GPE Board approved US$ 59.5 million to finance initial activities of this program, with UNICEF as grant agent. The remaining Afghanistan implementation grant allocation is US$50,251,449.95.