CEO DECISION MEMO

DATE 10/6/2022

TO: Charles E. North, Acting CEO		
FROM: Fazle Rabbani, CEP Regional Manager; Sven Baeten, Grant Operations Team Lead; David Balwanz, Quality Assurance Team; and Anthony Fifi Bentil/Matthew Smith, Risk and Finance Team.		
SUBJECT: Approval of Ethiopia's Accelerated Funding grant		
Country: Ethiopia	**Grant Agent:** Save the Children UK	**Co-financing [if applicable]:** N/A
Grant Type: Accelerated Funding	**7% (US$700,000)**	**Expected Start Date:** 11/1/2022
Amount: US$10 million	**Grant duration:** 1 year	**Expected End Date:** 31/10/2023

Action request

Approve the request for Accelerated Funding for Ethiopia.

Grant Summary

The aim of the proposed grant is to support a program delivering school feeding to 209,700 children including girls (55%), children with disabilities and children affected by crisis, in 16 targeted districts and one IDP site in six crisis-affected regions (Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Sidama, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regions (SNNPR)). Drought has disrupted life in Ethiopia alongside the conflict. The program, endorsed by the local education group, has been jointly designed by the MoE with support from the Grant Agent. The program has two outcomes:

Outcome I: Increased access and retention of 209,700 children (55% girls) including children with disabilities to preprimary and primary schools in six crises-affected regions

Outcome II: Improved capacity of duty bearers to plan for and respond to the education needs of children in emergencies in five crisis-affected regions

School feeding will take place in 578 pre-primary and primary schools, which will also receive WASH kits and scholastic materials in addition, the construction and rehabilitation of 16 WASH facilities, rehabilitation of 10 gender-segregated and disability-friendly latrines in 10 schools, and training on menstrual health targeting 401 girls and female teachers will be implemented with a particular focus on creating a safe learning environment for girls and children with disabilities. The program also aims to improve capacity of Regional Education Bureaus (REBs) in planning and managing crisis and the impacts of conflict.

Current Portfolio
Ethiopia currently has one active ESPIG, Multiplier and a COVID-19 Accelerated Funding Grant.

Grant	Amount in US$	Grant Agent	Closing date	Notes
ESPIG	125,000,000	World Bank	August 31, 2024	Implementation began in April 2021
Multiplier	20,000,000	World Bank	October 29, 2025	Implementation began in October 2021
COVID-19 Accelerated Funding	15,000,000	World Bank	December 31, 2022	Implementation began in December 2020

The ESPIG has been impacted by conflict and drought, and this has contributed to the question of whether the impact will be achieved. In the meantime, most activities are reported as on the track, with low disbursements of GPE grants related to delayed verification of results. Additionally, there have been issues with procurement capacity at the federal and state levels, which has led to missing some disbursement-linked indicators and may have an impact on the implementation of the construction component. The Multiplier has missed its first variable part targets, as the frameworks haven't been agreed upon with the refugee authority. The COVID-19 AF has also been very slow to implement and disburse funds due to procurement issues, and delays in grant effectiveness.

Eligibility

(1) Ethiopia is eligible for System Transformation Grant (STG) funding. Following the GPE replenishment in July 2021, the Board decided in September 2021 to provide an STG allocation for Ethiopia of US$117.59 million.[2]

(2) **Ethiopia is affected by multiple crises.** There is conflict in the northern part of the country, violence in other parts, and natural hazards such as floods but most notably the drought in the southern part of the country. A **humanitarian appeal was launched in July 2022 and published by the UN Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs, with education as a part of that appeal.**

Significant Opportunities:
Ethiopia completed a $20 million accelerated funding program in September 2021, with Save the Children as its grant agent. The program aimed to improve equitable access to quality education, through school feeding, WASH facilities, and capacity building in 13 targeted Woredas of 5 regions. Considering the protracted impact of conflict and drought, Ethiopia has proposed a program to continue the school feeding program building on lessons learned from the recently completed AF. GA and REBs have already constructed school kitchens and recruited staff for the previous AF, which will help in implementation in areas where the previous AF was implemented. Educational gains realized through the previous AF program including increased enrolment,

especially for girls, and improved attendance for children with disabilities and IDPs, will be sustained through the continuation of school feeding.

While the main intervention of the proposed program is school feeding, the program will also support rehabilitation/construction of WASH facilities and gender-segregated latrines, and provision of learning materials to some of the disadvantaged schools. These interventions are expected to contribute towards improving gender parity.

The program is aligned to the ECW-funded MYRP, with proposed target woredas among the 44 hotspot woredas selected for expansion under the MYRP. Also, a grantee of the ECW MYRP, and a host for the ECW Program Coordination Unit, the grant agent has committed to ensuring alignment of program activities through the education cluster, noting that one criterion for identification of program target districts / schools is that no other agency is providing such support at present.

Significant Issues and Risks

The conflict has been impacting Ethiopia resulting in a humanitarian situation in some states including those targeted by this program such as Amhara and Afar. Additionally, many parts of the country have been impacted by the ongoing drought impacting multiple countries in the Horn of Africa. Though the conflict has currently abated outside of Tigray, any change in the situation or worsening of the drought could cause disruption of education once again. The ongoing civil war in Tigray has created one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. Nearly all the 1.3 million children in Tigray are out of school as both teachers and children need food assistance and are affected by the conflict. An estimated 10,000 schools have been damaged and 3 million children are out of school across Ethiopia as a whole. Although, Tigray is not part of the targeted regions for the proposed program, some target schools might be affected in case of expansion of conflict from Tigray to Amhara and Afar, impacting implementation.

Recommendation

The Review Meeting (RM) concluded, based on the Secretariat's quality assurance review, that the **RM recommends CEO approval of an Accelerated Funding of US$10,000,000 for Ethiopia with Save the Children as the grant agent**.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Grant: Accelerated Funding
Country: Ethiopia

CEO/2021/05-XX–XXXX The CEO, in his delegated authority from the Board of Directors: approves the accelerated funding request for Ethiopia in the amount of US$10,000,000 plus an additional US$700,000 in agency fees to Save the Children UK as the grant agent.

Date: October 26, 2022



Charles E. North, Acting CEO

The CEO Decision Memo should not exceed 3 pages.