CEO DECISION MEMO

DATE 19 MARCH 2024

TO: Laura Frigenti, CEO	
FROM: Fazle Rabbani, CEP Regional Manager; Sven Baeten, Grant Operations Team Lead; David Balwanz, Quality Assurance Team; and Matthew Smith, Risk and Finance Team.	
SUBJECT: Nigeria: Approval of Accelerated Funding Grant	
Country	Nigeria
Accelerated Funding Grant	US$5,000,000
Allocation requested (100%), no Variable Part	US$5,000,000
Allocation recommended by Secretariat	US$5,000,000
Grant agent	UNICEF
Agency fee (7%)	US$350,000
Period	18 months
Expected start date	April 1, 2024
Closing date	September 30, 2025
Funding source	GPE

Action request

Approve the request for US$5 million Accelerated Funding (AF) for Nigeria, supported by grant agent UNICEF.

Grant Summary

The program, titled "Education and Learning for Children in Emergencies in North-East Nigeria," seeks to address the educational challenges posed by the ongoing crisis in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) states due to civil armed conflict and climate-related natural disasters like flooding. Since the escalation of the conflict in 2009, millions of people, including a significant number of children, have been displaced and deprived of basic education and other essential services. The program aims to ensure safe, inclusive, and quality education for children affected by these emergencies.

The program targets children and youth affected by the crisis, focusing on improving access to education, enhancing the quality and safety of learning environments, and building resilience among the educational community. Specific interventions include the implementation of the Minimum Standards for Safe Schools, provision of unconditional cash assistance to vulnerable households, and capacity-building for teachers and educational authorities. Interventions will include training for 640 teachers and direct support for 42,000 children to enhance foundational literacy and numeracy skills. The program addresses the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and IDP hosting communities, aiming to mitigate the educational disruption caused by the ongoing crisis and contributing to long-term development objectives.

The program is designed to be gender responsive, including development of early warning systems to respond to school-based cases of GBV; SEAH trainings and campaigns for stakeholders including program implementers; provision of psycho-social training for teachers to help build resilience of crisis affected children including girls; gender-responsive back to school campaigns; and support to gender-responsive planning and budgeting for girls' education in target LGAs. Children with disabilities and those from low-income families will be targeted by cash transfer interventions.

Current Portfolio

Grant	Amount in US$	Grant Agent	Closing date	Notes
ESPIG	125 million	World Bank	05/2026	Supports Oyo, Adamawa, Katsina states. Additional Financing to WB BESDA program. Utilization rate as of Feb 2024: 16.1%
Multiplier	15.45 million	Islamic Development Bank	TBD	Supports Kaduna State. Program approved July 2022; effectiveness still not achieved. Partnership between several mostly Gulf co-financiers: IsDB; EAA/EAC Qatar; Kuwait Fund, Save the Children. Implementing partners are UNICEF, Save the Children.
Accelerated Funding	5 million	Save the Children	08/2025	Approved on February 21, 2024; start date March 01, 2024. Out of same STG allocation.

Eligibility

Nigeria has an STG allocation from which up to US$10 million can be drawn as Accelerated Funding, including to respond to protracted crises. This application focuses on the humanitarian crisis in the Northeastern BAY states caused by the Boko Haram Islamist insurgency and the focus of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023. US$5 million of the $10 million AF allocation in Nigeria has recently been approved to respond to the Cameroonian refugee crisis.

Significant Opportunities:

In line with the HRP, the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Multi-Year Resilience Program (MYRP) focuses on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the North-East which allows for alignment of ECW and GPE interventions in the region. The proposed AF program proposal aligns with the current MYRP 2021-24. ECW has expressed interest to seek alignment of the new (to be developed) MYRP with the GPE AF, both being implemented through the same grant agent, UNICEF. The linkage between GPE AF and ECW MYRP show potential to serve as a crucial nexus between humanitarian response and long-term development programs, operating within a framework that effectively bridges the gap between emergency and development efforts.

The recently approved US$5 million AF with the grant agent Save the Children focusing on the education crisis for Cameroonian refugees offers opportunities for coordination on

approaches and alignment of interventions, especially in Adamawa state, where both AF grants will be active.

The proposed AF program builds upon an earlier ESPIG accelerated funding grant, also implemented in the BAY states by UNICEF as grant agent. This allows to build upon established working relationships and structures, including lessons learned from the previous AF, which ended in March 2023. Planned interventions such as the proposed use of the Nigeria learning passport and focus on state-level education sector and operational planning link to and build upon activities that have been supported by the previous AF grant.

Significant Issues and Risks

The security situation in the BAY states due to the Boko Haram Islamist insurgency remains volatile. Mitigation measures include security risk and context monitoring and reporting, routine review and updating of security protocol. All travel in the state is subject to security clearance. UNICEF is well placed to navigate the insecurity in these states given its existing structures there.

Recommendation

The Review Meeting (RM) concluded, based on the Secretariat's quality assurance review, that the **RM recommends to the CEO the approval of an allocation of US$5,000,000 for Nigeria with UNICEF as Grant Agent**.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Grant: Accelerated Funding
Country: Nigeria

CEO/2024/03-19–2024

Allocation for Nigeria funding request. The CEO, in her delegated authority from the Board of Directors:

- Approves new Accelerated Funding deducted from the System Transformation Grant indicative allocation for Nigeria, in the amount of US$5,000,000, with UNICEF as grant agent, plus an additional US$350,000 in agency fees.

Date: March 19, 2024



Laura Frigenti, CEO