CEO DECISION MEMO

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

TO: Laura Frigenti, CEO		
FROM: Sven Baeten, David Balwanz and Fazle Rabbani		
SUBJECT: Approval of Nigeria's Accelerated Funding Grant		
Country: Nigeria	**Grant Agent: Save the Children UK**	**Co-financing: n.a.**
Grant Type: Accelerated Funding	**Agency fee: 7% = US$350,000**	**Expected Start Date: February 16, 2024**
Amount (no Variable Part): US$5,000,000 **GA Implementation Support Cost: 13% = US$676,262**	**Grant duration: 18 months**	**Expected End Date: August 31, 2025**

Action request

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

Grant Summary

The program targets Cameroonian refugee children and host communities across 5 states in Nigeria (Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross Rivers and Taraba), targeting a total number of beneficiaries of 31,460 children (24,200 refugee children and 7,260 host community children), with the overall goal to improve learning outcomes and participation of refugee and host-community girls and boys, including children with disabilities in safe, protective and inclusive learning environments. The program focuses on two outcome areas: 1) Increased access to continuous inclusive learning opportunities for refugee and host community girls and boys (measured through the percentage of children with improved learning outcomes); and 2) a strengthened education system to ensure safe, quality, inclusive, protective environment for teachers and learners well-being in refugee hosting communities.

Planned interventions include: a) enrollment campaigns for out-of-school refugee and host community children; rehabilitation of learning environments; provision of teaching and learning materials; capacity building for educators and officials; and teacher training program certification for volunteer teachers, b) improving livelihoods; adolescent sexual reproductive health and life skills trainings; community infrastructure projects, and c) capacity building for school communities, LGA administrators, and EMIS at state level; early warning systems and safety plans; environment health and climate-change clubs in schools.

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.

Eligibility

Nigeria has an STG allocation from which up to US $10 million can be drawn as Accelerated Funding and may apply for Accelerated Funding due to protracted crises within the country, including support to Cameroonian refugees. The proposed program aligns to the UNHCR Nigeria Operation and needs and strategies outlined in the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

Significant Opportunities:

The program targets Cameroonian refugees neglected by other donor-funded interventions. Government, Save the Children and UNHCR aim to demonstrate progress and attract further funding for this target group. The Cameroonian refugees are located in 5 states, of which only 1 (Adamawa) is covered by the HRP and largely do not benefit from the international emergency response.

The HNO and HRP prioritize the BAY states (Borno, Adamawa, Yobe) in the North-East of Nigeria, where the major humanitarian crisis is located, caused by the Boko Haram Islamist insurgency, and where the humanitarian response funding is concentrated. In line with this, the Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year Resilience Program focuses on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the North-East.

Significant Issues and Risks

The security situation in Adamawa state 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. Save the Children is well placed to navigate the insecurity in this state given its existing structures there.

GPE has funded no prior programs in 4 of the 5 target states (Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross Rivers and Taraba), and the states have no local education groups. This poses a risk to state level mutual accountability. The grant agent will involve state level stakeholders in technical steering committees with mandates for joint supervision, monitoring, and reporting.

Refugees are a small but neglected group in Nigeria compared to IDPs. While inclusion of refugees in government education systems is legally granted, the ability and state level focus to invest in this support is currently unknown. The program will advocate government at state and central level to increase this support in line with international commitments.

Recommendation

Based on the Secretariat's quality assurance review, **the Review Meeting (RM) recommends to the CEO the approval of an Accelerated Funding allocation of US$5,000,000 for Nigeria with Save the Children UK as Grant Agent**.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Grant: Accelerated Funding
Country: Nigeria

CEO/2024/02-XX–XXXX

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 Save the Children UK as grant agent, plus an additional US$350,000 in agency fees.

Date: February 21, 2024



Laura Frigenti, CEO