Checklist: COVID 19-Accelerated Funding Extensions/Revisions

(Created April 2021 Revised in October 2021)

COVID-19 Accelerated Funding Extensions/Revisions				**Comments** (include any relevant details to explain your answers, if necessary)
Grant Overview				
Country:			The Gambia	This is a simple no-cost extension request for four months. The project has attained 100 percent disbursement and 3 out of 4 Project Development Objectives (PDOs) have been met. However additional time is required as procurement activities faced some minor supply chain challenges owing to which time is required to fully execute two remaining activities.
Approved grant amount (US$):			US $3.5 million	
Grant Agent:			World Bank	
Start date: *(based on the approval letter)*			06/08/2020	
Effective start date: *(of the program implementation)*			07/16/2020	
Original closing date: *(based on the approval letter)*			11/30/2021	
Proposed new closing date:			3/30/2022	
Date of Submission:			Request submitted to GPE Secretariat: 11/17/2021 Request submitted to GARC: 11/19/2021	
Yes	No	N/A	**Relevance (including restructuring)**	**Comments**
☒	☐	☐	Are schools currently reopened?	
☐	☒	☐	Are schools expected to close (again) due to COVID 19?	The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) is committed to keeping schools open. Based on current information COVID-19 cases in

				the Gambia seem to be negligible and the government does not foresee any imminent school closures.
☒	☐	☐	Are **all** major activities still aligned with the Board's original intent in allocating the COVID 19 AF funds which is to finance direct response (continued learning during school closure), rebuilding (support to schools and children at reopening) and/or increasing resilience? *Note: Please indicate major activities and their (potentially changed) relevance in the comments section*	The extension is requested for two activities that need to reach completion, namely- (i) provision of small equipment required for internet connectivity (final delivery of SD cards and tablets) and establishment of regional radio stations. These activities are linked to the resilience objective of the project. The program aims to equip regional radio stations with the capacity to manage and implement education programming in the future. As such a delay in this activity did not impact the provision of distance learning through radios which was undertaken as a separate activity.
☐	☐	☒	If new activities have been added (to replace original activities), are they well justified and aligned with the Board's original intent in allocating the COVID 19 AF funds which is to finance direct response (continued learning during school closure), rebuilding (support to schools and children at reopening) and/or increasing resilience? *Note: Please respond regardless of whether 25% threshold has been reached, indicating new activities in comments section.*	
☐	☐	☒	Is there a change to the grant indicators and targets? *Please also verify if there are no changes to activities, as targets may have been revised.*	
			If yes, are changes to grant indicators and target well justified?	
Yes	No	N/A	**Budget (to be completed by budget reviewer)**	
☐	☒	☐	Is there a change to the budget?	
☐	☐	☒	Are the proposed changes reasonable, including unit costs?	

☐	☒	☐	Have the implementation support costs (supervision costs, grant agent country office costs and/or program implementation unit cost) been increased?	
			If yes, are the implementation support costs still considered to be reasonable?	
☐	☒	☐	If COVID-19 Accelerated Funding supports an existing ESPIG (parent ESPIG), are any of the GPE COVID-19 funds being reprogrammed into other components in the parent ESPIG?	
Yes	No	N/A	**Implementation progress (including extension)**	
☒	☐	☐	Are **all** major activities financed by the grant "reaching" children? *Note: This question should only be answered yes if this is the case for all major activities. If any major activity is stuck please respond no. The question goes beyond asking whether a PIU has been recruited, or a procurement been attributed, but requires that a lesson has been broadcasted, schools cleaned, book are delivered to school/home, teachers have been receiving training. It is encouraged to provide detail in the comments section.*	All major activities financed by the grant have been reaching children. Activities related to COVID-19 sensitization campaigns and equipping schools with minimum hygiene standards for prevention of COVID-19 have successfully reached completion. 85% of activities related to distance learning have been completed while some activities related to setting up regional radio stations and the final delivery of some technology devices remain.
☒	☐	☐	Do **all** major activities require the additional time to be fully implemented (if no new school closures or other unexpected circumstances occur)? *Note: This question should only be answered yes if this is the case for all major activities, so if any major activity could be implemented with less extension, please answer no. It is encouraged to provide detail in the comments section.*	Only two activities are remaining for which a four-month extension seems reasonable.
☒	☐	☐	Have issues that caused the delay in implementation been resolved?	Both the above-mentioned activities were delayed owing to pandemic induced supply chain challenges due to which procurement was slower than usual. All the items have been procured and are now in country and will be distributed during the extension period requested.
☐	☒	☐	Are there any major issues to be flagged which potentially may delay or otherwise impact further the grant implementation? *Note: If yes, please summarize major issues in the comments section.*	

☒	☐	☐	Has the utilization rate been included?	The request received states that the grant has disbursed a 100 % of its funding.
☒	☐	☐	Is the utilization rate consistent with the utilization rate provided in David Glass disbursement and utilization report?	Yes, David Glass's disbursement as of 30 October 2021 shows 99% utilization.
Yes	No	N/A	**Consultation and reporting**	
☒	☐	☐	Has this request been consulted with the LEG and where active education cluster?	
☐	☒	☐	Are there any outstanding/delayed surveys?	
☐	☒	☐	Has the previous survey been timely submitted?	The GA did not submit the last survey that was due owing to which another request was made with an amended timeline covering two survey periods. That survey was to be submitted to the Secretariat by the 30 September 2021 but was finally received on 11 November 2021.
The section meets GPE's COVID-19 AF extension/revision requirements: Yes ☒ No ☐				

Please provide additional comments/details, if necessary.

To be completed by GARC coordinator: Arijeta Blakqori Mjekiqi

The Request: The Grant Agent (World Bank) and Ministry of Education are requesting a no cost-extension of the COVID-19 AF from November 30, 2021 to March 30, 2022.

The Grant Application Review Committee (GARC) conducted a virtual review of the above-mentioned request in accordance with the approved guidelines, and recommends the following decision for approval by the Manager, Partnerships Team:

DECISION

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Secretariat has no objection to Gambia's request for a no-cost extension of its COVID-19 Accelerated Funding grant from November 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Note: In the GAs request, the grant closing date is listed as March 30, 2022. The World Bank's policy is to set to the closing date of Trust Funds on the last day of the month, hence the approval is granted till March 31, 2022.

Checklist Completed by:

Country Lead/Education Specialist: Plamen Danchev & Sai Sudha Kanikicharla 11/22/2021

Reviewed by:

Finance Reviewer (if applicable): Yuri Borovsky 11/22/2021

CEP Regional Manager: Fazle Rabbani 11/22/2021

GARC Chair: Sven Baeten 11/22/2021

Approved By:

Manager, Partnerships Team: 11/30/2021