Review Meeting Memo to CEO

Date: June 2, 2020

Grant Information	
Grant Type:	**Education Sector Program Implementation Grant**
Amount:	**US$ 2.5 million**
Country:	**São Tomé and Príncipe (STP)**

The Review Meeting (RM) was held on June 2, 2020 and was led by: Jo Bourne (Chief Technical Officer), Kirsten Majgaard (Quality Assurance Team Lead and meeting Chair) and Sven Baeten (Acting Manager Country Support Team). Lucinda Ramos (Country Lead) presented the request. Padraig Power (Chief Financial Officer) provided written comments.

The RM managers agreed, based on successful completion of the Secretariat's quality assurance review, to recommend to the CEO the approval of an allocation of US$ 2.5 million for the ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation (MCA) for Sao Tome and Principe with the World Bank as Grant Agent along with report-backs and observations set out in Table 2. The full recommendation is set out on the next page.

Kirsten Majgaard

Quality Assurance Team Lead



Sven Baeten

Acting Manager, Country Support Team



Padraig Power

Chief Financial Officer



Jo Bourne

Chief Technical Officer



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RECOMMENDED DECISION

Grant: Education Sector Program Implementation Grant

Country: Sao Tome and Principe (STP)

CEO/2020/06-XX– Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant: The CEO, in her delegated authority from the Board of Directors, with respect to the application submitted by Sao Tome and Principe in the [third round of 2020]:

1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the maximum country allocations for an ESPIG, as described in the application and assessed in the Secretariat quality assurance review phase III report.

2. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1, subject to:
   a. Availability of funds.
   b. Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for ESPIGs in annual installments.
   c. Review Meeting's recommendation for funding, including (all amounts in US$):

3. Requests the Secretariat to:
   a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Sao Tome and Principe the requests for report-backs and observations as recommended by the Review Meeting and set out in Table 2.
   b. Include an update on the issues listed as "report backs" in the Grant Performance Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

Approved: 

Date: June 24, 2020

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Table 1: Application Summary and Allocation Recommendations (in US $):

Country: Sao Tome and Principe		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	2,500,000
b.	Allocation Requested (100%)	2,500,000
c.	Fixed Part	2,500,000
d.	**Allocation Recommended**	2,500,000
e.	Grant Agent	World Bank
f.	Agency Fee % - Amount	1.75% or 43,750
g.	Grant Agent's Implementation Support Costs	300,000[1]
h.	Period	3 years for the GPE Grant (5 years and 3 months for the program as a whole)
i.	Expected Start Date	September 15, 2020
j.	Funding Source	GPE Fund
k.	ESPIG Co-financing Institution(s) - Amounts	IDA co-financing 15,000,000

Table 2 – Review Meeting Observations, Report-Backs, And Conditions

Country: Sao Tome and Principe	
Observations	Congratulate MEES for its commitment to equity and gender equality. The removal of the disciplinary regulation mandating that pregnant girls only can access night schooling is an important step for supporting the continued education of girls and their empowerment. It will be important to disseminate the information on the removal of the disciplinary regulation and further supporting school leadership and teachers to support re-entry for pregnant school girls into regular day schools. It will be important for the proposed program to continue to incorporate relevant lessons learned from the past QEFA program as these become available. To this end, the Government is encouraged to continue to support the planned reforms and initiatives to introduce more merit-based selection/recruitment within the education system in STP so that investments in capacity building and institutional strengthening are more likely to be sustainable and produce better learning outcomes.
Report Back	Organize annual Joint Sector Reviews which are based on an ESP implementation report as well as a statistical yearbook that is derived from the SIGE.

[1] This amount is to be funded from the grant and is not in addition to the grant amount

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Condition	**NA**

GPC Comments Section:	**NA**