System Capacity Grant Annual Progress Report Template

Status: Accepted

Country	Grant ID	Grant Agent	Grant Effectiveness/Start Date
Samoa	GPE0000966	SCG	10/02/2023

Grant Amount	Timeframe Examined in this Report		Date of Report Submission
999,999 (USD)	From Date	To Date	02/27/2025
	10/09/2023	10/09/2024	

Area(s) and activity group(s) covered by grant

Window 1: Strengthen gender-responsive planning and policy development for system-wide impact

- System diagnostics, compact development and education sector analyses
- Gender-responsive sector planning, including operational planning and budgeting
- Supporting policies and plans to identify and address multiple forms of exclusion (planning for children with disabilities, system resilience and inclusion of displaced children)
- Strengthening evidence-based diagnosis of critical implementation bottlenecks and identifying potentially scalable, transformative solutions

Implementation Progress

Overall Project Progress this Reporting Period

Overall progress this reporting period [1]	Previous Rating
Satisfactory (S)	NA

Detailed Description including factors that lead to an upgrade/downgrade in the rating

Working with sector agencies, national stakeholders and partners, the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) has resulted in significant progress on the work of the first allocation of the Systems Capacity Grant funding in the last 12 months.

A partnership compact, Sootaga Mautu Faaleaoaoga, has been completed identifying priority actions to create seamless pathways from strong early learning foundations. It has a specific emphasis on Samoan values and linkages with community. This document was accepted by GPE for the purposes of the development of a Systems Transformation Grant application.

A sector analysis across the three sector agencies (MEC, Samoa Qualifications Authority (SQA) and National University of Samoa (NUS)) is complete, including a specific review of achievements of the previous Education Sector Plan. A review of the MEC Corporate Plan is also completed. A draft Education Sector Plan (ESP) is under review with considerable stakeholder engagement and a draft Corporate Plan for MEC reflecting the priorities of the draft ESP are both with stakeholders and partners for feedback.

MEC were also successful in applying for their remaining SCG allocation which includes activities in Windows 2 and 3. Approved in mid-November 2024, with related activities just commencing after the summer break.

The GEDSI Study (currently under readvertisement) and the thematic study is planned for the rest of the year.

Grant Implementation Progress, by Grant Window

Grant Window	Level of Progress this Reporting Period 2	Previous Rating
Window 1: Strengthen gender-responsive planning and policy development for system-wide impact	Satisfactory (S)	NA

Detailed Description:

A: Sector analysis and corporate review complete. Partnership compact complete

B: Sector Plan and Corporate Plan in draft with stakeholders and partners for feedback.

C: Not yet started as activity is supported in second SCG allocation (approved Nov. 13th 2024)

D: Gender and thematic studies on teacher retention planned as well as key reviews on inclusive education policies and early childhood.

Window 2: not yet started as activities to be supported by second allocation will commence later in Q1, 2025

Window 3: Satisfactory: the work to improve the assessment data module of the SEMIS is complete.

Lessons, innovative/promising practices

Greater use of nationally available consultants has led to more meaningful consultations and structures from a foundation of common understanding. The national consultants have called on external expertise when required e.g. costing models.

MEC also put a lot of thought into sequencing of activities and that has created more cohesive documents and an overall successful process that will be shared.

Impact stories

N/A

Tangible Outputs, Knowledge Products, Results Framework and other Supporting Documentation

#	File Name	Document Type	Description

The documents listed were submitted with the progress report. If you'd like access to them, please contact the grant operations officer for your country.

Financial Reporting & Grant Management

Financial Reporting on GPE Grant

Cumulative Financial Absorption Rate

Approved Budget to Date	Cumulative Expenditure	Cumulative Financial Absorption Rate	Level of Financial Absorption
636,622.18	96,855.3	15.21	Off Track

Since the financial absorption is not rated as 'on track', please provide an explanation that identifies the main activities that have been delayed and their corresponding unspent amounts, as well as reasons for the delay and steps taken to ensure that expenditure absorption gets on track in the next reporting period.

Payments for completed plans (ESP and Corporate) have not yet been made as the process was delayed in the last two quarters of 2024 due to Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. This work and the thematic studies will be completed by Q2 2025. In addition, some savings (particularly in the development of the partnership compact) were achieved. These savings have been reallocated as part of the approved second allocation application.

Budget Variance Analysis for the Current Reporting Period

Total Approved Budget for the Current Reporting Period

636,622.18

Total Expenditure for the Current Reporting Period

96,855.3

Explanation for underspending or overspending in excess of 10%

See Above

Management Performance

Level of management performance

Satisfactory (S)

Detailed Description

UNICEF have fully established a Field Office in Samoa and Education Staff are being recruited to support this grant implementation with additional staff support available from Suva. Strong partnership and communication with MEC, particularly in sector coordination and planning divisions remains

Revisions to the grant

This period, have there been any revisions to the grant other than those submitted to the Secretariat for their approval?

No

How likely is that the grant agent will submit a request for revision to the Secretariat in the next 12 months for their approval?

Unlikely

Annexes

Annex 1: List of Acronyms

Acronym	Description

[1] Highly Unsatisfactory- The grant has major shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is unlikely. Unsatisfactory - The grant has significant shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is uncertain. Moderately Unsatisfactory - The grant has moderate shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs but a resolution is likely. Moderately Satisfactory - The grant is expected to achieve most of its major outputs efficiently with moderate shortcomings or delays. Satisfactory – The grant is expected to achieve almost all of its major outputs efficiently with only minor shortcomings or delays. Highly Satisfactory - The grant is expected to achieve or exceed all of the major outputs efficiently without significant shortcomings or delays.

[2] Highly Unsatisfactory – The window has major shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is unlikely. Unsatisfactory – The window has significant shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs and a resolution is uncertain. Moderately Unsatisfactory – The window has moderate shortcomings or delays that limit or jeopardize the achievement of one or more outputs but a resolution is likely. Moderately Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve most of its major outputs efficiently with moderate shortcomings. Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve almost all of its major outputs efficiently with only minor shortcomings or delays. Highly Satisfactory – The window is expected to achieve or exceed all of the major outputs efficiently without significant shortcomings or delays.

[3] tooltip