System Capacity Grant Annual Progress Report Template

Status: Accepted

Country	Grant ID	Grant Agent	Grant Effectiveness/Start Date
El Salvador	GPE0000796	SCG	10/07/2022

Grant Amount	Timeframe Examined in this Report		Date of Report Submission
1,600,000 (USD)	From Date	To Date	06/25/2025
	11/01/2023	04/30/2024	

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

Window 2: Mobilize coordinated action and financing to enable transformative change

- Strengthening budget processes and ministry of finance engagement; identifying opportunities to improve the equity and efficiency of education expenditure, including processes toward gender equality

Window 3: Strengthen capacity, adapt, and learn, to implement and drive results at scale

- Strengthening data systems, including on improving the availability and use of sex-disaggregated data, and data on children with disabilities
- Training and support for government staff and central and decentralized levels, including on the uptake and use of data and evidence
- Support for implementation capacity, including sector plan implementation monitoring, gender responsiveness of the sector and evaluation of sector plans and policies/programs in priority areas; assess monitoring, evaluation and learning capacity, including use of evidence in policy process

Implementation Progress

Overall Project Progress this Reporting Period

Overall progress this reporting period [1]	Previous Rating
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)

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

The SCG for El Salvador has activities for two windows. This section will describe overall progress in each activity within each window.

1. Window 1: This window consists of three main activities. (1) An update of the Education Sector Plan with data from 2022; (2) Hiring of a gender specialist consultant to work with the Minstry of Education advising on gender equality in standarized evaluations and reading material; (3) hiring of a social protection consultant to work with Ministry of Education staff through knowledge products and workshops.

For this window both activities 2 and 3 have been already completed as specified per last progress report. However, the first activity is still to be implemented. This activity aims to update the Education Sector Plan with quantitative data from 2022. However, after discussions with the Ministry of Education they have pointed out interest to change the scope of the activity as the country goes through the Compact's Mid term Review (MTR). During the first sessions of the MTR, the Minister of Education presented the Mi Nueva Escuela Reform which expands the scope of the Compact's priority reform. Thus there has been an expression of interst by the Minstry to use the activity's funds to revise the Partnership Compact.

2. Window 2: this window has no activities planned thus there is no detail as to its implementation.
3. Window 3: This window has six activities associated to stregthening gender responsive planning and policy development. (1) a consultancy to streghten EMIS; (2) a knowledge product that analyses dropout; (3) a knowledge product that analyses adolescent pregnancy within the education sector (4) a consultancy to support the creation of a Structural Quality Standards Model in El Salvador and (5) purchases of software and computer equipment (6) facilitation of a Diploma on using data for decision making in the education sector.. The activities that have been completed in this window by may 2024 are the knowledge product that aims at understanding dropout in El Salvador and the consultancy to support the creation of the Structural Qualisty Standards model. The dropout knowledge product has been socialized with the technical lead team of the Ministry of Education; meanwhile the consultancy to support the creation of the SQS model has set the cornerstone upon which the model is being created for ECD. However the main activity of the SCG refers to the consultancy that supports the EMIS of the Ministry of Education. This activity has had several severe delays due to conflicts with procurement regulations from the Grant Agent, failure from the Ministry of Education to fully disclose needs within EMIS and work performed under other consultancies financed by other partners. This issues have been resolved and the firm has started working on activities to streghten EMIS. It is expected to deliver all products by December 2025. Delay on the hiring and work of the firm has had also impact on the ampunt of disbursed resources from the SCG grant, but the team expects this will be accelerated by the first semester of 2025.The activity related to the diploma has already been designed by the task team in agreement with Minstry of Education and its awaiting the right time in the Ministry's calendar to be launched so that all staff elegible can attend. Finally, the purchase of licences and computer equipment have not been discussed.

Describe priority actions planned for the following year to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnerships, and use the lessons learned during the reporting period.
For the 2024-2025 period the priority is to finalize the technical assistance to develop and stregthen the EMIS system (SIGES). Although the firm has been hired and the process is underway, there have been major delays due to the depth of the assistance requiered by the MoE. The needs specified by the MoE when creating ToR's for the activity wererevised by the MoE's techincal staff and created a mismatch that needed to be addressed by the Grant Agent's task team. To establish a work plan and build agreements the task team reached out to the Minister of Education, the technical staff of the Ministry and the firm. Once and agreement was reached, the firm started to work on the Governance Model for the EMIS and gathering information with counterparts on the functionality of the system and specific needs for each of the modules that will be intervened.

To speed up the process, the World Bank Task Team set up recurrent meetings with the firm and Ministry of Education where updates were presented and bottlenecks raised in time to provide solutions. This meetings took place every two weeks and it involved both the World Bank's and Ministry of Education's focal points for the SCG, the firm's techincal staff as well as the technical staff within the Ministry.

Another delay that was address corresponded to the activity focused at understanding adolescent pregnancy in the salvadoran education system. The grant agent team faced difficulties gathering information from active students due to new policies that emerged from the First Lady's office. This activity was planned to have a mixed methods strategy: interviews with several profiles of teenage pregnancy and a quantitative analysis of existing data. Due to these new policies, the profiles were modified to envelop the available profiles not censored by the new policies. It is expected that by december 2024 all interviews under the updated strategy will be completed.

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)	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)

Detailed Description:
This window's activities have almost been completed before the expected time frame of July 2025. The updating of sector plan with 2022 data was replaced with the updating of the Partnership Compact. In agreement with the LEG, the Ministry of Education decided to allocate this funds to the update of the Compact followint its Mid Term Review and the feedback provided by both LEG members and GPE

Secretariat. By mid 2024, this alternative was analyzed and proposed since the Sector Plan, Compact and Insitutional Strategic Plan (PEI) seem to overlap each other. The Ministry decided to give more relevance to the Compact and position it as the leading sectorial plan platform. The updating of the Partnership Compact will be delivered by July 2025 and will be presented to LEG members during a JSR.

Grant Window	Level of Progress this Reporting Period [2]	Previous Rating
Window 3: Strengthen capacity, adapt, and learn, to implement and drive results at scale	Satisfactory (S)	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)

Detailed Description:
This window has the main activities under the SCG. The consultancy to strengthen EMIS has had delays due mainly to procurement regulations from Grant Agent involving an inability to fund activities that include manipulation of source code of EMIS or any other government system. By working closely with procurement specialists the WB team has overcome these obstacles and the firm has been hired to perform the activities established in the ToR. Although the firms hiring is an important milestone the task team has faced numerous obstacles that include a mismatch between the activities outlined in the ToR and the activities required by the MoE techincal staff. To overcome this, all parts involved meet every two weeks and have finally agreed on the prioritized activities. The EMIS governance model subcomponent is underway and the software development team is working on fine tunning the technological needs. The Grant Agent team expects all activities to be closed by December 2025.

Alongside, the team has also been actively working on the design of the Diploma for the use of data for decision making. The design of this course was done on a very cooperative fashion bewteen the WB team, the MoE's focal point for the SCG and MoE Human Develpment department. Upon agreement on the content, duration and participant profile, the MoE requested the launch of the Diploma be delayed due to uncertainty of staff's continuance after the Presidential election. The diploma is expected to start the first semester of 2025.

The adolescent pregnancy knowledge product has already overcome obstacles involving data privacy and will be finalized the second semester of 2025. All other activities have already been completed before june 2023.

Grant Window	Level of Progress this Reporting Period [2]	Previous Rating
Window 2: Mobilize coordinated action and financing to enable transformative change	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Moderately Satisfactory (MS)

Detailed Description:
This Window has no activities related to it.

Lessons, innovative/promising practices

The team has learned important lessons that relate to design and deployment of solutions for Ministries of Education. First, a hard learnt lesson relates to the inability to finance interventions that involve private data and software source code. ToRs have to be drawn in a different manner in order to comply with procurement regulations for all UN partners. This is a lesson that, once documented, could save GPE and other partners months on implementation. Secondly, there is a great need of capacity building within the Ministries of Education, especially when it involves using data and evidence to make decisions. The Grant Agent task team realized this while designing the Postgraduate diploma alongside the MoE Human Development Department. Although many ministries may have a need, specifically tailored curriculums may impact in a very positive way the process of decision making at medium and top levels of the MoE. In El Salvador's case we merged the need to prepare the staff on usage of data and evidence with an understanding of their EMIS, its sstructure, functionality and data that could be provided. At the same time, we incorporated a storytelling module and engagement with stakeholders. The team believes that using data in this sense is just as important as it is to make informed decisions.

Impact stories

During this period the main acheivement that could potentially impact beneficiaries in the short term is the analysis of the status quo of the structural quality standards in ECD provision centers. This diagnostic serves as a cornerstone upon which a new model will be constructed for both preschool and childcare services. This model is a pilar towards education quality in EL Salvador. The model will ensure that all schools have mininm requirements to function and be certified on a regular basis.

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

#	File Name	Document Type	Description
1	reporte final El Salvador_todos_servicios.docx	Knowledge Product	This document contains a diagnostics of the structural quality standards framework for El Salvador for all ECD.

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
1,600,000	88,487.77	5.53	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.

The main delay in disbursement is directly related to delays on the implementation and hands on activities of the EMIS component. The team expects disdbursements to accelerate during the second half of 2024 and first semester of 2025 with an expected expenditure of $350,000. By the end of the first semester of 2025, the cumulative expenditure will be well above $438,000 when contemplating both EMIS and post graduate certificate course activities completed or very advanced. The team has already acceleratad both of these key activities.

Budget Variance Analysis for the Current Reporting Period

Total Approved Budget for the Current Reporting Period
1,550,710.49

Total Expenditure for the Current Reporting Period
39,198.26

Explanation for underspending or overspending in excess of 10%

Underspending is ,as with the previous section, related to the delay on implementation of the EMIS activitu. We expect an accelerated disbursement rates in 2024-2025.

Management Performance

Level of management performance

Moderately Satisfactory (MS)

Detailed Description

The task team has taken every step possible to ensure the grant activities move forward despite serious delays related to procurement conflicts, failure from the MoE to agree upon EMIS activity reuquirements and other administrative bottlenecks. We have worked very closely with the Grant Agent's procurement specialists and MoE focal points to ensure the activities continue to move forward however at a slow pace. The main issue has to do with conflictss in procurement guidelines that impede WB to directly work on EMIS due to the sensitive nature of the data that needs to be part of the process. This issue has been overcome, but not without delays and transactional costs.

At the same time, there were bottlenecks with respect to the extent of the EMIS activity, since ToR were launched under very specific needs but when the form was hired, MoE staff added more layers of needs that needed to be agreed upon between the firm, WB and MoE. Once this was done, the firm quickly started to provide solutions and advisement .

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?

Moderately Likely

Detailed Description

After the first meetings of the Compact's MTR the Ministry of Education have suggested the update of the Compact that complies will the priorities of the Mi Nueva Escuela Reform. Considering that the Education Sector Plan is no longer the leading programatic document, the Ministry of Education through the Grant and Coordinating Agency may request the use of SCG funds allocated to the update of the sector plan towards the updating of the Partnership Compact.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of Acronyms

Acronym	Description
MTR	Mid Term Review
MoE	Minstry of Education
SCG	System Capacity Grant
SQS	Structural Quality Standards

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.

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