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**	01/02/2026
	04/30/2025	12/30/2025	

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 in El Salvador is following the expected timelines agreed upon with GPE and the Ministry of Education. During 2025 the grant has succesfully financed a completed postgraduate course for 30 Minstry of Education lead staffers on the use of data to make policy decisions. Simoultaneously, the World Bank task team has make great strides the revised and updated version of the Partnership Compact following MTR meetings held on 2024.

However, the implementation of grant activities still face important challenges: (i) Due to a drastic change in Ministry authorities a knowledge product aimed at analyzing budget efficiency and allocation is still pending a new definition given it coincides with a report commissioned by UNICEF. (ii) there is a capacity building activity that requieres definition of scope, and the World Bank team is working closely with the newly appointed Director of Planning. (iii) Finally, the streghtening of the EMIS is advancing quite well, but may need more time to fully deply the solutions.

Given these three arguments, the WB team has requested LEG members and GPE a one-year extension to deliver satisfactory results.

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.

2025 was marked by the sudden change in Minister of Education, Director of Planning and Director of Technology and Innovation. This forced the task team to halt key innitiatives linked to pending activities like the budget efficiency knowledge product and a capacity builing activity already agreed upon with former Minister Pineda. Partnership Compact next steps were also agreed upon with former Director of Planning. The reorganization of the Ministry of Education forced the Workd Bank team to reasses and guide the new focal points and newly appointed Minister on the work acheived under SCG and the pending activities. So far, EMIS activities continue as planned nonetheless there is still a need for authorities to decide upon the scope of the knowledge product and capacity building product. The task team has offered alternatives on needs identified during the past 4 years that allign with streghtening of enabling factors.

Anticipating some adjustment time from the new MoE team, the WB team has requested a one-year extension of the grant to guarantee proper implementation and assuring activities that contribute to sector streghtening.

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)	Satisfactory (S)

Detailed Description:

During 2025 the World Bank task team has developed a revised partnership compact following the information collected during 2024 Mid Term Review. Although the document was originally drafted without GPE guidelines due to El Salvador being a pilot country for the MTR process, once guidelines were made available the document was edited to meet criteria. The draft has not been officially submitted to GPE secretariat because there are a few key sections that need to be revised by the Ministry of Education. Specifically, areas of priority investment and key indicators that will trigger future GPE engagements.

The WB team has approached the newly appointed Director of Planning and have been working with them to fill the gaps in the revised Compact draft as soon as possible. The engagement the team has encountered with the new staff is extremely positive and collaborative. The expectation is to have the Revised Compact finalized by the first trimester of 2026.

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

Detailed Description:

The originall activity proposed for this window was a knowledge product aimed at studying the efficiency of budgetary excersises in El Salvador and propose alternatives based on best practices. However, during 2025 the task team became aware that UNICEF, a LEG member, had comissioned a similar product to inform MINED about improvements in their budget assignations. The team agreed with MINED's focal point to redirect the funds towards other needs, this was consulted with GPE and LEG members. During this period, the MoE's focal point was dismissed and a new one was appointed, so the WB's task team has been keeping the new Director of Planning up to date and are close to defining the scope of work. The firm to deliver this product has already been hired and is awaiting the definition of scope to start working.

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)	Satisfactory (S)

Detailed Description:

The core activity for this SCG in El Salvador is being implemented during this window: Streghtening of the EMIS (SIGES) in El Salvador. This activity started with delays due to procurement obstacles that have been addressed in past reports and some technical difficulties to define the scope of intervention with former Minister Pineda. Nontheless, the issues have been overcome and implementation of the consultancy has been successful. The team expects that all five prioritzed modules and the governance model for the system will be fully developed by december 2025, with just the adaptation of the modules to MINED's digital infrastructure pending for the first trimester of 2026.

On the other hand, the analysis of adolescent pregnancy is on the final draft stage and will be delivered during the first semester of 2026 to MINED's staff. This activity analyzes with a mixed methodology the implications and strategies to cope with adolescent pregancy within the education sector. It compares the ongoing strategies with those implemented in other countries that have proven successful. At the same time, it offers a characterization or profiling of the likelihood that a teenage girl will evantually become pregnant during her academic trajectory.

Finally, the team succesfully delivered a postdraguate course to 30 Ministry of Education leading staffers on the use of data and evidence to make policy decissions. The course had a 10-week duration in which participants attented a 4hour lecture on weekends and had to complete other activities on-demand during weekdays. At the same time, as they progressed through modules they had to apply what they learned on a real-world problem related to their area of work within the Ministry of Education.

Lessons, innovative/promising practices

The task team believes that collaboration between GPE, Grant Agent ,and Ministry of Education in all its levels has been key to implement succesful activities and allign them as priorities with the new administration shift, as well as new areas of improvement arise. The activation of the EFE committee is a big example of this coordination that turns proposals into actionable responses.

Impact stories

The task team would like to share the success of the certificate course in the use of data and evidence so make policy decisions.
The team believes that the Ministry of Education has made significant strides towards the improvement of gathering, processing and using data through several activities under the SCG grant. First, the postgraduate course set the stage for management in key positions to use data and they have adopted this gradually and across teams. Second, the activity to stregthen EMIS has involved many Ministry of Education Units that are internal users of the system. In the process of defining system requirements and user profiles the units have been exposed to the potential of SIGES. During the whole process that involved definitions of scope of work, interviews to understand desired functionalities and revision of products the importance of such a system has resurged within the Ministry.
Other users in de Minstry of Presidency are now using data from SIGES and are very interested in incorporating the information gathered into their own systems.

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

#	File Name	Document Type	Description	Uploaded on	Confidential

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	1,241,030	77.56	Slightly Behind

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.

Delays on the implementation of the EMIS consultancy has slightly delayed disbursement of the Grant. However, since in 2025 this acticity took off the task team is catching up on the implementation of related activities and the associated disbursements. Apart from the EMIS consultancy, the task team has also paid for the postgraduate course on the use of data for decision making and has committed funds to a knowledge product with scope TBD. The World Bank team fully expects disbursements to be on track by the first trimester of 2026 as pending activities are defined by task team and MoE.

Budget Variance Analysis for the Current Reporting Period

Total Approved Budget for the Current Reporting Period

1,511,513

Total Expenditure for the Current Reporting Period

647,139

Explanation for underspending or overspending in excess of 10%

Management Performance

Level of management performance

Satisfactory (S)

Detailed Description

The task team has requested a one-year extension on the grant deadline to succesfully implement activities pending mainly due to a change in Ministry of Education authorities. Not only did these changes delayed definition of scope of work with a new postgraduate course (capacity building) and the definition of a knowlegde product, but also had to pause ongoing activities like the Revised Partnership Compact and streghtening of EMIS. During this pause, the WB team met with new focal points and Ministry authorities to explain how GPE funds and activities allign with the sectorial plans, ongoing projects and the role of LEG. It is key to mention that in November 2025 the newly appointed Minister of Education held her first LEG meeting where she described her priorities and had the chance to answer questions from LEG members.

The new Director of Planning is working on the revised compact under guidance from the WB team and we expect a revised version during the first trimester of 2026. Simultaneoulsy, the team presented how the EMIS activity is advancing to the new technical teams and is advancing as expected.

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

Comment/Checklist (to be completed by the GPE Secretariat)

View / Reply Comments

2/4/2026 12:12:06 PM | Ms. Ciara Cristina Rivera Vazquez

1. The report notes that the Director of Planning is currently reviewing the revised Partnership Compact. Could you please share an update on the progress made so far? If progress has been limited, would it be worth reconsidering the approach—specifically, exploring the option of developing a new document or preparing a Partnership Compact memo instead, given that producing a completely new document was a priority of the previous administration? 2. The report states that the Ministry is in the process of defining the scope of work for a study that will be financed with funds initially intended for a public expenditure review. However, it also mentions that the firm has already been hired. Could you please clarify how the firm was contracted when the scope of work has not yet been finalized? 3. Regarding the EMIS-related activities, is the Ministry considering any adjustments following engagement with the new administration? During our last mission, the Ministry's technology team met with the CAPRES technology team to better understand the capabilities of the new EMIS recently financed by the SCG. My understanding at the time was that changes to the planned activities were being considered. However, the report suggests otherwise. Could you please confirm the Ministry's current position? 4. Confirm whether any delays pose a risk to full disbursement by March 2026 for the remaining EMIS financial commitments 5. For the knowledge product with scope still pending, have any payments been made to the contracted firm?

2/17/2026 9:12:19 PM | Alan Rico

Responses correspond to the numerals above: 1. Progress on the Revised Compact include a fully developed document that considers GPE guidelines for MTR memos. Analysis of the enabling factors in light of the revised priority and status of developments and advancements on the original priority are included. Thanks to the new Director of Planning we have updated data for the sector up to 2025. There are still two sections that need work: risks and lessons learnt of implementing multilateral funding and the treiggers defined that will unlock future GPE engagements. We have agreed upon a way to move formward and work on this issues with MoE. 2.The firm was hired alognside the development and implementation of the postgraduate course. WB team bundled up both activities as we saw fit for a university to develop both deliverables since they had both the knowledge and capacity to take them on. A single contract was awarded with two products to be delivered. The university awaits the definition of scope to fulfill its obligations to the WB. 3. The Ministry is currently working on fully implementing EMIS solutions as originally discussed. CAPRES is also taking advantage of the developed modules and will analyze how to best incorporate the features of SIGES into their information system. As of January 2026, SIGES is being developed and deployed in MINEDUCYT's platforms. 4. There are no risks to delay dsbursements related to EMIS. 5. No, payments have only been made to finalize the postrgaduate course.

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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