GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP for EDUCATION

Board of Directors
Decision via Affirmative Vote
March 5, 2020

Final Decision

BOD/2020/03-01–Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant to Rwanda: The Board of Directors with respect to the application submitted in the fourth round of 2019:

1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the fixed part of the maximum country allocation (MCA) as described in the application and summarized and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2020/02 DOC 01. However, the Board notes that Rwanda did not fulfil the financing commitments made under the previous ESPIG. Therefore, the transfer of grant funds for the current ESPIG beyond Year 1 depends on the current commitments being met.

2. Notes compliance with meeting the requirements for accessing the variable part of the MCA and approves the indicators on Equity, Efficiency, and Learning and their means of verification as described in the application and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2020/02 DOC 01.

3. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2020/03-01 3 (c), subject to:

   a. Availability of funds.

   b. Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for ESPIGs in annual installments.

   c. GPC recommendations for funding, including (all amounts in US$):

Table 1: Rwanda		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	30,800,000
b.	Fixed Part	21,560,000
c.	Variable Part	9,240,000
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	30,800,000
e.	**Allocation Recommended by GPC**	**30,800,000**
f.	Grant Agent	UK Department for International Development (DFID)
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	N/A
h.	Period	4 years and 3 months

i.	Expected Start Date	April 1, 2020
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-Post
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

4. Requests the Trustee to withhold the transfer of funds beyond Year 1 (US$26,130,000) until the conditions set out in Annex A to BOD/2020/03-01 have been met.
5. Requests the Secretariat to:
   a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Rwanda the observations, requests for report-back and conditions as recommended by the Grants and Performance Committee and set out in Annex A to BOD/2020/03-01.
   b. Include an update on the issues listed as “condition” and “report back” in the annual Grant Performance Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

ANNEX A – GPC OBSERVATIONS, REQUESTS FOR REPORT-BACKS AND CONDITIONS

Rwanda	
Observations	The Committee commends Rwanda for its excellent results in the area of girls' education, reducing dropout rate, increasing enrolment rate and for its exemplary bi-annual joint reviews of the education sector. The Committee further commends the development partnership group for its strong coordination of activities and alignment with country priorities. With regards to the program and in the context of Rwanda's integration of refugees in the education system, which is highly commended, the Committee recommends considering the selection of recipient schools also in the proximity of refugee camps to ensure better participation of refugee children as beneficiaries of these interventions.
Report-Backs	*For the government:* The Committee notes the focus on internet technology (IT) as a means to improving learning outcomes while there is limited evidence and no theory of change to support the intervention within the proposed program. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the government ensure that sufficient capacity strengthening measures in this area be taken and together with the grant agent closely evaluate the IT interventions during implementation to ensure it leads to results and to provide an annual report-back via the joint sector review including details about the evaluation and its findings. The Committee encourages the country to share their findings with their peers to enhance south-south learning. The Committee also considers the risk of sustainability of the IT intervention given the high cost and limitations of capitation grants in place to support ICT activities, and the risk that rural schools may not benefit equally from the intervention due to lack/limited access to connectivity, electricity, data costs, access to hardware/software, etc. The Committee requests the government to explore ways to minimize these risks and provide updates in its annual joint review of the education sector (JRES) report. With regard to the construction component, the Committee notes the difference in cost between the GPE-funded construction and the IDA-funded construction and invites the government to report back on the progress on the GPE-funded construction through its annual JRES report with a view to ensuring that standards of quality and sustainability are maintained. In the context of the Committee's concerns on Rwanda's financing for education, the Committee requests the government to submit for its review an update on 2019 expenditures early October 2020 in order to verify that commitments are on track to be fulfilled. *For the grant agent:* With respect to the variable part equity indicator on learners with disabilities, the Committee requests the grant agent to conduct further analysis to certify that the current targets are beyond the previous trend and provide a report to the Secretariat of the analysis after Year 1 via its regular progress report.

Conditions	While recognizing the achievements of Rwanda in education, the Committee is concerned about the regressive trends in the past in financing for education, especially in the context of Rwanda not having fulfilled its domestic financing commitment under the previous ESPIG, despite significant economic growth. The Committee therefore recommends that prior to the Secretariat instructing the Trustee to commit and transfer funds to the grant agent beyond Year 1, the government provide an annual report-back via the JRES report on education expenditures. Each year, once the grant agent in consultation with the local education group has confirmed that these expenditures meet the commitment made, the Secretariat will authorize the Trustee to commit and transfer funds linked to activities for Years 2, 3 and 4 respectively. In the event annual commitments are not fulfilled without sufficient justification as assessed by the Grants and Performance Committee, the Committee may recommend further action to the Board, including suspension of the grant.