GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP for EDUCATION

Board of Directors
Decision via Affirmative Vote
March 5, 2020

Final Decision

BOD/2020/03-03–Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant to Mali: 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 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 03.
2. With regard to the requirements for accessing the variable part of the maximum country allocation, notes that the proposal needs to be revised to address inconsistencies and provide additional information.
3. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2020/03-03 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: Mali		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	45,700,000
b.	Fixed Part	31,990,000
c.	Variable Part	13,071,000
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	45,700,000
e.	**Allocation Recommended by GPC**	**45,700,000**
f.	Grant Agent	World Bank
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	1.75% - 799,750
h.	Period	5 years and 9 months
i.	Expected Start Date	November 3, 2020
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-Post
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

4. Requests the Trustee to withhold the transfer of funds for the variable part (US$13,071,000 until the conditions set out in Annex A to BOD/2020/03-03 have been met.
5. Requests the Secretariat to:
    a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Mali the observations, requests for report-back and conditions as recommended by the Grants and Performance Committee and set out in Annex A to BOD/2020/03-03.
    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, CONDITIONS AND REQUESTS FOR REPORT-BACK

Mali	
Observations	The Committee commends the design of the project, supported with substantial co-financing from IDA and based on a large share of results-based financing. The Committee further commends the considerable support that will be provided under the project to ensure that more girls have access to quality education. Given the fragile context, the Committee commends the inclusion of interventions designed to build resilience of the education system and vulnerable populations. The Committee encourages the implementation of interventions that will strengthen the institutional response to fragile situations and that will ensure strong community participation. The Committee further recognizes that support to private secondary schools is included under the project but notes that GPE funding will not be used to that end. If support for for-profit secondary schools is provided, the funding will come from IDA funds only. The Committee encourages stronger involvement of national civil society organizations in sector dialogue, planning and monitoring, through representation in the local education group (LEG). The Committee notes that there have been concerns about the availability of GPE documentation in French which facilitates better LEG contribution to the program documentation in the Malian context. The Committee underscores the importance of facilitating the presence of female teachers in rural areas and encourages the LEG to consider taking this on as a strategy to improve gender parity in the rural teaching corps and to monitor progress closely.
Report-Backs	*For the government:* The Committee requests that the equity indicator be incorporated into the ESP framework in conjunction with the next updating of the ESP framework and requests the government to provide a report-back via the subsequent joint education sector review report. *For the grant agent:* With regard to delivering digital learning and the robotics work, the Committee notes the importance of monitoring disparity and ensuring inclusiveness in terms of access to electricity, hardware and software, and connectivity and data costs for those in and outside of school. The grant agent is requested to provide an annual update, including on learners who may be excluded from a given intervention and how this phenomenon is monitored and addressed via its regular progress report.

Conditions	The Committee notes the inconsistencies in the variable part of the application as well as the helpful additional information provided recently by the grant agent. Prior to the transfer of funds linked to the variable part by the Trustee, the Committee requests that the government and the grant agent, in consultation with the LEG, submit a revised application and program document addressing the following: *Efficiency Dimension*: • The indicator wording, precise definition and means of verification need to be harmonized, preferably in a way to effectively follow the actual transfer of funds as opposed to focusing solely on allocations that are approved. • The disbursement rule needs to be clarified with respect to the pro rata calculation if/when the target is to maintain the baseline value over the years. *Learning Dimension*: • The target for the first tranche of disbursement needs to be clarified, since the unit responsible for evaluation appears to be already created; alternatively, the proposed funding could be spread across the targets in year 3 and year 4. Further, it is requested that a clear justification be provided on why it is necessary to create an additional evaluation unit for the learning assessment work. Once the revised application and program document are received and assessed by the Secretariat, the Grants and Performance Committee will review the revised documentation to ensure it is satisfactory and authorize transfer of funds for the variable part.