Final Decision

GPC/2020/01-02–Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant (ESPIG) and Multiplier Grant to Ghana: The Grants and Performance Committee in its delegated authority and 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 combined maximum country allocation for an education sector program implementation grant (ESPIG) and multiplier grant, as described in the application and summarized and assessed in GPC/2020/01 DOC 04.
2. Notes compliance with the incentives for accessing the variable part of the combined maximum country allocation for an ESPIG and multiplier grant and approves the indicators on Equity, Efficiency, and Learning and their means of verification, as described in the application and assessed in GPC/2020/01 DOC 04.
3. Notes compliance with the requirements of co-financing, additionality, and debt sustainability for accessing the maximum country allocation for a multiplier grant, as described in the application and assessed in GPC/2020/01 DOC 04.
4. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG and multiplier grant, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in decision GPC/2020/01-03 4 (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 decisions for funding, including (all amounts in US$):

Table 1 - Ghana		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	9, 400,000
b.	Multiplier Maximum Country Allocation	15,000,000
c.	Allocation Requested (100%)	24,400,000[1]
d.	Fixed Part Requested	16,400,000
e.	Variable Part Requested	8,000,000
f.	**Allocation Decision by GPC**	**24,400,000**
g.	Grant Agent	World Bank
h.	Agency Fee % - Amount	1.75% - 427,000

[1] Includes US$500,000 for the cost of the grant agents to perform its roles and responsibilities.

i.	Period	4 years and 10 months
j.	Expected Start Date	February 14, 2020
k.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-Post
l.	Funding Source	GPE Fund
m.	Multiplier co-financing institution(s) - amount	World Bank – 50,000,000

5. Requests the Secretariat to:
    a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Ghana the observations and requests for report-back as set out in Annex A to GPC/2020/01-03.
    b. Include an update on the issues listed as "report-back" in the annual Grant Performance Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

ANNEX A – GPC OBSERVATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR REPORT-BACK

Ghana	
Observations	The Committee positively notes that the GALOP's solid program design addressing critical evidence-based challenges identified in the education sector analysis, the results-based financing funding modality, and the use of government systems jointly promote better alignment to national systems. In the context of the free senior high school policy and the resulting pressures on the government budget resources, the Committee encourages the government to maintain its focus on marginalized areas in the north and minimize differences in quality of education.
Report-Backs	*For the government:* Although the GALOP project does not directly finance any classroom construction activities, the Committee is pleased to learn that the government has developed a 10-year capital investment program for construction of new public kindergarten, primary and JHS classrooms as part of the 2018-2030 Education Strategic Sector Plan. To alleviate the pressure on the learning environment in Ghana, the Committee strongly encourages the government to prioritize classroom construction in disadvantaged areas, and requests that the government report annually via the National Education Week (joint sector review) on the expansion of physical space in the targeted areas. With respect to the variable part indicator on learning outcomes, the Committee requests that a meaningful increase in the percentage of primary grade 4 students with proficiency in English and Math be defined as a target once the baseline is established. The Committee requests that the grant agent, in consultation with the government, reflect this definition in an updated project implementation manual and share it with the Secretariat.