Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
GPE Secretariat

OFFICE LOCATION
1850 K Street NW, Suite 625
Washington DC, 20006 USA

MAILING ADDRESS
1818 H Street NW, IS 6-600
Washington DC, 20433 USA

May 28, 2020

H.E. Dr. Abdirahman Dualle Beyleh
Federal Minister of Finance
Federal Ministry of Finance
Mogadishu
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

H.E. Mr. Abdullahi Godah Barre
Federal Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education
Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education
Mogadishu
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding in support of the Federal Government of Somalia's education sector COVID-19 response plan

Excellencies,

On behalf of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), I am pleased to inform you that with the delegated authority from the GPE Board of Directors, I have approved the Federal Government of Somalia's application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of US$ 5,400,000. I have also approved a 7% agency fee for the grant agent, Save the Children, in the amount of US$ 378,000.

The grant has a start date of May 28, 2020 and an end date of May 30, 2021. The full decision language of this approval can be found in the annex to this letter.

Please note that during the implementation period, the GPE Secretariat will require the Grant Agent to complete quarterly surveys which will request core data on program implementation. At the end of the implementation period, the Grant Agent is expected to submit a completion report to the GPE Secretariat. Detailed information on the reporting requirement is available in the Guidelines for COVID-19 Accelerated Funding on GPE website.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Morten Sigsgaard, Country Lead for Somalia, m.sigsgaard@globalpartnership.org

We look forward to working with you closely to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education of Somalia's children.

Sincerely,

Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

CC:
Members of the Education Sector Committee, Mogadishu
Members of the Education Donors Group, Nairobi
Mr. Ahmed Hassan Yussuf, Director General, Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education
Ms. Khadija Abdullahi Jimale, Planning and Budgeting Director, Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education
Mr. Ismail Mohamed Ali, GPE DCP Focal Point, Federal Government of Somalia
Mr. Mohamed Sabul, Program Manager- Education & Education Systems, Delegation of the European Union to Somalia
Mr. Kevin Smith, Social Services Office Chief, USAID Somalia
Ms. Faiza Hassan, Program Director, Save the Children Somalia
Ms. Joyce LeMelle, DECP, Director Proposal Development, Save the Children US
Mr. Mohamud M. Hassan, Country Director, Save the Children Somalia
Mr. Abdifatah Mohamed, ESC Coordinator
Ms. Sara Skovgaard, Education Cluster Coordinator, Somalia Education Cluster
Mr. Sven Baeten, Acting Country Support Team Manager, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Morten Sigsgaard, Country Lead for Federal Government of Somalia, GPE Secretariat

Annex – DECISION LANGUAGE

In line with the delegated authority granted by the Board of Directors, the GPE CEO approves the COVID-19 accelerated funding request for Federal Government of Somalia in the amount of US$ 5,400,000 plus an additional US$ 378,000 in agency fees to Save the Children as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of May 28, 2020, and an end date of May 30, 2021.

The GPE CEO recognized with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Federal Government of Somalia in preparing a national response plan and grant proposal that will mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the education sector as well as support the recovery of the education system from the crisis.

Recognizing the GPE Board's intent to proceed with the COVID-19 funding on a timeline which acknowledges the COVID-19 emergency, the Government and Grant Agent are asked to move forward with implementation immediately while addressing the following points and reporting back to the Secretariat by June 15, 2020:

Request for Report-Back

1. Given the urgency of the crisis, GPE expects grant implementation to commence on schedule and encourages the Grant Agent to submit a cash transfer request within two weeks of approval to facilitate the timely release of funds in support of program implementation.

2. The Grant Agent is requested to remove any budget items that fund activities beyond lower secondary (up to grade 8).

3. The cost of the online platform is considered high in the context of the grant amount, the needs of other countries, and the intended equity-focus of the COVID-19 window. The Grant Agent is requested to reduce the budget for the online platform down to US$ 500,000 and to shift the balance of this budget line to equity focused activities. The Grant Agent should therefore submit a revised budget and results framework.

4. For textbooks, the rationale of bringing textbooks home as learning material during COVID seems reasonable, as long as the timeline to distribute the textbooks is quick and prioritizes the most vulnerable. The Grant Agent should clarify the timeline and prioritization.

5. The Grant Agent should revise the results framework to include core indicators 1,2,3, and 4 from Table 2 of GPE's M&E guidance, and ensure all core indicators are reported as both the number and the percentage of the relevant beneficiary population reached. Further, the Grant Agent should include in their Results Framework targets for reaching children from IDP communities.

Please note that although this proposal is submitted together with a request for regular accelerated funding, activities approved here by the GPE CEO are specifically for COVID-19 related response and recovery. Therefore, none of the GPE Funds under this grant may be reprogrammed into other components of the regular accelerated funding or the current ESPIG without prior agreement from the GPE Secretariat. Also, if in an unlikely situation the ESPIG program encounters delays, measures should

be in place to ensure that the GPE supported COVID-19 Response Program continues to be implemented to the extent practicable.

Within the limitations mentioned in the previous paragraph, the Government and the Grant Agent may reprogram this grant, in consultation with the Local Education Group and where active the Education cluster, an amount not to exceed 25% of the allocation without prior Secretariat approval but must disclose such cases to the Secretariat. For an amount of 25% or more, as well as for any extension, advance approval from the Secretariat must be sought. The process for advanced approval will be that of non-minor revisions of ESPIG which can be found here:
https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/policyeducation-sector-program-implementation-grants