Alice P. Albright
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May 6, 2020

Hon. Bwalya Ng'andu
Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance
Lusaka
Republic of Zambia

Hon. David Mabumba
Minister of General Education
Ministry of Education
Lusaka
Republic of Zambia

Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding to Support Zambia's Education Sector

Hon. Ng'andu, Hon. Mabumba,

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 Zambia's application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of US $10 million. I have also approved a 7% agency fee for the grant agent, UNICEF, in the amount of US $700,000.

The grant has a start date of May 5, 2020 and an end date of November 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 fill out a quarterly survey 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.

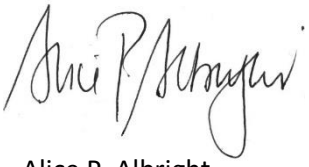
The Government and the Grant Agent may reprogram this grant, in consultation with the Local Education Group and where active the Education cluster, an amount not to exceed 25% of the allocation without

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/policy-education-sector-program-implementation-grants

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Plamen Danchev, Country Lead for Zambia.

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

Sincerely,



Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

cc:
Members of Program Implementation Technical Committee (PITC)
Mr. Mango'mbe Tembo, Planning Office and DCP Focal Point, Ministry of Education
Ms. Hideko Miyagawa, Chief of Education & Coordinating Agency Representative, UNICEF
Mr. Shadrack Omol, Deputy Representative, UNICEF
Ms. Saadhna Panday, Global Education Partnerships Lead, UNICEF
Mr. Poonam Buttan, Public Partnerships Specialist, UNICEF
Ms. Reiko Okumura, Public Partnerships Specialist, UNICEF
Mr. Sven Baeten, Acting Country Support Team Manager, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Plamen Danchev, Country Lead and Senior Education Specialist, GPE Secretariat

Annex 1 – 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 Zambia in the amount of US$10 million plus an additional US$700,000 in agency fees to UNICEF as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of May 5, 2020, and an end date of November 30, 2021. The GPE CEO recognized with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Government of Zambia 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 May 15, 2020:

(i) The proposed program includes a significant investment in incentives which will be directed to 200,000 vulnerable children to encourage their return to school. While technical discussions with MoGE and a preliminary needs assessment on incentives have not been completed, the proposal indicates incentives would mainly include learning materials and supplies. Please explain how the provision of learning materials is likely to encourage the return to school of vulnerable children in the given context and target groups, and whether further MoGE discussions on incentives and needs assessment findings would affect the composition of the incentive packages.

(ii) The application notes that while the criteria for identifying vulnerable children benefitting from 'back to school' incentives have not been finalized, the program approach will build on criteria used in the Public Welfare Assistance System and reflect further discussions with MoGE and other relevant ministries. While it is recognized that finalizing beneficiary selection criteria may take time, please provide further clarification and illustration of the types of children who will benefit from these incentives.

Finally, the Secretariat raises the following observations:

(i) The Secretariat notes that school feeding for vulnerable children is included in the COVID response plan and emphasizes that this is a critical aspect of support to ensure the most vulnerable children will be able to return to school. Since school feeding is not among the activities proposed for GPE funding, the Secretariat encourages further dialogue among partners to ensure school feeding is prioritized through other sources of funding.

(ii) Zambia is encouraged to ensure that future COVID-19 financing from partners complement the activities proposed in this application and align with both the Response Plan and the UN Humanitarian Flash Appeal. GPE-financed activities should not duplicate other response activities and the existing coordination mechanism should work on an ongoing basis to promote harmonization of response programs.