OPERATIONALIZATION OF SYRIA MAXIMUM COUNTRY ALLOCATION

Please note: Board papers are deliberative in nature and, in accordance with the GPE Transparency Policy, are not public documents until the Board has considered them at the Board meeting. It is understood that constituencies will circulate Board documents among their members prior to the Board meeting for consultation purposes.

Recommended by: Coordinating Committee
Board Policy Reference: BOD/2018/12-06–GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies

1. Objective

The purpose of this document is to request Board approval of shift in Board deliverable pertaining to the operationalization of the Syria MCA to June 2020.

2. Recommended Decision

BOD/2019/06-XX—Operationalization of Syria Maximum Country Allocation: The Board of Directors in reference to BOD/2018/12-06–GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies:

1. Affirms the MCA for Syria in the amount of US$25 million.
2. Notes the dire education needs and the fast-evolving situation on the ground in Syria while acknowledging the need to explore appropriate conditions for GPE's support in Syria in light of the funding model and GPE's Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies.
3. Emphasizes the need for continued consultation with GPE partners through the Syrian Education Dialogue Forum.
4. Agrees to assess in June 2020 whether appropriate conditions are in place for the operationalization of the Syrian MCA.

3. Background

3.1 At the December 2018 Board meeting the Board approved principles for GPE engagement in complex emergencies at the recommendation of the Grants and Performance Committee. Based on these principles, the Board was also asked to approve approaches for moving forward with engagement in two complex emergencies: Yemen and Syria.

3.2 While the Board approved the approach for restructuring the Yemen ESPIG, the Board did not approve the proposed approach for moving forward with the operationalization of the MCA for Syria as several Board members questioned whether it was appropriate or desirable for GPE to be engaged in the current Syrian context. The Board requested the Grants and Performance Committee (GPC) to reconsider whether to operationalize the MCA and make a recommendation to the Board in June 2019.

3.3 Following the December Board meeting, the GPC noted that the request did not provide clear guidance to the Committee while donor partners reiterated in a letter to the Board Chair their concern that the conditions for initial engagement of Syria with GPE are currently not in place.

3.4 The Coordinating Committee discussed the issue of the operationalization of the Syria MCA during its audio call on March 28, 2019.

3.5 Coordinating members emphasized the significance of the matter given the dire needs in Syria and the precedent it might set. It concluded that there was a need to consult more broadly with their constituencies in order for GPE to make an informed decision.

3.6 The Committee resolved to discuss the matter at the Board meeting and recommend the Board reassess in June 2020 whether to move forward with operationalizing the Syria MCA based on an assessment at that time from the Secretariat in consultation with partners in Syria and the GPC.

ANNEX A: RELATED BOARD DECISIONS

BOD/2018/12-06–GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies: The Board of Directors:

1. Adopts the revisions to the *Operational Framework for Effective Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States* set out in Annex 2 to BOD/2018/12 DOC 05 on principles for GPE engagement in complex emergencies. The Board notes that acting on these principles requires a risk-based approach for each specific context.
2. Requests the Secretariat to develop guidelines for the operationalization of the principles under the guidance of the Grants and Performance Committee (GPC). The operational guidelines should specify the need for coordination and complementarity among key actors including with Education Cannot Wait.
3. Requests the Secretariat to continue work on other modifications to the Operational Framework, under the guidance of the Grants and Performance Committee.
4. Requests the Secretariat to proceed with the development of support to Yemen according to the application of the Principles illustrated in Annex 3 to BOD/2018/12 DOC 05, and for the Grants and Performance Committee to review and approve or recommend approval of concrete funding proposals in accordance with its delegated authority.
5. Requests the Secretariat and the Grants and Performance Committee to develop for consideration at the June 2019 Board meeting a paper on whether GPE should operationalize the Maximum Country Allocation for Syria.