

Final Decisions

BOD/2019/12-01—Joint Education Sector Review Funding Window in ESPDG: The Board of Directors in reference to BOD/2019/06-15—Effective Partnership Roll-Out:

1. Approves the establishment of a window for financing joint education sector reviews within the existing education sector plan development grant (ESPDG) mechanism, including the proposed administrative approach set out in BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 2.
2. Authorizes an increase of the ESPDG ceiling from US\$500,000 to US\$700,000 to include the additional financing of a maximum of US\$50,000 annually which would be earmarked for joint education sector reviews.
3. Authorizes an increase of the Secretariat's authority to approve ESPDG applications from up to US\$500,000 to up to US\$700,000.

BOD/2019/12-02—Extension of GPE Multiplier Fund: The Board of Directors noting the importance of facilitating maximum uptake of the GPE Multiplier, and the need to allow sufficient time for submission of quality proposals, determines to:

1. Extend the validity of Multiplier Maximum Country Allocations that are either approved or extended by the Grants and Performance Committee at any point in 2020, to a date not to exceed December 31, 2021 as set out in BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 3.

BOD/2019/12-03—Three Lines of Defense: The Board of Directors:

1. Approves the three lines of defense model as set out in Annex A of BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 4.
2. Requests the Secretariat to review the three lines of defense model as needed, and to recommend any material changes to the Board.

BOD/2019/12-04—June 12-13, 2019 Board Meeting Report: The Board of Directors approves the Report of the Meeting of the Board of Directors in Stockholm, Sweden from June 12-13, 2019 as set out in BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 5.

BOD/2019/12-05 – 2020 Maximum Country Allocations (MCA) Options: The Board of Directors:

1. Notes that a number of countries are unlikely to meet GPE's funding model requirements or apply for their MCA before the end of the current strategic plan period resulting in automatic expiry of the allocation as of 31 December 2020.
2. Requests the Secretariat to present analysis and options for consideration by both the Finance and Risk Committee and the Grants and Performance Committee on how to operationalize such MCAs including whether additional flexibility on funding model requirements is warranted, whether such MCAs should be cancelled and funds re-allocated, or whether the allocations should be extended beyond 2020.
3. This analysis and options should take into consideration proposals on eligibility and allocation of funds for the Strategic Plan period 2021-2025 and should be presented for Board decision no later than June 2020.

BOD/2019/12-06 – Additional Funding: The Board of Directors recognizing the need to maximize the level of funding to support implementation of GPE 2020 and to respond to the needs of partners approves the following:

1. Increases the Maximum Country Allocation floor for ESPIG eligible Small Island and Landlocked Developing States to US\$2.5 million and for all other ESPIG eligible countries to US\$7.5 million. The financial impact of this decision is up to US\$29 million plus any applicable agency fees.
2. In reference to BOD/2019/12-05-Application of the Variable Part, notes that non-SILDS countries with original MCAs of US\$5 million and below that are submitting applications in 2020 may continue to choose whether to adopt an ex-post variable part.

BOD/2019/12-07 – Knowledge and Innovation Exchange: The Board of Directors:

1. Refers to its decisions to approve an allocation of US\$58.5 million (BOD/2019/03 - 01), and to consider a potential increase in funding based on available resources, initial demand, and satisfactory progress (BOD/2018/06 - 11)
2. Approves an additional US\$12 million (inclusive of agency fees of US\$785,047) to the International Development Research Centre as Grant Agent for the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) mechanism to fund quality applications from the first global call for proposals as described in BOD/2019/12 DOC 08 Annex A

BOD/2019/12-08—Additional Funding for Accelerated Support: The Board of Directors:

1. Notes the existence of emergencies in many GPE countries that threaten progress made in education and the results that GPE seeks and the projected availability of GPE resources in the current funding period.
2. Notes that the *GPE Guidelines for Accelerated Support in Emergency and Early Recovery Situations* allow eligible countries to apply for Accelerated Funding to address urgent needs for an amount up to 20 percent of an existing maximum country allocation for an education sector program implementation grant (MCA). The ESPIG MCA is consequently reduced by a corresponding amount.
3. Restores the MCAs for those countries that have already accessed Accelerated Funding in the current replenishment period by a corresponding amount as set out in Annex A to BOD/2019/12 DOC 09.
4. Invites countries with existing ESPIG MCAs that are eligible for Accelerated Funding to submit an application by end of 2020 for up to the amount set out in Annex A to BOD/2019/12 DOC 09 which represents 20% of their MCA, after which either:
 - a. the original MCA will be restored in full or
 - b. for eligible countries that have already received an ESPIG but have not received accelerated funding, up to 20 percent of the original MCA may be applied for in accelerated funding.
5. Delegates to GPC to make any changes to the Guidelines for Accelerated Support as set out in BOD/2012/11 DOC 09 to operationalize this decision, for example how to process any requests for extending the implementation period and ensuring links between the Education Cluster and the LEG.
6. In order to avoid additional transaction costs for all stakeholders and to better ensure linkages between multiple grants: Encourages (i) a single submission of the ESPIG and Accelerated Funding proposal, as applicable; and (ii) that the same grant agent is retained for the ESPIG, the Accelerated Funding grant, and any additional financing grant, unless circumstances demand a different grant agent for Accelerated Funding.

BOD/2019/12-09—Replenishment Surge Budget: The Board of Directors:

1. Approves a multi-year Secretariat surge budget for GPE's fourth replenishment campaign of US\$3,665,007 over the period FY20-FY22 as set out in Annex 2
2. Notes that the budget for the financing conference will be submitted at a later date once hosts, venue and other logistical options are determined
3. Agrees to a five-year replenishment period, with a major pledging conference in mid-2021.
4. Requests the Secretariat to further refine the GPE financing strategy for discussion at the Board retreat in March.

BOD/2019/12-10–Increasing Efficiency through Delegation: The Board of Directors:

1. Emphasizes the importance of reducing transaction costs, increasing the efficiency of grant approval processes, and rebalancing limited GPC time from applications to oversight of performance, while maintaining high standards of oversight and quality assurance.
2. Adopts the following risk-based approach to the delegation of grant approvals:
 - a. Delegates standing authority to the GPC to approve ESPIG/Multiplier grant approvals (including accelerated financing and additional financing) not to exceed US\$25 million or its equivalent in Euros plus applicable agency fees, noting that the GPC may continue to refer applications for Board decision if deemed to be in the interests of the partnership.
 - b. Delegates standing authority to the CEO to approve ESPIG/Multiplier grants (including accelerated financing and additional financing) not to exceed US\$10 million or its equivalent in Euros plus applicable agency fees, provided that the Secretariat’s assessment is that all applicable requirements and standards have been assessed as fully met. In cases requiring deliberation/exceptions, the Secretariat shall refer the application for GPC review and decision.
 - c. Requests the Secretariat to notify the GPC regularly of upcoming ESPIG/Multiplier applications not exceeding US\$10 million or its equivalent in Euros, to inform the GPC and Board of any such grant approvals it has made, and to make available the documentation of its assessment and decision meeting minutes of each application to facilitate oversight.

BOD/2019/12-11–Syria Maximum Country Allocation: The Board of Directors:

1. Agrees that GPE may provide financial support to help address the significant education needs inside Syria, working in close collaboration with humanitarian actors, and in line with the following conditions:
 - a. Funding will be deployed under applicable UN resolutions and mechanisms and in accordance with GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies.
 - b. Implementing partners will be vetted by the grant agent against the UNSC sanction list and EU restrictive measures.
 - c. No GPE funds will go to the Government of Syria and there will be no Government of Syria involvement in GPE activities. Cooperation with local authorities will be reduced to the minimum possible.
 - d. Support will be aligned with the coordinated Whole of Syria approach, the humanitarian response plan, and with Education Cannot Wait’s (ECW) Multi-year Resilience Programme (MYRP Framework).
 - e. Funding will not support stabilisation or reconstruction efforts and will respect international sanctions and red lines. Funding will only support reconstruction

efforts, subject to board decision when a comprehensive, genuine and inclusive political transition, negotiated by the Syrian parties in the conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015) and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué, is firmly under way.

2. Agrees, on an exceptional basis, and in recognition of the particularly complex operating environment in Syria, to:
 - a. Waive the DCP membership precondition and funding model requirements for grant funding
 - b. Select UNICEF as the most appropriate grant agent to ensure alignment with ECW's MYRP Framework and to operate in Syria in line with UN resolutions, the 'do no harm' principle, the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality
 - c. Request UNICEF to develop a GPE grant proposal in consultation with EDF for up to US\$25 million for a period not to exceed three years and in alignment with the MYRP Framework, or advise the Secretariat if it is unable to take on the role of grant agent
 - d. Consider for Board approval the proposal;
 - e. Determines that commitment of grant funds by the Trustee shall be made on an annual basis. The commitment of any grant funds for the second, third, and any subsequent years (should the program implementation period be extended) shall be subject to annual approval by the GPC to ensure continued alignment with the MYRP Framework. The GPC can determine to refer the issue to the Board if needed.
3. Notes that any individual donor may advise the Secretariat that its funding should not be allocated to Syria in order to comply with official policy positions. Any donors adopting this position should notionally earmark funding to other countries and regions in order to comply with the GPE Contributions and Safeguards Policy (clause 3.3).

BOD/2019/12-12: Strategic Plan: The Board of Directors:

Recognizes the scale of the education challenge, the urgent need to respond, and the key role GPE plays within the education architecture.

Strategic aspiration

1. Re-affirms GPE's commitment to SDG 4.
2. Re-affirms our commitment to equity, inclusion, and learning, including the central role of quality teachers and teaching, and the importance of gender equality;
3. Recognizing the majority of education financing comes from domestic resources, GPE will support national governments in the planning, sustainable financing,

monitoring and reviewing of holistic education systems for system-wide impact based on the principle of leave no one behind.

4. Recognizing that the detailed use of GPE resources will be determined by country level data, evidence, inclusive dialogue, and country context, noting the importance of building strong foundations from the early years, GPE implementation financing focuses on the poor and the most marginalized, and prioritizes at least one year of pre-primary education and 12 years of education and training.
5. Reaffirms that GPE's geographic footprint should be broadly consistent with that approved in 2017, namely Low Income, Lower Middle Income, and IDA eligible small island and landlocked developing states noting these countries account for the overwhelming majority of the World's out-of-school children, and those not learning;
6. Recognizes that how GPE operates in these countries will need to adapt to context and ensure alignment and coordination at global and national levels with other actors in the education sector;
7. Requests the Secretariat to develop draft language on proposed vision, mission, goals, and objectives of GPE 2025; and options on allocation and eligibility for specific GPE funding mechanisms for consideration by the Board in March 2020.

Ways of working

8. Agrees with the broad direction proposed by the strategic shifts on ways of working; specifically to explore how to better focus on delivery, leverage the power of inclusive partnership, and be a learning organization.
9. Requests the GPE Secretariat to prepare for the March Board retreat options to operationalize them;

Oversight

10. Agrees the Board oversight approach to strategy development detailed in BOD/2019/12 DOC 05.

BOD/2019/12-13 – Private Sector Engagement Strategy: Exceptional Circumstances Exemptions: The Board of Directors:

1. Approves the process outlined in Annex 1 through which exemptions to the Board policy of no GPE financing for for-profit provision of core education services may be considered in exceptional circumstances, and associated definitions, conditions, safeguards and time limits. In accordance with GPE grant processes, it is only Developing Country Partners that can apply for an exemption.

BOD/2019/12-14—2019-2020 Assessment of Board and Committee Performance and Effectiveness: The Board of Directors:

1. Recognizing the importance of yearly assessment of Board and Committee performance and effectiveness, endorses the proposed Assessment Questionnaire and Schedule, as presented in BOD/2019/12 DOC 02 Annex 1 rev.1.
2. Requests the Secretariat to implement the Board and Committee self-assessment in January 2020.
3. Requests the Governance and Ethics Committee to oversee the process and provide a final report in time for the March 2020 Board retreat.