

Final Decision

BOD/2020/03-03–COVID-19 Supporting Response and Early Recovery: The Board of Directors recognizes the serious impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children’s learning, particularly on girls and the most marginalized. Considering the role of GPE in support of partner governments planning, responding and coordinating action to mitigate impacts on education, the Board:

1. Allocates an initial amount of **US\$250 million** from the GPE Fund for the creation of a dedicated funding window focused on COVID-19 response and early recovery (COVID Accelerated Funding Window) as outlined in BOD/2020/03 DOC 02.
2. Approves the eligibility criteria for and maximum allocation size from the funding window as outlined in BOD/2020/03 DOC 02. Specifically, the Board approves eligibility for the 67 ESPIG Eligible Countries outlined in Annex A.
3. Recognizing the need for rapid response in exceptional circumstances:
 - a. Delegates authority to the CEO to approve all applications from the funding window through September 30, 2020, including for global and regional response mechanisms. The Board affirms that the delegation thresholds in place for all other types of grants remain unchanged. The CEO will report to the Coordinating Committee on the delegation.
 - b. Waives the requirement for a formal grant-level assessment of pre-accredited international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) for allocations above US\$5 million, noting the Secretariat will assess risk as part of the review of any such allocations.
 - c. Delegates authority to the Coordinating Committee to oversee the roll-out of the funding window and to approve the following modifications to the funding window if necessary, to successfully respond to the emerging crisis:
 - i. Adjustments to maximum allocation sizes.
 - ii. The amount of funds available for global and regional public goods.
 - iii. Modifications to the *Contributions and Safeguards Policy*¹ to facilitate additional contributions.
 - iv. Review the use of the COVID-19 Accelerated Funding Window every three months on whether to continue the fund and activities or to recommend to the Board to discontinue the fund and make unallocated funds available to the Board for reallocation.
4. Noting that the COVID-19 response is likely to disrupt the implementation of current grants and result in delays to the application pipeline, deferring some disbursements into the next financing period, agrees to increase the maximum financial carryover from 25 percent or US\$500 million to 37.5 percent or US\$750 million for the current 2018-2020 financing period. This is based on the Secretariat’s assessment that GPE is likely to have sufficient liquidity to continue to commit and disburse funds for existing and new programs through June 30, 2021.

¹ <https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/contributions-and-safeguards-policy>

5. Noting that potential demand for the mechanism may significantly exceed the available funds, determines that the COVID-19 Accelerated Funding Window is an eligible activity for targeted funding per the *Contributions and Safeguards Policy*, and calls on new and existing sovereign donors, private foundations and the private sector to make additional contributions to the GPE Fund. Such contributions may be notionally allocated to increase the size of the funding window, and there is no restriction on the maximum contribution size that may be provided from a donor.
6. Requests the CEO to provide regular updates to the Board on GPE's response to the pandemic and the impact on operations.