Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding to Support Sudan’s Education Sector

H.E. Dr. Elbadawi, Hon. Pr. al-Amin al-Toum,

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 Sudan’s application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of US$ 11 million. I have also approved a 1.75% agency fee for the grant agent, World Bank, in the amount of US $192,500.

The grant has a start date of June 19, 2020 and an end date of December 31, 2021. The full decision language of this approval can be found in the annex to this letter.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Subrata S. Dhar, Country Lead for Sudan.

We look forward to working with you closely to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education of Sudan’s children.
Sincerely,

Alice P. Albright  
Chief Executive Officer  
Global Partnership for Education

cc:  
Members of Education Partners’ Group  
Ms. Tamador Eltrifi Awad Elkrim, Under Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education  
Ms. Helen Craig, Chief of Education, UNICEF  
Mr. Mustafa Yassin ElKarib, Coordinating Agency Representative, UNICEF  
Mr. Omer Nasir Elseed, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank  
Ms. Thanh Thi Mai, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank  
Ms. Safaa El Tayeb El-Kogali, World Bank  
Mr. Douglas Sumerfield, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank  
Ms. Natalia Cherevatova, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank  
Mr. Sven Baeten, Acting Country Support Team Manager, GPE Secretariat  
Mr. Subrata S. Dhar, Country Lead and Senior Education Specialist, 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 Sudan in the amount of US$ 11,000,000 plus an additional US$ 192,500 in agency fees to World Bank as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of June 19, 2020 and an end date of December 31, 2021.

The GPE CEO recognizes with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Government of Sudan in preparing a 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.

The GPE Board approved the COVID-19 funding mechanism on a first come, first served approach for the first US$ 125 million of the US$ 225 million COVID-19 country funding window. Although the remaining US$ 100 million has been subsequently significantly increased to US$ 350 million by the Board, the demand for the COVID-19 funding mechanism still exceeds the available funds. Thus, Sudan’s approved amount is lower than the requested US$ 15 million.

Unless otherwise indicated by the decision language request for Report-Back, and keeping within the original budget of each component, the government and grant agent have full authority to prioritize within the approved activities of the original application, after consultation with the local education group.

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 July 10, 2020:

Request to Report Back

1. The Grant Agent is requested to provide a revised program document (including results framework, budget and implementation plan), following consultation with the LEG and agreement by the Government. This revised program document needs to prioritize activities so as to keep within the new grant allocation and must address the requirement noted below. Upon receipt of the revised program document, the Secretariat will verify compliance with the requirement below, but there will be no additional grant approval issued, nor further reassessment of the program.

   i. The Secretariat positively notes the focus of the proposed program on vulnerable children including IDPs, refugees and children with disabilities. It is important that these activities focusing on vulnerable children, remain in the grant as much as possible following the reduction of grant size.
The Secretariat also raises the following points of observation, which are recommendations rather than requirements:

**Observations**

(a) Considering the urgency of the COVID-19 activities, the fragile macroeconomic circumstances in the country and the delays encountered on the existing accelerated funding program, it is strongly recommended that the Grant Agent and Government commence implementation of the program by end June and disburse at least US$200,000 as envisaged in the program document, if necessary, through the use of the retroactive financing provision. Should delays to the program start date be encountered, the matter may be referred to the Grants and Performance Committee for its consideration.

(b) An appropriate reduction in implementation support costs given the lower overall budget.

**Reporting**

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.

**Reprogramming**

The Government and the Grant Agent may reprogram this grant, in consultation with the Local Education Group and where active the Education cluster, for 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](https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/policy-education-sector-program-implementation-grants)