

Final Decision

CEO/2020/07-01–Allocation for Somalia-Puntland Accelerated Funding Request: The CEO, in her delegated authority from the Board of Directors:

1. Approves an allocation for an Accelerated Funding Grant, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1.
2. Requests the Secretariat to:
 - a. Include in its notification of approval to Puntland the report-back set out in Table 2.
 - b. Include an update on the report-back in the annual Grant Performance Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

Table 1 – Summary of Application		
a.	ESPIG Accelerated Funding Maximum Country Allocation	2,890,000
b.	Allocation Requested (100%)	2,890,000
c.	Allocation Approved	2,890,000
d.	Grant Agent	UNICEF
e.	Agency Fee % - Amount	202,300
f.	Grant Agent's Implementation Support Costs	608,000 ¹
g.	Period	18 months
h.	Expected Start Date	August 1, 2020
i.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

Table 2 – Report-Back Requested	
Report Back	The grant agent should submit the finalized M&E framework to the Secretariat within three months of program start-up.

Annex A – Secretariat quality assurance review phase III report

¹ This amount is to be funded from the grant and is not in addition to the grant amount.

ANNEX A – QAR III - SECRETARIAT DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Program title: Equitable Access to Quality Education Services and Improved Learning Opportunities for Crisis-Affected Girls and Boys in Puntland
Total program cost: US\$2.89 million, of which US\$ 608,000 for Grant Agent’s Implementation Support Costs
Implementation period: 18 months
Projected implementation start date: August 1, 2020
Grant Agent: UNICEF

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCELERATED FUNDING

The Puntland State of Somalia (Puntland) meets the three eligibility criteria² for accessing accelerated funding.

1. Puntland is eligible for education sector program implementation grant program (ESPIG) funding. In December 2019, the GPE Board decided to provide an additional allocation for accelerated funding, under which Puntland could access US\$2.89 million in accelerated funding, valid until end of 2020 unless otherwise adjusted by the Board. This amount of the Accelerated Funding (AF) application is equal to 20% of the total indicative maximum country allocation (MCA) of US\$ 14.43 million³.

2. Puntland is affected by a crisis for which a humanitarian appeal has been launched and published by the UN Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs, with education as a part of that appeal. Somalia’s Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2020⁴ was launched by the UN Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in January 2020, to provide life-saving assistance and livelihood support to 3.0 million Somalis affected by conflict, climatic shocks and displacement across the whole of Somalia. Education is part of the HRP.

3. The application demonstrates that GPE funds will not displace government and/or other donor funds but will be in addition to other resources. The humanitarian needs for education in Somalia far outweigh the resources available. In the HRP, education’s requirement is US\$42.0 million, of which only US\$8.8 million is funded, leaving close to 80% of funding needs unmet⁵.

² As per [GPE Guidelines for Accelerated Support in Emergency and Early Recovery Situations](#)

³ Puntland is implementing a restructured ESPIG in the amount of US\$ 14.43 million, with UNICEF as grant agent. The original ESPIG in the amount of US\$5.6 million was approved in August 2017 and the ESPIG was restructured in November 2019 with an additional MCA of US\$8.83 million. The restructured ESPIG ends on December 31, 2023.

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalia-humanitarian-response-plan-2020-january-2020>.

Somalia’s 2020 HRP covers Somalia (Federal), Puntland and Somaliland.

⁵ OCHA Financial Tracking Service, <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/831/summary> (accessed June 5, 2020)

2. COUNTRY AND EDUCATION SECTOR EMERGENCY CONTEXT

2.1 COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Puntland is a semi-autonomous state situated in the north-east of Somalia. Somalia faces recurrences of climatic shocks (droughts, floods, recently locusts), protracted conflict and insecurity, continuous population displacement, and recently the COVID-19 epidemic, and ranks as the world's second most fragile state⁶. The population of the whole of Somalia was estimated at 12.3 million in 2014, of which 4.3 million live in Puntland⁷. With an estimated GDP per capita of US\$ 573⁸, more than half the population survive on less than US\$2 per day, and 20 percent of households live off remittances⁹. An estimated 28% of the Puntland population need humanitarian assistance¹⁰.

Puntland has remained relatively stable, but it is sensitive to conflict. Structural preconditions for violence include access to resources, clan dynamics, lack of economic opportunity/poverty, and marginalized youth. Conflict include border disputes and intrusion by Al-Shabaab insurgents from the South that can mobilize groups to use violence. Droughts, floods and lately locust infestations make resources scarce and increase conflict risk. The government's ability to raise taxes is limited and security takes up a large part of the government budget.

As COVID-19 cases are surging, floods have affected close to a million people, with 418,000 displaced, and new swarms of desert locusts raze crops. The multiple shocks have increased the vulnerability of populations in Somalia, including pastoralists, whose resource base of livestock is diminishing. Remittances from the diaspora have declined, and basic commodity prices are rising following disruptions in supply chains due to COVID-19 restrictions and flood-damaged roads.¹¹

2.2 EDUCATION SECTOR CONTEXT

Somalia has about 4.5 million school-aged children, of which only 35 percent girls and 41 percent of boys are enrolled in school, while 3 million school-aged children are out of school¹². A recent Education Cannot Wait (2019)¹³ estimate suggests that 41.2 per cent of children in Puntland are currently out of school. Across Somalia, access to education is significantly impaired for children belonging to families in the lowest income quartile and defined populations from rural areas, pastoralists and internally displaced persons (IDPs); the same applies for Puntland.

⁶ According to the [2019 Fragile States Index](#), which assesses the fragility of a country based on 12 social, economic and political indicators.

⁷ August 2014, Puntland Population Estimation Survey, Statistics Department, Ministry of Planning, Puntland

⁸ 2011 estimation provided in the Additional Financing ESPIG Proposal Document, p. 20

⁹ [OCHA Somalia website](#).

¹⁰ According to Puntland's Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency, cited in OCHA 2019 p. 15.

¹¹ OCHA, [Somalia Humanitarian Bulletin, 1 May – 2 June 2020](#).

¹² Somalia 2019 Joint Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (JMCNA) cited in HRP 2020, p. 47

¹³ ECW (2019) <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/the-government-of-puntland-state-of-somalia-education-cannot-wait-and-save-the-children-launch-major-new-education-programme-for-children-affected-by-conflict-and-drought/>

According to OCHA’s 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview for the whole of Somalia, 1.37 million crisis-affected children (of which 50.4 percent girls, 29.0 percent displaced children, and 15.0 percent disabled children) are in need of assistance to either stay in school or enroll in school¹⁴.

In 2020, the education cluster targets 307,000 (of which 49% girls) children including 157,528 displaced children (49% girls) and 149,755 (49% girls) non-displaced children, who are at increased risk of dropping out of school or not being able to access schools¹⁵.

Table 1 provides a brief overview of Puntland’s education system by subsector:

Table 1: Enrolment and number of schools, by subsector

Sub-sector	2018/2019 enrolment	2018/2019 # schools
ECE	No data	No data
Primary, including Integrated Quranic Schools (IQS)	173,112	658
Alternative Basic Education (ABE)	4,716	46
Non-Formal Education (NFE)	8,748	112
Secondary	32,760	72
TVET	1,995	18
Higher Education	16,513	14
Total	237,844	920

Education sector coordination works through: (i) the Education Donors Group (EDG) based in Nairobi¹⁶, co-led by USAID and EU; (ii) the Education Sector Committee (ESC) in Garowe, co-chaired by MoECHE and UNICEF; (iii) the Somalia Education Cluster coordinating education in emergencies, co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children; and (iv) an education in emergencies working group (EiEWG) in Garowe which serves as a complementary coordination platform for education in emergencies, co-led by UNICEF and MoEHE.

The monitoring of sector performance in Puntland is carried out through joint review of the education sector (JRES) with participation from local stakeholders and most international agencies. Puntland’s JRES have been held annually since 2015 and have served as a forum for peer learning, where the more experienced Puntland government provides an example to achieve for other administrations in Somalia. Puntland’s 5th JRES covering 2017/18 and 2018/19 implementation was held in January 2020.

¹⁴ 2020 [HNO](#), p. 48. The difference between the 3 million out of school children and the 1.37 million children in need of humanitarian aid is because a number of children are not affected directly by conflict or natural disaster but are simply out of school for other reasons, such as poverty, lack of availability of schools etc.

¹⁵ Program Document, p. 12; HRP 2020, p. 41

¹⁶ EDG members in Nairobi include: EU (Coordinating Agency), USAID, World Bank, Canada, and Norway. DFID, UNICEF and Education Cannot Wait participates remotely. At the request of the Coordinating Agency, the GPE Secretariat exceptionally participates in EDG meetings remotely or in person where possible.

2.3 EDUCATION SECTOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONTEXT

Puntland's MoEHE (national, regional and district education authorities and educators) has limited capacities for crisis-sensitive planning and management¹⁷.

Puntland's Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) 2017-2021 covers mainly development activities. The ESSP is complemented by the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan, which features a brief section on humanitarian education aid (specifically targeting out-of-school IDPs) and is based on the more detailed Somalia Education Cluster Response Strategy 2020. The cluster response strategy and hence HRP includes the provision of emergency school feeding, provision of safe drinking water, hygiene promotion and the provision of teachers' incentives to maintain teachers in schools, construction of WASH facilities, and activities related to child protection in schools.

Puntland's ECW-supported Multi-Year Resilience Program (MYRP, August 2019 – August 2022) aims to improve learning and wellbeing of children affected by emergencies in Puntland through increased access to quality, inclusive, gender-responsive, child-friendly and sustainable education, targeting six priority areas (equitable access, learning outcomes, protective learning environments, education continuity/resilience, strengthened education management systems, and improved gender equity). The MYRP outcomes contribute towards achieving the policy priorities set in the ESSP and the HRP. The ECW MYRP is currently funded by US\$9.9 million out of total US\$60.0 million required, leaving 83 percent of the MYRP requirement unmet.¹⁸

Schools in Puntland are currently closed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Puntland's MoEHE in collaboration with the Education Cluster has developed a government COVID-19 education sector response plan and submitted an application to access GPE COVID-19 accelerated funding grant in the amount of US\$ 1.3 million, with UNICEF as grant agent.

3. ACCELERATED FUNDING PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

3.1 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ESPIG AND ACCELERATED FUNDING GRANTS

Puntland is currently implementing an ESPIG in the amount of US\$14.43 million¹⁹. The ESPIG and AF programs are complementary.

The ESPIG is long-term developmental program covering education services in line with Puntland's education sector plan, the ESSP, across both rural and urban areas. Key ESPIG interventions include EMIS, learning assessment, teacher training, scholarship, and system strengthening including technical assistance.

The Accelerated Funding (AF) program aims to bridge the humanitarian-development nexus, focusing on activities appropriate to a protracted emergency in drought- and flood-affected schools.

¹⁷ Program Document, p. 22

¹⁸ Correspondence with ECW country lead for Somalia, Zeinab Adam, May 1, 2020.

¹⁹ The parent ESPIG in the amount of US\$5.6 million was approved on August 21, 2017. An additional financing of US\$ 8.83 million was added as a costed restructuring on October 23, 2019. The restructured ESPIG is hence in the amount of US\$14.43 million. Its closing date is January 1, 2024.

It focuses on specific geographic locations (such as coastal, pastoral/nomadic and conflict affected communities) with low education provision impacted by recent cyclones, floods, conflicts, and influx of IDPs in poor host communities. The AF program will target specific vulnerable children in Bosaso IDP camps because no other programs are supporting in this area, according to a recent MoEHE mapping exercise; Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and ECHO funded programs target other districts like Galkayo, Gardo, and Garowe.

Both programs contribute to increase access and improve equitable quality education for children (both boys and girls) across Puntland, albeit with slightly different geographical focus and target groups, with the AF program ensuring coverage of the most vulnerable crisis-affected children. The AF program explicitly aims to strengthen the MoEHE's education in emergencies (EiE) coordination and management capacity, while the ESPIG does not explicitly focus on EiE. As opposed to the ESPIG, community-based organizations/NGOs play a role in AF program implementation, enhancing community resilience for education continuity during crisis.

3.2 ACCELERATED FUNDING PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In late January 2020, the Minister of Education informed the Secretariat of Puntland's interest to apply for the accelerated funding (AF) grant, and its choice of UNICEF as grant agent. The ESC and the Somalia Education Cluster have been fully consulted and endorse the program. On May 21, 2020, MoEHE submitted the AF application in the amount of US\$ 2.89 million. This is the allocation approved by the GPE Board in December 2019. The proposed program is a stand-alone project for a duration of 18 months starting on August 1, 2021.

The AF program will contribute to achieving the objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the related Education Cluster 2020 response strategy, as developed by the Somalia Education Cluster in cooperation with the MoEHE. Further, the AF program is aligned with the objectives of the Multi-Year Resilience Program (MYRP) of Education Cannot Wait, which in turn contributes to the HRP.

The AF program aims to enhance equitable access to quality education services and improved learning opportunities in safe and protective environment for crisis-affected girls and boys. An estimated 22,500 primary school children (50% or 11,250 girls) will directly benefit from the program, to be implemented in Nugal, Bari, Sool, Mudug, and Sanaag regions of Puntland. Specific target groups include: IDPs and poor host communities, girls, children with disabilities, hard-to-reach rural communities, children from minority groups, and children from coastal communities. 60% of the targeted children will be those at risk of dropout, and 40% will be OOSC.

The program targets public and community primary schools, and Alternative Basic Education (ABE) centers. The MoEHE is working to strengthen the regulatory framework for the primary subsector under which the ABE subsector will have a subsection. The ABE syllabus has been reviewed and aligned with Puntland's 2015 curriculum framework. OOSC enrolled in ABE centers will, upon completion of ABE, be enrolled in primary schools. The ABE subsector has faced funding challenges resulting in significant decline in enrolment since 2017/2018. 20 percent of the student and teacher population targeted by the AF program will be in ABE schools. That is equivalent to 4,500 students (of which 50 percent girls) in ABE schools, and 40 ABE teachers.

The three key outcomes of the AF program, and the associated activities, follow below.

Outcome 1 (US\$ 1.4 million) focuses on increased equitable access to education for all crisis-affected children and adolescents, including children and adolescents with disabilities.

Activities include: provision of WASH facilities (e.g. water tanks and safe drinking water in the famine and drought affected areas for 7,000 children); school grants for 60 schools; construction/rehabilitation of 40 permanent classrooms, construction of 40 temporary learning spaces and 80 latrines and handwash facilities, and equipping the 80 classrooms; and enrolment drives and awareness campaigns for out-of-school children. The focus on (gender separated) WASH facilities and hygiene promotion is crucial for girls' enrolment and is important because of the triple hazards of droughts, floods and COVID-19. Girls will also receive menstrual dignity kits. The school grants will be needs-based and will be awarded to schools on the basis of school development plans prepared by community education councils (CECs) under outcome 3.

Outcome 2 (US\$ 0.6 million) focuses on improved quality and learning outcomes for crisis affected children and adolescents.

Activities include conducting a learning assessment; in-service teacher training and \$100 monthly incentives for 200 teachers; and provision of teaching and learning materials for 22,500 children. The teacher incentives are deemed necessary to motivate teachers to serve in remote, emergency-affected areas, since teachers rely on school fees paid by parents (education is not free in Puntland). Due to crises such as conflicts, cyclone and floods, parents cannot afford to pay school fees. The \$100 monthly rate of the teacher incentives is the minimum rate that has been harmonized by the MoEHE across programs in consultation with the ESC. The teacher training will set quotas for female teachers and put in place mentorship programs for female teachers. The teaching and learning materials will be based on minimum standards developed in 2019 by the Somalia Education Cluster and the grant agent UNICEF.

Outcome 3 (US\$ 0.3 million) focuses on strengthening education management systems.

Activities include strengthening the MoEHE's Education in Emergencies (EiE) unit through EiE training of 40 ministry staff, construction of an EiE warehouse, and embedding one EiE TA at the ministry; and sensitization of teachers and community education councils on inclusive education, child rights and violence free learning, and development of school development plans (forming the basis for the school grants under Outcome 1).

Puntland proposes to utilize the existing coordination mechanisms - the Education Cluster, the Education Sector Committee, the Education Donors Group, and the EiEWG. The proposed AF program will coordinate closely with the GPE-funded ESPIG (UNICEF is grant agent for both), and other donor funded programs. The AF program will benefit from the systems strengthening component of the ESPIG and in particular the strengthened capacity of MoEHE for program implementation.

Table A: ESPIG Components and Costs

COMPONENTS		GPE Financing (US\$)	% of total GPE
OUTCOME 1	Increased equitable access to education for all crisis-affected children & adolescents, including children & adolescents with disabilities	1,406,000	48.7%
Output 1.1	Crisis-affected children & adolescents have access to a safe & protective learning environment	1,376,000	
Output 1.2	Increased access to education for out of school children	30,000	
Outcome 2	Improved quality & learning outcome crisis affected children & adolescents	597,500	20.7%
Output 2.1	Improved learning outcomes for crisis affected children	350,000	
Output 2.2	Children receive timely and adequate Teaching Learning Materials	247,500	
Outcome 3	Education management systems are strengthened	278,500	9.6%
Output 3.1	Strengthen capacity of schools, local communities and MOEHE	259,000	
Output 3.2	Building Resilience through system strengthening	19,500	
Grant Agent's Implementation Support Costs*		608,000	21.0%
	Bank transfer charges	30,000	1.0%
	Program Support Cost	468,000	16.2%
	Monitoring and Evaluation	110,000	3.8%
GRAND TOTAL (with Grant Agent's Implementation Support Costs)		2,890,000	100.0%
	Agency Fees**	202,300	7.0%

* Include Grant Agent's direct costs, such as Program Management, Administrative and other direct implementation costs.

** Agency Fee is not included in the MCA and is calculated as percentage rate (agreed with each GA) from the Total Fixed Part and Total Variable Part.

4. CONCLUSION

The proposal is recommended to the CEO to approve with the following Observations, Report Backs, and/or Conditions:

Observation	None
Report-back	The GA should submit the finalized M&E framework to the Secretariat within three months of program startup.
Condition	None