



**Board of Directors  
Decision Via Affirmative Vote  
August 19, 2020**

**Final Decision**

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**BOD/2020/08-01–Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant and Multiplier Grant to Cameroon:**

The Board of Directors with respect to the application submitted in the second round of 2020:

1. Notes compliance with the requirements on *overall* domestic financing for education, data, and the education sector plan for accessing the fixed part of the combined maximum country allocation for an education sector program implementation grant (ESPIG) and Multiplier grant, as described in the application and summarized and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2020/07 DOC 01. With regard to the domestic financing *sub-requirement* on financing for primary education, notes that Cameroon commits to increasing the share of primary education *without fully reaching the 45 percent benchmark within the timeframe of the grant*. The Board decides to *condition* the transfer of grant funds beyond Year 1 on set milestones in financing for primary education.
2. Notes compliance with meeting the requirements for accessing the variable part of the MCA and approves the indicators on Equity, Efficiency, and Learning and their means of verification as described in the application and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2020/07 DOC 01.
3. Notes compliance with the requirements of co-financing, additionality, and debt sustainability for accessing the maximum country allocation for a multiplier grant, as described in the application and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2020/07 DOC 01.
4. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2020/08-01 4 (c), subject to:
  - a. Availability of funds.
  - b. Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for ESPIGs in annual installments.
  - c. GPC recommendations for funding, including (all amounts in US\$):

<b>Table 1: Cameroon</b>		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	38,800,000
b.	Multiplier Maximum Country Allocation	15,000,000
c.	Fixed Part	35,800,000

d.	Variable Part	18,000,000
e.	Allocation Requested (100%)	53,800,000 <sup>1</sup>
f.	<b>Allocation Recommended by GPC</b>	<b>53,800,000</b>
g.	Grant Agent	World Bank
h.	Agency Fee % - Amount	1.75% - 941,500
i.	Period	6 years
j.	Expected Start Date	November 2, 2020
k.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-Post
l.	Funding Source	GPE Fund
m.	Multiplier Co-Financing Institutions - amount	World Bank – 175,000,000

5. Requests the Trustee to withhold the transfer of funds until the conditions set out in Annex A have been met.
6. Requests the Secretariat to:
  - a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Cameroon the observations, requests for report-back and conditions as recommended by the Grants and Performance Committee and set out in Annex A to BOD/2020/07 DOC 01.
  - b. Include an update on the issues listed as condition and report back in the annual Grant Performance Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

<sup>1</sup>Includes US\$1,350,000 for the cost of the grant agent to perform its roles and responsibilities.

## ANNEX A – GPC OBSERVATIONS, REQUESTS FOR REPORT-BACKS AND CONDITIONS

Cameroon	
Observations	<p>The Committee commends the role and active participation of the local education group (LEG) in the grant preparation process and appreciates the program’s attention to pre-primary education by supporting access for an increased number of rural children to community pre-school centers (CPCs) that meet the government’s quality standards, including use of official curriculum, the qualification of teachers as well as the safety of school facilities. The Committee also commends the use of public resources to expand the CPCs and not only rely on external aid, by providing teachers with subsidies and training. This strategy is key to ensuring the sustainability of the pre-school centers and to significantly expanding access to pre-school for 5-year-old children.</p> <p>Moreover, the Committee appreciates the inclusion of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host communities in the program design and program components. The Committee also positively notes the use of cost-effective digital technology to support the educational needs of refugees and IDPs.</p> <p>The Committee expresses its concerns about the potential impact of the pandemic on the education system. The Committee invites the government and the grant agent, in consultation with the LEG, to assess the risks and identify mitigation measures related to COVID impacts, such as on potential delays of the implementation of key reforms and other constraints. In particular, the Committee invites the government and the grant agent, in consultation with the LEG, if necessary, to envisage the modification of variable part indicator targets.</p>
Report-Backs	<p><i>For the coordinating agency:</i></p> <p>The Committee notes that a clear roadmap has been shared for the development of the next education sector plan. However, the Committee encourages the coordinating agency to continue to follow up on the implementation of the roadmap and requests an update by October 1, 2020, on progress made and challenges.</p> <p><i>For the government:</i></p> <p>The Committee also requests the government to provide an annual update, via the joint sector review report, on: (i) the education expenditures (ii) the status of children living with disabilities; and (iii) the progress made with regard to the implementation of the teacher policy strategy.</p> <p>The Committee appreciates that the program focuses on capacity development of teachers and notes that the government will report disaggregated data by gender on the number of teachers recruited/trained, as well as on the number of female teachers benefiting from direct interventions to enhance learning. The Committee stresses the importance of recruiting female teachers. The</p>

	<p>government is requested to discuss progress during joint sector reviews and provide an update to the Secretariat annually via the JSR report.</p> <p><i>For the grant agent:</i></p> <p>Regarding the use of digital technology, the Committee duly notes that digital technology will be utilized for achieving disbursement-linked indicator (DLI) 2 on teacher training and learning materials under Performance-Based Financing (PBF), DLI5 on learning assessment, DLI6 on EMIS, DLI7 and 7b on refugee/host communities and IDPs. The Committee shares the view that information and communications technology can help promote cost-effectiveness of interventions, increase their reach, and promote changes in classroom practices through innovative pedagogy, but also notes the importance of monitoring disparity and ensuring inclusiveness in terms of access to electricity, hardware and software, and connectivity and data costs for those in and outside of school. The grant agent is requested to provide an annual update, including on learners who may be excluded from a given intervention and how these risks are monitored and addressed, via its regular progress reports.</p>
<p>Conditions</p>	<p>The Committee recognizes the government’s commitment through the Ministry of Finance and ministries of education to increase the share of domestic financing allocated to the education sector to the 20 percent benchmark by 2022 as well as to increase the share of primary education expenditure towards 44 percent within the life of the project. However, the Committee expresses concerns over the effective achievement of these targets given the challenges of the government related to revenue and financing projections for education. The Committee further notes that the COVID-19 pandemic may exacerbate these challenges.</p> <p>The Committee therefore requests that prior to the Trustee committing and transferring funds to the grant agent beyond Year 1, the government provide an annual report-back via the joint sector review report on the education budget, including the allocation to primary, as approved by parliament. Each year, the Secretariat will request the coordinating agency on behalf of the LEG to advise on information thus provided and present it to GPC before authorizing the Trustee to commit and transfer funds linked to activities for Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 respectively.</p> <p>The Committee may revise the verification process after consultation with country-level partners.</p> <p>In the event annual commitments are not fulfilled and without sufficient justification as assessed by the Grants and Performance Committee, the Committee may recommend further action to the Board, including suspension of the grant.</p>