

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Guidelines**

---

#### **What guidance should be followed to make an application for Accelerated Funding?**

The [Guidelines](#) for accelerated support in emergency and early recovery situations.

#### **Is there an application form or program document template?**

There is a [Cover note](#) for accelerated funding applications. There is no template for the program document – the Grant Agent can use their own.

#### **What does an Accelerated Funding application consist of?**

The cover note, program document, and evidence of endorsement by LEG, Education Cluster, and Government (unless in exceptional circumstances).

### **Eligibility and amount**

---

#### **Which countries are eligible?**

Countries with an MCA that have an ongoing humanitarian appeal that includes education, published by UN OCHA, are eligible. This includes Humanitarian Response Plans and flash appeals. Please refer to the website <https://hum-insight.info/> for a list of HRPs and flash appeals.

#### **How much can be applied for?**

The total amount of Accelerated Funding should be based on the needs assessment and cannot exceed 20% of the MCA. Partners should assess funding needs and complementarity early on in the process.

#### **What if a country is facing a crisis for which there is no OCHA-published appeal?**

As outlined in the [Operational Framework for Effective Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States](#), an ongoing ESPIG can be restructured to respond to a crisis.

#### **What decision did the Board of Directors make in December 2019?**

That for countries eligible for Accelerated Funding in December 2019 (listed in Annex B of [this](#) Board document), the funding would be additional to the country's MCA rather than deducted from it.

**Is there a deadline to submit an application for Accelerated Funding resulting from the December 2019 Board decision?**

The Board of Directors has invited applications by the end of 2020. Early application before June 30 is encouraged in order to address emergency needs as outlined in Humanitarian Response Plans in a timely manner.

**Grant Agent selection**

---

**How should the Grant Agent be selected?**

- Unless in exceptional circumstances<sup>1</sup>, government, in consultation with the Local Education Group and Education Cluster, selects a grant agent to manage the funding.
- Selection of the grant agent should be guided by the [terms of reference for grant agents](#), with particular attention to the agency's ability to operate in the emergency or post-emergency context.
- To avoid delays in the transfer of funds, grant agents must be selected among agencies that have a Financial Procedures Agreement in place prior to the submission of the application.
- The [standard selection process](#) for Grant Agents may be used to guide the process, but efforts should be made to make the process quick.

**Which agencies are already accredited as Grant Agents for an ESPIG (have a Financial Procedures Agreement in place)?**

1. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
2. Agence française de développement (AFD)
3. Enabel (Belgian Development Agency)
4. CARE USA\*
5. Concern International\*
6. Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
7. Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
8. Save the Children UK\*
9. Save the Children USA\*
10. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
11. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
12. UNESCO

---

<sup>1</sup> For example, in cases of no legitimate or recognized government. GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies should be applied in such cases. These outline that where direct participation of government in standard GPE processes is not practical or feasible, the remaining LEG can fulfil these functions.

13. UNICEF
14. The World Bank Group

\* Please note that if the grant amount exceeds US\$5 million and the Grant Agent is an INGO, a grant level assessment will need to be conducted.

**Does the Grant Agent have to be the same as the GA for the ESPIG?**

No.

**Is a PDG available for the Grant Agent?**

No.

**Program development**

---

**What reference framework should the application be based on?**

The OCHA-published Humanitarian Response Plan / flash appeal, i.e. the education cluster's emergency needs assessment and/or an assessment of early recovery needs.

**What are eligible expenditures?**

Activities could include, but are not limited to, emergency activities such as temporary shelters, school meals and distribution of school supplies, as well as activities critical to establishing or rebuilding education services, such as classroom construction, teacher remuneration and school grants.

**Can programs exceed 12 months?**

The Grants and Performance Committee has accepted longer timelines for Accelerated Funding than originally envisioned in the guidelines, so a country can apply for 18 or even 24 months. What is important is a link with the emergency, i.e. that funds are not used as a top-up to the regular ESPIG. If the OCHA appeal includes e.g. reconstruction after a disaster, interventions supporting preparedness, strengthening national emergency management capacities, these could be assessed as reasonably convincing arguments for the program to take longer. There may be other country-specific considerations that make exceeding 12 months appropriate.

**Can Accelerated Funding support Multi-Year Resilience Programs (MYRPs)?**

As long as the MYRP is framed by the Humanitarian Response Plan / Education Cluster needs assessment, and the partners on the ground (Local Education Group and Education Cluster) endorse the plan, this is possible and encouraged.

**Could Accelerated Funding support sector-pooled programs?**

In theory yes, if the education sector plan includes interventions to support emergency needs and Accelerated Funding is earmarked towards that end.

**Quality Assurance**

---

**How does the Secretariat quality assure Accelerated Funding programs?**

The Secretariat quality assures the program once a final application has been submitted by partners, using the quality standards for Accelerated Funding programs. The Country Lead can share these standards with the Grant Agent and other partners to guide program development.

**Does the Secretariat quality assure or provide guidance to the draft program document?**

There is no mandatory quality assurance of draft program documents. The Secretariat is available to provide feedback to drafts if requested by partners.

**Approval**

---

**Who makes a decision on the application?**

- CEO of GPE Secretariat for grants up to US\$ 10 million
- Grants and Performance Committee for grants above US\$ 10 million

**How quickly is a decision made?**

In both cases within 4 weeks from when the country has submitted its final application. The Secretariat takes 2 weeks (up to 10 business days) to review the application. Provided there are no major concerns, the application is forwarded for a decision to the CEO or GPC (see above), who make a decision within 2 weeks.

## **Transfer of funds**

---

### **How quickly are funds transferred?**

When the Grant Agent sends a request to the Secretariat to transfer funds, it is generally processed the following month. However, if the project is to begin implementation immediately, then exceptions can be made to transfer the funds once they are approved. Please make sure to explicitly flag these situations to the Secretariat no later than at application to facilitate smooth transfer.

## **Reporting and revisions**

---

### **What is the policy for revisions of Accelerated Funding programs, including no-cost extensions?**

The [Policy on ESPIGs](#) applies to Accelerated Funding programs, notably Part IV (Reporting requirements) and Part V (Revisions to programs).

### **What is the policy on reporting on Accelerated Funding programs?**

Unless a more frequent report-back is requested as part of the grant's approval, the first progress report essentially serves as an implementation completion report. For programs with an implementation period of less than 18 months, the report should be submitted within 6 months of the closing date of the program. In case the implementation period is more than 18 months, a progress report on the first 12 months needs to be submitted. *Source:* [Guidance note](#) on implementation grant progress and completion reports for grant agents.

### **Is there a template for reporting?**

Yes, the standardized template for [progress reports](#) should be used. This template should also be used as an implementation completion report template.

## **Communications**

---

### **Are there any guidelines on communications related to Accelerated Funding programs?**

Yes, there is a [protocol for media outreach](#), which applies to media and general outreach in GPE partner countries related to GPE grants and to any other GPE-supported program. It includes, but is not limited to, press releases, grant signings and/or related ceremonies, press conferences, media interviews, publications, training programs, seminars, symposia, public information materials, and items purchased with GPE funds.