

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECISION VIA AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ALLOCATION FOR AN ESPIG TO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Reference	Decision
BOD/2020/12-01	<p>Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant to Central African Republic</p> <p>The Board of Directors with respect to the application submitted in the third round of 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the maximum country allocation (MCA) for an education sector program implementation grant (ESPIG), as described in the application and summarized and assessed in BOD/2020/11 DOC 01.2. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG and a multiplier grant, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2020/12-01 2 (c), subject to:<ol style="list-style-type: none">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\$):

Table 1 - Application Summary and GPC Allocation Recommendations for an ESPIG:

Central African Republic		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	31,600,000
b.	Fixed Part	31,600,000
c.	Variable Part	N/A
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	31,600,000 ¹
e.	Allocation Recommended by GPC	31,600,000
f.	Grant Agent	World Bank
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	1.75% - 553,000
h.	Period	4 years and 2 months
i.	Expected Start Date	April 26, 2021
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-ante
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

3. Requests the Secretariat to:
- a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Central African Republic the observations and requests for report-back set out in Annex A.
 - b. Include an update on the issues listed as report back in Annex A in the annual Grant Status Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

¹ Includes US\$750,000 for the cost of the grant agent to perform its roles and responsibilities.

Annex A – GPC Observations and Report-Backs

Central African Republic	
Observations	<p>The Committee commends the commitment of the government of the Central African Republic (CAR) to addressing and prioritizing the education sector challenges reflected in the recently approved ESP (May 2020), which was the result of an inclusive and participatory process with contributions from all stakeholders.</p> <p>The Committee also commends the strength and the relevance of the proposed program in the country context and welcomes the government's initiative to introduce the Sango language in the early grades of primary education with a pilot initiative supported by the GPE grant.</p> <p>In line with the program's support to national strategies to address access and quality affecting displaced populations and vulnerable populations with a focus on girls, the Committee stresses the need to ensure that the most vulnerable children will benefit, including from the school construction.</p> <p>The Committee recommends that the implementation of capacity building activities, including those related to the implementation of the national learning assessment system, be closely monitored by the government and the broader local education group (LEG) to ensure their sustainability.</p> <p>The Committee further recommends that support to ensure data availability disaggregated by vulnerable populations (refugees, displaced, children with disabilities, and girls) and its dissemination be prioritized by the government and the broader LEG.</p> <p>The Committee invites the government and the grant agent, in consultation with the LEG, to assess the risks and identify mitigation measures related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education system, such as on potential delays in the implementation of key reforms.</p> <p>With regard to the cases of misuse of funds and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) under the previous GPE grants in the Central African Republic, the Committee recognizes that the grant</p>

	<p>agent has adequate policies and procedures in place for monitoring and mitigating issues and is confident that vigilance is being exercised and that any reoccurrences will be immediately reported to the Secretariat in accordance with these policies and procedures.</p>
Report-Backs	<p><i>For the Government:</i></p> <p>Given CAR's unstable security and financial situation, as well as a potential change in government following upcoming elections, the Committee requests the government to provide an annual report-back on education expenditure, including on the share of the national budget allocated to primary education, via the joint sector review (JSR) report.</p> <p>The Committee commends the design of the ESPIG, focused on priority interventions, which aims to ensure realistic implementation in a challenging context. To ensure the implementation of priority strategies and key reforms, the Committee requests an annual report-back via the sector implementation report at the time of the JSR in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The strategy and initiatives tackling challenges to girls' education in response to gender-based violence and early marriage as factors preventing girls from access and retention in school, including progress made on relevant indicators disaggregated by gender. 2. The implementation of key reforms that are required to improve the status of the community teachers that will be trained with the GPE grant, and the allocation and retention of qualified teachers in the disadvantaged areas targeted by the GPE grant, particularly rural areas. 3. Progress on further developing the EMIS, as well as defining and setting up the national learning assessment system.