

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECISION VIA AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ALLOCATION FOR AN ESPIG TO REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Reference	Decisions
BOD/2021/06-12	<p><u>Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant to Republic of Congo:</u> The Board of Directors with respect to the application submitted in January 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the fixed part of the maximum country allocation (MCA) for an education sector program implementation grant, as described in the application and summarized and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2021/06 DOC 05.2. 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/2021/06 DOC 05.3. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2021/06-12 3 (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) Secretariat recommendations for funding, including (all amounts in US\$):

Table 1 Application Summary and Secretariat Allocation

Recommendations:

Republic of Congo		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	10,700,000
b.	Fixed Part	7,490,000
c.	Variable Part	3,210,000
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	10,700,000 ¹
e.	Allocation Recommended by Secretariat	10,700,000
f.	Grant Agent	UNESCO
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	7% - 749,000
h.	Period	4 years
i.	Expected Start Date	July 1, 2021
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	Ex-post
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

- 4. Requests the Secretariat to:
 - a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Republic of Congo the observations and request for report-back set out in Annex A.
 - b. Include an update on the requested report back in the annual Grant Status Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

¹ Includes US\$535,000 for the cost of the grant agent to perform its roles and responsibilities.

Annex A – Secretariat Observations and Report-Back

Republic of Congo	
Observations	<p>The Secretariat appreciates the inclusive process, supported by the Local Education Group, that led to the development of a program strongly aligned to the Education Sector Plan and providing relevant activities in a challenging context. The Secretariat welcomes in particular the emphasis put on equity by focusing on regions where girl's education needs support most, and the overall attention to vulnerable children in pre-primary and primary schools.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes the impact of the pandemic on education systems and invites the Government and the grant agent, in consultation with the local education group, to consider adapting the proposed program to emerging issues, notably impact on children learning as a result of school closures, as needed. Other adaptations to consider could relate to mitigation measures on potential delays or other constraints that the pandemic may have on program implementation including, if necessary, a modification of indicator targets.</p>
Report-Back	<p>Given that the Republic of Congo does not currently spend at least 45 percent of the recurrent education budget on primary education, the government is requested to report annually via the joint education sector review on the planned increase in the share of spending for primary education as well as on the Primary Completion Rate as the country approaches universal primary education.</p>