

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DECISION VIA AFFIRMATIVE VOTE

ALLOCATION FOR AN ESPIG FOR SYRIA

Reference	Decisions
BOD/2021/08-03	<p>Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant for Syria:</p> <p>The Board of Directors with respect to the application submitted on June 30, 2021 and in reference to Board decisions BOD/2019/12-11 and BOD/2021/04-02:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notes compliance with the program standards for accessing an education sector program implementation grant (ESPIG), with Board decision BOD/2019/12-11, and with the GPE Operating Principles in Complex Emergencies, as described in the application and summarized and assessed in BOD/2021/08 DOC 01.2. Notes that per Board decision BOD/2019/12-11, the funding requirements, variable part, and GPE membership requirements are waived.3. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2021/08-03 3 (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. The Secretariat recommendations for funding, including (all amounts in US\$):

Table 1 - Application Summary and Secretariat Allocation Recommendation for an ESPIG:

Syria		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	25,000,000
b.	Fixed Part	25,000,000
c.	Variable Part	N/A
d.	Allocation Requested (25%)	6,250,000 ¹
e.	Allocation Recommended by Secretariat	6,250,000
f.	Grant Agent	Save the Children, USA
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	7% - 437,500
h.	Period	3 years
i.	Expected Start Date	September 1, 2021
j.	Variable Part Disbursement Modality	N/A
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund

4. In line with BOD/2019/12-11, requests the Trustee to withhold the transfer of funds beyond Year 1 (US\$2,219,819) until the conditions set out in Annex A have been met.

5. Requests the Secretariat to:

a. Include in its notification of grant approval to the grant agent and the Education Dialogue Forum the observations and conditions set out in Annex A.

b. Include an update on the conditions in the annual Grant Status Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

¹ Includes US\$1,100,578 for the cost of the grant agent to perform its roles and responsibilities. The total MCA for Syria is US\$25 million. The allocation requested represents the remaining 25% of the MCA. In April 2021, the Board approved an ESPIG for Syria with UNICEF as grant agent, which requested 75% of the allocation and proposed in consultation with Syrian Education Dialogue Forum members, to invite Save the Children as grant agent to submit a proposal for the remaining 25% (BOD/2021-04-02). As per GA policy, the program will be managed by Save the Children International, Syria Country Office with oversight from Save the Children, USA as the Grant Agent.

Annex A – Secretariat Observation, Report-Back and Condition

Syrian Arab Republic – Save the Children, USA	
Observations	<p>The Secretariat welcomes the ESPIG application from Save the Children, USA to support critical education activities in North East Syria (NES). The Secretariat acknowledges the extensive consultation and collaboration between the Grant Agent and Syrian Education Dialogue Forum (EDF) members in the development of the program proposal. Given the context of Syria, the Secretariat finds that the proposed program is relevant to the needs and aligned with the respective United Nations (UN) resolutions, the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach, the Syrian Humanitarian Response Program (HRP) and the Multi-year Resilience Program (MYRP) framework supported by Education Cannot Wait and is based on an intervention matrix agreed between UNICEF and development partners on October 15, 2020.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education systems and invites the government and the grant agent, in consultation with the local education group, to consider adapting the ESPIG to emerging issues, notably the 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>The Secretariat appreciates the strong emphasis on child protection in addition to the Grant Agent’s mechanisms for Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH). Given the current context of Syria and as per GPE policy, the Grant Agent is requested to conduct a SEAH risk assessment specifically related to the GPE ESPIG and to share the assessment outcomes with the Secretariat latest by December 15, 2021.</p>
Condition	<p>In line with GPE Board decision BOD/2019-12-11, prior to the Trustee committing and transferring grant funds beyond Year 1, the Grant Agent is requested to report annually on the continued alignment of the program with the MYRP Framework. After each report-back, the Executive Committee will determine the adequacy of the report-back in order to authorize the Trustee to commit and transfer funds linked to activities for the subsequent year. The Executive Committee may refer the decision to the Board if needed.</p>