



**Board of Directors
Decision via Affirmative Vote
May 19, 2020**

Final Decision

BOD/2020/05-04–Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation

Grant to Punjab: The Board of Directors with respect to the application submitted in the first round of 2020:

1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the fixed part of the maximum country allocation (MCA) as described in the application and summarized and assessed in Annex B to BOD/2020/04 DOC 03.
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/2020/04 DOC 03.
3. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1 in BOD/2020/05-04 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. GPC recommendations for funding, including (all amounts in US\$):

Table 1: Punjab		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	50,625,000
b.	Fixed Part	35,437,500
c.	Variable Part	15,187,500
d.	Allocation Requested (100%)	50,625,000
e.	Allocation Recommended by GPC	50,625,000
f.	Grant Agent	UK Department for International Development (DFID)
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	N/A
h.	Period	5 Years
i.	Expected Start Date	July 1, 2020
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 Punjab the observations and requests for report-back as recommended by the Grants and Performance Committee and set out in Annex A to BOD/2020/04 DOC 03.
 - b. Include an update on the issues listed as “report back” in the annual Grant Performance Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

ANNEX A – GPC OBSERVATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR REPORT-BACKS

Pakistan-Punjab	
Observations	<p>The Committee commends the province on directly supporting the sector goals of Punjab with this program by addressing critical challenges stated in the Punjab education sector plan (ESP). These challenges include high numbers of out-of-school children, inequitable access to school for children from low socio-economic strata, low student learning outcomes and lack of evidence-based policy-making. Of particular mention is the attention to children with disabilities as included in various components within the proposed program.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledges the work and effort of the government in developing its ESP. It is an improvement from the previous plan in terms of its sector-wide approach, its use of evidence, and its inclusive and participatory nature.</p> <p>The Committee notes the impact of the pandemic on education systems. The Committee invites the government and the grant agent, in consultation with the local education group (PEDPG), 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-Backs	<p><i>For the Government:</i></p> <p>Given the historical lack of joint sector reviews (JSRs) being conducted in the province and considering GPE's principle of mutual accountability, and the need to monitor sector progress, the Committee is encouraged to see that the ESP includes an annual JSR. The Committee requests the government to share the resulting meeting report on the annual JSR with the Secretariat for the duration of the grant, and include details on how the JSR was conducted, its results, and the participatory approach of the members of the PEDPG, the Planning and Development Department, the Finance Department, teacher organizations and civil society.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledges the investment in this program towards non-formal education to address out-of-school children who do not have access to formal education. However, the Committee recommends the government discuss with partners during the annual JSR options to bring non-formal education institutions towards the formal system. It requests an annual report-back on the progress of the discussions through the JSR report.</p> <p>The Committee appreciates the planned use of tablets for school-based continuous teacher professional development, building on the positive experience of an on-going pilot. The Committee recommends that the government and the grant agent monitor utilization of the tablets, ensuring teachers have equitable access to this digital tool, document the results of its effectiveness on improving teaching practices, and provide an annual report-back on the findings via the JSR report. The Committee encourages Punjab to share the findings with other countries as well to enhance south-south learning.</p> <p>The Committee also requests the government to reinforce consultation with civil society organizations (CSOs) throughout the sector planning and monitoring process, including but not limited to JSRs, as well as in the monitoring of the ESPIG, in developing potential revision requests, and in the development of future ESPIG proposals.</p> <p><i>For the government and grant agent:</i></p> <p>The Committee recognizes the many areas addressed by the program. At the same time, the ESPIG could better monitor how the program targets are addressing challenges in relation to refugees and gender disparities. The Committee therefore requests the grant agent to include sex-disaggregated indicators in all program components and report on this in its regular implementation report. The Committee also requests the government of Punjab to report back through the annual JSR report on the inclusion of support for refugees and the mainstreaming of gender within its strategies.</p> <p><i>For the grant agent:</i></p> <p>The Committee notes the considerable costs related to the set-up and operation of equipment for the integrated management information system. The Committee requests an annual report-back on the effectiveness of the equipment utilization in support of evidence-based decision-making, through the grant agent's regular implementation report.</p>
--------------	---