June 15, 2020

Hon. (Amb). Ukur Yatani
Cabinet Secretary
National Treasury and Planning
Nairobi
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Pr. George Magoha
Cabinet Secretary for Education
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Nairobi
REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding to Support Kenya’s Education Sector

Hon. (Amb.) Yatani, Prof. Magoha,

On behalf of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), I am pleased to inform you that with the delegated authority from the GPE Board of Directors, I have approved Kenya’s application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of US$ 11 million. In addition, I have also approved a 1.75 % agency fee for the grant agent, World Bank, in the amount of US$ 192,500.

The grant has a start date of June 15, 2020 and an end date of December 31, 2021. The full decision language of this approval can be found in the annex to this letter.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Fazle Rabbani, Country Lead for Kenya.

We look forward to working with you closely to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education of Kenya’s children.
Sincerely,

Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

cc:
Members of the Local Education Group, EDPCG
Ms. Martha Karmapa, National Project Coordinator, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Mr. Saidou Sireh Jallow, Head of Office & Representative, UNESCO
Ms. Ruth Karimi Charo, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank
Ms. Safaa El Tayeb El-Kogali, World Bank
Mr. Douglas Sumerfield, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank
Ms. Natalia Cherevatova, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank
Mr. Sven Baeten, Acting Country Support Team Manager, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Fazle Rabbani, Country Lead and Senior Education Specialist, GPE Secretariat
Annex – DECISION LANGUAGE

In line with the delegated authority granted by the Board of Directors, the GPE CEO approves the COVID-19 accelerated funding request for Kenya in the amount of US$ 11,000,000. The grant has a start date of June 15, 2020 and an end date of December 31, 2021.

The GPE CEO recognizes with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Government of Kenya in preparing a response plan and the grant proposal that will help Kenya mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the education sector as well as support the recovery of the education system from the crisis.

The GPE Board approved the COVID-19 funding mechanism on a first come, first served approach for the first US$ 125 million of the original US$225 million COVID-19 country funding window. Although the remaining US$ 100 million has been subsequently significantly increased to US$ 350 million by the Board, the demand for the COVID-19 funding mechanism still exceeds the available funds and the maximum allocation for Kenya is now US$ 11 million, lower than the initial allocation and requested amount of US$ 15 million.

Unless otherwise indicated by the decision language request for Report-Back, and keeping within the original budget of each component, the government and grant agent have full authority to prioritize within the approved activities of the original application, after consultation with the EDPCG.

Recognizing the GPE Board’s intent to proceed with the COVID-19 funding on a timeline which acknowledges the COVID-19 emergency, the Government and Grant Agent are asked to move forward with implementation immediately while addressing the following points and reporting back to the Secretariat by July 6, 2020:

Request for Report-Back

1. The Grant Agent is requested to provide a revised program document (including results framework, budget and implementation plan), following consultation with the EDPCG and agreement by the Government. This revised program document needs to prioritize activities so as to keep within the new grant allocation and must address the requirements noted below. Upon receipt of the revised program document, the Secretariat will verify compliance with each of the requirements below, but there will be no additional grant approval issued, nor further reassessment of the program.

   i. The Secretariat appreciated Kenya’s commitment to equity in education by supporting school feeding, especially for the refugee children, psychosocial support, and the proposed use of multiple channels for remote learning. As prioritization of activities is done to reflect the reduced allocation, the Secretariat requests Kenya to prioritize these activities.
ii. The Government and Grant Agent are requested to seek ways of amplifying messages countering gender-based violence using the multiple communications channels and platforms to be supported by the grant.

The Secretariat also raises the following points of observation, which are recommendations rather than requirements:

Observations

a) As more funding for COVID-19 is made available from internal and external sources, the EDPCG is encouraged to ensure complementarity amongst activities, especially for mitigating medium to long-term impacts of COVID19 pandemic.

b) Given the urgency of the crisis, grant implementation to commence on schedule and the Grant Agent to submit a cash transfer request within two weeks of approval to facilitate the timely release of funds in support of program implementation.

c) An appropriate reduction in implementation support costs given the lower overall budget.

Reporting

Please note that during the implementation period, the GPE Secretariat will require the Grant Agent to fill out a quarterly survey which will request core data on program implementation. At the end of the implementation period, the Grant Agent is expected to submit a completion report to the GPE Secretariat. Detailed information on the reporting requirement is available in the Guidelines for COVID-19 Accelerated Funding on GPE website.

Reprogramming

The Government and the Grant Agent may reprogram this grant, in consultation with the Local Education Group and where active the Education cluster, for an amount not to exceed 25% of the allocation without prior Secretariat approval but must disclose such cases to the Secretariat. For an amount of 25% or more, as well as for any extension, advance approval from the Secretariat must be sought. The process for advanced approval will be that of non-minor revisions of ESPIG which can be found here: https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/policy-education-sector-program-implementation-grants