Hon. Joseph M. Mwanamvekha
Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development
Ministry of Finance
Lilongwe
Republic of Malawi

Hon. Dr. William Susuwele-Banda
Minister of Education, Science and Technology
Ministry of Education
Lilongwe
Republic of Malawi

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

Hon. Mwanamvekha, Hon. Dr. Susuwele-Banda,

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 Malawi’s application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of US $10 million. I have also approved a 7% agency fees for the grant agent, UNICEF, in the amount of US $700,000.

The grant has a start date of May 15, 2020 and an end date of November 30, 2021. The full decision language of this approval can be found in the annex to this letter.

Please note that during the implementation period, the GPE Secretariat will require the Grant Agent to fill out 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.

The Government and the Grant Agent may reprogram this grant, in consultation with the Local Education Group and where active the Education cluster, 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

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Plamen Danchev, Country Lead for Malawi.

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

Sincerely,

Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

cc:
Members of Local Education Group (LEG)
Dr. Rodwell Sitembala Mzonde, Director of Education Planning, Ministry of Education
Ms. Saadhna Panday, Global Education Partnerships Lead, UNICEF
Mr. Poonam Buttan, Public Partnerships Specialist, UNICEF
Ms. Reiko Okumura, Public Partnerships Specialist, UNICEF
Mr. Sven Baeten, Acting Country Support Team Manager, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Plamen Danchev, Country Lead and Senior Education Specialist, GPE Secretariat
Annex 1 – 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 Malawi in the amount of US$10 million plus an additional US$700,000 in agency fees to UNICEF as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of May 15, and an end date of November 30, 2021.

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

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 May 29, 2020:

(i) The proposal indicates that remedial or accelerated learning programs will reach 50 schools per district while P-8 revision classes will reach 10 schools per district. Since both are targeted intervention, please clarify the criteria that will be used to identify beneficiary schools, and how these criteria ensure interventions reach vulnerable populations.

(ii) Ensure to report the core indicators included in the results framework as both the number and the percentage of the relevant beneficiary population reached.

Finally, the Secretariat raises the following observation:

(i) As the COVID-19 response plan is further developed and further funding is confirmed, it will be important to maintain strong coordination with Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and other partner-supported activities so that overlap and duplication is avoided.