Hon. Philip Isdor Mpango  
Minister of Finance and Planning  
Ministry of Finance and Planning  
Dar es Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Dr. Joyce Ndalichako  
Minister of Education, Science and Technology  
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology  
Dar es Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania

**Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding to Support Tanzania - Mainland’s Education Sector**

Hon. Mpango, H.E. Dr. Ndalichako,

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 Tanzania - Mainland’s application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of US $15,160,000. I have also approved a 1% agency fee for the grant agent, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, in the amount of US $151,600.

The grant has a start date of May 28, 2020 and an end date of June 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 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*].
Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Lucinda Ramos, Country Lead for Tanzania - Mainland.

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

Sincerely,

Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

CC:
Members of Education Sector Development Committee (ESDC)
Mr. Gerald Mweli, Deputy Permanent Secretary Education, PO-RALG, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Dr. Leonard Akwilapo, Permanent Secretary, Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Dr. Ave Maria Semakafu, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Ms. Paula Engwall, First Secretary of Education, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Ms. Stella Mayenje, National Programme Officer for Education, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Mr. Ulf Källstig, Head of Development Cooperation Division, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Ms. Angela Cardenas, Education Office Director and Chair, Development Partners Group, USAID
Mr. Sven Baeten, Acting Country Support Team Manager, GPE Secretariat
Ms. Lucinda Ramos, Country Lead and Senior Education Specialist, GPE Secretariat
In line with the delegated authority granted by the Board of Directors, the GPE CEO approves the COVID-19 accelerated funding request for Tanzania-Mainland in the amount of US $15,160,000. The grant has a start date of May 28, 2020 and an end date of June 30, 2021.

The GPE CEO recognizes with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Government of Tanzania in preparing a 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.

The GPE Board approved the COVID-19 funding mechanism on a first come, first served approach for the first US$ 125 million of the US$ 225 million COVID-19 country funding window. The demand for the mechanism has significantly exceeded the currently available funds. Thus, Tanzania-Mainland’s approved amount is lower than the requested US$ 18 million. While adjustments are made to the proposed program to reflect the lower approved amount, the Secretariat requests that activities with clear and immediate impact on the continuation and safeguarding of education for vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis be prioritized over activities that provide lesser immediate value for money for this purpose. In particular, the distribution of laptops to education personnel should not be prioritized for funding from this grant.

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 June 15, 2020:

**Request for Report-Back**

(i) Given the urgency of the crisis, GPE expects grant implementation to commence on schedule and encourages 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.

(ii) Update the program document and budget to reflect the approved amount and to ensure alignment between the two documents.

(iii) Activities supporting upper secondary education are not allowable under this window and should be removed from the proposal. Activities which appear to be supporting upper secondary includes the exam support to Form 6.

(iv) Update the program document to remove, or reduce budget allocated to activity 2.4.1, procurement of 3,333 laptops, and shift available budget toward other equity-improving activities. While the program focus on decentralized monitoring and school support is well-received, the short-term utility of this investment does not appear to provide strong value for money in relation to this funding window. Recognizing the potential for the laptops as a medium-term investment, GPE encourages country partners to engage in further dialogue with potential
private sector partners (including partners engaged through the GPE Global COVID Grant) and to consider the potential to finance this investment under the existing ESPIG.

(v) Further clarify how the Government and partners will support learning remediation after schools reopen, especially amongst the most vulnerable students. This review notes the meeting minutes of the GOT-DP consultation which also raise the importance of learning remediation and DP responses, in the context of potentially available EPforR funding.

(vi) Identify the criteria that will be used to determine which areas will receive support to print materials (1.1.4) and textbooks (2.1.2).

The Secretariat also raises the following observation:

Observation

(a) To ensure public access to the government response plan, the Secretariat recommends that the MoEST post the plan on its website.

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