Ms. Alice Albright  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Global Partnership for Education  
1818 H Street, NW, P 6-600  
Washington DC 20433  
USA  

Dear Ms. Alice,

Subject: Endorsement of Puntland Education Sector Strategic Plan

In our newly acquired role as Coordinating Entity for future GPE funding, we are pleased to write to you on behalf of the Education Sector Committee (ESC) for Somalia/Puntland and to express the ESC’s endorsement of the Puntland Education Sector Strategic Plan.

The Puntland Education Sector Strategic Plan (2012-2016) was developed in 2012 in a consultative process involving first and foremost the Ministry of Education; and the Education Sector Committees, i.e. the Committee in Garowe, which encompasses the education actors in Puntland, and the Committee in Nairobi, which covers all actors working on education for the whole of Somalia, who are usually posted in Nairobi. The consultants’ appraisal of the Education Sector Strategic Plan was done during the past few weeks, and the outcomes were presented to the Nairobi ESC on 21 February and to the one in Garowe on 27 February. Both groups endorsed the documents, which can be seen on the attached lists of signatures.

We would like to point out that, whilst the Education Sector Strategic Plan does not mention any other donor contributions, several donors do effectively contribute to education in Puntland. From the 10th EDF, the EU has recently contracted 25 million Euros for the whole of Somalia (out of which 6.825 million Euros exclusively for Puntland and 2 million Euros being shared among all of Somalia); with previously funded projects still on-going, and another 30 million Euros to be contracted in 2014 (for the whole of Somalia). All new contributions are fully aligned with the Education Sector Strategic Plan. The same applies to USAID, with their current contribution of 20 million USD (for the whole of Somalia). Despite these contributions, there is still a considerable funding gap, and the envisaged support from GPE is more than welcome.
We share that the ESSP has not been updated after the appraisal process. The Ministry of Education has agreed to update the ESSP soon in line with the recommendations of the appraisal consultant.

Please be aware that Kenya, where a considerable number of development partners have their offices for Somalia, is going to have presidential elections on 4 March. On this day, and in the course of the whole week, it may therefore be difficult to reach partners, including from UNICEF and the EU.

Yours sincerely,

Michele Cervone d'Urso