TARGETED FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT GPE’S GENDER EQUALITY POLICY AND STRATEGY – REPORT FROM THE GOVERNANCE, ETHICS, RISK AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (GERF)

For Decision

1. STRATEGIC PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Paper is for the Board to consider the recommendation from the Governance, Ethics, Risk and Finance Committee to approve the targeted financing arrangements for additional support for GPE’s Gender Equality Policy and Strategy and related Action Plans.

Summary of GERF Deliberations

The GERF met on September 22 via audio call to discuss the proposal; and recommended the proposal for Board approval.

The following points were discussed:

- First, the targeted financing is supplemental to GPE commitment to mainstreaming gender equality and achieving gender-based results and outcomes in GPE2020. The Secretariat agreed and clarified the twin-track approach in the Board paper.
- The GERF also inquired whether secretariat administered funds meant that the secretariat would deliver all the activities. The Secretariat clarified by explaining that Secretariat administered funds would be used to fund activities that would be delivered using the expertise of key partners, including UNGEI. It added that the higher ratio of funds allocated for Secretariat administered activities in the Gender Equality proposal than the BELDS initiative recognizes that the approach to the capacity development components in this initiative will build on existing work with UNGEI and other partners and is more focused on direct support for capacity development and technical assistance.
- Fourthly, the GERF asked for greater clarification that the additional staff funded for this proposal is a program officer level and is separate from the expert level position approved at the Oslo Board. This has been amended in the Board document.
- Finally the GERF emphasised the importance of ensuring these projects are aligned with the GPE’s core mandate.
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 At the June 2016 Board meeting, the Board approved the Gender Equality Policy and Strategy 2016-2020 in BOD/2016/06 DOC 06-07. One of the six main output areas of the strategy for 2016-2020 is “Gender-responsive sector analysis, planning, and implementation,” including “building the capacity of Developing Country Partners.” The strategy provides a framework that lays out the goals, expected outputs, results and links to GPE2020 results. The Board also endorsed the broad goals and objectives to strengthen country capacity through knowledge and good practice exchange in the KGPE strategy set out in Annex 1 to BOD/2016/06 DOC 16, including the designation of gender equality as an area of focus for targeted financing.

2.2 The Board further approved the procedures and safeguards proposed for accepting targeted financing for KGPE initiatives from foundations and other donors on an interim basis for the period July 2016-December 2017, as set out in Annex 1 to BOD/2016/06 DOC 16.

2.3 The Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) has expressed an interest in supporting and accelerating activities linked to the sector analysis, planning and monitoring components of GPE’s Gender Equality Strategy and Policy and the associated FY17 Action Plan with funding of $2 million. CIFF has an existing $22 million contribution agreement with the GPE that includes $2 million reserved for as yet unspecified activities that enhance the Partnership’s ability to monitor and evaluate its work. CIFF proposes to use this $2 million to support sector analysis, planning and monitoring components of GPE’s GEPS.

2.4 In line with global best practice, GPE has adopted a twin-tracked strategy of gender mainstreaming, which includes 1) integrating gender equality issues into all of GPE’s core business and 2) supporting targeted gender equality initiatives. This combined approach will accelerate the achievement of GPE2020 outcomes and results. As per the current contribution agreement, the CIFF funding will be received into the GPE pooled fund, through the existing signed contribution agreement with the funders.

2.5 CIFF funds will be additional to funds agreed by the Board for the Gender Equality Policy and Strategy in the FY 2017 budget. CIFF Funds will help accelerate, amplify and expand the activities laid out in the Gender Strategy as follows, which will be documented annually in GPE’s Results Report:

- USD$1.5 million will be used for Secretariat-administered activities working closely with partners to support country and regional gender-responsive sector planning workshops, knowledge exchange activities with developing country partners, and the creation and dissemination of additional knowledge and advocacy products, tools and guidelines. One additional program specialist will manage these expanded initiatives, and prepare an annual report on the progress made towards gender equality and success stories across GPE developing country partners. These expenses will be accounted for separately from the core Secretariat budget and the staff position will not form part of the core Secretariat headcount as the position is specifically tied to these funds, unless otherwise determined by the Board.
The remaining funds – initially US$500,000 plus any additional targeted donor contributions raised – will be used to pilot a small grants program to support countries to improve analysis, data collection and policy development to support gender-responsive sector analysis and planning, with a focus on building capacity. The process and guidelines for these grants will be subject to approval by the Country Grants and Performance Committee.

3. **RECOMMENDED DECISION**

The GERF recommends that the Board approve the following decision by no-objection:

**BOD/2016/10-XX— Additional Financing to GPE’s Gender Equality Policy and Strategy:**

**Strategy:** The Board of Directors:

1. Approves the receipt and use of targeted financing to support GPE’s Gender Equality Policy and Strategy into the GPE pooled fund as outlined in BOD/2016/09 DOC 02.
2. Delegates authority to the Country Grants and Performance Committee to approve the process and guidelines for the proposed pilot small grants program.
3. Delegates authority to the Governance, Ethics, Risk, and Finance Committee to approve the arrangements for any additional targeted contributions in support of the Gender Equality Policy and Strategy and related Action Plans.
4. Delegates authority for potential revisions to the BELDS financing arrangements following final Foundation Board sign off to the Governance, Ethics, Risk, and Finance Committee, who may refer to matter back to the Board.
5. Requests the Secretariat to update the GERF, CGPC and SPC committees and Board on the status of this work on an annual basis.

4. **BACKGROUND**

4.1 At the June 2016 Board meeting, the Board approved the Gender Equality Policy and Strategy 2016-2020 in BOD/2016/06 DOC 17. One of the six main output areas of the strategy for 2016-2020 is “Gender-responsive sector analysis, planning, and implementation,” including “building the capacity of Developing Country Partners.”

4.2 In order to build capacity of Developing Country Partners to engage in gender-responsive sector analysis, planning, and implementation, the SPC Gender Equality Policy Working Group proposed a range of KGPE activities as part of the Gender Equality Policy and Strategy, and Year 1 (FY17) Action Plan.

4.3 At the same Board meeting, the Board also approved a framework to accept targeted financing for KGPE in three areas to strengthen country capacity through knowledge and good practice exchange: Better Early Learning and Development at Scale (BELDS), Assessment for Learning (A4L), and Gender, as set out in Annex 1 to BOD/2016/06 DOC 16.
4.4 In line with global best practice, GPE has therefore adopted a twin-tracked strategy of gender mainstreaming, which includes 1) integrating gender equality issues into all of GPE’s core business and 2) supporting targeted gender equality initiatives.

4.5 The Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) has expressed an interest in supporting and accelerating activities linked to the Gender Equality Strategy with funding of $2 million. CIFF has an existing $22 million contribution agreement with the GPE that includes $2 million reserved for as yet unspecified Monitoring and Evaluation activities. CIFF proposes to use this $2 million to support GPE’s GES.

4.6 The CIFF funding would complement and amplify the Partnership’s support for gender equality as articulated in the Gender Equality Strategy (GES). It will be used to engage additional countries in capacity development for gender responsive sector planning, and to prepare stronger monitoring and documentation of gender equality successes across the Partnership, deepening, expanding and accelerating the GES.

4.7 The Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) has expressed an interest in supporting and accelerating activities linked to the Gender Equality Strategy with funding of $2 million. CIFF has an existing $22 million contribution agreement with the GPE that includes $2 million reserved for as yet unspecified Monitoring and Evaluation activities. CIFF proposes to use this $2 million to support GPE’s GES.

4.8 As per the current contribution agreement, the CIFF funding will be received into the GPE pooled fund, through the existing signed contribution agreement with the funders.

4.9 The budget below describes how the CIFF funding will be used:

- Over a two-year period, USD$ 1.5 million will be used for Secretariat-administered activities working with partners through technical collaborations and RFPs – comprised of demand-led national and/or country/regional gender-responsive sector analysis and planning workshops linked to country systems and education sector planning timeframe and processes; knowledge exchange activities across developing country partners, and the creation and dissemination of knowledge and advocacy products, tools and guidelines to better support robust gender responsive sector analysis and planning.
- Secretariat-administered funding will also include funds for a program specialist to manage the expanded activities supported by the CIFF funding and support capacity building at country level, which go beyond the workload initially anticipated for the Gender Equality Policy and Strategy 2016-2020. This position will be needed to coordinate and contribute to the expanded suite of knowledge products, including a report highlighting successful interventions for gender equality that are relevant to GPE partner countries; to coordinate and contribute to the supplemental support offered to national/country teams before and after the workshops to translate learning into action and ensure the amplified activities are comprehensively reported in GPE’s annual Results Report; and to guide the
expanded country support work as additional funders and resources become available to extend the Gender Equality Policy and Strategy yet further.

- The funding will also be used to create a pilot small grants program, with an initial budget of US$500,000 that will increase if additional targeted contributions are made available. Ensuring the lowest possible transaction costs for participating countries, the CGPC will consider whether these grants can operationalized through a modified ESPDG window. These small grants will aim to support national gender-responsive analysis, data collection and policy development, with an emphasis on capacity development.
- $100,000 will be used to monitor and evaluate the series of activities over the two years.

### CIFF FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total (Overall) Project Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secretariat Administered Funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Knowledge-building, generation and dissemination, including national/cross-national workshops, and DCP exchange.</td>
<td>520,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Full-time Gender Equality program specialist *inclusive of benefits and taxes</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Monitoring support</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Secretariat Executive Funds</strong></td>
<td>750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GES SMALL GRANTS via ESPDG WINDOW</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. GES Country Small Grants to support gender-responsive planning, analysis and evidence building.</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Small Grants</strong></td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong> (US$)</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.10 The proposed activities (described in Annex 1) aim to achieve the following objectives:

1. Strengthen the capacity of developing country partners to diagnose gender equality progress, issues and challenges, including the structural and environmental barriers that drive them in different contexts.
2. Strengthen the capacity of developing country partners to pilot new or scale up proven strategies and interventions to achieve gender equality at scale as part of strong, nationally-owned education sector plans.

3. Promote stronger awareness and understanding across GPE member countries of effective policies and strategies that contribute to stronger gender-responsive education systems, and gender equality for all girls and boys, including improved educational opportunities and outcomes for adolescent girls.

4.11 The Secretariat will continue to work with the CGPC to explore details regarding the creation of third window under the ESPDG with a particular focus on harmonization with ongoing activities, locking on to GPE’s business model, and ensuring the lowest possible transaction costs.

4.12 Final Foundation Board sign off is after GPE Board approval and should any material revisions be made to the proposal, the Secretariat would approval from GERF, who they may decide to refer the matter to the Board.

5. **IMPLICATIONS FOR SECRETARIAT RESOURCES**

5.1 CIFF funding will support a full-time program specialist whose primary responsibilities will be to ensure the effective implementation of the expanded suite of knowledge-related work, national/regional workshops, further country support, and DCP exchange that the CIFF grant will make possible. This program specialist will also be responsible for CIFF grant and program management, and servicing the relationship with CIFF. This position will be accounted for separately from the core Secretariat budget and will not form part of the core Secretariat headcount as the position is specifically tied to these funds, unless otherwise determined by the Board. The program specialist will support the work of the Senior Gender Specialist who will lead on gender equality issues within GPE’s governance and secretariat structures, high level gender policy dialogue, and cross-sectoral gender work.

6. **NEXT STEPS**

6.1 If the Board approves any recommendation, CIFF will transfer the funds in two instalments under the existing CIFF contribution agreement to the GPE Fund.

6.2 In parallel, the Secretariat will develop for CGPC consideration, options for operationalization, including the procedures for an ESPDG window, and agree on amendments to the ESPDG guidelines, and application template if that option for small grants is agreed, as necessary.

6.3 Based on these arrangements, the Secretariat will recruit the program specialist, commence arrangements for activities funded through this initiative.

6.4 The Secretariat will keep the Committees and Board informed of progress on a regular basis.
7. **PLEASE CONTACT** Karen Mundy ([kmundy@globalpartnership.org](mailto:kmundy@globalpartnership.org)) for further information.

8. **ANNEXES AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

This paper includes the following annex:

Annex 1 – Description of GES activities

Further information:

- September 22, 2016 GERF paper on Targeted Financing Arrangements to support GPE’s Gender Equality Policy and Strategy on the [eTeam site](#).
Annex 1 – Description of GES activities

Activity #1
Knowledge Mobilization
The GPE Secretariat will invest in, and disseminate with its partners, a range of knowledge and advocacy products, tools and guidelines – including publications that highlight successful policies and practices across the GPE partnership. These knowledge products will include a report highlighting successful interventions for gender equality that are relevant to GPE partner countries.

Activity #2
Gender-Responsive Sector Planning Workshops
GPE will support a series of country and or regional Gender-Responsive Sector Planning workshops with countries receiving GPE grants for education sector planning and program implementation grants. Country delegations will be encouraged to join peer groups to explore solutions that better target barriers to gender equality, including those faced by adolescent girls.

Activity #3
Technical Assistance and Support for Country Planning and Innovation
Before and after workshops, GPE will work with the national governments and their country-level partners to provide technical assistance. This assistance would be focused on preparing for the workshop, including examining a recent education sector analysis, and then in translating the knowledge gained the workshop into the education sector plan development process.

Activity #4
Small-Scale Grants
Countries could apply for small grants and corresponding technical assistance to support additional country-level analysis of the challenges and opportunities for gender equality (including support for improved evidence and data); and for exploring and assessing innovative solutions, including solutions that bridge health and education to ensure the continued participation of adolescent girls. This support would include an emphasis on building national capacity for gender-responsive education sector analysis, planning, and implementation.