SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

H.E. Mr. Salem Saleh Ben Buraik  
Minister of Finance  
Ministry of Finance  
Aden  
Republic of Yemen  

H.E. Dr. Abdullah Salem Lamlas  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
Aden  
Republic of Yemen  

Approval of COVID–19 Accelerated Funding to Support Republic of Yemen’s Education Sector

Excellencies,

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 Republic of Yemen’s application for a COVID–19 accelerated funding request in the amount of US$ 11 million. I have also approved a 1.75% agency fee for the grant agent, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), in the amount of US$ 192,500.

The grant has a start date of December 1, 2020 and an end date of May 31, 2022. 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. Muhammad Tariq Khan, Senior Education Specialist and Country Lead for the Republic of Yemen.

We look forward to working with you closely to mitigate the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on the education of children in Yemen.
Sincerely,

Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

CC:
Members of the Local Education Group
Dr. Abdullah Othman, Director, Technical Office, Ministry of Education, Aden
Dr. Saleh Maqtan Haimeed Baqatiyan, DCP Focal Point, Ministry of Education, Aden
Dr. Hamed Al-Hammami, Regional Director, Coordinating Agency Representative, UNESCO Regional Office, Beirut
Ms. Hana Yoshimoto, Coordinating Agency Representative, UNESCO Regional Office, Beirut
Mr. Mohammad Jamal Alsaati, Director General, Regional Hub of Dubai, IsDB
Mr. Jawara Gaye, Global Education Specialist and Grant Agent Representative, IsDB
Mr. Ahsan Kibiria, Operations Team Leader and Grant Agent Representative, IsDB
Ms. Jo Bourne, Chief Technical Officer, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Nilse Ryman, Regional Manager, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Muhammad Tariq Khan, Senior Education Specialist & Country Lead for Yemen, 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 Yemen in the amount of **US$ 11,000,000** plus an additional **US$ 192,500** agency fee to Islamic Development Bank as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of 1 December 2020 and an end date of 31 May 2022.

The GPE CEO recognized with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Government of Yemen and development partners in preparing a national response plan and grant proposal that will mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the education sector.

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 October 31:

**Request for Report-Back**

1. With reference to the risks to girls identified in the program document, the Grant Agent is requested to elaborate in the implementation plan on how distance learning (1.1), WASH facilities (2.1), and teacher training on psychosocial support (2.2) will address the specific barriers faced by girls due to COVID-19. The Grant Agent is requested to share the detailed implementation plan by October 31.

2. The Secretariat appreciates that the planned teacher training includes specific content to support children with disabilities. In order to ensure that children with disabilities can benefit from distance learning, the GA is requested to ensure that some of the distance learning materials supported within this grant be adapted to allow children with visual or hearing impairments to continue learning. The GA is requested to provide further details in the implementation plan. On the program priority to ensure schooling access to vulnerable children, including girls, IDPs, and
refugees, the Secretariat looks forward to the elaboration that will be provided in the detailed implementation plan.

3. As part of its quarterly progress reporting, the Grant Agent is requested to include updates on the development of multi-media lessons for TV and radio, in particular how the language/dialect used in newly developed programming is being quality assured.

4. The Secretariat notes the budgeted lumpsum of US$ 770,000 (7% of the grant amount) for contingency costs under the program management Component 3, which the application notes is to cover the costs associated with “high inflation and depreciation of the local currency”. Given the context of Yemen, the Secretariat acknowledges the unusually high contingency costs both in dollar terms and as a share of the grant. The Secretariat requests the GA to report back after 6 months on specific line items where the contingency cost will have been utilized, and if not needed by then to provide an update on how the funds are reprogrammed towards increasing support to beneficiaries.

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

**Observations**

a) Recognizing the urgency of the crisis in Yemen, the Secretariat appreciates the attention given to supporting the safe reopening of schools (sub-component 2.1) starting from the first month of program effectiveness and encourages the Grant Agent to submit a cash transfer request as soon as is possible to facilitate the timely release of funds in support of swift program start-up.

**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