



March 13, 2017

Alice Albright
Chief Education Officer
Global Partnership for Education
900 19th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006
USA

Subject: Endorsement of Puntland Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Dear Ms. Albright:

On behalf of the Education Sector Committee partners in Garowe and Nairobi, this letter serves as endorsement of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) for Puntland State of Somalia.

We commend the Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOEHE) and ESC partners in Garowe and Nairobi for their significant efforts in articulating key policy priorities, activities, and indicators for Puntland in the ESSP, and believe it reflects our shared goals of advancing access, equity, learning and efficiency in the education sector in Puntland. We also appreciate the Ministry's reflection on the issues raised in the independent appraisal report.

We understand that the ESSP and its Action Plan are living documents that will be adapted as implementation proceeds, based on monitoring and evaluation data and annual Joint Reviews of the Education Sector (JRES).

As planning and implementation proceeds, the ESC recommends the Ministry's continued reflection in the following areas.

1. *Domestic Financing.* The ESSP indicates that the MOEHE, with the support of the Office of the Vice President (see Attachment 2), commit 7% of the Puntland approved state budget to education, with annual increases in the share of education of 1%. While we appreciate this step in the right direction, the ESC urges strict implementation of the full budget allocation and expenditure, especially as security conditions and economic growth remain conducive to this investment. In this respect, we appreciate the government's commitment towards greater cost-sharing with respect to payment of teacher salaries with the World Bank, with a 20% commitment towards payment of teacher salaries in 2017, and an annual 10% increase in subsequent years.
2. *Learning.* The ESSP notes that recent assessments suggest that 30 percent of children in Puntland remain functionally illiterate. It is also noted that very little is understood of ABE and NFE "pupil achievement" in Puntland. The ESC commends the ESSP for putting forth an ambitious target that, by 2021, 100% of students in Puntland will be functionally literate. If

this goal is to be achieved, it is advised that the Ministry continue to reflect on data to track process, realistic targets, and evidence-based practices to advance student learning.

3. *Equity*. The ESSP notes the importance of equitable allocation of resources to address the needs of underserved, vulnerable populations (out-of-school children and youth, IDPs, isolated rural communities), of which 5-15% have access to education. The ESSP puts forth ambitious targets to achieve these goals, including 40% enrollment increased for ABE. We appreciate your attention to these populations, and look forward to support your efforts.

Implementation of the ESSP begins in 2017, the same year as a new administration in Somalia. The ESC urges Puntland to maintain its commitment to achieving the outcomes as set forth in its Education Sector Plan, in collaboration with the Federal Government of Somalia and within Puntland State, in particular the ministries of planning, finance, and youth and labor. The ESC will continue to meet on a regular basis to facilitate the education sector planning process and to continue collaboration and coordination with all key stakeholders.

Endorsement by the representatives of the Education Sector Committee (ESC)



Rina Dhalla, U.S. Agency for International Development (Coordinating Agency)
Education Team Leader, Somalia Field Office



Elisabeth Loacker, Delegation of the European Union to Somalia
Social Services Team Leader

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Participant Lists of ESC Garowe & ESC Nairobi

Attachment 2: Puntland State of Somalia Office of the Vice President, Government Commitment for Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Attachment 3: Puntland Government of Somalia Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Puntland Government of Somalia, Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Attachment 4: Appraisal Report of the Education Sector Strategic Plan in Puntland State of Somalia 2017-2021

Attachment 5: Memorandum of Minister of Education and Higher Education, Puntland State of Somalia Response to independent appraisal of Education Sector Strategic Plan for Puntland

Attachment 6: Additional donor reflections on Puntland ESSP 2017-2021

Attachment 7: Ministry of Education, Puntland State of Somalia, Education Sector Analysis