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August 26, 2020

Mr. David Barth
Vice President, International Programs
Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding to Support Bhutan's Education Sector

Dear Mr. Barth,

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 Bhutan's application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of **US\$ 750,000**. I have also approved a **7%** agency fee for the grant agent, Save the Children, in the amount of **US\$ 52,500**.

The grant has a start date of **August 26th, 2020** and an end date of **December 31st, 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 quarterly surveys 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 the GPE [website](#).

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Muhammad Tariq Khan, Country Lead for Bhutan.

We look forward to working with you closely to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education of Bhutan children.

Sincerely,



Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

cc:

Mr. Man Bahadur Ghaley, Grant Agent Representative, Save the Children/Bhutan

Ms. Joyce LeMelle, Senior Director Education; Child Protection, Save the Children/US

Ms. Jo Bourne, Chief Technical Officer, GPE Secretariat

Mr. Nilse Ryman, Regional Manager, GPE Secretariat

Mr. Muhammad Tariq Khan, Country Lead and Senior Education Specialist, 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 Bhutan in the amount of **US\$750,000** plus an additional US\$52,500 in agency fees to Save the Children USA as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of **August 26, 2020** and an end date of **December 31, 2021**.

The GPE CEO recognized with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Kingdom of Bhutan in preparing a national 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.

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 in three weeks:

Request for Report-Back

1. The Grant Agent is requested to provide a revised program document (including budget with GA implementation support costs outlined and results framework) following consultation with the LEG and agreement by the Government. Upon receipt of the revised program document, the Secretariat will verify compliance with each of the requirements below, but there will be no additional grant approval issued, nor further re-assessment of the program.
 - i) The Grant Agent is requested to share the criteria to be used for targeting beneficiaries of interventions in components 2 and 3 to demonstrate the equity focus.
 - ii) The Grant Agent is requested to report all relevant core indicators as both the number and the percentage of children reached. Indicator 2 from Table 1 of GPE's M&E guidance should be included in the program's results framework.
 - iii) In line with GPE Grants and Performance Committee guidance on the current ESPIG related to "central residential schools" it is specifically requested that no GPE financing be used to support these schools and that no GPE grant resources be spent on ECCD centers established in replacement of primary schools that are closed in order to transfer students to a residential school.

The Secretariat also raises the following observations which are recommendations rather than requirements:

Observations

- a. Given the urgency of the crisis, grant implementation is to commence on schedule with 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.

- b. The Ministry of Education is encouraged to make its COVID response plan publicly available through its website.
- c. The Ministry of Education is requested to ensure that all equipment procured through this grant should be owned by the Ministry of Education and not by private entities.

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>