

Review Meeting Memo to CEO






Date: April 14, 2020

Grant Information	
Grant Type:	Education Sector Program Implementation Grant and Multiplier
Amount:	US\$3.5 million¹
Country:	Maldives

The Review Meeting (RM) was held on April 14, 2020 and was led by: Jo Bourne (Chief Technical Officer), Pdraig Power (Chief Financial Officer), Margarita Focas Licht (Chief, Effective Partnership), Kirsten Majgaard (Quality Assurance Team Lead and meeting Chair), Sven Baeten (Acting Manager Country Support Team), Nilse Ryman (CST Regional Manager) and Muhammad Tariq Khan (Country Lead).

The RM managers agreed, based on successful completion of the Secretariat's quality assurance review, to recommend to the CEO the approval of an allocation of US\$3.5 million for the ESPIG and Multiplier ESPIG application for Maldives with the World Bank as Grant Agent along with report-backs and observations set out in Table 2. The full recommendation is set out on the next page.

The total allocated amount combines an ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation (MCA) of US\$.2.5 million and a Multiplier MCA (MCAM) of US\$ 1 million.

<p>Kirsten Majgaard Quality Assurance Team Lead</p> 	<p>Sven Baeten Acting Manager, Country Support Team</p> 	<p>Margarita Focas Licht Chief, Effective Partnership</p> 
<p>Padraig Power Chief Financial Officer</p> 	<p>Jo Bourne Chief Technical Officer</p> 	

¹ This grant application includes financing from the Maximum Country Allocation of US\$2.5 and the Multiplier of US\$1 million.

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RECOMMENDED DECISION

Grant: Education Sector Program Implementation Grant and Multiplier Grant

Country: Maldives

CEO/2020/04-XX– Allocation for an Education Sector Program Implementation Grant and Multiplier Grant to Maldives: The CEO, in her delegated authority from the Board of Directors, with respect to the application submitted by Maldives in the [second round of 2020]:

1. Notes compliance with the requirements for accessing the maximum country allocations for an ESPIG and a Multiplier grant (MCAM), as described in the application and assessed in the Secretariat quality assurance review phase III report, including the requirements of co-financing, additionality, and debt sustainability for accessing the MCAM.
2. Approves an allocation from GPE trust funds for an ESPIG and multiplier grant, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table 1, subject to:
 - a. Availability of funds.
 - b. Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for ESPIGs in annual installments.
 - c. Review Meeting’s recommendation for funding, including (all amounts in US\$):
3. Requests the Secretariat to:
 - a. Include in its notification of grant approval to Maldives the requests for report-backs and observations as recommended by the Review Meeting and set out in Table 2.
 - b. Include an update on the issues listed as “report backs” in the Grant Performance Report in accordance with the specified timeline.

Approved:



Date: April 29, 2020

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Table 1: Application Summary and Allocation Recommendations (in US \$):

Country: Maldives		
a.	ESPIG Maximum Country Allocation	2,500,000
b.	Multiplier Maximum Country Allocation	1,000,000
c.	Allocation Requested (100%)	3,500,000
d.	Fixed Part	3,500,000
e.	Allocation Recommended	3,500,000
f.	Grant Agent	World Bank
g.	Agency Fee % - Amount	1.75% or 61,250
h.	Grant Agent's Implementation Support Costs	400,000 ²
i.	Period	4 years
j.	Expected Start Date	July 01, 2020
k.	Funding Source	GPE Fund
l.	Multiplier Co-financing Institution(s) - Amounts	World Bank 10,000,000

Table 2 – Review Meeting Observations, Report-Backs, And Conditions

Country: Maldives	
Observations	<p>The Secretariat welcomes the first ESPIG and Multiplier ESPIG application from the Republic of Maldives and appreciates the Government of Maldives leadership and close cooperation with the education partners in the development of the program in line with Maldives Education Sector Plan.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes the Government of Maldives efforts in strengthening the education sector dialogue in the country through the broadening of the National Education Consultative Committee (NECC), which acts as the Local Education Group (LEG) for Maldives and includes representation of all key stakeholders including the teacher association and civil society organizations.</p> <p>The Secretariat notes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education systems. The Secretariat invites the government and the grant agent, in consultation with the local education group, to consider adapting the proposed program to emerging issues, notably the impact on children's learning as a result of school closures, as needed. Other adaptations to consider could relate to mitigation measures on potential delays or other constraints that the pandemic may have on program implementation.</p>
Report Back	<p>On the results framework the Secretariat confirms the relevance of proposed output and outcome indicators for measuring program implementation and results. Recognizing, however, that some activities will be designed in the first year of the program, the Secretariat requests the GA to share an updated version of the results framework within six months of the approval of the grant. The updated results framework should further clarify</p>

² This amount is to be funded from the grant and is not in addition to the grant amount

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	measurement of PDO indicators 4 and 5 (see Annex 2) and elaborate on the methodology for the use of classroom-based assessment to measure improvements in student learning.
Condition	NA

GPC Comments Section:	NA
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