

CEO DECISION MEMO

DATE 06/14/2023

TO: Laura Frigenti, CEO		
FROM: Fazle Rabbani, CEP Regional Manager; Sven Baeten, Grant Operations Team Lead; David Balwanz, Quality Assurance; and Ana Angela Tobar Lozano, Risk and Finance		
SUBJECT: Approval of Mozambique’s Accelerated Funding grant		
Country: Mozambique	Grant Agent: UNICEF	Co-financing: N/A
Grant Type: STG Accelerated Funding	Agency fee %(+US\$ amount): 7% (US\$700,000)	Expected Start Date: June 15, 2023
Amount: US\$10 million	Grant duration: 18 months	Expected End Date: December 31, 2024

Action request

Approve the request for Accelerated Funding (AF) for Mozambique.

Grant Summary

Mozambique’s humanitarian situation is characterized by ongoing protracted armed conflicts and recurrent natural disasters (including cyclones, droughts, and disease outbreaks)- compounded by rising food prices and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Tropical Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting and most energetic tropical cyclone to date, hit Mozambique twice, on February 24 and March 11, 2023. Cyclone Freddy displaced more than 184,000 people, and destroyed over 132,000 homes, leaving over 640,000 people homeless. In the education sector, total or partial destruction of 4,430 classrooms affected 508,922 students and 8,437 instructors in 1,604 schools. In the aftermath, the education partners decided to apply for US\$10 million in accelerated financing from their STG allocation (US\$117.59 million).

The proposed AF grant program aims to deliver safe, inclusive, and quality educational continuity through provision of learning spaces for 138,000 students and accelerated learning for 70,000 of the most vulnerable affected children in the three most affected provinces (Zambézia, Sofala and Inhambane). The program will also support preparedness for and prevention of future crises by building capacity of local leaders and strengthening monitoring mechanisms. The program has three components:

Component I: Continuity of safe, inclusive, and quality learning for 138,000 students (65,826 female students and 2,760 children with disabilities) through construction and rehabilitation yielding 1,200 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), including 240 temporary double latrines and construction of 180 resilient classrooms, and school kit distribution

Component II: Medium-term learning recovery through accelerated learning programming for 70,000 of most affected and vulnerable children

Component III: Emergency preparedness and prevention through capacity building of local leaders and teacher training reaching 4,150 teachers in affected schools

Current Portfolio

Mozambique currently has one active ESPIG.

Grant	Amount in US\$	Grant Agent	Closing date	Latest Rating
ESPIG-Multiplier	US\$140m	World Bank	May 30, 2026	Moderately Satisfactory (December 2022)

The ongoing **ESPIG-MLT**, totaling US\$140 million, is co-financed by an IDA grant of US\$100 million. This project was designed to support (1) readiness and learning for girls and boys in early grades of primary school; (2) girls' retention in later grades of primary and their transition to lower secondary; and (3) the efficiency of teacher allocation and use. The grant implementation has faced delays, due to COVID-19 and ongoing cyclone emergencies, delayed onboarding of the Implementation Support Team (IST), and prolonged procurement process for core activities. It is positively noted that the IST is now fully staffed, and Ministry of Education and Human Development (MINEDH) focal points are in place to accelerate implementation. Important progress to date includes training of 700 teachers, conclusion of the design of the pre-primary education curriculum and quality standards, and conclusion of the project design for the construction of new centers. US\$43 million is expected to be disbursed in CY2023 in addition to the \$18.8 million disbursed as of the end of March 2023.

Eligibility

Mozambique is eligible of up to US \$10 million as per GPE Accelerated Funding Guidelines.

Significant Opportunities

Approval of this program demonstrates GPE's ability to support country partners to quickly meet acute needs following the onset of an emergency that has disrupted education and fill an important financing gap since ECW funding is not prioritizing this particular emergency. There is also an opportunity to improve resiliency in the education sector by building on existing coordination mechanisms and local capacity. The operationalization of MINEDH's Emergency Basic School Plan (PEBE) should help make the school system more resilient through preparedness and mitigation planning and actions, and by empowering local disaster risk reduction committees of school councils.

There is also the opportunity to cement the gains made under the previous AF program. This past AF closed with Satisfactory rating (December 2022) and with full amount disbursed. One of the key lessons learned is that with current trends, disaster risk management/reduction and emergency response must be incorporated into regular sector programming. UNICEF, the GA of the previous program, has also committed to ensuring alignment of program activities through the education cluster and the Education Sector Support Fund (Fundo de Apoio ao Sector de Educação-FASE¹). There is opportunity to integrate resiliency and climate change into the partnership compact currently under development.

Significant Issues and Risks

Mozambicans, especially women and children, are vulnerable to recurring flooding, droughts, and cyclones since most of the population (80%) is living along the low-lying coast, facing

¹ FASE is guided by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Government and development partners as they join the pool fund. The MOU lifetime is linked to the strategic plan period and includes the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the overall dialogue between the MINEDH and all education partners (FASE and beyond).

chronic poverty, inadequate health services, and heavy reliance on subsistence agriculture. While program investments in gender segregated latrines, sanitary kits, community awareness and violence prevention are positively noted, more could be done to respond to gender vulnerability, insecurity and risks of insurgency in the northern region which impact equal access to safe learning. The partners are being supported to deepen the policy dialogue in these areas and the country will be proposing actions in the partnership compact to mitigate violence, gender vulnerability and insecurity.

The Secretariat extended the previous AF program three times due to implementation delays which included i) teacher absence from December 2021 to January 2022 caused by the Omicron variant of COVID-19; ii) delays in construction due to natural disasters (Tropical Storm Ane, Cyclone Gombe, and an intense 2021-2022 rainy season); and iii) delays in construction in the second half of 2022 due to the armed conflict in the province of Cabo Delgado. The new AF program proposes appropriate mitigation strategies based on lessons from the prior program.

Recommendation

The Review Meeting (RM) concluded, based on the Secretariat's quality assurance review, that the **RM recommends CEO approval of an Accelerated Funding of US\$10,000,000 for Mozambique with UNICEF as the grant agent.**

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Grant: Accelerated Funding

Country: Mozambique

CEO/2021/05-XX-XXXX The CEO, in her delegated authority from the Board of Directors: approves the accelerated funding request for Mozambique in the amount of US\$10,000,000 plus **an additional US\$700,000** in agency fees to UNICEF as the grant agent.

In light of the risks mentioned above, the CEO also recommends the program put in place additional measures to ensure interventions adequately respond to security and gender-specific challenges facing boys and girls. Specifically, it is recommended partners further discuss what more could be done to support boys and girls safe access to and safety in learning spaces (in areas of localized violence and general insecurity) and to ensure tutoring and catch-up learning interventions are designed to consider the life situation of vulnerable girls and boys so that all learners are more likely to benefit, and equally benefit, from the program.

Date: June 15, 2023



Laura Frigenti, CEO