



VIII GOVERNO CONSTITUCIONAL
MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO, JUVENTUDE E DESPORTO
GABINETE DA MINISTRA

Ref.: 043/GMEJD/IV/2019
Dili, 22 Fevereiro, 2019

Ms. Alice Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education Secretariat
1850 K Street NW, Suite 625
Washington, DC 20006
USA

**Re: Request for Global Partnership for Education Multiplier Fund
Resources**

Dear Ms. Albright,

We would like to complement the letter from the World Bank dated 20 February, 2019.

Through this letter we would like to reiterate the Government of Timor-Leste's strong commitment to education. Timor-Leste is Asia's newest country, with a population of just over 1.2 million people. We are a lower middle income country who since gaining independence in 2002 has struggled through many challenges to raise our people up out of poverty.

Our country has important economic goals to achieve by 2030, and to reach these goals, we need to transform our current oil-dependent economy into a more economically diverse and globally competitive one. While transforming our economy, we must contend with the needs of our young and growing population – over 1/3 of our population is under the age of 18. We currently have unemployment rates that are well over 50%, and these will continue to grow unless we are able to create more employment opportunities. However, in order to ensure a workforce prepared to fill these jobs, we will need to develop that workforce with adequate skills to improve the competitiveness of our economy. This will only happen if we commit to investing in education.

Currently, with GPE support, we are beginning the process of updating our Education Sector Plan. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, together with our development partners, are further engaging with the GPE in order to strengthen our education sector strategic planning. We hope that through this ESP, knowledge gaps will be addressed in order to ensure that the new Education Strategic Plan is evidence-based, and that a realistic medium-term implementation plan is developed for the sector.

We are looking forward to this strategic planning exercise, which will pave the road for informed policy making in the education sector, and we hope to have this completed and submitted to GPE by the 3rd quarter of this year.

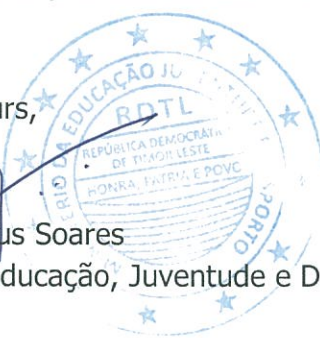
In the meantime, our Government has decided to apply for a \$15 million dollar IDA credit before our opportunity for this credit expires in July of this year. The GPE Multiplier Fund was a prime incentive for our Government to finally come to the decision to take on this loan, as our taking on a loan of \$15 million will also generate \$5 million of multiplier grant money, which is very much welcomed and will be put together with our eligible \$4.1 million to support us in implementation of our Sector Plan. We have also been advised by the World Bank Group that we may amend our IDA Credit Project Description in the future to include/emphasize the educational priorities as stated in our ESP.

Thank you in advance for considering the approval of our Multiplier Fund grant. We are confident that by this time next year our proposal for \$9.1 million to the GPE will be submitted and approved, and that the Government of Timor-Leste will utilize these monies in strict accordance with our Strategic Sector Plan and greatest benefit of our children.

Sincerely yours,



Dulce de Jesus Soares
Ministra da Educação, Juventude e Desporto



Copy:

H.E. Eng. João Zacarias Freitas Soares, Vice Ministro da Educação,
Juventude e Desporto