OCTOBER 21, 2020

Hon. Eugene Amor
Secretary of Finance and Administration
Department of Finance and Administration
Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

Mr. Wayne Mendiola
Acting Secretary FSM Education
National Department of Education
Federated States of Micronesia

Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding to Support Federated States of Micronesia’s Education Sector

Honorable Hon. Amor, Mr. Mendiola,

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 Federated States of Micronesia’s application for a COVID-19 accelerated funding request in the amount of **US$750,000**. I have also approved a **7%** agency fees for the grant agent, UNICEF, in the amount of **US$52,500**.

The grant has a start date of **November 1, 2020** and an end date of **April 30, 2022**. The full decision language of this approval can be found in the annex to this letter.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Daisuke Kanazawa, Country Lead for Federated States of Micronesia.

We look forward to working with you closely to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education of children in the Federated States of Micronesia.
Sincerely,

Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

cc:
Members of Local Education Group
Mr. Paul A. Hadik, President and Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, Coordinating Agency for FSM
Mr. Sheldon Yett, Representative, UNICEF Pacific
Ms. Anna Smeby, Chief of Education, UNICEF Pacific
Ms. Saadhna Panday, Education Specialist, Global Education Partnerships Lead, UNICEF
Ms. Poonam Buttan, Public Partnerships Officer, UNICEF
Ms. Reiko Okumura, Public Partnerships Specialist, UNICEF
Ms. Jo Bourne, Chief Technical Officer, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Sven Baeten, Team Lead of Grant Operations, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Nilse Ryman, Regional Manager, GPE Secretariat
Mr. Daisuke Kanazawa, 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 the Federated States of Micronesia in the amount of US$750,000 plus an additional US$52,500 in agency fees to UNICEF as Grant Agent. The grant has a start date of November 1, 2020, and an end date of April 30, 2022.

The GPE CEO recognized with appreciation the leadership and commitment of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia 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.

The Secretariat raises the following points of observation, which are recommendations rather than requirements:

**Observations**

a) Given the urgency of the crisis, grant implementation to commence on schedule and 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 Secretariat positively notes the program commitment to address barriers to learning faced by girls and looks forward to program reporting on (i) community awareness sessions providing gender-sensitive content on preventing violence against children and women at home during school closures and reducing the risk of drop-out and (ii) gender-specific challenges and lessons learned during program implementation.

c) The program focus on providing support to remote islands shows a strong commitment to equity but also comes with risks (as acknowledged in the application): that severe weather and shipping delays could result in delays to the delivery of WASH and ICT materials (activities 1.1.1, 1.3.2, 2.1.2). This risk is reflected in the difference between estimated units and costs in the budget and proposed results in the results framework. Given that these materials are also key to effective delivery of the program – the Secretariat appreciates that
the GA and government will make every effort to support the timely and complete delivery of the materials budgeted, including drawing on contingency financing, if needed.

**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](https://www.globalpartnership.org/content/policy-education-sector-program-implementation-grants)