OCTOBER 21, 2020

Hon. Alfred Alfred, Jr.
Minister of Finance, Banking and Postal Services
Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services
Majuro
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Hon. Kitlang Kabua
Minister for Education, Sports and Training
Ministry of Education, Sports and Training
Majuro
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Approval of COVID-19 Accelerated Funding to Support
Marshall Islands’ Education Sector

Excellencies,

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 Marshall Islands’ 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 Marshall Islands.

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

Alice P. Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education

cc:
Ms. Maybelline Bing, Secretary for Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services, Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services
Mr. Kanchi Hosia, Commissioner of Education, Ministry of Education Sports and Training
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 Republic of Marshall Islands in the amount of US$750,000 plus an additional US$52,000 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 Republic of Marshall Islands 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 program includes important investments in distance and remote learning, some of which may also be relevant to reaching primary and secondary school-aged children who are not in school, or who have previously dropped out. As the Program Document (PD) notes, children in remote areas, who are far from the nearest school, may be more likely to drop out. The Secretariat requests that government and country partners consider how distance learning approaches and monitoring activities can also reach and support children who have dropped out of school.

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

**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)