10 December 2020

Mr. Daisuke Kanazawa
Senior Education Specialist,
Global Partnership for Education
1818 H Street, NW, IS 6-650
Washington, DC 20433, USA

Subject: Endorsement of the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2020-2025 for Bangladesh

Dear Mr. Kanazawa,

With reference to a request from the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) and Ministry of Education (MoE), the Education Local Consultative Group (ELCG) hereby endorses the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2020/21-2024/25 for Bangladesh.

The ESP developed by the Government of Bangladesh, is the result of extensive interaction and collaboration between the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Education, and the development partners comprising of multi-lateral and bilateral agencies/donors and civil society organizations (CSOs). It contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal 4 of equitable, accessible and quality education.

We believe it is a credible education sector plan based on evidence-based strategies for access to quality primary and secondary education sub-sectors and both formal and non-formal education and focus on learning continuity. The ESP has taken into consideration the financial, technical and political conditions of the country and is context-sensitive including specific attention to the country's particular vulnerabilities and challenges such as natural disasters and education in emergency, children with disabilities, and children who live in hard-to-reach areas.

The Government, in consultation with development partners, has also ensured the consistency between ESP and Education Sector Plan Implementation Grant (ESPIG). The Government also responded to all the appraisal recommendations and inputs from GPE Secretariat which contributed significantly to strengthening equity and operational components. It is anticipated that the operational plan will address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education system and the strategies required for an effective recovery.

A series of consultations at various level including participatory workshops were organized to collect inputs and comments from the government agencies. This includes senior and technical officials from MoPME, MOE, Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Directorate of Madrasha Education (DME), Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) and Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE). National-level consultations were also conducted with teacher's union and NGO partners. Sub-national consultation workshops were organised in three of the eight divisions, namely Sylhet, Khulna, and Jessore. Based on the process which the MoPME and MOE used in developing the plan including consultations with CSOs and other stakeholders, the Government's response to the independent appraisals and the quality of the final document, the ELCG endorses the ESP 2020/21-2024/25.

Development partners remain committed to support the ESP in close coordination with the Government of Bangladesh as per the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the existing partnership agreements.
Endorsed by the Local Education Consultative Group (ELCG)

Tomoo Hozumi, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh (Coordinating Agency of GPE Bangladesh)

Beatrice Kaldun, Head and Representative of UNESCO Bangladesh

Rasheda K. Choudhury, Executive Director, Campaign for Popular Education

Mercy M. Tembon, Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, The World Bank

Phedra Moon Morris, Head of Aid (Development Assistance), High Commission of Canada, Dhaka

Maurizio Cian, Head of Cooperation, European Union Bangladesh

Yuho Hayakawa, Chief Representative, JICA Bangladesh Office

Judith Herbertson, Development Director, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Bangladesh

Zhigang Li, Senior Social Sector Specialist, Bangladesh Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank, Dhaka