

 MAY 25, 26 AND 28

## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

BOD/2021/05 DOC 08

FOR DECISION

### EDUCATION OUT LOUD TOP UP FINANCING FOR OC1: NATIONAL EDUCATION COALITIONS

*Please note: Documents are deliberative in nature and, in accordance with the GPE Transparency Policy, are considered to be public documents only after their appraisal by the relevant governance instance. It is understood that members will circulate documents among their constituency members prior to consideration for consultation purposes, with the exception of documents that are confidential.*

#### Key issues for considerations:

- To consider the process for approval of top up financing for OC1 – support to national education coalitions

#### Objective

1. This document outlines a proposed delegation of authority to the FRC to consider approval of top up financing for Education Out Loud OC1 – financing for national education coalitions, based on a rapid review of activities and impact to date

#### Recommended decision

**BOD/2021/05-XX—Education Out Loud:** The Board of Directors:

1. Building on BOD/2019/03-02, notes that Education Out Loud support for national education coalitions will finish in December 2021.
2. Invites the Grant Agent, Oxfam IBIS to develop a costed extension proposal for OC1 – support to National Education Coalitions – in order to bring this component in line with the other Education Out Loud components.
3. Delegates authority to the Finance and Risk Committee to review and approve up to US\$17.5 million plus applicable agency fees based on the Secretariat's assessment of the proposal, informed by the rapid review of progress and impact to date.

## Background and overview

2. Education Out Loud is GPE's fund for advocacy and social accountability. It supports civil society to participate in shaping education policy to better meet the needs of communities, especially of vulnerable and marginalized populations.
3. In March 2019, the Board approved \$55.5 million for Education Out Loud in BOD/2019/03-02. Education Out Loud has three main components:
  - a. Operational Component 1 (OC1): provides support to the operations and activities of 53 National Education Coalitions for the 2019–2021 period.
  - b. Operational Component 2 (OC2): funds national social accountability initiatives for the 2020–2024 period.
  - c. Operational Component 3 (OC3): supports transnational advocacy alliances for the 2020–2024 period.

In June 2018, the Board allocated half of the total allocation for Education Out Loud to support OC1 ([BOD/2018/06-12](#)). These funds enabled national education coalition support through the end of 2021 to coincide with the end of the current replenishment period. The Secretariat did not recommend seeking a costed extension at an earlier stage due to the need to re-direct financing towards the COVID response in 2020.

4. A decision on funding for national education coalitions is needed by September in order to allow time for a new call for proposals to be launched. Delays in providing funds to successful applicants would have a detrimental impact on their operations. It is therefore proposed that the Board delegate consideration of top up financing for OC1 to the Finance and Risk Committee to allow for a speedy decision. If so delegated by the Board, the Finance and Risk Committee will confirm availability of finance after the result of the Financing Campaign is known (end July). Material changes to the program are not anticipated (noting that the Grant Agent and Secretariat anyway have the authority make ongoing operational adaptations in order to adjust to the new operating model).
5. In order to inform consideration of continuing financing for national education coalitions, the Secretariat will commission a rapid review of progress and emerging evidence of impact, drawing from the 2019 Civil Society Education Fund evaluation, progress reports, consultations and surveys conducted under Education Out Loud. This rapid review will inform a proposal from Oxfam IBIS for consideration by the Board or its delegated committee in August 2021, to finance national education coalitions for another two years, to align with the rest of the Education Out Loud program.

## **Annex A: Timeline for Decisions on Education Out Loud**

Since the launch of Education Out Loud in April 2019, GPE is supporting the activities (including year zero capacity development) of 52 national education coalitions under OC1, as well as 20 national organizations under OC2 and 14 transnational alliances under OC3 across approximately 60 GPE partner countries. For further details, please see the Education Out Loud [progress reports](#) on the first year of implementation. Ongoing oversight of the performance of Education Out Loud is the responsibility of the PILC.

The Secretariat is proposing a workplan timeline which allows for evidence and evaluation of the first phase of implementation to inform Board decisions. The below diagram provides an overview of the current Education Out Loud program period, evaluation activities, Board decision points and potential second phase of Education Out Loud. To date, all funds have been allocated and no new financing is planned for grant-making in the new strategy period. Before doing so, a mid-term independent evaluation will be commissioned in late 2021 to look at the program's impact to date so that in 2022 the Board and PILC can consider whether to extend the program, make significant changes to it, or discontinue Education Out Loud after its current phase is complete.

In the meantime, the Secretariat is working to maximize alignment of Education Out Loud with Strategy 2025. As part of country pilots, Education Out Loud is being integrated into operating model guidance, processes, and monitoring efforts with the aim of informing immediate adaptations to strengthen the contribution of civil society grantees to GPE country processes. Under consideration is the role of civil society in the development and monitoring of national education compacts, including to support successful achievement of the enabling requirement for an inclusive sector planning process. The proposal from Oxfam IBIS for funding of national education coalitions in 2022/2023 will reflect these adaptations.

# ILLUSTRATIVE TIMELINE OF EOL



★ = Board decision