

Annex B: GPE Secretariat Management Response

Mid-Term Review (MTR) of Education Out Loud (EOL)

The GPE Secretariat welcomes the Mid-Term Review of Education Out Loud (EOL) conducted by external consultants Cowan Coventry and Abrehet Gebremedhin, and thanks them for the useful analysis and lessons it provides. The review offers timely and important information on GPE's support to civil society organizations through Education Out Loud from 2019–2021. Its findings will inform the assessment of whether EOL is on track to deliver on its intended objective of strengthening civil society participation in education advocacy and inclusive sector dialogue and will provide evidence for making decisions on the scope and nature of GPE's future support for civil society. The GPE Secretariat considers the findings of the Mid-Term Review to be fair overall and agrees with the recommendations made under the domains of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The Secretariat notes that some recommendations can be pursued during the current implementation period, while others will only be applicable through adaptations made in the program if an extension is approved.

Recommendation	Management Response
Review Area: Relevance of Education Out Loud	
1. In the event of EOL being extended, GPE to consider some design changes to ensure that its funding modalities target and support CSOs and coalitions that have the credibility and competencies to make an impact within the GPE 2025 operating model. This could include a more differentiated grant funding to enable it to support a wider range of CSOs to advocate for and monitor inclusive education, and the provision of three-to-four-year grants across all OCs.	The Secretariat agrees and recommends that the Performance, Impact and Learning Committee recommend to the Board that the grant agent develop a proposal for a costed extension with recommended adaptations (including more differentiated funding windows and longer-term grants) based on the evidence from the MTR.
2. In the event of EOL being extended, the GA to retain, reconfigure and rename the Year Zero process and reconsider	The Secretariat will request adaptations to improve the year zero

Recommendation	Management Response
<p>its competitive element. The principal focus should be to provide an opportunity for grantees to learn and innovate to enrich their proposed approach and generate synergies across the portfolio.</p>	<p>process, and reconsideration of its name in any future proposal for EOL.</p>
<p>3. Grant agent to develop regional learning plans to strengthen grantees' thematic capacities in line with possible opportunities within the GPE 2025 operating model e.g., monitoring education financing and government performance in the sector. This could involve initial assessments of the capacities of NECs (National Education Coalitions) to contribute effectively to the Compact process and other relevant policy fora, and supported by learning partners; facilitated by peer learning, drawing on grantees with a strong track record in this areas; and by knowledge sharing relevant research.</p>	<p>The Secretariat agrees with the recommendation and will work with the grant agent and regional learning partners to identify further opportunities within GPE 2025 to assess and address relevant learning needs.</p>
<p>4. GPE EOL Team and grant agent to devise a communications plan to raise the profile and level of understanding of EOL among GPE country teams. This might include producing tailor-made communications on EOL for country teams; developing a guidance note on the opportunities for civil society to play a role in the GPE 2025 operating model; and clarification of GPE Secretariat responsibilities of to support country partners in accessing EOL as a strategic resource in GPE.</p>	<p>Agree and this is in process. The Secretariat is working with the grant agent to implement a communication plan, which includes targeted information dissemination through webinars, meetings and customized information and communication materials for country teams. The GPE EOL Team is also joining country teams where relevant to provide targeted support.</p>

Recommendation	Management Response
<p>5. Grant agent to develop an EOL gender and social inclusion policy and use it to broaden and deepen the understanding and application of the concept by grantees across the portfolio. This work could be supported by regional learning partners and peer learning and draw on grantees with a strong track record in this area.</p>	<p>The Secretariat agrees and will request that the grant agent consider this recommendation.</p>
<p>Review Area: Efficiency of Implementation</p>	
<p>6. In the event of EOL being extended, GPE/GA to review the efficiency and utility of some key grant management processes, - for example, better synchronization of Call for Proposals to facilitate synergies between OCs; reduction in time from Call for Proposal to grant approval (simplified concept note and approval process); and a revised communications framework to produce more tailored communications to share distilled learning and stories of change in EOL.</p>	<p>The Secretariat agrees and will request that the grant agent consider this recommendation</p>
<p>7. GPE/GA to facilitate synergy and avoid duplication of effort among key stakeholders in knowledge sharing by reviewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles and current status of GCE, KIX and EOL at a global level in knowledge creation and dissemination in the context of the new operational model; - Roles and working practices of RMUs and RCs to ensure learning and capacity 	<p>The Secretariat agrees with the recommendation and will follow up with the grant agent to ensure the review is completed.</p>

Recommendation	Management Response
<p>development is planned and coordinated efficiently at regional level;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GA working practices to ensure that its support to learning and knowledge sharing across the program is efficiently coordinated e.g. by developing a joint workplan for GMU and RMUs; reviewing issues and lessons emerging from grantee reports; sharing and discussing issues emerging from the matrix meetings; and providing opportunities to discuss with other stakeholders more strategic issues such as how EOL should approach global learning and maximize synergies with GCE and KIX. 	
Review Area: Effectiveness	
<p>8. The grant agent should consider how best it can support grantees to provide evidence of change at outcome level. This may include the use of indicators, purposive case studies and other approaches, and the use of appropriate tools.</p>	<p>The Secretariat agrees with the recommendation and notes that the grant agent has begun working with global learning partners to identify relevant tools and to collect such evidence of change.</p>
<p>9. GPE Secretariat and grant agent to review how synergies between OCs can be facilitated in EOL planning and implementation processes in the current period and in any future extension.</p>	<p>GPE EOL team will coordinate with the grant agent to review these synergies.</p>