

Lebanon

Support to Reaching All Children with Education (RACE 2) Program-for-Results

September 27, 2016

Chair Summary*

The Executive Directors approved an IDA credit for the Reaching All Children with Education (RACE 2) Program-for-Results (P-for-R) (IDA/R2016-0223) for Lebanon in the amount of SDR 71.8 Million (US\$100 Million equivalent) on the terms and conditions set out in the President's Memorandum. This IDA financing is provided on an exceptional basis as part of the crisis response in the MNA Region.

Directors strongly supported the program, the first P-for-R in Lebanon. They commended the Lebanese authorities' hosting of a large group of refugees and their commitment to invest in education for all children in Lebanon. Directors recognized that education services are under great stress due to the impact of Syrian refugee influx and the challenges associated in providing access to quality education. They particularly welcomed the objective of significantly increasing the number of students enrolled in formal education. Directors encouraged a forward-looking approach to the sector, including efforts to build secondary and tertiary education and to strengthen the skills mix. They emphasized the crucial need for coordination with donor and humanitarian agencies to ensure complementarity of Bank efforts. Directors also noted the importance of sustainable financing of the education sector.

Directors noted the potential for the P-for-R to increase efficiency, but recognized the need to manage risks associated with the program, including fiduciary aspects like internal auditing and financial management as well as service delivery. They stressed the importance of capacity building, communication, outreach, and staff presence on the ground during implementation. Directors also urged ongoing monitoring of procurement and financial aspects. Directors welcomed the inclusion of impact evaluation in project design. Within this, they noted the importance of monitoring and evaluating enrollment levels of different population segments, gender impacts, and teacher training during implementation.

* This summary is not an approved record