Early Warning System

WB-P174329

Malawi Education Reform Program (MERP)

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Quick Facts

Countries	Malawi
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	B
Voting Date	2021-05-26
Borrower	Government of Malawi
Sectors	Education and Health
Project Cost (USD)	$ 48.70 million

Project Description

According to bank documents, the proposed project objective is to strengthen learning environments in lower primary.

There are four components: two fixed components supporting project activities; a variable part; and a component for project coordination.

1. Component 1. Improved learning environments in lower primary (US$15 million [indicative]). PSIG are the primary source of discretionary finance to schools, and of vital importance for the long-term capacity of schools to ensure safe and effective learning environments. This component will support the expansion and reform of PSIG to provide additional and more needs-based discretionary finance to schools to support investment in reduced class sizes and improved learning environments. Following the successful implementation of MESIP SIG, MoEST is currently updating the PSIG guidelines to incorporate the strategies piloted under MESIP for improvement of retention and promotion and reduction in girls' dropout, including construction of low-cost learning shelters; hiring of auxiliary teachers; and provision of MHM materials and gender-specific infrastructure, notably girls' changing rooms; awards for most rapidly improved students; inviting female role models to schools; and monitoring and counselling girls at risk of dropout.
2. Component 2. Supporting girls' learning (US$9.1 million [indicative]). This component will support the national delivery of an updated and revised School Leadership Program (SLP) supporting headteachers and deputy headteachers to (1) create a positive and inclusive culture towards over-age children and girls; (2) Improve teacher's motivation and morale and reward performance; and (3) Improve the efficiency and equity of school resource utilization and (4) maintain and utilize academic records to support low-performing students. The Program will adapt and update the School Leadership Program supported by MESIP, with a greater emphasis on building school cultures which meet the needs of girls, overage students, and low-performing students.
3. Component 3. Policy reform for improved efficiency, equity and learning (Variable part/performance-based conditions) (US$21.6 million [indicative]). This component will support PBCs in three areas, providing incentives and resources to support medium-term reforms to ensure the long-term functioning of the education system.
4. Component 4. Project Management, and Sector Program Support and Coordination (US$3 million). This component will finance the management of the project, including reporting. The component will support the establishment of a small Program Facilitation Team (PFT), consisting of a coordinator and specialists in financial management, procurement, M&E, and gender. Specialists for environmental and social safeguards will be appointed if deemed required as part of safeguards capacity assessments.

Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Contact Information

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Bank Documents

- Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) - Malawi Education Reform Program (MERP) - P1 [Original Source]
- Concept Project Information Document (PID) - Malawi Education Reform Program (MERP) - P174329 [Original Source]