



GRANT NUMBER E3450-CF

Financing Agreement

(CAR Accelerating Results in Education Project)

between

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



FINANCING AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT dated as of the Signature Date between CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (“Recipient”) and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (“Association”). The Recipient and the Association hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I — GENERAL CONDITIONS; DEFINITIONS

- 1.01. The General Conditions (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement) apply to and form part of this Agreement.
- 1.02. Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the General Conditions or in the Appendix to this Agreement.

ARTICLE II — FINANCING

- 2.01. The Association agrees to extend to the Recipient a grant, which is deemed as Concessional Financing for purposes of the General Conditions, in an amount equivalent to forty nine million and four hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 49,400,000) (“Financing”), to assist in financing the project described in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (“Project”).
- 2.02. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in accordance with Section III of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
- 2.03. The Maximum Commitment Charge Rate is one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum on the Unwithdrawn Financing Balance.
- 2.04. The Payment Dates are 15 May and 15 November in each year.
- 2.05. The Payment Currency is Euro.

ARTICLE III — PROJECT

- 3.01. The Recipient declares its commitment to the objective of the Project. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Project in accordance with the provisions of Article V of the General Conditions and Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV — EFFECTIVENESS; TERMINATION

- 4.01. The Additional Conditions of Effectiveness consist of the following:

AGREED as of the Signature Date.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

By

Richard Filakota

Authorized Representative

Richard Filakota

Name: _____

Title: Ministre

Date: 17-sept.-2024

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By

Cheick Fantamady Kante

Authorized Representative

Cheick Fantamady Kante

Name: _____

Title: Country Director

Date: 16-Sep-2024

SCHEDULE 1

Project Description

The objective of the Project is to improve access to quality Basic Education and strengthen capacity for sector management.

The Project consists of the following parts:

Part 1. Increase access to improved learning environments

Increasing the access to quality learning environments at the pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education that support students to complete their basic education with the required foundational literacy and numeracy skills through:

1.1 Targeted Schooling Infrastructure

Providing Support to the Recipient: (i) to construct community preprimary classrooms according to a model satisfactory to the Association in Targeted areas including *inter alia* rural areas; (ii) to construct new primary classrooms including the construction of separate latrines for boys and girls, and with adequate WASH facilities for girls in Targeted Areas; (iii) to rehabilitate old or dilapidated classrooms and latrines in primary schools; and (iv) to construct secondary schools that register the lowest enrollment for girls; all in accordance with gender-sensitive climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

1.2 Teaching and learning materials for preprimary and primary levels and support to remedial education programs

- (a) Supporting the development, production, and distribution of a preprimary learning package, along with teacher guides and structured lesson plans.
- (b) Supporting the development of the curricula for primary education for 3rd grade to 6th grade.
- (c) Supporting the production and distribution of textbooks and supplementary materials, in Sango and French, as well as teacher guides with structured lesson plans.
- (d) Supporting remedial programs to promote the acquisition of reading proficiency and mathematics, including through: (i) the rolling out of the remedial program in selected school inspectorates; (ii) Training of teachers and headteachers to deliver remedial programs; and (iii) support remediation and outreach activities in selected regions.

1.3 Supporting learning opportunities for out-of-school children

Supporting the Recipient's accelerated learning programs (ALPs), through *inter alia*: (i) identification, selection, and implementation of ALPs programs in selected schools and eligible students; (ii) updating the ALP curriculum; (iii) printing and distribution of textbooks and instructional materials for ALP's students; and (iv) developing and distributing teacher guides tailored to ALP.

1.4 School Grant and Girl's Education Initiative

- A. The provision of Subgrants to Selected Schools to support the schooling and retention of girls living in vulnerable areas including girls from IP communities including *inter alia*: (i) the provision of school kits, (ii) support of the school fees for new enrolled girls, (iii) covering the examination fees for 6th grade girls, (iv) the provision of hygiene kits; and (v) promoting girl's resilience to climate change.
- B. Carrying out outreach activities in selected communities and for parents of girls' at risk or who have dropped out of school to promote school retention.

Part 2. Improve teaching quality

2.1 Support teachers' in-service training in basic education

Increasing the capacity of teacher through carrying out: (i) a teacher training program for community pre-primary teachers on new teaching and learning material and associated pedagogical approaches; (ii) teacher training program for primary teachers focused on the new curriculum and teaching and learning material, including *inter alia* core areas from the common modular curriculum, the modules on conflict sensitivity training, and cross-cutting training on gender-sensitive pedagogy and reducing gender bias in the classroom; and (iii) training of ALP teachers on the new teaching and learning material and associated pedagogical approaches.

2.2 Strengthen pre-service teacher training

Providing support to increase the number of qualified new teachers through: (i) carrying out the construction and equipping of five regional pedagogical centers in selected regions; (ii) carrying out the renovation and expansion of existing teacher training establishment; (iii) developing, printing and distribution of teaching and learning material; (iv) providing technical assistance to develop and implement a dual certification program for lower secondary school teachers carrying out training of instructors deployed to regional pedagogical centers; and (v) carrying out training of instructors

2.3 Increase qualified primary teachers in the system

Supporting through technical assistance the establishment of a career pathway for community teachers including those from indigenous people's community through: (i) the establishment of a clear performance-based alternative certification program which would allow the integration of competent and qualified community-teachers into civil service; (ii) the performance-based recruitment of new teachers including women teachers; and (iii) the development of a teacher policy including *inter alia* policies related to pre-service and in-service teacher training, recruitment, deployment, redeployment, career management, among others.

Part 3. Strengthening Data System and Sector Management

3.1 Learning Assessments

Providing support to: (i) develop and implement a national learning assessment in early and late primary grades focusing on foundational literacy and numeracy skills; and (ii) carrying and implementing n two regional learning assessments on reading and numeracy led by PASEC.

3.2 Strengthen education planning and management

Strengthening the Recipient's Ministry in charge of education capacity to produce timely and reliable data analysis through: (i) the collection and publication of reliable education statistics; (ii) carrying out capacity building and training to decentralized ministry units to: (a) develop planning tools (including *inter alia* school report cards); (b) track basic education statistics; and (c) support school level planning and resource management .

3.3 Project management and capacity building

- (a) Project Management, coordination, supervision, financial management, procurement, communication and outreach, supervision of implementation of the social and environmental standards, monitoring and evaluation.
- (b) Carrying out: (i) analytical studies to support effective policy dialogue and decision-making for education policy reforms; and (ii) impact evaluations of key activities.

Part 4. Contingent Emergency Response Component

Providing immediate response to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, as needed

SCHEDULE 2

Project Execution

Section I. Implementation Arrangements

A. Institutional Arrangements

1. General

- (a) The Recipient shall designate and charge its minister responsible for education with overall responsibility for Project implementation, coordination, and supervision.
- (b) The Recipient shall ensure that the following implementation arrangements are maintained throughout the period of implementation of the Project.

2. Project Steering Committee

- (a) The Recipient shall, no later than three (3) month after the Effective Date, update and thereafter maintain, the steering committee for the Project (the “Project Steering Committee” or “PSC”) with terms of reference, composition, and resources acceptable to the Association.
- (b) Without limitation to the generality of Section I.A.2(a) of this Schedule, the PSC shall: (i) be chaired by the minister in charge of economy; (ii) vice-chaired by the minister in charge of national education; (iii) rapporteur the UGP and the general director of INRAP, and include representative from the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform (MFPRA), the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Social Protection and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Gender Promotion, Women's Protection, Family and Child Protection, the Ministry of Youth Promotion, Sports and Civic Education, and the Ministry of Finance and Budget (MFB);. and (iv) be responsible for providing Project oversight and strategic guidance for Project implementation, ensure coordination with other existing or proposed overlapping activities and programs, oversee Project implementation and approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets, review and approve Project Reports; and assess Project achievements.

3. Project Technical Committee (TC)

- (a) The Recipient shall establish no later than three (3) month after the Effective Date, or such later date as agreed by the Association, and thereafter maintain, throughout Project implementation, Project Technical

Committee with composition, terms of reference and roles and responsibilities acceptable to the Association and set forth in the POM;

- (b) Without limitation to the generality of Section I.3.2(a) of this Schedule, the TC shall: (i) be chaired by a representative of the ministry in charge of national education; (ii) vice-chaired by a representative of the minister in charge of education; and (iii) rapporteur the PCU, and include representative from the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform (MFPRA), the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Social Protection and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Gender Promotion, Women's Protection, Family and Child Protection, the Ministry of Youth Promotion, Sports and Civic Education, and the Ministry of Finance and Budget (MFB).
- (c) The TC shall be responsible for: (i) validating the project's monthly monitoring tables; (ii) collaborating with the PCU for the development and validation of technical files; (iii) periodically evaluating the project indicators' progress and making technical proposals to improve the implementation of activities; (iv) providing timely technical assistance and providing guidance and recommendations to the PCU, to ensure that the Project achieves the defined objectives and adheres to agreed-upon standards, timelines, and budgets; and (v) disseminating the conclusions and recommendations of PSC's meetings.

Project Coordination Unit (PCU)

- (a) The Recipient shall maintain, a Project Coordination Unit (PCU), with terms of reference, composition and resources acceptable to the Association.
- (b) The Recipient shall no later than two (2) months after the Effective Date recruit or designate the following key staff for the Project Coordination Unit: (i) a project coordinator; (ii) a procurement specialist; (iii) a financial management specialist; (iv) a monitoring and evaluation specialist, (v) an environmental specialist, (vi) a social management specialist, (vii) a GBV specialist; (viii) an internal auditor, and (ix) an external auditor each with terms of reference, qualification and experience acceptable to the Association, and shall maintain these positions filled throughout the period of implementation of the Project.
- (c) The Recipient shall no later than three (3) months after the Effective Date set up an accounting and reporting system.

B. Project Operations Manual

1. The Recipient shall update and maintain the POM containing detailed arrangements and procedures for: (a) institutional coordination and day-to-day execution of the Project; (b) Project budgeting, disbursement and financial management; (c) procurement; (d) monitoring, evaluation, reporting and communication; (e) school construction design models, (f) conditions and procedures for Subgrants; and (g) such other administrative, financial, technical and organizational arrangements and procedures as shall be required for the Project.
2. The Recipient shall: (a) furnish such manual to the Association for review and approval; (b) afford the Association a reasonable opportunity to exchange views with the Recipient on said manual; and (c) thereafter adopt said manual as shall have been approved by the Association.
3. The Recipient shall carry out the Project in accordance with the Project Operations Manual, and shall not assign, amend, abrogate, or waive, or permit to be assigned, amended, abrogated, or waived, the aforementioned manual, or any provision thereof, without the prior written agreement of the Association.
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of the Project Operations Manual and those of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

C. School Grants

1. For the implementation of Part 1.4 (a) of the Project, the Recipient shall extend School Grants to Eligible Schools in accordance with eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and procedures acceptable to the Association as described in the POM. To this end, the Recipient shall enter into a subgrant agreement with each Selected School (Subgrant Agreement), under terms and conditions approved by the Association and set forth in the School Grants Manual. Annexed to the POM. Each Subgrant Agreement shall require each Selected School to:
 - (a) carry out Subprojects with due diligence and efficiency, in conformity with appropriate administrative, economic, managerial, financial, environmental, social and technical standards and practices, including but not limited to Anti-Corruption Guidelines, Procurement Regulations, Social and Environmental Standards, and provide promptly as needed, the facilities, services and other resources required for this purpose;
 - (b) procure the goods, works and services to be financed out of the School Grant in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement;

- (c) (i) maintain a financial management system and prepare financial statements in accordance with accounting standards acceptable to the Association, both in a manner adequate to reflect the operations, resources and expenditures financed from the funds of the School Grant; and (ii) at the Recipient's or the Association's request, have such financial statements audited by independent auditors acceptable to the Association, in accordance with consistently applied auditing standards acceptable to the Association, promptly furnish the statements as so audited to the Recipient and the Association, and allow the Association to make all financial statements audited (ii) immediately above available to the public;
- (d) ensure that each Subgrant is used for its intended purpose, as approved by the Association and in accordance with the School Grants Manual annexed to the POM;
- (e) prepare and furnish to the Recipient and the Association all such information as the Recipient or the Association shall reasonably request relating to the foregoing;
- (f) enable the Recipient and the Association to inspect the Eligible School, its operation and any relevant records and documents;
- (g) prepare and furnish to the Recipient and the Association all such information as the Recipient or the Association shall reasonably request relating to the foregoing; and
- (h) have its right to further use the proceeds of the School Grant suspended or terminated, or have the obligation to refund all or any part of the amount of the School Grant then withdrawn, upon the Eligible School's failure to perform any of its obligations under the Payment Agreement.

D. Environmental and Social Standards

1. The Recipient shall, ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards, in a manner acceptable to the Association.
2. Without limitation upon paragraph 1 above, the Recipient ensure that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan ("ESCP"), in a manner acceptable to the Association. To this end, the Recipient shall ensure that:
 - (a) the measures and actions specified in the ESCP are implemented with due diligence and efficiency, as provided in the ESCP;
 - (b) sufficient funds are available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP;

- (c) policies and procedures are maintained, and qualified and experienced staff in adequate numbers are retained to implement the ESCP, as provided in the ESCP; and
 - (d) the ESCP, or any provision thereof, is not amended, repealed, suspended or waived, except as the Association shall otherwise agree in writing, as specified in the ESCP, and ensure that the revised ESCP is disclosed promptly thereafter.
- 3. In case of any inconsistencies between the ESCP and the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
- 4. The Recipient shall ensure that:
 - (a) all measures necessary are taken to collect, compile, and furnish to the Association through regular reports, with the frequency specified in the ESCP, and promptly in a separate report or reports, if so requested by the Association, information on the status of compliance with the ESCP and the environmental and social instruments referred to therein, all such reports in form and substance acceptable to the Association, setting out, *inter alia*: (i) the status of implementation of the ESCP; (ii) conditions, if any, which interfere or threaten to interfere with the implementation of the ESCP; and (iii) corrective and preventive measures taken or required to be taken to address such conditions; and
 - (b) the Association is promptly notified of any incident or accident related to or having an impact on the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, in accordance with the ESCP, the environmental and social instruments referenced therein and the Environmental and Social Standards.
- 5. The Recipient shall establish, publicize, maintain and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances of Project-affected people, and take all measures necessary and appropriate to resolve, or facilitate the resolution of, such concerns and grievances, in a manner acceptable to the Association.
- 6. The Recipient shall ensure that all bidding documents and contracts for civil works under the Project include the obligation of contractors to: (a) comply with the relevant aspects of ESCP and the environmental and social instruments referred to therein; and (b) adopt and enforce codes of conduct that should be provided to and signed by all workers, detailing measures to address environmental, social, health and safety risks, and the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and violence

against children, all as applicable to such civil works commissioned or carried out pursuant to said contracts.

E. Use of Military and Security Actors

1. Without limitations to the provisions of Section I.D of this Schedule and if during Project implementation, the Recipient decides to use its military or security forces, the Recipient shall: (a) prior to any involvement of its military and/or security forces in the carrying out of Project activities, send a written notice to the Association (in accordance with Section 11.01(b) of the General Conditions) communicating such decision, including the name of the military or security unit; and (b) all activities carried out by said military or security unit under the Project shall be under the control of MEPCI and shall be undertaken exclusively for the purposes related to the Project. All goods, works, services, Operating Costs, and Training financed by the Financing proceeds may be used by said military or security unit under the direction and control of MEPCI and strictly in accordance with the Project Implementation Manual and other arrangements or protocols that the Association may require for carrying out these activities.
2. Except as the Association may otherwise agree, the Recipient shall ensure that the ownership of any assets generated, goods procured, and works constructed by the military or security unit referred to in paragraph 1 of this Section out of the Financing proceeds shall be transferred to, or shall vest, with MEPCI or any equivalent or appropriate line ministry or agency agreed with the Association.

F. *Grievance Redress Mechanism*

4. The Recipient shall maintain publicize, maintain at all times during Project implementation, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism (“Grievance Redress Mechanism” or “GRM”) for the purpose of receiving grievances on alleged harm, or misconduct by Project personnel, Military personnel, or any occurrences of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, and violence against children associated with the Project activities. To this end, the Recipient shall establish appropriate guidelines and policies, including a reasonable timeline for said GRM to ensure adequate, effective and timely redress of any grievance, alleged harm, or misconduct that may be presented for such GRM.
5. The Recipient shall no later than three months after the Effective Date, establish the worker grievance mechanism and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.

G. Contingent Emergency Response

1. In order to ensure the proper implementation of Part 4 of the Project (“Contingent Emergency Response Component” or “CERC Part”), the Recipient shall take the following measures:
 - (a) prepare and furnish to the Association for its review and approval, an operations manual (“CERC Operations Manual”), which shall set forth detailed implementation arrangements for the CERC Part, including: (i) designation of, terms of reference for and resources to be allocated to, the entity to be responsible for coordinating and implementing the CERC Part (“Coordinating Authority”); (ii) specific activities which may be included in the CERC Part, Eligible Expenditures required therefor (“Emergency Expenditures”), and any procedures for such inclusion; (iii) financial management arrangements for the CERC Part; (iv) procurement methods and procedures for Emergency Expenditures to be financed under the CERC Part; (v) documentation required for withdrawals of Emergency Expenditures; (vi) environmental and social safeguard management frameworks for the CERC Part, consistent with the Association’s policies on the matter; and (vii) any other arrangements necessary to ensure proper coordination and implementation of the CERC Part;
 - (b) afford the Association a reasonable opportunity to review said proposed CERC Operations Manual and the Emergency Action Plan;
 - (c) promptly adopt the CERC Operations Manual and Emergency Action Plan for the CERC Part as shall have been approved by the Association;
 - (d) ensure that the CERC Part is carried out in accordance with the CERC Operations Manual and the Emergency Action Plan; provided, however, that in the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of the CERC Operations Manual or the Emergency Action Plan and this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail; and
 - (e) not amend, suspend, abrogate, repeal or waive any provision of the CERC Operations Manual or the Emergency Action Plan, without prior approval by the Association.
2. The Recipient shall, throughout the implementation of the CERC Part, maintain the Coordinating Authority, with adequate staff and resources satisfactory to the Association.

3. The Recipient shall undertake no activities under the CERC Part (and no activities shall be included in the CERC Part) unless and until the following conditions have been met in respect of said activities:
 - (a) The Recipient has determined that an Eligible Crisis or Emergency has occurred, has furnished to the Association a request to include said activities in the CERC Part in order to respond to said Eligible Crisis or Emergency, and the Association has agreed with such determination, accepted said request and notified the Recipient thereof; and
 - (b) the Recipient has prepared and disclosed all safeguards instruments required for said activities, in accordance with the CERC Operations Manual, the Association has approved all such instruments, and the Recipient has implemented any actions which are required to be taken under said instruments.

H. Annual Work Plans

1. Each year the Recipient shall prepare a draft annual work plan and budget for the Project (including Training and Operating Costs) for each subsequent year of Project implementation, of such scope and detail as the Association shall have reasonably requested.
2. The Recipient shall furnish to the Association, not later than November 30 of each year, the annual work plans and budgets for the Association's review and approval; except for the annual work plan and budget for the Project for the first year of Project implementation, which shall be furnished no later than one (1) month after the Effective Date. Only the activities included in an annual work plan and budget expressly approved by the Association (each an "Annual Work Plan and Budget") are eligible to a financing from the proceeds of the Financing.
3. Training shall be carried out on the basis of Annual Work Plans and Budgets, which shall, *inter alia*, identify: (a) particulars of the training envisaged; (b) the personnel to be trained; (c) the selection methods and criteria of the institution or individuals conducting such training; (d) the institution conducting such training if identified; (e) the purpose and justification for such training; (f) the location and duration of the proposed training; and (g) the estimate of the cost of such training.
4. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Annual Work Plans and Budgets.
5. Annual Work Plans and Budgets may be revised as needed during Project implementation subject to the Association's prior approval.

Section II. Project Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

The Recipient shall furnish to the Association each Project Report not later than one month after the end of each calendar semester, covering the calendar semester.

Section III. Withdrawal of the Proceeds of the Financing

A. General

Without limitation upon the provisions of Article II of the General Conditions and in accordance with the Disbursement and Financial Information Letter, the Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing to finance Eligible Expenditures in the amount allocated and, if applicable, up to the percentage set forth against each Category of the following table:

Category	Amount of the Grant Allocated (expressed in SDR)	Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)
(1) Goods, works, non-consulting services, consulting services, Training and Operating Costs, under the Project, except Part 2.3, Part 3.2, Subgrants under Part 1.4 (a), and	32,756,000	Such percentage as may be agreed between the Association and the Co-financier based on the Annual Work plans and Budget
(2) School grants under Part 1.4 (a)	4,180,000	Such percentage as may be agreed between the Association and the Co-financier based on the Annual Work plans and Budget
(3) Goods, works, non-consulting services, consulting services, Training and Operating Costs, under Part 2.3 (i) and Part 2.3 (iii) and Part 3.2 of the Project	913,520	Such percentage as may be agreed between the Association and the Co-financier based on the Annual Work plans and Budget
(4) Goods, works, non-consulting services, consulting services, Training and	11,550,480	Such percentage as may be agreed between the Association and the Co-

Operating Costs, under Part 2.3 (ii) of the Project		financier based on the Annual Work plans and Budget
(5) Emergency Expenditures under Part 4 of the Project.	0	100%
TOTAL AMOUNT	49,400,000	

B. Withdrawal Conditions; Withdrawal Period

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this Section, no withdrawal shall be made:
 - (a) for payments made prior to the Signature Date;
 - (b) under Category 2 unless and until the Recipient has: (i) adopted the School Grants Manual annexed to the POM in form and substance acceptable to the Association; and (ii) and has signed and executed at least one (1) School Grant Agreement with an Eligible School, all in form and substance acceptable to the Association, and in accordance with the provisions of Section I.C of Schedule 2 to this Agreement;
 - (c) under Category 5 unless and until the Recipient has: (i) determined that an eligible emergency has occurred; (ii) submitted a request to the Association for activation of the CERC; (iii) prepared an emergency action plan for the use of CERC funds, and the Association has approved said Plan; and (iv) the preparation and disclosure of any additional safeguard instruments pertaining to CERC activities that may require these additional instruments have been prepared and disclosed.
2. The Closing Date is October 31, 2030.

APPENDIX

Section I. Definitions

1. “Anti-Corruption Guidelines” means, for purposes of paragraph 5 of the Appendix to the General Conditions, the “Guidelines on Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption in Projects Financed by IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants”, dated October 15, 2006 and revised in January 2011 and as of July 1, 2016.
2. “ALP” means accelerated learning program.
3. “Annual Work Plan and Budget” means each annual work plan, together with the related budget, for the Project approved by the Association pursuant to the provisions of Section I.H of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
4. “Basic Education” means the Recipient’s pre-primary, primary and lower secondary levels.
5. “Category” means a category set forth in the table in Section III.A of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
6. “CERC Manual” means the manual referred to in Section G of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, as such manual may be updated from time to time with the agreement of the Association, and which is an integral part of the Operational Manual.
7. “Contingent Emergency Response Part” means any activity or activities to be carried out under Part 4 of the Project to respond to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency.
8. “Eligible Schools”. means an educational institution that satisfies the eligibility criteria for such institutions set forth in the School Grant Manual and through which the Recipient will provide School Grants to schools.
9. “Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” or “ESCP” means the environmental and social commitment plan for the Project, dated May 16, 2024, as the same may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions thereof, which sets out the material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out to address the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project, including the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and any environmental and social instruments to be prepared thereunder.
10. “Emergency Expenditures” means any of the eligible expenditures set forth in the CERC Manual referred to in Section G of Schedule 2 to this Agreement and required for the Contingent Emergency Response Part.

11. “Emergency Action Plan” means the plan referred to in Section G, detailing the activities, budget, implementation plan, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements, to respond to the Eligible Crisis or Emergency.
12. “Eligible Crisis or Emergency” means an event that has caused, or is likely to imminently cause, a major adverse economic and/or social impact to the Recipient, associated with a natural or man-made crisis or disaster.
13. “Environmental and Social Standards” or “ESSs” means, collectively:
(i) “Environmental and Social Standard 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts”; (ii) “Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions”; (iii) “Environmental and Social Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management”; (iv) “Environmental and Social Standard 4: Community Health and Safety”; (v) “Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement”; (vi) “Environmental and Social Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources”; (vii) “Environmental and Social Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities”; (viii) “Environmental and Social Standard 8: Cultural Heritage”; (ix) “Environmental and Social Standard 9: Financial Intermediaries”; (x) “Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure”; effective on October 1, 2018, as published by the Association.
14. “General Conditions” means the “International Development Association General Conditions for IDA Financing, Investment Project Financing”, dated December 14, 2018 (Last revised on July 15, 2023).
15. “Operating Costs” means the incremental and reasonable expenses incurred by the Recipient, based on amounts and budgets approved by the Association, on account of the day-to-day implementation of the Project including maintenance of vehicles and equipment, fuel, office supplies, utilities, consumables, office rental and maintenance, bank charges, advertising expenses, insurance, travel, per diems, accommodation, advertising expenses, and salaries of selected support staff, but excluding salaries of consultants and salaries of officials of the Recipient’s civil service.
16. “Procurement Regulations” means, for purposes of paragraph 85 of the Appendix to the General Conditions, the “World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers”, dated September 2023.
17. “Project Coordination Unit” or “PCU” each means the entity to be established pursuant to the provisions of Section I.A. of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

18. “Project Operations Manual” or “POM” each means the manual referred to in Section I.B of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, as the same may be amended from time to time with the prior written agreement of the Association.
19. “Project Steering Committee” or “PSC” means the committee established pursuant to the provisions of Section I.A. of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
20. “School Grants” means funds allocated to an eligible school in line with eligible expenses agreed and further detailed in the School Grant Manual.
21. “School Grants Manual” means the manual referred to in Part I.C of Schedule 2 to this Agreement to be adopted by the Recipient detailing the rules and procedures governing the implementation of Part 1.4 of the Project.
22. “Selected Regions” means Regions of the Recipient’s territory selected according to selection criteria used for geographic targeting of classroom extension and rehabilitation contained in the POM.
23. “School Grant Agreement” means the agreement between the Recipient and an Eligible School, described in Section I.C of Schedule 2 for the purposes of fulfilling all programmatic and fiduciary functions involved in the implementation of the School Grants.
24. “Signature Date” means the later of the two dates on which the Recipient and the Association signed this Agreement and such definition applies to all references to “the date of the Financing Agreement” in the General Conditions.
25. “Training” means the cost of training under the Project, based on the annual work plans and budgets referred to in Section I of Schedule 2 to this Agreement as approved by the Association, and attributable to seminars, workshops, and study tours, along with domestic and international travel and subsistence allowances for training participants, services of trainers, rental of training facilities, preparation and reproduction of training materials, and other activities directly related to course preparation and implementation.