



Malawi Education Sector Improvement Project (MESIP) (P154185)

AFRICA EAST | Malawi | Education Global Practice |
Recipient Executed Activities | Investment Project Financing | FY 2017 | Seq No: 10 | ARCHIVED on 06-Aug-2021 | ISR46879 |

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Key Dates

Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date: 31-Aug-2016

Effectiveness Date: 13-Dec-2016

Planned Mid Term Review Date: 28-Feb-2019

Actual Mid-Term Review Date: 18-Mar-2019

Original Closing Date: 31-Dec-2020

Revised Closing Date: 30-Jul-2021

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The overall Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve the equity and quality of primary education service delivery in earlygrade levels with an emphasis on improved accountability and functioning at the school level.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

Yes

Board Approved Revised Project Development Objective (If project is formally restructured)

Improve quality, equity and efficiency of primary education in selected districts and schools.

Components Table

Name

Component 1: Performance-based school improvement grants for improving promotion and retention.:(Cost \$10.24 M)

Component 2: Improving Equity for the most disadvantaged, including girls.:(Cost \$9.60 M)

Component 3: Improving learning outcomes, accountability and cost-effectiveness at school level.:(Cost \$6.91 M)

Component 4: Variable Part/Disbursement Linked Indicators.:(Cost \$13.47 M)

Component 5: Project management, and sector program support and coordination.:(Cost \$4.68 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

Implementation of MESIP is at an advanced stage and most project-supported activities have been completed, including: disbursement of four rounds of MESIP School Improvement Grants (SIGs), and their usage to construct more than 1000 low-cost learning shelters, among other



activities; construction of 500 classrooms, benefiting approximately 60,000 students, of which 31,000 female, and 327 latrines, of which 215 for girls, benefiting approximately 30,000 students, of which 20,000 female; and completion of school leadership training for 1968 headteachers, deputy headteachers, and primary education advisers. The project closing date was extended to July 30, 2021 to enable completion of project activities delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly relating to construction and delivery of the final tranche of performance-based grants to schools. Construction activities have been completed and other activities are on course for completion before the revised closing date.

Achievement of Disbursement-Linked Results (DLRs). On 15th March 2021, the MoE submitted a letter confirming achievement of 2019/20 DLRs under Component 4 of MESIP, Variable Tranche/Disbursement Linked Indicators. Specifically, the Government reported full achievement of DLR 1.2, regarding the Reduction in Pupil-Qualified Teacher Ratio (PQTR) in Grades 1 and 2 in Eight Most Disadvantaged Districts; and 2.2, regarding the Increase in Female to Male Teacher Ratio in Grades 6-8 in Eight Most Disadvantaged Districts; and partial achievement of DLR 3.2, regarding Reduction in Repetition Rate in Grades 1-4 in Eight Most Disadvantaged Districts. An independent validation report (IVR) recommended acceptance of the Government's claim. Owing to some observed discrepancies in the IVR methodology and findings, the Task Team conducted additional validation of the results using external sources including Education Management Information System (EMIS), which supported the Government's reported achievement. The IVR's recommendation to accept the Government's reported achievement was endorsed by the Local Education Group on 4th March 2021. The confirmation of achievement was sent by Country Manager to the Government on April 22nd and disbursement of the remaining US\$6.23 million of undisbursed funds was completed on 7th May, 2021.

3. Disbursement stands at 97.23 percent. The US\$1.24 million undisbursed is related to DLR 3.2 for the variable tranche following the partial achievement in 2019/20. The Government may still be able to claim the remaining undisbursed finance if the Annual School Census 2020/21 shows the required improvement in promotion rates prior to project close.

4. Mainstreaming. In anticipation of project closure, a number of steps have been taken to prepare for the mainstreaming of MESIP activities, including: updating of the MESIP SIG expenditure guidelines and mainstreaming into the main Primary School Improvement Program (PSIP) SIG guidelines, and dissemination of the updated guidelines to schools; development of a new standardized design for low-cost classrooms, building on the learning shelters developed under MESIP; and updating of the School Leadership Program training materials by the Malawi Institute of Education (MIE), with support from the Local Government Accountability Program (LGAP). Steps are now underway for mainstreaming of ZEMISOs positions which are currently operative in the approximately 150 zones in which Component 3.2 is active under MESIP and the sister project MESIP-Extended supported by Royal Norwegian Embassy. There is a need to update staffing establishments and budgets to formalize these positions and extend them to all districts prior to project closure. The MoE is also preparing a strategy for mainstreaming and sustainability of the Real-Time Data Collection (Component 3.2) and Community Dialogue Platform (Component 3.3), while Components 1 (Enhanced Grants to Schools) and 3.1 (School Leadership Program) are being scaled up with support from the successor Malawi Education Reform Program (MERP, P174239).

Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	High	Moderate	Moderate
Macroeconomic	Substantial	Moderate	Moderate
Sector Strategies and Policies	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	Substantial	Moderate	Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	Substantial	Moderate	Moderate
Fiduciary	Substantial	Moderate	Moderate
Environment and Social	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Stakeholders	Substantial	Moderate	Moderate
Other	--	Moderate	Moderate
Overall	Substantial	Moderate	Moderate



Results

PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

Improving the quality and equity of primary education in selected districts and schools				
▶ Number of additional standard classrooms built in selected primary schools resulting from project interventions. (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	468.00	500.00	500.00
Date	01-Jan-2016	05-Oct-2020	01-Jul-2021	30-Jul-2021
▶ Percent of targeted schools meeting minimum standards in National Education Standard (NES) 16 in the 8 most disadvantaged districts (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	62.70	0.00	71.10	78.38
Date	01-Jan-2019	08-May-2020	15-Jul-2021	30-Jul-2021
Comments:	Provisional figure. Data under validation by Task Team. To be confirmed in ICR.			

Improved equity and efficiency in selected districts and schools				
▶ Pupil to Qualified Teacher Ratio (PqTR) in grades 1-2 in the 8 most disadvantaged districts (Text, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	166 pupils to 1 qualified primary school teacher	123 pupils to 1 qualified primary school teacher	108.00	132 pupils to 1 qualified lower primary teacher
Date	31-Oct-2016	31-Oct-2018	01-Oct-2019	30-Nov-2020
Comments:	Baseline updated at MTR.			
▶ Grade-wise promotion rate in lower primary grades in targeted districts (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	65.40	64.25	68.00	67.40
Date	30-Sep-2016	31-Oct-2019	15-Jul-2021	30-Jul-2021
Comments:	Updated from early ASC 2020/21 data. Submission from Government to be validated when full data available and updated in ICR if required.			

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components



Component 1: Performance-based school improvement grants for improving promotion and retention.

► Number of schools in the performance based funding (PBF) treatment receiving PBF grants (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	325.00	335.00	400.00
Date	01-Jan-2016	05-Oct-2020	15-Jul-2021	30-Jul-2021

► Framework for conducting low stake zonal tests endorsed (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date	30-Apr-2019	08-May-2020	08-May-2020	31-Dec-2020

► Common zonal tests conducted in grades 3 and 4 in the 8 disadvantaged districts. (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date	30-Apr-2019	03-Oct-2019	31-Dec-2020	30-Jul-2021

► Repetition Rate in Grades 1-4 in 8 most disadvantaged districts (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	23.70	21.40	21.40	21.30
Date	30-Sep-2016	31-Oct-2019	30-Nov-2020	31-Dec-2020

□ Repetition rate for girls in grades 1-4 in 8 most disadvantaged districts (Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	23.20	26.60	20.90	20.90
Date	30-Sep-2016	28-Sep-2018	01-Dec-2020	31-Dec-2020

► Dropout rate for girls in grades 5-7 in the 8 most disadvantaged districts (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	27.10	22.70	24.60	16.00
Date	30-Sep-2016	28-Sep-2018	31-Dec-2019	30-Jul-2021



Comments: Current figure (2019) subject to issues of data cleaning. Will be updated with 2020 figure from EMIS 2020/21 in ICR. Impacts of COVID-19 expected to make full achievement challenging.

► Female to male teacher ratio on grades 6-8 in 8 most disadvantaged districts (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.31	0.00	0.37	0.34
Date	30-Sep-2016	30-Aug-2019	30-Nov-2020	30-Jul-2021
► Number of low cost learning facilities built for lower primary the 8 most disadvantaged districts (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	1,009.00	1,325.00	1,000.00
Date	30-Sep-2016	08-May-2020	22-Apr-2021	31-Dec-2020

Component 2: Improving Equity for the most disadvantaged, including girls.

► Number of sanitary facilities constructed in target schools (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	250.00	327.00	300.00
Date	01-Jan-2016	15-May-2020	22-Apr-2021	30-Jul-2021
□ Number of sanitary blocks for boys (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	89.00	112.00	114.00
Date	28-Oct-2016	15-May-2020	22-Apr-2021	30-Jul-2021
□ Number of sanitary blocks for girls (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	161.00	215.00	228.00
Date	31-Oct-2016	15-May-2020	22-Apr-2021	30-Jul-2021

Component 3: Improving learning outcomes, accountability and cost-effectiveness at school level.

► Number of headteachers and deputy headteachers trained. (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Date	30-Sep-2016	30-Aug-2019	30-Nov-2020	30-Jul-2021



Value	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	800.00
Date	01-Jan-2016	08-May-2020	08-May-2020	31-Dec-2020
► Percent of teachers in targeted schools observed at least once a term by their head teachers (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	57.90	83.30	83.30	80.00
Date	01-Jan-2016	08-May-2020	08-May-2020	30-Jul-2021
► Average teacher attendance rate in targeted schools (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	82.50	89.00	89.00	90.00
Date	30-Nov-2016	05-Oct-2020	05-Oct-2020	30-Jul-2021
Comments:	Will be updated for End target prior to ICR.			
► Average teacher utilization rate in lower primary (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	56.80	55.10	55.10	62.00
Date	30-Nov-2016	08-May-2020	08-May-2020	30-Jul-2021
Comments:	Will be updated from EMIS 2020/21 in ICR.			
► Average learner attendance rate in targeted schools (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	62.20	69.00	69.00	72.00
Date	30-Nov-2016	05-Oct-2020	05-Oct-2020	30-Jul-2020
Comments:	Will be updated for End target in ICR.			
► Number of meetings schools hold with parents in a school year (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	1.80	1.88	1.88	3.00
Date	30-Nov-2016	08-May-2020	08-May-2020	30-Jul-2021
Comments:	Will be updated from MLSS Endline 2020/21 prior to ICR.			



▶ Number of unique community members who sent messages through the component 3.3 Community Dialogue Platform (Text, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	721.00	721.00	4,247.00	865.00
Date	31-Mar-2020	31-Mar-2020	18-Jun-2021	30-Jul-2021
Comments:	2,738 users by SMS and 1,509 by Interactive Voice Response. Inputs using suggestion boxes not included.			

Overall Comments

2020/End target figures for IRs on dropout, teacher attendance, teacher utilization, learner attendance and meetings with parents to be updated from M&E data, EMIS 2020/21, real-time/community dialogue platform, and/or MLSS Endline in ICR.

PBC 3 (aligned with IR for Repetition Rate in Grades 1-4 in 8 most disadvantaged districts) baseline and target are as in IR and in Annex 2 of Restructuring Paper (December 2019). PBC in Portal was mislabelled at restructuring with wrong baseline and target. Baseline is corrected but end target not editable.

Performance-Based Conditions

▶ PBC 1 PqTR in Grades 1 and 2 in 8 most disadvantaged districts (Text, Outcome, 4,490,000.00, 44.54%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	166 lower primary pupils for every 1 qualified primary school teacher	123 lower primary pupils to every 1 qualified primary school teacher	107.3 lower primary pupils to every 1 qualified primary school teacher	--
Date	--	22-Oct-2018	30-Nov-2020	--
Comments:	Baseline value will be supplied at MTR			
<input type="checkbox"/> PBC 1.1 Endorsement of a comprehensive strategy and action plan for improving the distribution of teachers (Yes/No, Process, 2,000,000.00, 0%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	No	Yes	Yes	No
Date	--	29-Jun-2018	29-Jun-2018	--
<input type="checkbox"/> PBC 1.2 20% reduction in PqTR grades 1 & 2 in 8 most disadvantaged districts (Percentage, Outcome, 2,490,000.00, 0.00%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	166.00	123.00	107.30	132.00



Date	--	22-Oct-2018	30-Nov-2020	--
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►PBC 2 Female to male teacher ratio in grades 6-8 in 8 most disadvantaged districts (Text, Outcome, 4,490,000.00, 44.54%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	No	Strategy was endorsed for implementation	0.37	10% increase in female to male teacher ratio for grades 6-8
Date	--	28-Feb-2018	30-Nov-2020	--
Comments:	Revised UNGES			
□PBC 2.1 Endorsement of a comprehensive strategy and action plan for improving female to male teacher ratio (Yes/No, Process, 2,000,000.00, 0%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	No	Yes	Yes	No
Date	--	29-Jun-2018	29-Jun-2018	--
□PBC 2.2 10% increase in female to male teacher ratio in grades 6-8 in 8 most disadvantaged districts (Text, Outcome, 2,490,000.00, 0.00%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	0.31	0.00	0.37	0.34
Date	--	22-Oct-2018	30-Nov-2020	--

►PBC 3 Repetition rate in grades 1-4 in 8 most disadvantaged districts. (Text, Outcome, 4,490,000.00, 44.54%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	Not yet due for measurement	Not yet due for measurement	21.40	10% reduction in repetition for grades 1-4
Date	--	29-Jun-2018	30-Nov-2020	--
□PBC 3.1 Endorsement of national implementation strategy and action plan for promoting efficiency measures at the school level to reduce repetition in lower primary (Yes/No, Process, 2,000,000.00, 0%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Yes



Date	--	29-Jun-2018	29-Jun-2018	--
<input type="checkbox"/> PBC 3.2 10% reduction in repetition rate in grades 1-4 in 8 most disadvantaged districts. (Percentage, Outcome, 2,490,000.00, 0.00%)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	July 2021
Value	23.70	0.00	21.40	20.90
Date	--	22-Oct-2018	30-Nov-2020	--

Data on Financial Performance

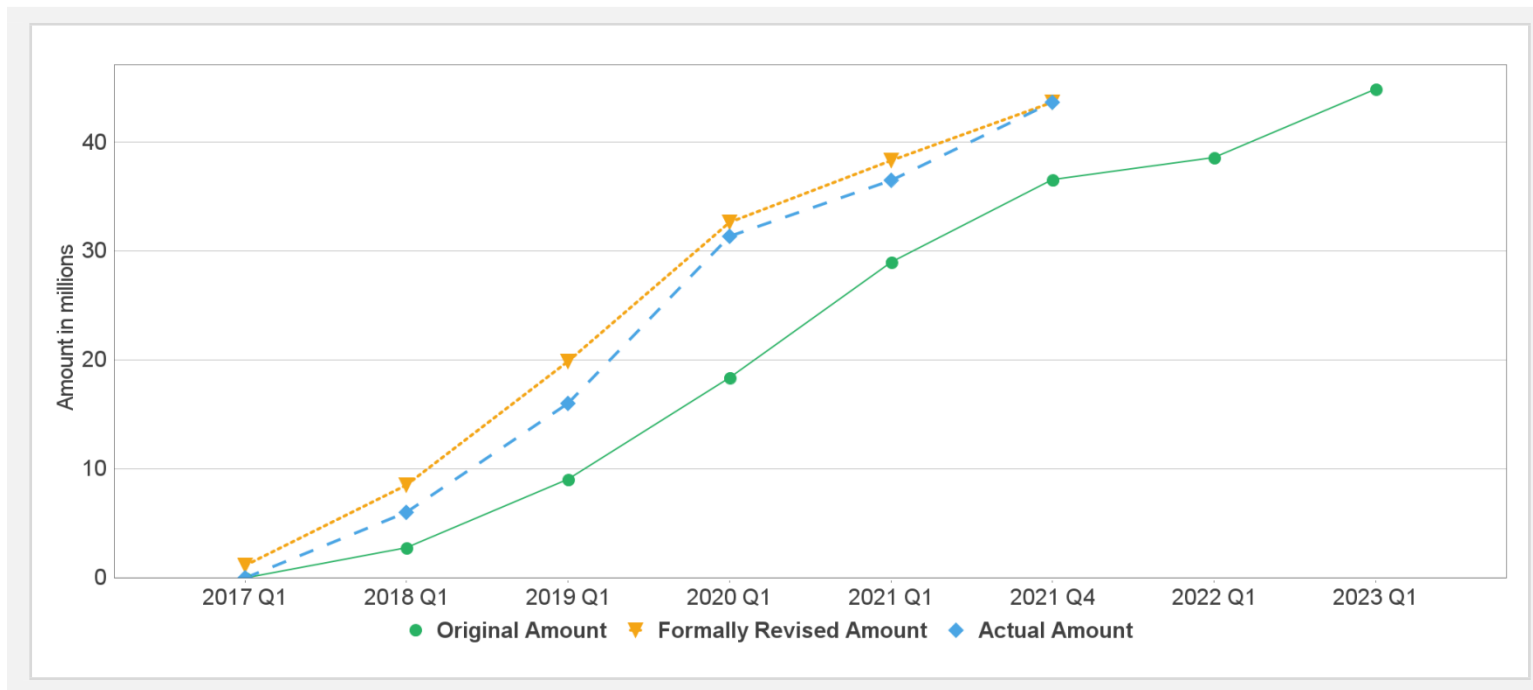
Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P154185	TF-A2913	Effective	USD	44.90	44.90	0.00	43.66	1.24	97%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P154185	TF-A2913	Effective	31-Aug-2016	22-Sep-2016	13-Dec-2016	31-Dec-2020	30-Jul-2021

Cumulative Disbursements





PBC Disbursement

PBC ID	PBC Type	Description	Coc	PBC Amount	Achievement Status	Disbursed amount in Coc	Disbursement % for PBC
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Restructuring History

Level 2 Approved on 03-Oct-2019 ,Level 2 Approved on 23-Dec-2020

Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.
