
GRANT NUMBER D6810-SL

Financing Agreement

(Free Education Project)

between

REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

GRANT NUMBER D6810-SL

FINANCING AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT dated as of the Signature Date between REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE (“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 thirty-six million five hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 36,500,000) (“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 February 15 and August 15 in each year.
- 2.05. The Payment Currency is Dollar.

ARTICLE III — PROJECT

- 3.01. The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives 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 — REMEDIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 4.01. The Co-financing Deadline for the effectiveness of the Co-financing Agreement is two (2) years from the Effectiveness Date.

ARTICLE V — EFFECTIVENESS; TERMINATION

- 5.01. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date ninety days (90) days after the Signature Date.
- 5.02. For purposes of Section 10.05 (b) of the General Conditions, the date on which the obligations of the Recipient under this Agreement (other than those providing for payment obligations) shall terminate is twenty years after the Signature Date.

ARTICLE VI — REPRESENTATIVE; ADDRESSES

- 6.01. The Recipient's Representative is its ministry for finance.
- 6.02. For purposes of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

- (a) the Recipient's address is:

Ministry of Finance
Treasury Building
George Street
Freetown, Sierra Leone; and

- (b) the Recipient's Electronic Address is:

Facsimile:
232 22 229 060

- 6.03. For purposes of Section 11.01 of the General Conditions:

- (a) the Association's address is:

International Development Association
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433
United States of America; and

- (b) the Association's Electronic Address is:

Telex:	Facsimile:
248423 (MCI)	1-202-477-6391

AGREED as of the Signature Date.

REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

By



Authorized Representative

Name: Jacob Jusu Saffa

Title: Minister of Finance

13-Jul-2020

Date: _____

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By



Authorized Representative

Name: Gayle Martin

Title: Country Manager

02-Jul-2020

Date: _____

SCHEDULE 1

Project Description

The objective of the Project is to improve management of the education system, teaching practices, and learning conditions.

The Project consists of the following parts:

Part 1: Policy, Governance, Accountability and System Administration

- (a) Support the Recipient's Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MBSSE) to prepare annual and medium-term education sector plans and budgeting and support the Directorate of Planning and Policy to undertake the necessary annual projections of inputs to inform the budgeting process.
- (b) Provision of technical advisory services for conducting a comprehensive School Catchment Area Plan to provide the Recipient with the necessary information for a range of interventions including civil works and teacher deployment.
- (c) Provision of technical advisory services for the development of education norms and standards including the distribution of school networks with special focus on maximum distance from home to school, maximum size of school/population, minimum package of facilities, minimum standards for a child-friendly school, minimum environmental safeguards, criterion and formula for determining the extent and nature of government financial assistance.
- (d) Support MBSSE's program for data collection and use through:
 - (i) provision of technical advisory services to collect Annual School Census (ASC) data to ensure there is adequate data to support education system planning and management;
 - (ii) building the capacity of the deputy directors, supervisors, and statistical clerks at the district level;
 - (iii) linking to the higher and technical education systems; and
 - (iv) strengthening capacity of the MBSSE to manage the robust data system as part of the larger Education Management Information System (EMIS) and to ensure timely and accurate reporting so that the data can be used to inform decision making in the sector.
- (e) Strengthen the existing school standards such as teaching practices, school management, school safety, community engagement practices, health promotion, gender inclusion; disability inclusion; and develop and implement an effective quality assurance framework that complies with the best international practice in the external evaluation of schools.

- (f) Support the Recipient's institutional and human capacity development, including through: (i) provision of technical advisory services to carry out an organizational and management analysis to determine where in the educational system specific responsibilities and authority should be assigned; and (ii) provide training to government officials at the central and local levels to strengthen their capacity in ensuring quality of education services.
- (g) Support MBSSE's transition to a comprehensive national curriculum including through: (i) provision of technical advisory services to conduct a curriculum assessment validated by subject specialists and teachers; and (ii) providing needed training and Operating Costs.
- (h) Provision of technical advisory services to develop the National Learning Assessment Framework to facilitate comparisons across districts and by other groupings, thereby enabling education policy makers to identify areas and groups that are lagging behind in terms of achievement and to design the appropriate interventions and strategies including providing the necessary training.
- (i) Strengthening the capacity of WAEC to conduct analyses of examination results to identify response patterns and detect underlying student strengths and weaknesses.
- (j) Carry out activities to promote gender equality and inclusive education in collaboration with the Ministries, Departments and Agencies including through: (i) provision of training to school administrative staff and staff at the district level on gender issues (including discrimination) as well as prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV); (ii) establishing and strengthening a mechanism for reporting sexual and gender based violence at the community level, (iii) developing a platform for effective response on SGBV health related issues, including strengthening key support and health services with a strong referral mechanism; and (iv) providing both boys and girls sexual and reproductive health education and a mentoring program.
- (k) Carry out activities to promote the Recipient's inclusive education system including: (i) developing and implementing an inclusive education policy and program, (ii) implementing a regular monitoring system on student attendance and learning including children with various disabilities; (iii) carrying out an outreach on the capacities and rights of persons with disabilities; (iv) developing and implementing training for teachers and school heads and administrators in promoting an inclusive education environment; and (v) designating an inclusion champion in each school receiving in-service teacher training.

Part 2: Teacher Management and Professional Development

- (a) Provide support to the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) to develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated teacher management information system to provide information for teacher workforce planning and management.
- (b) Support teacher professional development, including through:
 - (i) providing appropriate digital devices to primary and junior secondary school head teachers and TSC district offices;
 - (ii) providing technical assistance to conduct a feasibility study on the use of information and communication technology to support cluster and school based continuous professional development; and
 - (iii) developing a continuous professional development program for both primary and junior secondary school teachers.

Part 3: School Level Education Development

- (a) Provide Performance-based School Grants to Targeted Primary Schools to improve teaching and learning outcomes.
- (b) Provide School Maintenance/Renovation Grants to schools to carry out minor maintenance and renovation works to Targeted Primary Schools.
- (c) Support the construction and furnishing of new classrooms to meet the infrastructure needs of schools as identified in the School Catchment Area Plan, including girls' boarding schools and homes and water and sanitation hygiene facilities.

Part 4: Project Management, Coordination and Monitoring and Evaluation

Support the: (a) implementation, coordination and supervision of Project activities, including, *inter alia*, outreach, conducting financial audits, data collection and monitoring and evaluation; (b) the establishment of an online data/resource sharing platform to support knowledge generation and dissemination of Project supported activities; and (c) the necessary Operating Costs.

Part 5. Contingency Emergency Response

Provision of support to respond to an Eligible Emergency including: (a) designing and carrying out the necessary sector investments; and (b) providing supervision for carrying out the investments including any necessary rehabilitation works.

SCHEDULE 2

Project Execution

Section I. Implementation Arrangements

A. Institutional Arrangements

1. *Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education*

The Recipient shall:

- (a) implement the Project (including coordination and oversight) through the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) with support from the Participating Agencies; and
- (b) maintain, at all times during the implementation of the Project, the MBSSE and Participating Agencies, with functions, staffing and resources satisfactory to the Association for the purpose of ensuring overall coordination, implementation and communication of Project activities and results.

2. *The Free Education Project Secretariat*

The Recipient shall:

- (a) not later than six (6) months from the Effectiveness Date, establish and thereafter maintain throughout the implementation of the Project, the Free Education Project Secretariat (FEPS) responsible for the day-to-day management and coordination of the Project, with adequate resources, key staff including an environmental specialist, a social development specialist, and a monitoring and evaluation specialist, all with qualifications, skills and terms of reference satisfactory to the Association;
- (b) ensure that the FEPS coordinates with the Project Fiduciary Management Unit (PFMU) in implementing the Project and verifies and evaluates the Performance-based School Grants; and
- (c) monitoring and evaluating the progress of the Project and preparing Project Reports, all in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and of the PIM.

3. *Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Free Education Project Steering Committee*

The Recipient shall:

- (a) not later than six (6) months from the Effectiveness Date establish and thereafter maintain throughout implementation of the Project, an MDTF Free Education Project Steering Committee (“MDTFSC”), with a composition, mandate, terms of reference and resources satisfactory to the Association;
- (b) without limitation upon the generality of the foregoing, the MDTFSC shall be co-chaired by the Minister of MBSSE or Minister of Finance (MoF) or their designees, and a representative of the Association, and shall comprise of, *inter alia*, a representative from MBSSE, MoF, TSC, Association and from each of the contributing Co-financiers; and.
- (c) the MDTFSC shall meet at least biannually and shall be responsible for providing oversight on Project implementation, including, *inter alia*: (i) providing strategic and policy guidance on matters relating to education reforms; (ii) facilitating coordination of Project activities and ensuring synergies with other projects and programs in the sector, and making recommendations for removal of any obstacles to the implementation of the Project; and (iii) reviewing progress made towards achieving the Project’s objectives.

4. *Project Fiduciary Management Unit (PFMU)*

- (a) The Recipient shall maintain, at all times during the implementation of the Project, a Project Fiduciary Management Unit (PFMU) within the MoF with functions, staffing and resources satisfactory to the Association for managing the fiduciary aspects of the Project.
- (b) Without limitation on the foregoing the PFMU shall be responsible for the procurement, financial management, and internal audit under the Project, including: (i) preparing and reviewing procurement plans and procuring of goods, works and consultants services to be financed out of the Financing in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement; (ii) maintaining a financial management system and preparing financial statements in accordance with consistently applied accounting standards acceptable to the Association, both in a manner adequate to reflect the operations, resources and expenditures related to the Project; (iii) having such financial statements audited by independent auditors acceptable to the Association, in accordance with consistently applied auditing standards acceptable to the Association, and promptly furnish the statements as so audited to the Recipient and the Association;

and (iv) preparing and submitting withdrawal application to the Association and operating the designated account for the Project.

B. Other Arrangements

1. *Project Implementation Manual (PIM)*

- (a) To facilitate efficient implementation of the Project, the Recipient shall, carry out the Project in accordance with the Project Implementation Manual including: (i) a detailed description of Project activities; (ii) the specific roles and responsibilities of Participating Agencies, and the arrangements for ensuring coordination among them; (iii) arrangements on fiduciary matters, including financial management and procurement; (iv) institutional administration coordination and day to day execution of Project activities; (v) monitoring and evaluation; (vi) reporting; (vii) information, education and communication of Project activities; (viii) social and environmental safeguards; and (ix) such other technical and organizational arrangements and procedures as shall be required for the Project.
- (b) In case of any conflict between the provisions of the PIM and the provisions of this Agreement, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

2. *School Grants*

- (a) In implementing Parts 3 (a) and (b) of the Project, the Recipient through MBSSE shall:
 - (i) make School Grants under the Project, pursuant to an agreement (School Grant Agreement) with an eligible school's respective School Management Committee to implement their respective Sub-projects as set forth in the School Improvement Plan on terms and conditions approved by the Association and set forth in the School Maintenance/Renovation Grants Manual and the Performance-based Financing Manual.
- (b) The Recipient through MBSSE, in providing the School Grants shall obtain rights adequate to protect its interests and those of the Association, including the right to:
 - (i) suspend or terminate the right of the respective School Management Committee to use the proceeds of the School Grants, or obtain a refund of all or any part of the amount of the School Grant then withdrawn, upon the School Management

Committee's failure to perform any of its obligations under the School Grant Agreement;

- (ii) require a School Management Committee to: (A) carry out its Sub-projects with due diligence and efficiency and in accordance with sound technical, economic, financial, managerial, environmental and social standards and practices satisfactory to the Association, including in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Guidelines applicable to recipients of IBRD loan and IDA credit and grant proceeds other than the Recipient; (B) provide, promptly as needed, the resources required for the purpose; (C) procure the goods, works and services, in accordance with the Performance Based Financing Manual and the provisions of this Agreement;
 - (iii) maintain policies and procedures adequate to enable it to monitor and evaluate in accordance with indicators acceptable to the Association, the progress of the Sub-projects and the achievement of their objectives;
 - (iv) maintain a financial management system and prepare financial statements in accordance with consistently applied accounting standards acceptable to the Association, both in a manner adequate to reflect the operations, resources and expenditures related to the Sub-projects;
 - (v) at the Association's or the Recipient'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, and promptly furnish the statements as so audited to the Recipient and the Association;
 - (vi) enable the Recipient and the Association to inspect the Sub-projects, its operation and any relevant records and documents; and
 - (vii) 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.
- (c) The Recipient through MBSSE shall exercise its rights under each School Grant Agreement in such manner as to protect the interests of the Recipient and the Association and to accomplish the purposes of the Financing. Except as the Association shall otherwise agree, the Recipient shall not

assign, amend, abrogate or waive any School Grant Agreement or any of its provisions.

- (d) In case of any inconsistency between the School Grant Agreement and this Agreement, this Agreement shall prevail.

3. *Annual Work Plan and Budget*

- (a) The Recipient shall prepare and furnish to the Association not later than November 30 of each Fiscal Year during the implementation of the Project, a work plan and budget containing all activities proposed to be included in the Project during the following Fiscal Year, and a proposed financing plan for expenditures required for such activities, setting forth the proposed amounts and sources of financing.
- (b) The Recipient shall afford the Association a reasonable opportunity to exchange views with the Recipient on each such proposed work plan and budget and thereafter ensure that the Project is implemented with due diligence during said following Fiscal Year in accordance with such work plan and budget as shall have been approved by the Association (“Annual Work Plan and Budget”).
- (c) The Recipient shall not make or allow to be made any material change to the approved Annual Work Plan and Budget without prior approval in writing by the Association.

C. Implementation Arrangements under Part 5 of the Project (Contingency for Emergency Response)

- 1. In order to ensure the proper implementation of Part 5 of the Project after the occurrence of an Eligible Emergency, and prior to the carrying out of any activities under said Part of the Project, the Recipient shall take the following measures:
 - (a) determine that an Eligible Emergency has occurred, and the Association has agreed with said determination;
 - (b) furnish to the Association a list of proposed investments and a request to finance the Eligible Expenditures under Category (4) in order to respond to said Eligible Emergency;
 - (c) cause the Project Implementation Manual (PIM) to be updated and adopted as needed, defining the scope of activities, implementation arrangements, procurement and disbursement arrangements under Part 5 of the Project; and

- (d) prepare, disclose and consult or cause to be prepared, disclosed and consulted on all Safeguards Instruments required for said activities, in accordance with the provisions of Section I.D of Schedule 2 to this Agreement; all under terms and in a manner satisfactory to the Association.

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 shall 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, and 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, subcontractors and supervising entities 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.

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: (a) finance Eligible Expenditures; and (b) repay the Preparation Advance; 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, and consulting services, Training and Operating Costs (excluding Parts 3(a), 3(b), and 5 of the Project) for the Project	16,611,000	100%
(2) Performance-based School Grants under Part 3(a) of the Project	11,000,000	100%
(3) School Maintenance/Renovation Grants under Part 3(b) of the Project	4,505,000	100%
(4) Emergency Expenditures under Part 5 of the Project	0	
(5) Refund of Preparation Advance	4,384,000	Amount payable pursuant to Section 2.07 (a) of the General Conditions
TOTAL AMOUNT	36,500,000	

B. Withdrawal Conditions; Withdrawal Period

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A above, no withdrawal shall be made:
 - (a) for payments made prior to the Signature Date;
 - (b) under Category 2, unless and until the Recipient has prepared a Performance-based Financing Manual satisfactory to the Association;
 - (c) under Category 3, unless and until the Recipient has prepared a School Maintenance/Renovation Grants Manual satisfactory to the Association; and
 - (d) under Category 4, unless and until the Recipient has furnished or caused to be furnished evidence satisfactory to the Association that measures

referred to in Section I.C of Schedule 2 to this Agreement have been met in a manner satisfactory to the Association.

2. The Closing Date is September 30, 2025.

APPENDIX

Definitions

1. “Annual School Census” means a school census conducted annually by MBSSE.
2. “Annual Work Plan and Budget” means each annual work plan, together with the related budget, for the Project approved by the Association and referred to in Section I.B.3 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
3. “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.
4. “Category” means a category set forth in the table in Section III.A of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
5. “Co-financier” means any of the development partners participating in the multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) set up by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) to finance the Project and include Irish Aid, European Union or and any other financiers that may support the Project through the MDTF.
6. “Co-financing” means, for purposes of paragraph 14 of the Appendix to the General Conditions, an amount equivalent to sixteen million Dollars (\$16,000,000), to be provided by the Co-financiers currently participating in the MDTF to assist in financing the Project.
7. “Co-financing Agreement” means the agreement to be entered into between the Recipient and the Association acting as administrator of the MDTF providing for the Co-financing.
8. “Directorate of Planning and Policy” means the directorate responsible for policy and planning within MBSSE.
9. “Education Management Information System” or “EMIS” means an information technology-based system for the collection, processing, maintenance and dissemination of education data and information.
10. “Eligible Emergency” means a natural or man-made crisis or disaster that has caused, or is likely to imminently cause, a major adverse impact in the Recipient’s territory, as will be further defined in the updated PIM.

11. “Emergency Expenditures” means the Eligible Expenditures under Category (4) of the Project.
12. “Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” or “ESCP” means the environmental and social commitment plan for the Project, dated June 2, 2020, 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.
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 Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities”; (viii) “Environmental and Social Standard 8: Cultural Heritage”; (ix) “Environmental and Social Standard 9: Financial Intermediaries”; and (x) “Environmental and Social Standard 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure”; effective on October 1, 2018, as published by the Association.
14. “Free Education Project Secretariat” or “FEPS” means the unit to be established by the Recipient for purposes of Project implementation and coordination, and to be maintained as provided for in Section I.A.2 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement
15. “General Conditions” means the “International Development Association General Conditions for IDA Financing, Investment Project Financing”, dated December 14, 2018.
16. “MDTF Free Education Project Steering Committee” means the committee set up by the Recipient with a composition, mandate, terms of reference and resources satisfactory to the Association and responsible for providing oversight on Project implementation as referred to in Section I.A.3 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
17. “MBSSE” means the Recipient’s Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education or its successor.

18. “National Learning Assessment Framework” means MBSSE’s framework for guiding the assessment of the learning outcomes of students.
19. “Participating Agencies” means MBSSE, TSC, WAEC, and District Education Offices and other agencies that may be agreed with the Association.
20. “Performance-based Financing Manual” means the Recipient’s manual to guide administration of Performance-Based School Grants.
21. “Performance-based School Grant” means a grant made or proposed to be made out of the proceeds of the Financing by MBSSE to Targeted Primary Schools and referred to in Part 3(a) of the Project.
22. “Preparation Advance” means the advance referred to in Section 2.07 (a) of the General Conditions, granted by the Association to the Recipient pursuant to the letter agreement signed on behalf of the Association on March 13, 2020 and on behalf of the Recipient on March 17, 2020.
23. “Project Fiduciary Management Unit” or “PFMU” means the Recipient’s unit established under the Ministry of Finance responsible for the financial management, procurement, and audit under the Project, as referred to in Section I.A.4 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
24. “Project Implementation Manual” or “PIM” means the Recipient’s manual dated December 24, 2019 and referred to in Section I.B.1 of Schedule 2 to this Agreement, as said manual may be amended from time to time by agreement with the Association.
25. “School Catchment Area Plan” means a plan to be developed by the Recipient to provide the evidence base for long-term planning and, guide a range of interventions including civil works and teacher deployment.
26. “School Grants” means the Performance-based School Grants and School Maintenance/Renovation Grants.
27. “School Grant Agreement” means an agreement entered into, or to be entered into, between MBSSE and the School Management Committee for the purpose of extending a Grant and referred to in Section I.B.2(a) of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.
28. “School Maintenance/Renovation Grant” means a grant made or proposed to be made by MBSSE to Targeted Primary Schools and referred to in Part 3(b) of the Project.
29. “School Maintenance/Renovation Grant Manual” means the Recipient’s manual to guide administration of School Maintenance/Renovation Grants.

30. “School Improvement Plan” means a plan to be prepared by the schools to outline activities for improving teaching and learning.
31. “School Management Committee” means a committee in each school for purposes of implementing school level Project activities.
32. “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.
33. “Sub-Project” means a sub-project included in a School Improvement Plan and to be financed from the proceeds of the School Grants under Parts 3(a) and 3(b) of the Project.
34. “Targeted Primary Schools” means schools to which, or for whose benefit a Performance-Based School Grant or a School Maintenance/Renovation Grant is made or proposed to be made for delivery of education services/outcomes or to carry out maintenance/renovation works.
35. “TSC” means the Teaching Service Commission established and operating pursuant to the Sierra Leone Teaching Service Commission Act, Number 1 of 2011; or any successor thereto.