Promoting Accountability of Public Resources

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

On the Financial Statements Audit of the Global PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION – GETTING to BEST IN EDUCATION PROJECT (GPE-G2B)

For the Period July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

June 2024

P. Garswa Jackson, Sr., FCCA, CFIP, CFC
Auditor General, R. L.

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Acronyms

Acronyms/ Abbreviations	Meaning
CFIP	Certified Forensic Investigation Professional
CFC	Certified Financial Consultant
DLI	Disbursement Link Indicators
DA	Designated Account
ESDC	Education Sector Development Committee
EEP	Eligible Expenditure Program
FAR	Fixed Asset Register
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
FCCA	Fellow Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
GAC	General Auditing Commission
G2B	Getting to Best Education Project
GOL	Government of Liberia
IA	Internal Audit
IAS	International Accounting Standards
IFR	Interim Financial Report
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IPSA	International Public Sector Accounting Framework
IIA	Institute of Internal Auditors
INTOSAI	International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions
ISAs	International Standards on Auditing
ISSAIs	International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MOE	Ministry of Education
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
PFM	Public Financial Management
PFMU	Public Financial Management Unit
PDT	Project Delivery Team
PPCC	Public Procurement and Concession Commission
PRC	Procurement Review Committee
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PIU	Project Implementation Unit (Same as PDT)
SMT	Senior Management Team
SMC	School Management Committee
SOE	Statement of Expenditure
US$	United States Dollar
WB	World Bank

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

June 20, 2024

Dr. Jarso Maley Jallah
Minister
Ministry of Education (MOE)
EJS Ministerial Complex
Monrovia, Liberia

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDIT OF the Global PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION – GETTING to BEST IN EDUCATION PROJECT (GPE-G2B) FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2023 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023.

Unqualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Global Partnership for Education – Getting To Best in Education Project (GPE-G2B) for the period ended December 31, 2023, which comprise Statements of Receipts and Payments, Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts and a Summary of significant accounting policies and explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying Statements of G2B present fairly in all material respects, the Statement of Receipts and Payments as at December 31, 2023, Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts and a summary of other accounting policies and other explanatory notes for the fiscal period then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Cash Basis of Accounting.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Supreme Audit Institutions together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the World Bank guideline and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Management Responsibility for the Statement of Receipts and Payments

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Statement of Receipts and Payments in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Cash Basis of Accounting and for such internal control as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of Statement of Receipt and Payment that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing its ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The G2B Management is responsible for overseeing the Project's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on Statement of Receipts and Payments based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) and the World Bank Guidelines. Those standards and the applicable World Bank guidelines required that we comply with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Statement of Receipts and Payments are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Statement of Receipts and Payments. The procedures selected depends on the auditor's judgment, including the assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the Statement of Receipts and Payments in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Statement of Receipts and Payments.

GENERAL AUDITING COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

P. Garswa Jackson Sr. FCCA, CFIP, CFC
Auditor General, R.L.

Monrovia, Liberia
June 20, 2023

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS **2**
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

In United States Dollars	Notes	**June 30, 2023**	Restated Balance December 31, 2022	Cumulative
Receipt				
TF Grant	**4**	**315,000**	2,395,029	7,964,336
Toptal Receipt		**315,000**	2,395,029	7,964,336
Payment				
Improving the quality and access to ECE in targeted counties	**5**	**111,472**	932,004	2,289,325
Supporting teacher training and certification in targeted counties	**6**	-	446,510	1,403,173
Improving school management accountability and system monitoring	**7**	**109,530**	644,017	1,753,435
Achieving better learning through improved equity efficiency and accountability	**8**	-	-	615,030
Project management and sector program support and coordination	**9**	**302,742**	226,318	1,661,252
Total Payments		**523,743**	2,248,849	7,722,215
Excess of receipts over payments (payments over receipts)		**(208,743)**	146,180	242,121
Fund Balance as at beginning		**450,865**	304,685	-
Cummulative fund balance		**242,121**	450,865	242,121

Getting to Best in Education Project (G2BEP)

Financial Statement of World Bank Funded Project
for the period ended June 30, 2023.
G2BEP: P162089: Grant No. TF A7093

Ministry of Finance & Dev't Planning
Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU)

Statement of Project Management Responsibility

The Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU) of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Project Coordinator for Getting to Best in Education project are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Project's financial statements, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Project for and as at the end of the financial year ended on December 31, 2023.

This responsibility includes (i) maintaining adequate financial management arrangement and ensuring that these continue to be effective throughout the reporting period, (ii)maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the project, (iii)designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement, and ensuring that they are free from material misstatements, whether due to error or fraud,(iv) safeguarding the assets of the project, (v)selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and (v)making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

The PFMU and the Project Coordinator for Getting to Best in Education project accept responsibility for the Project's financial statements, which have been prepared on the Cash Basis Method of Financial Reporting, using appropriate accounting policies in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

The PFMU and the Project Coordinator for Getting to Best in Education project are of the opinion that the Project's financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of Project's transactions during the financial year ended December 31, 2023, and of the Project's financial position as at that date. The PFMU and the Project Coordinator for Getting to Best in Education project further confirm the completeness of the accounting records maintained for the Project, which have been relied upon in the preparation of the Poject financial statements as well as the adequacy of the systems of internal financial control.

The PFMU and the Project Coordinator for Getting to Best in Education project confirm that the Projec has complied fully with applicable Government Regulations and the terms of external financing covenants and that Project funds received during the financial year under audit were used for the eligible purposes for which they were intended and were properly accounted for.

Approval of the Project Financial Statements

The Project financial statements were approved by the Project Financial management Unit and the Priject Coordinator for Getting to Best in Education project on 08th February 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

Project Financial Management Unit:	Papin Daniels, Jr, CA, CPA, CFE Unit Director Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU) Leroy N. Fendor, CA, CPA Deputy Director Subozu Kollie, CFE, CA, CPA Project Internal Auditor
Registered Office:	Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU) Ministry of Finance Broad and Mechlin Street Liberia
Project Implementation Unit:	Joe Gbasakollie Project Coordinator Getting to Best in Education Project (G2B)
Project Location:	Ministry of Education 3rd Street, Sinkor Liberia
Banker:	**Liberia Bank for Development & Investment (LBDI)** **9th Street, Sinkor** **Monrovia**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

In United States Dollars	Notes	June 30, 2023	Restated Balance December 31, 2022	Cummulative
Receipt				
TF Grant	4	315,000	2,395,029	7,964,336
Toptal Receipt		315,000	2,395,029	7,964,336
Payment				
Improving the quality and access to ECE in targeted counties	5	111,472	932,004	2,289,325
Supporting teacher training and certification in targeted counties	6	-	446,510	1,403,173
Improving school management accountability and system monitoring	7	109,530	644,017	1,753,585
Achieving better learning through improved equity efficiency and accountability	8	-		615,030
Project management and sector program support and coordination	9	302,742	226,318	1,661,252
Total Payments		523,743	2,248,849	7,722,365
Excess of receipts over payments (payments over receipts)		(208,743)	146,180	241,971
Fund Balance as at beginning		450,865	304,685	
Cummulative fund balance		242,121	450,865	241,971

The notes on pages 6 to 9 are integral part of these project financial reports

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCEAND CASH STATUS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	In United States Dollars	June 30, 2023	Restated Balance December 31, 2022
A	**Fund Balance**		
	Balance of Project Fund	**450,865**	304,685
	Add: Total Receipts during the period	**315,000**	2,395,029
	Total Fund available for operations	**765,865**	2,699,714
	Less: Total Payments during the period	**523,743**	2,248,849
	Balance of project fund at the end of the year	**242,121**	450,865
B	**Cash Status:**		
	Cash at Bank	**242,121**	450,865
	Total Cash on hand and in bank	**242,121**	450,865
	Difference between A and B	-	-

The notes on pages 6 to 9 are integral part of these project financial reports

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Ananlysis of Variance

Activities Within Components	Project Allocation US$	Annual US$	Actual Expenditure US$	Variance US$
Improving the quality and access to ECE in targeted counties	2,330,000	111,472	111,472	-
Supporting teacher training and certification in targeted counties	1,400,000	-	-	-
Improving school management accountability and system monitoring	1,900,000	109,530	109,530	-
Achieving better learning through improved equity efficiency and accountability	3,126,000	-		-
Project management and sector program support and coordination	1,720,000	535,576	302,742	232,835
Total	**10,476,000**	**756,578**	**523,743**	**232,835**

The notes on pages 6 to 9 are integral part of these project financial reports

Variance Explanation

Variances are as a result of project closure activities that were completed during the period before closure and were not settled . These were settled during the disbursement window period. Also the audit fee that was placed in an escrow account.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT JUNE 30, 2023

In United States Dollars	**June 30, 2023**	Restated Balance December 31, 2022
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalent	242,121	450,865
Total Assets	**242,121**	450,865
Fund Balance		
Grants	**242,121**	450,865
Accumulated Fund Balance	**242,121**	450,865

28/02/24

Papin Daniels, Jr.
Director, Donor Financed Projects
PFMU, MFDP

28/02/24

Joe Gbassakollie
Project Coordinator-
GPE/G2B
MOE

The notes on pages 6 to 9 are integral part of these project financial reports

1. Background and Information of the Project

With support from the World Bank; the Getting to Best in Education-project is geared towards improving equitable access to early childhood education, teacher quality in early childhood education (ECE), and primary education in targeted disadvantaged counties, and strengthening national school accountability systems. The GTBE project was approved by the World Bank on June 19, 2018 with a grant amount of USD 11.070 Million. The aims of the project are:

i. To improve the quality of and access to ECE in targeted counties through : (i) ECE school improvement grants; and (ii) community-based ECE;
ii. Supporting teacher training and certification in targeted counties aims to increase the number and proportion of certified primary and ECE teachers in targeted counties through: (i) in-service ECE C certificate teacher training for unqualified ECE teachers in targeted counties; and (ii) accelerated in-service C certificate teacher training for unqualified primary-level teachers in targeted counties;
iii. Improving school management, accountability, and systems monitoring will improve school quality through strengthened school-based management (SBM) and more robust school support, monitoring, and accountability systems through: (i) school quality standards, school monitoring, and inspection; and (ii) school management and quality improvement through principal training;
iv. Achieving better learning through improved equity, efficiency, and accountability will address essential dimensions of the education system, namely equity, efficiency, and learning outcomes - using a results-based financing (RBF) modality;
v. Project management and sector program support and coordination will ensure effective project management and key sector support, capacity building, and coordination.

2. Use of Grant Proceeds

The table below sets out the categories of items to be financed out of the grant proceeds, the allocation of the amounts of the grant to each category and the percentage of expenditures for items to be financed in each category:

Category	Amount of grant allocated expressed in US$	% of expenditure to be financed
Improving the quality and access to ECE in targeted counties	2,330,000	100
Supporting teacher training and certification in targeted counties	1,400,000	100
Improving school management accountability and system monitoring	1,900,000	100
Achieving better learning through improved equity efficiency and accountability	3,126,000	100
Project management and sector program support and coordination	1,720,000	100
Total	**10,476,000**	

All categories of expenditure shown in these financial statements are fully financed based on the percentage below:

	% of Expenditure
IDA	100
Total	**100**

3. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Cash Basis International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as adopted by the Government of Liberia and in the manner required by the Project Grant Agreement as required by the World Bank's Operating Policies and Procedures and PFMU's Financial Management manual.

Reporting currency

Financial reports have been presented in United States Dollars. Transactions denominated in other currencies are translated into United States Dollars and recorded at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transactions. Balances denominated in other currencies are translated into United States Dollars at the rate of exchange prevailing on the reporting date.

Loan Receipts

Loan from donors for the G2BE project is recognized and reported in the Statement of Receipt and Payment as income when received and held in a bank account called designated income account for disbursement purposes. All payments for the G2BE project and activities are made from the designated account.

Cash and bank balances

Cash consist of cash in hand and balance at bank.

Recognition of expenditure

All expenditures are expensed whether they are revenue or capital in nature and income is recognized when funds are received from the World Bank.

Tax

The project is 100 percent inclusive of tax. Taxes are withheld on consultants and vendors.

Reduction of Original Allocation

The project was restructured and thereby reduced the original allocation from US$11.07 to US$10.476

Reporting period

The project closed on June 30 2023 and therefore had a disbursement deadline of October 31, 2023 to settle all obligations that were completed on or before the closure date. Comparison of these figures with prior year is not comparable.

	In United States Dollars	June 30, 2023	Restated Balance December 31, 2022	Adjustment	Audited Balance	Cummulative
4	**Funds received in DA**					
	TF A7093	**315,000**	2,395,029		2,395,029	7,964,336
	Third Party Payment					
	TF A7093 Direct Payment	-	2,110,970		2,110,970	2,110,970
5	**Improving the quality and access to ECE in targeted counties**					
	ECE School Improvement grants	**111,472**	884,004	33,075	850,929	2,048,559
	Traninig of Caregivers	-	48,000	48,000		240,766
		111,472	932,004	81,075	850,929	2,289,325
6	**Supporting teacher training and certification in targeted counties**					
	ECE in service teacher training	-	244,452		244,452	703,325
	Service provider	-	202,058		202,058	699,848
		-	446,510		446,510	1,403,173
7	**Improving school management accountability and system monitoring**					
	Piloting of SQA	109,530	466,455	145,500	320,955	92,736
	Principal training	-	177,563	(143,392)	320,955	790,850
		109,530	644,017	2,108	641,909	1,713,585
8	**Achieving better learning through improved equity efficiency and accountability**					
	DLI 1 To increase in the proportion of qualified ECE and primary teachers, in the targeted counties	-	-	(2,010,970)	2,010,970	615,030
		-	-	(2,010,970)	2,010,970	615,030
9	**Project management and sector program support and coordination**					
	Project Delivery Team	302,742	226,318	(350,695)	577,043	1,661,252
		302,742	226,318	(350,695)	577,043	1,661,252
10	**Funds received in the Designated Account**					
	TF grant	315,000	2,395,029	(2,110,970)	4,505,999	7,964,336

In United States Dollars	June 30, 2023	Restated Balance December 31, 2022	Adjustment	Audited Balance	Cummulative
11 Expenditures made					
Improving the quality and access to ECE in targeted countries	**111,472**	932,004	81,075	850,929	2,289,325
Supporting teacher training and certification in targeted counties	-	446,510	-	446,510	1,403,173
Improving school management accountability and system monitoring	**109,530**	644,017	2,108	641,909	1,753,435
Achieving better learning through improved equity efficiency and accountability	-		(2,010,970)	2,010,970	615,030
Project management and sector program support and coordination	**302,742**	226,348	(350,695)	577,043	1,661,252
Total Payments	**523,743**	2,248,849	(2,278,482)	4,527,361	7,722,215

Getting to Best in Education Project (G2BEP)
Project Commitment
As at June 30, 2023

Contractor/Consultant Name	**Commitment Amount**	**Contract End Date**
Joe K. Gbasakollie	7,770.00	31-Oct-23
Sudacious M Varney	4,669.00	31-Oct-23
We Care Foundation inc	78,400.00	31-Oct-23
Radted Group of Companies	27,893.76	30-Jun-23
Fortress Group of Companies	39,852.04	30-Jun-23
United Motor Company	49,850.00	30-Jun-23
P. Logistics Service	14,400.00	30-Jun-23
General Auditing Commission- Closure	10,000.00	30-Jun-24
	232,834.80	

Note:

PROJECT DESIGNATED ACCOUNT STATEMENT

Account Number: 001USD21322308401
Account Type: Current Account
Depository Bank (s): LBDI
Address: 9th Street, Sinkor
Monrovia, Liberia

Currency: United States Dollar

	June 30, 2023	Restated Balance December 31, 2022
Total Grant Received	315,000	2,395,029
Total grant income reported	315,000	2,395,029
Amount spent	523,743	2,248,849
Balance as at beginning	450,865	304,685
Balance as at June 30, 2023	242,121	450,865
Closing Balance Consist of:		
Petty Cash	180	-
OPER A/C LBDI	231,941	450,865
Escrow Account	10,000	-
	242,121	450,865

Note: Kindly note that the balance of US$ 7,100 in the DA was remmitted to the World Bank after the disbursement of all the commitments.