September 3, 2013

Hon. Kebba Touray
Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs
Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
The Quadrangle
Banjul, the Gambia

Re: The Republic of The Gambia: Advance Agreement for Preparation of Proposed Results for Education Achievement and Development (READ) Project Preparation Advance No. Q8780

Honorable Minister:

In response to the request for financial assistance made on behalf of the Republic of Gambia ("Recipient"), I am pleased to inform you that the International Development Association ("World Bank") proposes to extend to the Recipient an advance out of the World Bank’s Project Preparation Facility in an amount not to exceed one million four hundred thousand United States Dollars ($1,400,000.00) ("Advance") on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this letter agreement ("Agreement"), which includes the attached Annex, to assist in financing the activities described in the Annex ("Activities"). The objective of the Activities is to facilitate the preparation of a proposed project designed to enhance learning in the Recipient’s territory ("Project"), for the carrying out of which the Recipient has requested the World Bank’s financial assistance.

The Recipient represents, by confirming its agreement below, that: (a) it understands that the provision of the Advance does not constitute or imply any commitment on the part of IBRD or IDA to assist in financing the Project; and (b) it is authorized to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the Activities, repay the Advance and perform its other obligations under this Agreement, all in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

Please confirm the Recipient’s agreement to the foregoing by having an authorized official of the Recipient sign and date the enclosed copy of this Agreement, and return it to the World Bank. Upon receipt by the World Bank of this countersigned copy, this Agreement shall become effective as of the date of the countersignature; provided, however, that the offer of this Agreement shall be deemed withdrawn if the World Bank has not received this countersigned copy within 90 days after the date of signature of this Agreement by the World Bank, unless the World Bank has established a later date for such purpose.

Very truly yours,
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

[Signature]

Moeti Tjotja
Acting Country Director for The Gambia
Africa Region
AGREED:

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

By ____________________________
Authorized Representative

Name ____________________________
Title ____________________________
Date: ____________________________

Enclosures:

(1) “Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility”, dated July 31, 2010; and

(2) Disbursement Letter for the Advance of the same date as this Agreement, together with “World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects”, dated May 1, 2006.
Article I
Standard Conditions; Definitions

1.01. **Standard Conditions.** The Standard Conditions for Advances Made by the World Bank under its Project Preparation Facility dated July 31, 2010 ("Standard Conditions"), constitute an integral part of this Agreement.

1.02. **Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement have the meanings ascribed to them in the Standard Conditions or in this Agreement and the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) "CCT Program" or "Conditional Cash Transfer" means a program in which "Beneficiaries" are given a grant to release their pupils to allow them access to a number of hours of literacy and numeracy per week.

(b) "ICT" means information and communications technology.

(c) "MoBSE" or "Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education" means the Recipient’s ministry responsible for basic and secondary education.

(d) "National Language Program" means a pilot program designed to train students to reading through the Recipient’s national languages.

(e) "PCU" or "Project Coordination Unit" means the unit established by the Recipient within the MoBSE for the purpose of coordinating World Bank projects.

(f) "Reading Program" means reading methods to effectively teach early graders to improve their reading skills.

(g) "SQAD" or "Standards and Quality Assurance Directorate" each means a directorate in MoBSE engaged in maintaining teaching standards and improving the quality of teaching.

(h) "Stipend" means cash allowances given to selected teacher trainees to attract them to the teacher training program to become certified teachers.

(i) "The Gambia College" means the Recipient’s main and only institute responsible for training teachers on early childhood development, primary teachers’ certificate and higher teachers’ certificate.

(j) Teacher incentives: means cash allowances given to selected teachers to attract them to schools in difficult locations in the remote regions of the Recipient’s territory.
Article II
Execution of the Activities

2.01. Description of the Activities. The Activities for which the Advance is provided consist of the following:

(a) Conducting math and reading assessments to measure students’ progress toward learning for literacy and numeracy, including the administration of the said assessments and the development of tools required for the purpose.

(b) Carrying out data collection and the evaluation of the ongoing community-based ECCD (“Early Childhood Care and Development”) program and CCT program.

(c) Providing school level monitoring, including training of cluster monitors, head teachers and SQAD officers, and developing and assessing a simple classroom observation tool for the provision of useful feedback to teachers about teaching and learning in the classroom.

(d) Providing technical advisory services to the Gambia College’s teacher training program for: (i) the review of existing content, assessment and standards, (ii) the redesign of the teacher training program, (iii) the development of new curriculum, content, assessment and certification; and (iv) the development of an ICT competency framework for teachers.

(e) Providing technical advisory services and Training to selected staff of the Recipient’s MoBSE, in the areas of statistics, education, management, information and human resources system.

(f) Providing Training and workshops to build the statistical capacity of the MoBSE at central and regional levels.

(g) Preparing the Project safeguards instruments, including the environmental and social management framework and the resettlement policy framework.

(h) Strengthening the capacity of the PCU for efficient coordination of the activities through provision of training, workshops and goods.

(i) Providing technical advisory services for the design of a multi-grade schools and water points.

(j) Carrying out in service professional development training sessions for teachers in the Recipient’s territory.

(k) Supporting the Reading Program for grades 1-3 through the provision of: (i) Training to teachers; (ii) fuel for Training monitoring and coordination; and (iii) goods including printing pocket readers.

(l) Supporting the early reading in National Language Program through the provision of: (i) Training of teachers, (ii) revision of scripted lessons; (iii) supervision of coaches; (iv) data collection; (v) fuel for training, monitoring and coordination; and (vi) tools, including printing scripted lessons and readers, stationery.

(m) Providing financial incentives to attract teachers to remote areas in selected regions of the Recipient’s territory.
Providing Stipends to teacher trainees enrolled in the teacher training program at the Gambia College.

2.02. **Execution of the Activities Generally.** The Recipient declares its commitment to the objectives of the Activities. To this end, the Recipient shall carry out the Activities through the MoBSE in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article II of the Standard Conditions; (b) this Article II; and (c) 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.

2.03. **Institutional and Other Arrangements.** Without limitations upon Section 2.02 above, the Recipient shall maintain throughout the implementation of the Activities, the PCU, with adequate staffing and functions satisfactory to the World Bank to responsible for the management of the Activities.

2.04. **Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation of the Activities.** The Recipient shall monitor and evaluate the progress of the Activities in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.08 of the Standard Conditions.

2.05. **Financial Management.** (a) The Recipient shall ensure that a financial management system is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.09 of the Standard Conditions.

(b) The Recipient shall ensure that interim un-audited financial reports for the Activities are prepared and furnished to the World Bank not later than forty five (45) days after the end of each calendar quarter, covering the quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the World Bank.

(c) The Recipient shall have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Sections 2.09 (b) of the Standard Conditions. The Recipient (i) shall, if the Financing Agreement shall have become effective on or before a date two years after the date of the first withdrawal of proceeds of the Advance, have the financial statements included in the first audit that would be required under the Financing Agreement, (ii) shall, if the Financing Agreement shall not have become effective on or before a date two years after the date of the first withdrawal of proceeds of the Advance, have the financial statement for the entire period of the Advance audited in accordance with consistently applied auditing standards acceptable to the World Bank and by independent auditors acceptable to the World Bank. The audited Financial Statements shall be furnished to the World Bank not later than six (6) months after the end of the Advance period.

2.06. **Procurement**

(a) **General.** All goods, non-consulting services and consultants’ services required for the Activities and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Advance shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in:

(i) Section I of the “Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 (“Procurement Guidelines”), in the case of goods and non-consulting services;
(ii) Sections I and IV of the “Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers” dated January 2011 (“Consultant Guidelines”) in the case of consultants’ services; and

(iii) the provisions of this Section, as the same shall be elaborated in the procurement plan prepared and updated from time to time by the Recipient for the Activities in accordance with paragraph 1.18 of the Procurement Guidelines and paragraph 1.25 of the Consultant Guidelines (“Procurement Plan”).

(b) Definitions. The capitalized terms used in the following paragraphs of this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the World Bank of particular contracts, refer to the corresponding method described in Sections II and III of the Procurement Guidelines, or Sections II, III, IV and V of the Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.

(c) Particular Methods of Procurement of Goods and Non-consulting Services

(i) Except as otherwise provided in sub-paragraph (ii) below, goods and non-consulting services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of International Competitive Bidding.

(ii) The following methods, other than International Competitive Bidding, may be used for procurement of goods and non-consulting services for those contracts specified in the Procurement Plan: (A) National Competitive Bidding; (B) Shopping; and (C) Direct Contracting.

(d) Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants’ Services

(i) Except as otherwise provided in item (ii) below, consultants’ services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Quality- and Cost-based Selection.

(ii) The following methods may be used for the procurement of consultants’ services for those assignments which are specified in the Procurement Plan: (A) Quality-based Selection; (B) Least Cost Selection; (C) Selection based on Consultants’ Qualifications; (D) Selection of Individual Consultants; (E) Single Source Selection of consulting firms; and (F) Single-source procedures for the Selection of Individual Consultants.

(e) Review by the World Bank of Procurement Decisions. The Procurement Plan shall set forth those contracts which shall be subject to the World Bank’s Prior Review. All other contracts shall be subject to Post Review by the World Bank.
Article III
Withdrawal of the Advance

3.01. Eligible Expenditures. The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Advance in accordance with the provisions of: (a) Article III of the Standard Conditions; (b) this Section; and (c) such additional instructions as the World Bank may specify by notice to the Recipient (including the “World Bank Disbursement Guidelines for Projects” dated May 2006, as revised from time to time by the World Bank and as made applicable to this Agreement pursuant to such instructions), to finance Eligible Expenditures as set forth in the following table. The table specifies each category of Eligible Expenditures that may be financed out of the proceeds of the Advance (“Category”), the amount of the Advance allocated to each Category, and the percentage of expenditures to be financed for Eligible Expenditures in each Category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount of the Advance Allocated (expressed in Dollars)</th>
<th>Percentage of Expenditures to be Financed (inclusive of Taxes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goods, Training, Operating costs, stipends, hardship allowances, non-consulting services and consultants' services</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL AMOUNT</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,400,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the purpose of this Section the terms:

(a) “Training” means the following expenditures incurred in providing training or workshops: (i) travel by participants and presenters to the training or workshop site; (ii) per diem allowances of such persons during the training or workshop; (iii) honoraria for the presenters, excluding civil servants; (iv) rental of facilities; (v) materials, supplies; and (vi) translation and interpretation services; and

(b) “Operating costs” means the incremental expenditures incurred on account of project implementation including office supplies, fuel, transportation, office administration, insurance, publication of training materials, reasonable bank charges relating to operation of the designated account, and salaries of locally contracted employees, but excluding consultant fees and salaries of civil servants.

3.02. Withdrawal Conditions. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Agreement, no withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the date of countersignature of this Agreement by the Recipient.

3.03. Refinancing Date. The Refinancing Date is April 30, 2014.
Article IV
Terms of the Advance

4.01. **Refinancing under the Refinancing Agreement**: If, on or before the Refinancing Date, a Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, then the full amount of the Withdrawn Advance Balance shall be paid to the World Bank as soon as the Refinancing Agreement becomes effective, by means of a withdrawal by the World Bank of such amount of the Refinancing Proceeds, in accordance with the provisions of the Refinancing Agreement.

4.02. **No Repayment in the absence of a Refinancing Agreement**: Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Standard Conditions, if, on or before the Refinancing Date, no Refinancing Agreement has been executed by all of its parties, or if, by such date or at any time thereafter, it has been so executed but terminates without becoming effective, then the Recipient shall not be obligated to repay the Withdrawn Advance Balance.

Article V
Recipient's Representative; Addresses

5.01. **Recipient’s Representative**. The Recipient’s Representative referred to in Section 9.02 of the Standard Conditions is its minister responsible for finance.

5.02. **Recipient’s Address**. The Recipient’s Address referred to in Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
The Quadrangle,
Banjul, the Gambia
Telephone: +220 4227221/4227529
Fax: +2204227954
Email: info@mof.gov.gm

5.03. **World Bank’s Address**. The World Bank’s Address referred to in Section 9.01 of the Standard Conditions is:

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

Cable: Telex: Facsimile:

INDEVAS 248423 (MCI) or 1-202-477-6391
Washington, D.C. 64145 (MCI)