Financing Agreement

(Additional Financing For Quality Education in the Rural Areas of Moldova Project)

between

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

and

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Dated April 20, 2012
FINANCING AGREEMENT

Agreement dated April 20, 2012, entered into between REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA ("Recipient") and INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION ("Association") for the purpose of providing additional financing for activities related to the Original Project (as defined in the Appendix to this Agreement). 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) constitute an integral 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, on the terms and conditions set forth or referred to in this Agreement, a credit in an amount equivalent to seven hundred thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 700,000) (variously, "Credit" and "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 IV of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

2.03. The Maximum Commitment Charge Rate payable by the Recipient on the Unwithdrawn Financing Balance shall be one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) per annum.

2.04. The Service Charge payable by the Recipient on the Withdrawn Credit Balance shall be equal to three-fourths of one percent (3/4 of 1%) per annum.

2.05. The Interest Charge payable by the Recipient on the Withdrawn Credit Balance shall be equal to one and a quarter percent (1.25%) per annum.
2.06. The Payment Dates are January 15 and July 15 in each year.

2.07. The principal amount of the Credit shall be repaid in accordance with the repayment schedule set forth in Schedule 3 to this Agreement.

2.08. The Payment Currency is Dollars.

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 through MOE in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the General Conditions.

3.02. Without limitation upon the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Agreement, and except as the Recipient and the Association shall otherwise agree, the Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2 to this Agreement.

ARTICLE IV — EFFECTIVENESS; TERMINATION

4.01. The Effectiveness Deadline is the date ninety (90) days after the date of this Agreement.

4.02. For purposes of Section 8.05 (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 date of this Agreement.

ARTICLE V — REPRESENTATIVE; ADDRESSES

5.01. The Recipient’s Representative is the Ministry of Finance.

5.02. The Recipient’s Address is:

Ministry of Finance  
Cosmonautilor Street, 7  
2005 MD Chisinau  
Republic of Moldova

Facsimile:

(373 – 22) 24-0055
5.03. The Association's Address is:

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

Cable: Telex: Facsimile:
INDEVAS 248423 (MCI) 1-202-477-6391
Washington, D.C.

AGREED at Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, as of the day and year first above written.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

By

Authorized Representative

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By

Authorized Representative
SCHEDULE 1

Project Description

The objective of the Project is to assist the Recipient in improving the quality of education in the rural areas in Moldova.

The Project consists of the following additional parts under:

Part A: Improving Teaching and Learning in Rural Schools

(d) carrying out studies to support the development of standards for the receiving schools;

(e) carrying out studies to support the development of human resources policies for educational personnel; and

(f) strengthening the ability to monitor quality of education.

Part C: Increasing Efficiency in the Use of Resources

(d) collection of data on drop-out rates of students affected by school rationalization; and

(e) providing training to education personnel on the implementation of formula financing and school optimization.

Part D: Strengthening Education Planning and Monitoring

(c) developing and implementing public relations and communication activities; and

(d) providing support for the project implementation and management.
SCHEDULE 2

Project Execution

Section I. Implementation Arrangements

A. Institutional Arrangements.

The Recipient shall implement the Project in accordance with the implementation arrangements set forth in Schedule 4, Part A of the Original Development Financing Agreement.

B. Anti-Corruption

The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Guidelines.

Section II. Project Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

A. Project Reports

The Recipient shall monitor and evaluate the progress of the Project and prepare Project Reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.08 of the General Conditions and on the basis of the indicators acceptable to the Association. Each Project Report shall cover the period of one calendar semester, and shall be furnished to the Association not later than one (1) month after the end of the period covered by such report.

B. Financial Management, Financial Reports and Audits

1. The Recipient shall maintain or cause to be maintained a financial management system in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.09 of the General Conditions.

2. Without limitation on the provisions of Part A of this Section, the Recipient shall prepare and furnish to the Association not later than forty-five (45) days after the end of each calendar quarter, interim unaudited financial reports for the Project covering the quarter, in form and substance satisfactory to the Association.

3. The Recipient shall have its Financial Statements audited in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.09 (b) of the General Conditions. Each audit of the Financial Statements shall cover the period of one (1) fiscal year of the Recipient, commencing with the fiscal year in which the first withdrawal was made. The audited Financial Statements for each such period shall be furnished to the Association not later than six (6) months after the end of such period. The
Recipient shall ensure that the audited financial statements are made publicly available in a timely fashion and in a manner acceptable to the Association.

Section III. Procurement

A. General

1. **Goods and Non-consulting Services.** All goods and non-consulting services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Financing shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in Section I of the Procurement Guidelines, and with the provisions of this Section.

2. **Consultants’ Services.** All consultants’ services required for the Project and to be financed out of the proceeds of the Financing shall be procured in accordance with the requirements set forth or referred to in Sections I and IV of the Consultant Guidelines, and with the provisions of this Section.

3. **Definitions.** The capitalized terms used below in this Section to describe particular procurement methods or methods of review by the Association of particular contracts, refer to the corresponding method described in the Procurement Guidelines, or Consultant Guidelines, as the case may be.

B. Particular Methods of Procurement of Goods and Non-consulting Services

1. **National Competitive Bidding.** Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 below, goods and non-consulting services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of National Competitive Bidding, subject to the following additional procedures:

   The procurement procedure to be followed for National Competitive Bidding shall be the Open Bidding Procedure set forth in the *Law on Procurement No. 96-XVI* dated April 13, 2007, as amended (the “PPL”), provided, however, that such procedure shall be subject to the provisions of Section I and Paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the “Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works, and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers” (January 2011) (the “Procurement Guidelines”) and the following additional provisions:

   **Eligibility**

   Eligibility to participate in a procurement process and to be awarded an Association-financed contract shall be as defined under Section I of the Procurement Guidelines; accordingly, no bidder or potential bidder shall be declared ineligible for contracts financed by the Association for reasons other than those provided in Section I of the Procurement Guidelines.
Registration of Contractors and Suppliers

Registration shall not be used to assess bidders’ qualifications. A foreign bidder shall not be required to register as a condition for submitting its bid, and a foreign bidder recommended for contract award shall be given a reasonable opportunity to register, with the reasonable cooperation of the Borrower, prior to contract signing.

Bidding Documents

Bidding documents acceptable to the Association shall be used, and shall be prepared so as to ensure economy, efficiency, transparency, and broad consistency with the provisions of Section I of the Procurement Guidelines.

Qualification

Qualification criteria shall be clearly specified in the bidding documents. All criteria so specified, and only such specified criteria, shall be used to determine whether a bidder is qualified. Qualification shall be assessed on a “pass or fail” basis, and merit points shall not be used. Such assessment shall be based entirely upon the bidder’s or prospective bidder’s capability and resources to effectively perform the contract, taking into account objective and measurable factors, including: (i) relevant general and specific experience, and satisfactory past performance and successful completion of similar contracts over a given period; (ii) financial position; and where relevant (iii) capability of construction and/or manufacturing facilities.

Prequalification procedures and documents acceptable to the Association shall be used for large, complex and/or specialized works. The verification of the information upon which a bidder was prequalified, including current commitments, shall be carried out at the time of contract award, along with the bidder’s capability with respect to personnel and equipment.

In the procurement of goods and works where pre-qualification is not used, the qualification of the bidder who is recommended for award of contract shall be assessed by postqualification, applying the qualification criteria stated in the bidding documents.

Cost Estimate

The detailed cost estimates shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed to prospective bidders. No bids shall be rejected on the basis of comparison with the cost estimates without the Association’s prior written concurrence.

Bid Submission and Bid Opening

Prospective bidders shall be given at least thirty (30) days from the date of publication of the invitation to bid or the date of availability of the bidding documents, whichever is later, to prepare and submit bids. Bids shall be opened in public, immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. Bids received after the deadline for bid submission shall be rejected and returned to bidders unopened. A copy of the bid opening minutes shall be
promptly provided to all bidders who submitted bids, and to the Association with respect to contracts subject to the Association’s prior review.

Bid Evaluation

Evaluation of bids shall be made in strict adherence to the evaluation criteria specified in the bidding documents. Evaluation criteria other than price shall be quantified in monetary terms. Merit points shall not be used, and no minimum point or percentage value shall be assigned to the significance of price, in bid evaluation.

No domestic preference shall be granted in bid evaluation on the basis of bidder nationality, origin of goods or services, and/or preferential programs.

Contracts shall be awarded to the qualified bidder whose bid has been determined: (i) to be substantially responsive to the bidding documents; and (ii) to offer the lowest-evaluated cost. No negotiations shall be permitted. A bidder shall not be required, as a condition for award, to undertake obligations not specified in the bidding documents or otherwise to modify the bid as originally submitted. A bidder shall not be eliminated from detailed evaluation on the basis of minor, non-substantial deviations.

Rejection of All Bids and Re-bidding

All bids (or the sole bid if only one bid is received) shall not be rejected, the procurement process shall not be cancelled, and new bids shall not be solicited without the Association’s prior written concurrence.

Bid Validity

The bid validity period required by the bidding documents shall be sufficient to account for any period that may be required for the approval and registration of the contract as contemplated in the PPL. If justified by exceptional circumstances, an extension of bid validity may be requested in writing from all bidders before the original bid validity expiration date, provided that such extension shall cover only the minimum period required to complete the evaluation, award a contract, and/or complete the registration process; a corresponding extension of any bid guarantee also shall be required in such cases. A Bidder may refuse the request for extension of bid validity without forfeiting its bid guarantee. No further extensions shall be requested without the prior written concurrence of the Association.

Guarantees

Guarantees shall be in the format included in the bidding documents. The bid guarantee shall be valid for twenty-eight days (28) beyond the original validity period of the bid, or beyond any period of extension if requested. No advance payments shall be made to without a suitable advance payment guarantee.

Fraud and Corruption

The bidding documents and contract as deemed acceptable by the Association shall include provisions stating the Bank’s policy to sanction firms or individuals, found to have engaged in fraud and corruption as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
Inspection and Audit Rights

In accordance with the Procurement Guidelines, each bidding document and contract financed out of the proceeds of the Financing shall provide that bidders, suppliers and contractors, and their subcontractors, agents, personnel, consultants, service providers, or suppliers, shall permit the Association to inspect all accounts, records, and other documents relating to the submission of bids and contract performance, and to have them audited by auditors appointed by the Association. Acts intended to materially impede the exercise of the Association's inspection and audit rights provided for in the Procurement Guidelines constitute an obstructive practice as defined in the Guidelines.

Contract Modifications

With respect to contracts subject to the Association's prior review, the Borrower shall obtain the Association's no objection before agreeing to: (a) a material extension of the stipulated time for performance of a contract; (b) any substantial modification of the scope of services or other significant changes to the terms and conditions of the contract; (c) any variation order or amendment (except in cases of extreme urgency) which, singly or combined with all variation orders or amendments previously issued, increases the original contract amount by more than 15 percent; or (d) the proposed termination of the contract. A copy of all contract amendments shall be provided to the Association.

2. Other Methods of Procurement of Goods and Non-consulting Services. The following table specifies the methods of procurement, other than National Competitive Bidding, which may be used for goods and non-consulting services. The Procurement Plan shall specify the circumstances under which such methods may be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procurement Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Direct Contracting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Particular Methods of Procurement of Consultants' Services

1. Quality- and Cost-based Selection. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 below, consultants' services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of Quality and Cost-based Selection.

2. Other Methods of Procurement of Consultants' Services. The following table specifies methods of procurement, other than Quality and Cost-based Selection, which may be used for consultants' services. The Procurement Plan shall specify the circumstances under which such methods may be used.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procurement Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Selection-based Consultants’ Qualifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Individual Consultants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Single Source Selection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. **Review by the Association of Procurement Decisions**

The Procurement Plan shall set forth those contracts which shall be subject to the Association’s Prior Review. All other contracts shall be subject to Post Review by the Association.

**Section IV. Withdrawal of the Proceeds of the Financing**

A. **General**

The Recipient may withdraw the proceeds of the Financing in accordance with the provisions of Article II of the General Conditions, this Section, and such additional instructions as the Association shall 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 Association and as made applicable to this Agreement pursuant to such instructions), to finance 100% (inclusive of Taxes) of Eligible Expenditures, consisting of goods, non-consulting services, consultants’ services and operating costs for Part A (d), (e) and (f); Part C (d) and (e); and Part D (c) and (d) under the Project.

For the purposes of this paragraph, the term “operating costs” means expenditures incurred by the MOE on account of communication and information dissemination materials and publications, office supply materials, local travel costs for consultants, and any other expense to be agreed with the Association.

B. **Withdrawal Conditions; Withdrawal Period**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Part A of this Section, no withdrawal shall be made for payments made prior to the date of this Agreement.

2. The Closing Date is November 30, 2013.
## SCHEDULE 3

**Repayment Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Payment Due</th>
<th>Principal Amount of the Credit repayable (expressed as a percentage)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On each January 15 and July 15:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commencing July 15, 2017 to and including January 15, 2027</td>
<td>1.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commencing July 15, 2027 to and including January 15, 2037</td>
<td>3.35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The percentages represent the percentage of the principal amount of the Credit to be repaid, except as the Association may otherwise specify pursuant to Section 3.03 (b) of the General Conditions.
APPENDIX

Section I. Definitions


3. “General Conditions” means the “International Development Association General Conditions for Credits and Grants”, dated July 31, 2010, with the modifications set forth in Section II of this Appendix.

4. “MOE” means the Recipient’s Ministry of Education or any successor thereto.

5. “Original Development Financing Agreement” means the development credit agreement for a Quality Education in the Rural Areas of Moldova Project between the Recipient and the Association, dated April 5, 2006 as amended to the date of this Agreement (Credit No. 4155MD).

6. “Original Project” means the Project described in the Original Financing Agreement.


8. “Procurement Plan” means the Recipient’s procurement plan for the Project, dated February 10, 2012, and referred to in paragraph 1.18 of the Procurement Guidelines and paragraph 1.25 of the Consultant Guidelines, as the same shall be updated from time to time in accordance with the provisions of said paragraphs.

9. “Receiving schools” means schools which receive students from schools that have been optimized or rationalized and referred to in Part A (d) of Schedule 1 to this Agreement.
Section II. Modifications to the General Conditions

The modifications to the General Conditions are as follows:

1. Section 3.02 is modified to read as follows:

   "Section 3.02. Service Charge and Interest Charge

   (a) Service Charge. The Recipient shall pay the Association a service charge on the Withdrawn Credit Balance at the rate specified in the Financing Agreement. The Service Charge shall accrue from the respective dates on which amounts of the Credit are withdrawn and shall be payable semi-annually in arrears on each Payment Date. Service Charges shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

   (b) Interest Charge. The Recipient shall pay the Association interest on the Withdrawn Credit Balance at the rate specified in the Financing Agreement. Interest shall accrue from the respective dates on which amounts of the Credit are withdrawn and shall be payable semi-annually in arrears on each Payment Date. Interest shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months."

2. Paragraph 28 of the Appendix ("Financing Payment") is modified by inserting the words “the Interest Charge” between the words “the Service Charge” and “the Commitment Charge”.

3. The Appendix is modified by inserting a new paragraph 32 with the following definition of “Interest Charge”, and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly:

   “32. “Interest Charge” means the interest charge specified in the Financing Agreement for the purpose of Section 3.02(b).”

4. Renumbered paragraph 37 (originally paragraph 36) of the Appendix ("Payment Date") is modified by inserting the words “Interest Charges” between the words “Service Charges” and “Commitment Charges”.

5. Renumbered paragraph 50 (originally paragraph 49) of the Appendix ("Service Charge") is modified by replacing the reference to Section 3.02 with Section 3.02 (a).
April 27, 2012

His Excellency
Veaceslav Negruta
Minister of Finance
Chisinau
Republic of Moldova

Re: Additional Financing for Quality Education in the Rural Areas of Moldova Project
Credit No. 5080 – MD
Correction of Credit Number in Signed Legal Agreements

Dear Excellency:

We refer to the Financing Agreement, Disbursement Letter, Supplemental Letter No. 1 on Financial and Economic Data, and Supplemental Letter No. 2 on Performance Monitoring Indicators, all dated April 20, 2012 for the above-mentioned Project. This is to inform you that the Credit Number for the Additional Financing is Credit Number 5080. The Credit Number that appears on the documents signed on April 20, 2012 (Credit Number 4155) is the Credit Number for the Original Credit. Kindly use Credit Number 5080 when referring to the Additional Financing and continue to use Credit Number 4155 when referring to the Original Credit.

Very truly yours,

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Marius Vismantas
Acting Country Director
Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova
Europe and Central Asia Region

Copied to: H.E. Mihail Șleaștițchi, Minister of Education
Mrs. Tatiana Poting, Deputy Minister of Education
Mr. Victor Bodiu, Secretary General, General Secretariat of the GoM
Mr. Rudolf Jan Treffers, Executive Director, World Bank