



Background Paper – Replenishment of First Emergency Response Reserve

29 May 2019

Introduction:

Funding from Education Cannot Wait's (ECW) First Emergency Response (FER) Window enables a coordinated response to new emergencies or deteriorations in existing emergencies based on needs and gaps at country level, and overall funding availability. These situations are by their nature unpredictable and a reserve is, therefore, set to be spent as crises occur. The reserve amount was defined based on expected needs based on the experience of the past 10 years and financial availability for ECW's Global Fund. It was decided at past ExCom meetings that the First Response reserve should increase proportionately to the expected Global Fund target, with the 2018 reserve initially set at \$15 million.

At its February 2019 meeting, ExCom agreed to increase the reserve to \$24.7 million in 2019 to be reviewed at its next meeting.

The following summarizes use of the FER reserve in 2019 to date.

Criteria for country allocations:

In line with the current ECW operating model¹, the ECW secretariat has utilized the following broad criteria to prioritize support from the FER Window.

- Need: ECW gives higher preference to crises with a greater need, both in terms of scale (e.g., large number or large proportion of children and youth affected), and in terms of vulnerability (e.g., more out-of-school children and youth).
- Gap in support: ECW gives higher preference to crises that currently have less of their needs met and are less likely to have their needs met in the near future, whether via other funding sources or via country government support (e.g., lower-income countries).
- ECW value-add: ECW gives higher preference to crises where ECW is more likely to be able to make a difference (e.g. where the First Emergency Response Window could be most impactful).
- Alignment with ECW's strategic priorities: ECW will give higher preference to crises that align with the strategic focus areas outlined in the strategy-setting process.

These criteria may evolve with the review and revision of the operating model currently underway.

2019 FER allocations to date:

Approved Allocations:

- Mozambique, round 1: Close to \$5 million were approved in April to five grantees, AVSI, Food for the Hungry, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision, to enable a response to Cyclone Idai affected communities in Inhambane, Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia provinces targeting 80,000 children and youth. The allocation corresponded to approximately 10 per cent of the education sector requirements for the response.

¹ <http://www.educationcannotwait.org/download/operating-model/?wpdmdl=1144&ind=Joyao3o8stKbTYLynnGe03r97eDVzNm3ExrmjB2jYqC1M64alBitRaagdS2EdkgV>

- Malawi, round 1: Approximately \$1 million was allocated to four grantees, UNICEF, World Vision, Save the Children and WFP, for a response to Cyclone Idai in the four most affected districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe and Zomba. Grantees collectively expect to reach close to 46,000 children and youth. Given the overall limited size of the education sector requirement in Malawi of \$4.2 million, ECW support was provided equivalent to approximately 25 per cent of requirements.
- Zimbabwe, round 1: A total of \$1 million was allocated to five grantees, UNICEF, CARE, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision, for a response to Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani and Chipinge districts of Manicaland Province targeting 55,000 children and youth. ECW support corresponds to approximately 15 per cent of education sector requirements of the response.
- Response to Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant crisis: ECW's first regional application, the request in the amount of \$7 million received in May aims to reach 86,000 Venezuelan refugees, migrants and host community children Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Designed to support of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), the application was developed under the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform and its national counterparts. Grantees are UNICEF in Brazil and Ecuador, Save the Children in Colombia and the Refugee Education Trust in Peru. Grantees will be working with several sub-grantee partners in each of the affected countries. The application also includes a regional support and coordination element to be implemented by UNICEF.

Applications under review:

- Cyclone Idai response, round 2: Following the pledge of additional contributions earmarked for the response to Cyclone Idai, second round application were developed in the three affected countries.
 - Mozambique: A request in the amount of \$5 million, the application aims to integrate and deliver multi-sectoral education assistance to 107,000 Cyclone Idai affected children as well as build local capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies (DRR), contributing to reducing risk and vulnerabilities in the districts of Buzi, Beira, Dondo, Nhamatanda, Chinde, Maganja da Costa, Namacurra, Susudenga, Gondola and Moatize. UNICEF and UNESCO have been proposed as the grantees who will, in turn, work with a range of NGO, UN and Government of Mozambique sub-grantees.
 - Zimbabwe: Building on and scaling up the first-round response, this application totalling \$1.25 million seeks to reach a further 36,000 children and youth in Chipinge, Chimanimani and Manicaland Provinces through four grantees, CARE, Save the Children, World Vision, and Plan.
- Response to Sahel insecurity: Aimed at responding to worsening insecurity in the border areas of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso which have led to large scale displacement and school closures, the application would seek to improve access to learning in protective environments and prevent school drop outs for over 170,000 children. It would seek to support the most vulnerable students to access and/or remain in 743 schools. Seeking close to \$6 million, the application proposes UNICEF in Burkina Faso and Niger, Save the Children in Burkina Faso and Mali as well as Plan International and Humanity and Inclusion in Mali as grantees.



- Malawi, round 2: In response to the pledge of additional contributions earmarked for Cyclone Idai response, Malawi is preparing a follow-on application tentatively in the amount of \$1.25 million.

Applications under Development:

- Cyclone Kenneth response: A potential third round application by Mozambique is under development to respond to the effects of Cyclone Kenneth, which is likely to include a component to support response in the Comoros islands. A mission by an ECW staff member to support the preparation of this application was underway as of writing.
- Cameroon: The Education Cluster in Cameroon is developing an application in the amount of \$2.65 million aimed at facilitating a response to a worsening conflict which has displaced over 500,000 individuals in the Northwest and Southwest regions and led to the closure of over 4,000 schools. Tentative grantees identified through the in-country prioritization process include the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), World Food Programme (WFP), Plan International and UNESCO.
- Yemen: Discussions are underway with the Education Cluster in Yemen regarding a potential FER allocation aimed at responding to the worsening humanitarian situation that would also seek to ensure continuity of ECW support following completion of the initial investment.

Additional contributions received:

The following additional contributions earmarked for the FER Window were made and which have been reflected in the reserve calculations²:

- UK: \$5,200,000 for Cyclone response (Received),
- Dubai Cares \$2,000,000 for Cyclone response (Pledged).

Balance and replenishment of the FER reserve:

Taking into consideration applications under review and currently being developed, the unallocated balance of the FER reserve stands at approximately \$750,000. Accounting for a potential further application from Yemen, the reserve would decrease to a negative \$2.2 million.

Based on the above considerations, the ECW secretariat is requesting the Executive Committee to authorize a replenishment of the FER reserve to the authorized level of \$24.7 million using \$26.9 million in currently uncommitted resources. Taking into account likely forthcoming donor contributions currently under discussion as well as further resources mobilized over the course of the year, the ECW secretariat anticipates that setting aside this additional amount will not impact the launch of Multi-Year Resilience Programmes under development and scheduled for the remainder of 2019. In the event that insufficient resources are mobilized, the ECW secretariat would reduce the FER reserve for 2020 and/or re-schedule the launch of future MYRPs.

² USD amounts are indicative.



Annex – Overview of FER Window beginning of year to 29 May 2019

First Emergency Response Reserve				
Opening balance				\$24,700,000
Current Applications	Debits	Credits	Status	Comments
Mozambique Round 1 (Cyclone Idai)	\$4,999,756		Approved	
Malawi Round 1 (Cyclone Idai)	\$999,929		Approved	
Zimbabwe Round 1 (Cyclone Idai)	\$1,000,000		Approved	
Regional Venezuelan refugee and migrant response	\$7,000,000		Approved	Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil
Balance minus approved allocations				\$10,700,315
UK		\$5,200,000	Received	Earmarked for Cyclone response
Dubai Cares		\$2,000,000	Pledged	Earmarked for Cyclone response
Mozambique Round 2 (Cyclone Idai)	\$5,000,000		Under Review	
Zimbabwe Round 2 (Cyclone Idai)	\$1,250,000		Under Review	
Sahel insecurity	\$6,000,000		Under Review	Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger
Malawi Round 2 (Cyclone Idai)	\$1,250,000		Under Review	
Comoros (Cyclone Kenneth)	\$370,000		Under Review	
Uncommitted Balance minus applications under review plus additional contributions				\$4,030,315
Mozambique Round 3 (Cyclone Kenneth)	\$630,000		Under Development	
Cameroon	\$2,650,000		Under Development	
Uncommitted Balance minus applications under development.				\$750,315
Potential applications				
Yemen	\$3,000,000		Potential	
Balance after potential allocations				-\$2,249,685
Requested replenishment to \$24.7 million reserve				\$26,949,685