

Monday, 8 November 2021

Decision Points

That ExCom approves the secretariat budget for 2022, amounting to \$12.7M, as specified in table 3 and annex 1.

Background

ECW is committed to expanding access to inclusive quality education for girls and boys caught up in the world's worst humanitarian crises.

With its key partners, ECW is on track to raise almost \$850 million by the end of 2021 for its Trust Fund and have seen over 1 billion USD aligned as in-country funding against ECW facilitated MYRPs.

The 2022 budget does entail new staff positions or significant budget changes – it is a budget designed to see ECW through the final year of the strategic plan. Changes to the ECW operational setup will be analysed in the process of developing the next strategic plan and designing an ECW fit for the challenges of the next strategic period.

2021 Budget implementation

In 2021 ECW had an operational budget of \$11.2M. By November 2021 ECW expects that the budget implementation will amount to \$9M, equal to 80% of the approved budget. The under expenditure can broadly be explained by the variations below:

	Original Budget	Expected budget implementation	Variance
Vacancies and other staff related under expenditure	6,133,000	5,500,000	600,000
Travel	710,000	310,000	400,000
COVID related under expenditure, i.e. virtual rather than physical meetings and seminars including costs related to ExCom and HLSG in-person meetings.	365,000	10,000	355,000
Contracts or service agreements at lower than expected level	2,400,000	1,600,000	800,000
Total			2,155,000

ECW takes reference of the ExCom approved budget for each financial year regardless of under expenditure in previous years.

Programme investments and operational percentage

The ECW operational budget takes reference of the investments made through the three programme investment windows for MYRPs, FERs and AF. ECW is committed to retain operating expenditure below 7% of the rolling average programmatic disbursements.

In March 2021 ExCom approved the 2021 budget with an expected programme expenditure (investments) of 192.6M USD.

By November 2021 ECW expects that the actual budget implementation will be 183.1M USD, 4.9% short of the target for the year. The variance is due to changes in the timelines of MYRPs and

In 2022, the programme expenditure target is 216.8M USD as detailed below.

	MYRP	FER	AF	Total	Operational Costs	Operational Percentage
2021 Budget	157.6	25.0	10.0	192.6	11.2	5.8%
2021 expected total	155.4	22.9	7.0	185.3	9.0	4.9%
2022 Budget	181.8	25	10	216.8	12.7	5.9%

ECW 2022 Operational Budget

For 2022 ECW requests an operational budget of 12.7M USD as outlined in table 3 below and annex 1.

Functional area	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
HUMAN RESOURCES	6,133,001	6,998,729
UNICEF Secretariat Services	600,066	1,023,173
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	2,615,254	2,575,000
OPERATIONS	1,836,872	2,135,000
Total	11,185,193	12,731,902

Human Resources shows an increase of \$865,728 which is based on contractual increases and regrouping of two advisory positions from Technical Assistance (TA) to Human Resources. One of the advisory positions is new and will have a focus on Early Childhood Education and Play Based Approaches and is back funded by the Lego Foundation. ECW is not proposing to establish additional staff positions with this budget.

UNICEF Secretariat hosting Services relates to the services provided by UNICEF as host of the ECW secretariat. The expansion of hosted arrangements and related services required UNICEF to conduct an assessment of its hosting services and costs. As a result of the assessment, UNICEF has developed a robust and transparent model for calculating costs for all the hosted funds, that



The global fund for education in emergencies

would allow UNICEF to fully recover its hosting costs. For ECW this results in a budget of approximately \$1,023,173 for 2022. UNICEF has agreed to explain the rationale for the cost assessment and the costing methodology for all hosted secretariats, in a dedicated meeting.

Technical Assistance shows a slight decrease of \$40,254 which is largely explain by the two TA positions which have been regrouped under Human Resources and a continued use of interns, individual and institutional consultants to support ECW. Consultants are used for short term and specialized support, particularly in areas such as evaluations, assurance and risk related assessments (HACT, spot checks, audits), enhancing the Information Management System and continued development of the ECW webpage.

Operations show an increase of \$298,135. The increase in operational costs relates to the return to office procedures, continued investments in ICT and services, resumption of travel and in person events and an increased push for translating material to several languages. Included in the increase is also a reservation to cover costs in relation to the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies should there be costs outside the support granted by the Swiss government.

A budget overview is available in annex 1.

ECW's headquarters is in New York with a liaison office in Geneva. In 2022 ECW will have 16 positions in New York and 15 positions outposted.¹

	New York	Geneva / Outposted	Total
Staff	14	12	26
Secondes and JPO (salary not paid by ECW)	1	2	3
Technical Assistance	1	1	2
Total	16	15	31

ECW is not requesting any additional staff positions in 2022 and the position as Deputy Director continues to be on standby in New York. ExCom will be consulted when the position as Deputy Director is activated.

ECW may engage consultants to support in specific areas. In 2022 ECW expects to engage individual consultants to support in relation to inclusion and children with disability, information management and as support in peak periods where demand outweighs available resources.

In connection to the formulation of the next strategic plan there will be a review of needed capacity to implement the strategic plan. ECW expects that additional positions will be required, and that work currently carried out by Technical Assistants and Consultants will be in-housed.

¹ The ECW Director can, after review by UNICEF, approve that staff is outposted to other locations where there are pressing business and operational needs, for example cost considerations and proximity to partners.