



The global fund for education in emergencies

## Executive Committee Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday 23 June (2 hours and 45 mins) – Wednesday 24 June 2020 (3 hours)

Please find the list of participants in the attached Annex

### DAY 2

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## Summary of the outcomes of the meeting

### 1. Welcome

- The Chair opened the meeting, summarized day 1's discussions and decisions. She then outlined the items on the day's agenda and the key decision that would need to be made:

1) Election of the new ExCom Chair and Vice-Chair

### 2. Risk Management and Child Safeguarding

- Rachel Besley, ECW's Risk and Child Safeguarding Manager delivered a presentation providing a risk management update followed by a deeper analysis of child safeguarding and ECW's approach to mitigating risks of harm to children. She gave an overview of risk management, with a focus on the approach taken by ECW during the COVID-19 FER funding rounds. Rachel summarised the key risks and mitigation strategies identified by partners under the five portfolio-level risk categories. An update was then provided on the work undertaken by ECW in relation to child safeguarding, as well as proposed next steps. Finally, the presentation included some contextual analysis of COVID-19-related child safeguarding risk factors and mitigation strategies to keep children safe from harm [refer to the presentation circulated with the minutes]. The following points were highlighted in the presentation:
  - Falling short of achieving the 2019-2021 resource mobilisation target is currently the key risk requiring attention under ECW's Corporate Risk Framework, and addressing this issue is a shared responsibility of all HLSG members as risk owners.
  - ECW is deepening its efforts to raise awareness and prevent child abuse, neglect and exploitation, and it will continue to place emphasis on reporting and responding to child safeguarding incidents.
  - ECW is developing a set of minimum standards with a group of civil society partners, which was committed to under the Operational Manual.
  - These minimum standards will complement work that has already been undertaken by ECW to ensure a child-safe operational and programmatic approach.

The Chair thanked Rachel for her comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for questions and remarks:

- GPE noted that they were equally in the midst of upscaling standards in these areas and welcomed further collaboration amongst both Secretariats to ensure alignment and harmonisation.
- USAID acknowledged the timely presentation as a great reminder to everyone of the importance of child safeguarding. USAID also commended ECW for giving priority focus to child safeguarding.
- Save the Children asked how minimum standards would be developed with CSOs and the US queried how these would be aligned with other global child protection minimum standards. INEE



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encouraged alignment with the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS), as well as engagement with the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

- Norway asked when the Secretariat intended to share the semi-annual risk management reports. Norway also asked whether the report could include an overview of cases related to mismanagement of funds and safeguarding.
- Porticus also asked if ECW issues a report on safeguarding incidents (ensuring data protection requirements are met).
- Ireland suggested that ECW produce a consolidated report to track processes and the responsiveness of different actors on investigations and responses.

In response to the questions and comments made, the following advice was provided:

- ECW is working closely with Plan International, Save the Children International, World Vision International, ChildFund and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (EVAC) to develop minimum standards that will apply to partners in the field, especially grantees under the EVAC and ECW funds. Plan International's standards are being used as the foundation and ECW is ensuring alignment with best international practice, including the CPMS.
- Rachel noted that the CPMS are indeed at the core of ECW's work and partners are asked to demonstrate their application under the MYRP proposals. ECW is also represented on the CP-EiE Advisory Group, hosted by the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and INEE.
- ECW proposes to begin full risk reporting by the end of 2020 and bi-annually as of 2021 in line with the risk methodology set-out in ECW's Portfolio-Level Risk Framework.
- ExCom members are notified of cases when they are reported to ECW. The Secretariat could also explore with the ExCom the possibility of circulating a periodic report containing analysis drawing on redacted data.

### 3. Resource Mobilisation 2020

- The Chair opened this session by stressing that resource mobilisation was a critical issue for ECW. She echoed comments from Day 1 in regard to the importance of predictable financing and the potential impacts of earmarking funds. She opened the floor ahead of handing over to Nasser Faqih, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, for a presentation on resource mobilisation efforts for 2020.
- DFID highlighted the UK's additional uplift of GBP 5 Million to ECW's COVID response (and the frontloading of £19.6m in pre-planned payments) and the wide support for ECW amongst UK Ministers. DFID noted the importance of supporting education during times of crisis and wished to see the same support echoed more broadly.
- Norway noted their new pledge of NOK 520 Million to ECW from 2019-2022 announced last autumn and stressed that although they were currently not in a position to commit any more funds, Norway remained incredibly dedicated to EiE and ECW, which received broad support throughout the Norwegian government and in particular from their Minister for International Development, an active HLSG member committed to supporting ECW's resource mobilisation efforts. Norway stated that it was very important to ensure that education was prioritised in both parts of the COVID-19 response and in the process of building back better.
- Canada reiterated its contribution of CAD 5.5 Million to ECW's COVID response and stated that Minister Gould's Mandate Letter reflected support to education as a priority.



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- USAID elaborated on USAID's approach to country-level funding and thanked ECW for enabling donors to commit to country-level funding as had been done for Burkina Faso where USAID contributed USD 2.7 Million. USAID highly appreciated ECW's work in the process, showing the mission the additional value of working with ECW and allowing missions to work together to develop the program. USAID was willing to share the experience with ExCom members and stated that it helped set a standard which could be replicated.
- Switzerland announced their upcoming top up contribution to ECW (amount to be confirmed) and recalled the recent press release on the importance of EiE. Switzerland, in collaboration with the Geneva Hub for Education in Emergencies (composed of various members of organisations now based in Geneva such as ECW, UNHCR, UNICEF, INEE, The Cluster, etc), issued a call for action on 18 June, on the importance of education during and in the aftermath of COVID 19. This statement was endorsed by the Swiss Federal Council and echoed Switzerland's pledge made during the GRF in December, to make Geneva a hub for EiE (refer to the full statement circulated with the minutes). Switzerland also stated the bilateral work conducted on education in emergencies should not be forgotten.
- Nasser Faqih proceeded to provide an update on the 2020 resource mobilisation efforts. He highlighted the following:
  - Although the world had been plunged in an economic crisis, it should not hamper efforts to further invest in education. ECW was privileged to be able to act and respond in times where many operations have had to cease in the world.
  - ECW was intent on maintaining its targets and promises to the field, FERs and MYRPs, without any further disruptions.
  - FERs: ECW must remain ready to respond to the predicted heightened needs and subsequent requests that will be raised in the field ranging from some of the forgotten crises including IDPs and refugee situations, already fragile Central African countries now also carrying the burden of COVID-19, to escalating crises in the Middle East, the Sahel, South America and finally Caribbean nations impacted by the upcoming hurricane season.
  - MYRPs: As previously noted, ECW was committed to pursuing the 2020-2021 MYRPs as scheduled so as to not delay any opportunity for recovery and to continue re-energising the education sector in these countries.
  - ECW was now strategically moving back to its case for investment and focusing on the USD 304.3 million funding gap in order to guarantee its ability to respond to upcoming emergencies and crises.
  - ECW was calling on existing partners who sat on the HLSG and the ExCom to help mobilise USD 180 million and on new institutional donors, whom will be encouraged to join and support ECW, to help mobilise USD 70 million. And finally, ECW was hopeful to engage the private sector/foundations to come forward with the remaining USD 55 million.
  - Looking ahead this year, the launch of the Annual Report and the UNGA presented the next best opportunities for ECW to advocate and attract potential donors. With a particular emphasis on the UNGA pledging event, given its notable success in the past three years, which would highlight ECW's approach and actions and present an opportunity for donors to announce their support.
  - To date, all ECW members and partners have played an instrumental and key role in bringing added value to resource mobilisation efforts which have built ECW's success.



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The Chair thanked Nasser for his comprehensive presentation and opened the floor for questions and comments:

- CSO Representative from Plan International echoed the need for timely and predictable funding and thanked donors at the ExCom for their early pledges. Due to the dire needs and in order to fulfil the ambitions and targets for next year's MYRPs, greater efforts must be made to fill the funding gap. Civil society offered to support ECW and ExCom members in driving through these funding commitments.
- Porticus recalled the RewirED event due to take place in the margins of the Dubai Expo and asked Dubai Cares for an update on the rescheduling of the event as it could present a potential moment for ECW to promote resource mobilisation
- The EU welcomed efforts made and noted that the overall global COVID response had not necessarily prioritised education. In this regard, more collaboration was needed across the sector to secure resources. The EU asked if there had been further reflection around creating more joint events where the whole education sector could come together to advocate for funds for education.
- The Netherlands asked if ECW had considered other possible sources to mobilise funds at the country level (i.e. by increased progressive taxation, by reducing the prevalence of harmful tax incentives or through the taxation of multinational companies operating in developing countries). At the global level, the Netherlands inquired about a global approach to earmark taxation to education emergencies.
- GPE noted the importance of encouraging donors to commit to multi-year pledges as this would permit predictability and planning. GPE noted its willingness to align its funding with ECW in countries where it finances support to governments and national priorities. GPE announced the launch of their replenishment campaign in September and encouraged coordination amongst both Secretariats to ensure mutual reinforcement of both events.
- DFID highlighted that as the world was plunging into a global recession, competing demands were on the rise and resources were scarcer with serious budget pressures for donors. DFID echoed the EU on the need for coordination and joint action as a global education community to stress the importance of education and long-term implications if it is not properly funded. DFID also stated the need to find creative ways and instruments to fund education. Lastly, UNGA would be virtual and scaled down this year with little side events and ECW should take that into account when planning the UNGA event.
- Denmark also echoed the EU's point and suggested that ECW and GPE come together to deliver a joint resource mobilisation strategy or event.
- In response to the remarks and questions posed, Nasser provided the following advice:
  - He thanked Dubai Cares on the update on the virtual RewirED event taking place in November and the in-person event postponed to autumn 2021, and welcomed the potential opportunity for ECW to collaborate on an event
  - ECW welcomed all opportunities to collaborate with the sector to secure further resources. Closer coordination in the field, with a focus on the most marginalised, and looking for ways to create more impact would be an efficient way forward. ECW also zoomed in on those groups where ECW would have the most impact in complementarity with activities that GPE and other partners were conducting. This had been well reflected throughout the second round of the COVID FERs where partners such as UNHCR played a vital role in driving forward the discussions.



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- ECW and GPE had been deepening their relationship and meeting on a regular basis to determine how to complement each other best but also to explore opportunities to advocate jointly for education when approaching donors.
- In terms of innovation, Madge Thomas, had recently joined ECW as the Innovative Finance & Private Sector RM manager and brought a wealth of knowledge on innovative financing. She was currently taking action to advance ECW's approach in this area with non-traditional donors, foundations and philanthropies.
- On in-country resource mobilisation, ECW was currently undertaking concrete steps to take forward in-country resource mobilisation recommendations agreed on during the Dubai ExCom meeting in February through two tracks: firstly by focusing on the ongoing MYRPs, strengthening them by adding resource mobilisation capacity on the ground in order to raise, leverage and align more resources with the seed funding; and secondly through the new MYRPs, where there has been a substantial improvement in the development of tools and templates used and which now integrate elements of resource mobilisation and focus on domestic finance opportunities.

#### 4. Update on ECW Annual Work Plan's alignment with COVID-19 response

- Zeinab Adam, Chief, Coordination, Development and Strategic Planning, provided an update on ECW's annual workplan's alignment with the COVID-19 crisis and response.
  - The presentation served as a means to highlight key amendments made to the ECW Annual Work Plan to ensure that it remains relevant and reflects the COVID-19 context as an evolving reality impacting the education system, and ECW's adaptability accordingly. It also addressed recommendations made at the Dubai ExCom meeting highlighting identified emerging priorities and noting the removal of certain deliverables and the shifting of deadlines for deliverables that had been deprioritised to a later date to ensure a less ambitious workplan. [refer to the presentation for further detail].
  - ECW regularly monitors and re-assesses its workplan on a quarterly basis to ensure relevance to evolving contexts and that results are achieving ECW's strategic objectives as set in the Strategic Plan 2018-21. The ECW Secretariat submits a year-end AWP report to the ExCom as well as the AWP for the following year for review and approval.

The Chair thanked Zeinab and her team for the great work and commitment in ensuring the workplan was accurately updated and opened the floor to questions and comments.

- Sweden thanked for the valuable presentation and well-structured AWP. Sweden stated that it would be helpful to receive, in addition to the AWP matrix, a narrative highlighting the amendments to facilitate the reading of the information presented. Sweden also noted continued concern for the high workload and suggested postponing more activities, if possible, as to not overburden the Secretariat, especially following the latest intense rounds of COVID FERs.
- DFID welcomed the increased focus on MHPSS and sought further clarification on the role played by the coalition in supporting greater use of MHPSS approaches across ECW's work. DFID furthermore asked if progress had been made regarding the ExCom's consensus in Dubai towards the need for new materials and tools needed to attract investments from non-traditional donors and the private sector. DFID welcomed the focus on quality data in the AWP.
- Save The Children asked if the scoping and development of the learning and feedback mechanism could be added to the existing workplan and requested the list of ECW existing reference groups.
- The EU noted that a stricter prioritisation of the 2020 workplan would be further welcomed.



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- In response to the questions, the following advice was provided:
  - The end-of-year report will include comprehensive written analytical elements. The summary of amendments are displayed in the PowerPoint presentation, however, the Secretariat offered to produce a short narrative with amendments subsequent to the July review, if needed.
  - ECW has been engaging local/national actors on MHPSS and the Secretariat's MHPSS specialist has developed a MHPSS Technical Guidance Note, which includes guidance for grantees developing FERs/MYRPs, a definition of MHPSS in EiE, a ToC for MHPSS in EiE and a MHPSS indicator library. On the coalitions, ECW has been focusing on mapping and building coalitions of local and national MHPSS organisations on the ground whilst MYRP proposals were in development. ECW has partnered with Save Denmark's MHPSS Collaborative and is linking with IASC's MHPSS Reference Group to map MHPSS actors in each country.
  - ECW's new colleague, Madge Thomas is very diligently working on integrating the private sector into ECW programmes and developing new tools. This will be reflected in the annual work plan.
  - In terms of further reducing deliverables, it was confirmed that the workplan was reassessed in late April/early-May and that the secretariat would reassess deliverables and targets of the AWP during the scheduled July review with this aim. The Secretariat will update the ExCom should there be any further reductions.

## 5. Update on Evaluations

- Christian Stoff, Chief, M&E & Global Reporting briefed the ExCom on the progress of the FER and MYRP evaluations and provided a reflection on the evaluation processes as described in last year's approved evaluation policy, and an updated timeline for evaluations for this strategic plan period [refer to the presentation circulated with the minutes]. The following points were highlighted:
  - The first evaluation covered the first emergency investment window and is running from April to November 2020. The inception report was complete with an extended timeline including the 2019 FERs but also the 2020 COVID FERs. In terms of next steps, the evaluators have launched the global processes through an analysis of the database and surveys with grantees and stakeholders, including ExCom members. All work has been adapted to take place remotely. The advisory group is working well, and the final report is on track for publication in November.
  - The second evaluation, covering the MYRP investment window, was postponed to July 2020-February 2021 in order to allow for more time to implement the MYRPs which for the most part will have reached the mid-point in their implementations. A strong emphasis will be put on learning, resilience and systemic changes in countries as well as the impact at the global and local levels and the ToR is close to finalisation. There are currently, 3 confirmed nominations for the Advisory Group (DFID, Plan International Canada and BMZ) with a fourth member yet to be elected.
  - ExCom will have the chance to approve the final reports and the management response for these evaluations. The HLSG will in turn approve the final summative evaluation.

The Chair thanked Christian for a very detailed and comprehensive update on the Evaluations process and opened the floor for questions and comments:



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- Canada asked for further elaboration on how education-specific interventions were assessed against intersectoral interventions such as food security and WASH and if any lessons learned.
- Germany asked if the TORs would be shared with the respective boards.
- DFID asked how ECW will ensure voices from affected populations and ECW beneficiaries are fed into the monitoring and evaluation.
- The EU asked if the evaluations would cover the fully MYRP or the seed-funded segment.

In response to the above questions, Christian provided the following advice:

- Intersectoral interventions, as core elements to MYRP packages, will be included in the evaluations. In terms of the FERs, protection and MHPSS are also included in these interventions and will be evaluated accordingly.
- The TORs of the MYRPs and FERs are discussed with the advisory groups with the final report approved by the ExCom whereas the summative evaluation report will be approved by the HLSG. The Secretariat would be willing to share TORs upon request.
- Given the current travel restrictions, evaluators were looking into innovative ways through all means possible to communicate and collect information from affected populations and ECW beneficiaries as this would normally be done in person
- The aim was to capture the MYRPs in their entirety. There would first be a focus on the ECW seed funding and its outcomes and, in addition, an assessment of the MYRPs' ability to leverage and align other funding would be included. Collective outcomes achieved by all partners would then be assessed.

## 6. Update on ECW-GPE Collaboration

- Maarten Barends, Chief, Humanitarian Liaison & External Relations, provided an update on ECW and GPE's collaboration. He highlighted the following,
  - Core teams from both Secretariats have held monthly coordination meetings chaired by both GPE's CEO, Alice Albright and ECW's Director, Yasmine Sherif. These meetings have proven to be successful in terms of keeping each other informed on programmatic developments, including on the recent respective COVID-19 responses, but also in terms of discussing how to work more closely with another and align existing plans and strategies, minimising bureaucratic burden on country-level partners.
  - Both teams had recently undertaken the initiative of developing a note on ECW/GPE complementarity, with the intent of leveraging each's respective mandates and capitalise on both comparative advantages. The note was being finalised and will be shared with the ExCom by early July. It will also be included as an annex to the Operating Manual.
  - Since the GRF which took place last December, ECW and GPE have developed a joint action plan outlining how this commitment will be operationalised, including by looking at ways to improve collaboration at the country level. The plan will also be circulated to the ExCom by early July.
  - It was crucial that both ECW and GPE were represented at each other's boards to ensure collaboration was indeed maximised. In this regard, ECW welcomed the recent invitation to attend the GPE board as observer and looked forward to GPE's upcoming governance review which would seek ECW's full integration to GPE's board.
- The Chair thanked Maarten for the helpful update and opened the floor to comments:



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- USAID and Save The Children UK welcomed the transparency and offered to provide some insight around experiences and challenges encountered from the donor/civil society perspectives, sitting on both boards, as the note on complementarity progressed.
- Denmark welcomed the increased collaboration and echoed USAID and Save The Children by offering to contribute to the developing of the note. Denmark asked for further detail on how both organisations would be working together concretely.
- GPE noted the very positive collaboration, driven by both Yasmine Sherif and Alice Albright and highlighted the joint efforts throughout the COVID-19 response where both shared all proposals received to avoid duplication and ensure the best coordination in-country.
- In response to the questions posed, Maarten provided the following advice:
  - Inputs from ExCom members were very much welcome and both Secretariats would be in touch to collect inputs.
  - The note will lay out both respective mandates but will focus on coordination and alignment at country level, and on joint advocacy and awareness raising at the global level.

## 7. Presentation by OCHA on the Anticipatory Action Approach

- Lisa Carty, OCHA Director, Humanitarian Financing & Resource Mobilisation, provided a presentation to the ExCom on OCHA's Anticipatory Action Approach.
  - Over the last year, OCHA has provided over USD 18 million for EiE through the CERF and USD 75 million to education programs through the country-based Pooled Funds.
  - The Anticipatory Action Approach provided an alternative to the traditional humanitarian response by predicting the trajectory and humanitarian impacts of certain kinds of shocks (climatic or communicable disease shocks for example), through data models and forecasts, and anticipating the needs before crises materialise. This model enabled better mitigations of crises and finance predictability, thereby reducing the impacts of crises once they hit. This model also provides greater dignity for beneficiaries.
  - In 2020, OCHA set aside USD 80 million from the CERF to pilot collective anticipatory action in conjunction with funding from other partners such as the World Bank. OCHA has been working closely with ECW to integrate an education component in these anticipatory action pilots, such as through the Somalia context, which will be reflected through an annex to the Operational Manual.
- Sweden asked which percentage of the current humanitarian funding OCHA anticipated would be used for anticipatory action funding dedicated to saving lives.
- In response to the above question, Lisa advised that (by email):
  - The Emergency Relief Coordinator has agreed to allocate up to \$140 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support a series of anticipatory-action interventions over the next 18 months. Notwithstanding, hazard events vary from year to year and the full envelope may not be required. This investment was in line with CERF's life-saving criteria and mandates by the General Assembly. This was also made possible thanks to additional contributions provided to CERF to support the AA agenda.
  - Anticipatory action takes place before the humanitarian impact of a hazard event has fully materialized and seeks to protect vulnerable people against this impact before it occurs and



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thus save more lives. Investing in anticipatory action increases the impact of available funds: less funds are required to reach more people than a traditional response. It makes every dollar spent go further, yielding positive impacts, even if a shock didn't materialize as predicted.

- OCHA estimated that about 10 percent of the humanitarian caseload – mainly caused by natural disasters - could be reduced through anticipatory action.

## 8. Election of the new ExCom Chair

- The Chair reflected on the 2 years spent chairing ECW's ExCom and commended the Secretariat and the wider group for the thorough work and progression made over this time as the fund matured. Without further ado, the Chair announced DFID's taking over of the role for the next two years, as per the email sent to the ExCom on 7 May 2020 seeking no objection to the election of DFID to the role of Chair of the ExCom. She also announced Norway would be taking on the role of Vice-Chair of the ExCom and thanked Norway for this generous offer.
- The Chair reaffirmed that Canada will remain engaged and wished to continue to play a leadership role with a mandate particularly around refugee and displaced persons.
- The Director warmly thanked the Chair and her team for a most productive and inspiring leadership and cooperation over the past two years and warmly congratulated the new Chair and Vice-Chair.

## 9. AoB, Chair's Summary and Conclusion

The Chair commended the ECW Secretariat for their great efforts and comprehensive presentations over the past two days and all ExCom members for their valuable contributions. She noted ECW had grown immensely since its creation in 2016 and commended its ability to respond with such speed and confidence to every crisis it had dealt with to date. She furthermore encouraged donors to respond to ECW's calls to bridge the current funding gap to ensure continuity in these responses. She indicated that, travel restrictions permitting, the next in-person ExCom will take place in Oslo this autumn.