

ECW Executive Committee Meeting December 5th, 2019

Decision Summary Paper

This meeting is being called to request approval from ExCom for 2020 Annual Workplan and budget, the priority countries for MYRP 2020-2021, the Multi-Year Resilience Programmes in Ethiopia, Chad, Syria and South Sudan, and a request for approval of the second-year seed funding for Uganda MYRP.

1. Annual Workplan and Secretariat Budget 2020

- *Paper - 2020 Annual Workplan*
 - *Secretariat Budget Narrative -Staff Relocation to Geneva*
 - *2020 Budget Sheet*
 - *ECW Organigram*

ECW asks ExCom:

- a) To approve the 2020 Budget, including Staff Relocation to Geneva**
- b) To approve the 2020 Annual Workplan**

2. ECW Priority Countries for MYRP 2020-2021

- *Papers - Decision Paper: ECW priority countries for MYRP 2020-2021 and Methodology paper*

ECW asks ExCom:

- a) To approve priority countries for MYRP 2020-2021**

3. MYRP Ethiopia

- *Paper - MYRP Ethiopia Proposal*
 - *Ethiopia MYRP Feedback Matrix*

Background:

The ECW secretariat is pleased to share with ExCom the *ECW-facilitated Multi-Year Resilience Programme for Ethiopia: 2020 – 2023*.

The proposed Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) will address critical education needs of emergency-affected children with a special focus on girls, cognitive disability (CWDs) and their distinct educational and protection needs. Specific interventions under each outcome address barriers to equitable and inclusive access to education. A 'whole of school' approach will be pursued in targeted areas through interventions that will improve learner well-being, expand access, improve quality and relevance of education, promote retention and transition of learners, and resilience of

school communities. School-based interventions will be anchored in a 'whole of woreda'¹ approach and supported by system-strengthening efforts at all levels (woreda, regional and central) of the sector. Relevant capacities of key stakeholders (education sector officials, school management, teachers, community members, learners) will be developed to strengthen conflict and disaster risk sensitivity of education. Key aspects of the education sector (data management, planning, teaching-learning classroom practices, parental-community engagement, school-based early warning systems) will be supported to promote resilience of the sector, institutions, and communities through education.

The proposed three-year MYRP will include a six-month inception period (January-June 2020) during which key data analyses, needs assessments, including a gender and diversity analysis of education in targeted areas, beneficiary consultations, and programme staffing activities will be carried out. Given that over 70% of all displacement in the country is internal, the MYRP focuses primarily on IDPs and returnees. Refugee teachers are also targeted through the MYRP, as an underserved group in need of diploma level training, with the aim of improving quality education for refugee children and youth. This activity transitions from the ECW initial investment. Geographic targeting was conducted using the data from the Government of Ethiopia's 'hotspot woreda classification', IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix and Education Cluster assessments. A total of 44 woredas were selected based on their acute educational needs, with the process conducted in consultation with MoE, Education Cluster partners, and affected regions.

The overall budget of the ECW-facilitated MYRP amounts to \$161 million over the 2020-2023 period, of which the ECW seed funding requested amounts to \$27 million. The amount of \$8.9 million for the first year will be released upon approval of the programme by ExCom. Year two funding in the amount of \$9 million will be released subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

The MYRP has gone through a rigorous review process: it has been quality checked by the ECW Secretariat's expertise on programming, education, gender, MHPSS, M&E risk management and child safeguarding; followed by a review by the External Review Panel. All comments were exhaustively addressed by the in-country team through several iterations of feedback. These are reflected in the MYRP feedback matrix document, which also includes recommendations to be addressed during implementation. The proposal has been endorsed by the Secretariat and the External Review Panel.

ECW requests ExCom to:

- a) Approve the MYRP proposal for Ethiopia.**
- b) Approve the seed funding for years one and two of the programme in the amount of \$8.9 and \$9 million respectively.**
- c) Approve the release of year one of seed funding at this time. The year two seed funding amount will be released subject to satisfactory performance of the programme and availability of funds.**

4. MYRP Chad

- *Paper - MYRP Chad Proposal*

¹ Woredas are the third-level administrative divisions of Ethiopia (federal, zonal) and are further subdivided into a number of wards (kebele) which are the smallest unit of local government in Ethiopia

- *Chad MYRP Quality Assurance Template*

Background:

The ECW secretariat is pleased to share with ExCom the ECW-facilitated *Multi-Year Resilience Programme for the Republic of Chad: 2020 – 2022*.

The goal of this Multi-Year Emergency Resilience Programme (MYRP) in Chad, under the leadership of the Ministry of National Education and Civic Promotion (MENPC), is to provide quality education and training for girls and boys in emergency-affected communities, including targeting children and youth with disabilities, to ensure their well-being in inclusive, equitable, secure and gender-sensitive learning environments. This programme goal will be achieved through five interrelated outcomes built around four themes: i) equitable and inclusive access to education; ii) quality of education; iii) gender sensitive governance of the education system; and iv) inclusion through community participation. This resilience programme covers activities to address the urgent needs of refugees, returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It also covers the need to build resilience in the education sector within affected populations, host communities and localized structures as well as planning and production of data needed for effective decision-making. Psychosocial care and education for peace and social cohesion, which constitute major problems in emergencies, have been integrated into the planned interventions.

The programme will be implemented over a period of three years starting from the first quarter of 2020. Five priority provinces will be targeted by this MYRP. In its geographical targeting and its intervention logic, the programme has taken into account the principles of alignment and harmonization with the official strategies and documents of the Education in Emergencies (EiE) sector at international and national level, the nexus between humanitarian and development, inter-sectoral responses and cross-cutting themes. Particular emphasis has been placed on highlighting the fact that this MYRP supports and aligns with existing strategies.

The overall budget of the MYRP amounts to \$51.7 million over the 2020-2022 period, of which the ECW seed funding requested amounts to \$21.0 million. The ECW investments will contribute over 40% of the gap, providing vulnerable girls and boys with education hard to reach areas. The amount of \$8.6 million for the first year will be released upon approval of the programme by ExCom. Year two funding in the amount of \$7.4 million and year three funding in the amount of \$4.8 million will be released subject to satisfactory performance. Funds from Education Cannot Wait will be used to initiate the programme in the highest priority provinces of Logone Orientale and Lake and aim to reach over 135,000 beneficiaries including approximately 133,000 children aged 3 to 17 years old and over 2,000 adults (MENPC staff, teachers and members of parent-teacher associations) – representing over 55% of the number of people targeted by this MYRP.

The MYRP has gone through a rigorous review process: quality checked by the ECW Secretariat's expertise on programming, education, gender, MHPSS and M&E; followed by a review by ExCom's External Review Panel. All comments were exhaustively addressed by the in-country team through several iterations of feedback and the MYRP quality assurance documents the changes that have been made as a result. The proposal has been endorsed by the Secretariat and the review panel with additional comments outlined in the Quality Assurance template to be incorporated into implementation.

ECW requests ExCom to:

a) to approve the MYRP proposal for Chad.

b) to approve seed funding for year one and two of the programme in the amount of \$8.6 M and \$7.4 M respectively.

c) to approve the release of year one of seed funding at this time. The years two and three seed funding amounts will be released subject to satisfactory performance of the programme.

5. MYRP South Sudan

- *Paper - MYRP South Sudan Proposal*
 - *South Sudan MYRP Quality Assurance Template*

Background:

The ECW secretariat is pleased to share with ExCom the ECW-facilitated *Multi-Year Resilience Programme for South Sudan: 2020 – 2023*.

The proposed Multi-Year Resilience Program (MYRP) is grounded in the reality of South Sudan, where systemic change in the education sector will be needed to drive results for all children, while also supporting recovery and the return of refugees and IDPs and the transition from emergency to development. Additionally, given the impact of displacement, conflicts and crises, and extreme levels of poverty, learners and teachers will require well-rounded and holistic support to ensure that they can learn and teach and that children can progress in education.

To that end, the South Sudan ECW facilitated MYRP focuses on conflict-sensitive interventions, that move communities from emergency to recovery and towards development. Where possible, ECW will pick up where humanitarian actors have undertaken education in emergencies programming or where conflicts flared a few years ago but are moving towards recovery. In these areas, the MYRP will give priority to areas where schools exist, but need to be upgraded, expanded or repaired such that they can properly function and serve the needs of large out of school populations, and where IDP and Refugee populations intend to return or are returning in significant numbers.

The phasing of the MYRP will be based on need and identification of synergies in key priority counties. As such, Phase 1 will reach up to 100,000 children across 6 priority Counties receiving support for a full three years. As additional resources are secured, MYRP activities will be extended to Phase 2, 3 and 4 counties and schools, reaching a total of 500,000 children in need across 12 counties. Should additional funding be found, the ultimate goal of the MYRP will be to reach all areas of the 6 priority States as described in the document.

The overall budget of the ECW-facilitated MYRP amounts to \$219 million over the 2020-2023 period, of which the ECW seed funding requested amounts to \$30 million. The amount of \$9.7 million for the first year will be released upon approval of the programme by ExCom. Year two funding in the amount of \$10.2 million will be released subject to satisfactory performance.

The MYRP has gone through a rigorous review process: quality checked by the ECW Secretariat's expertise on programming, education, gender, and M&E; followed by a review by External Review Panel. All comments were exhaustively addressed by the in-country team through several iterations of feedback and the MYRP Quality Assurance template documents the changes that have been made as a result. The proposal has been endorsed by the Secretariat and the review panel with additional comments outlined in the Quality Assurance template to be incorporated into implementation.

ECW requests ExCom to:

a) Approval of the MYRP proposal for South Sudan.

b) Approval seed funding for years one and two of the programme in the amount of \$9.7 and \$10.2 million respectively.

c) Approval the release of year one of seed funding currently. The year two seed funding amount will be released subject to satisfactory performance of the programme.

6. MYRP Syria

- *Paper - MYRP Syria Proposal*
 - *Syria MYRP Quality Assurance Template*

Background:

The ECW secretariat is pleased to share with ExCom the ECW-facilitated *Multi-Year Resilience Programme for Syria: 2020 – 2023*.

The Syria Multi-Year Resilience programme (MYRP) aims provide a humanitarian response to EiE needs inside of Syria. It aims to re-engage children in learning by providing equitable access to safer and inclusive learning spaces where children acquire foundational, socio-emotional, life and, *where relevant*, vocational skills (targeting adolescent) necessary to continue their education and be prepared for adult life. The MYRP is needs and vulnerability based and identified children that are out of school or at risk of dropping out in the whole of Syria whether because of poverty, disability and/or displacement, and Palestine refugees, as most vulnerable groups. The MYRP aims to reach an estimated 2.5 million children over a three-year period.

The MYRP provides an intervention framework to address the key barriers that keep children out-of-school including: social protection measures to mitigate opportunity costs of learning, such as school feeding and transportation, accessible and safer learning places especially for children with disabilities, improved teaching and learning practices, the provision of learning materials, and psychosocial support for children and teachers. The MYRP will strive to increase access to learning opportunities by fostering inclusive and multiple pathways and engage communities.

The ECW Seed Funding serves as an initial investment under the MYRP and will address a specific set of critical yet manageable interventions that can be implemented in the current context of the crisis, building on lessons learned and achievements from previous ECW investments in Syria that concluded in September 2019. Through the ECW seed funding, a total of 130,205 children across Syria are expected to be reached over three years.

The MYRP was developed through a consultative process engaging education partners in Syria through the Syria Education Dialogue Forum (EDF). The EDF members proposed UNICEF as grantee and following extensive discussions and dialogue among in-country actors and service providers including UN and INGOs who unanimously supported the lead role of UNICEF. UNICEF is proposed based on its comparative advantage to have access in the whole of Syria as well as its capacity/willingness to take on the responsibility of managing such a complex programme.

The MYRP aims to continue its efforts to improve a coordinated response and joint resource mobilization for a better future for all Syrian children through the WoS and cluster coordination mechanism.

The overall budget of the ECW-facilitated MYRP amounts to \$783 million over the 2020-2023 period, of which the ECW seed funding requested amounts to \$30 million. The amount of \$10 million for the first year will be released upon approval of the programme by ExCom.

The MYRP has gone through a rigorous review process: quality checked by the ECW Secretariat's expertise on programming, education, gender, and M&E; followed by an external review by two independent reviewers. All comments were exhaustively addressed by the WoS team through several iterations of feedback and the QA template for the Syria MYRP documents the feedback and the changes that have been made as a result. The proposal has been endorsed by the Secretariat and the review panel with additional comments outlined in the QA template to be incorporated into the program during the inception phase and implementation.

ECW requests ExCom to:

a) to approve the MYRP proposal for Syria

b) to approve seed funding for years one of the programmes in the amount of \$10M.

7. Request for approval of Year II Seed Funding for Uganda MYRP

- *Report on Performance of Uganda MYRP Year 1 and priorities setting of Year II&III*

Background:

The ECW Executive Committee approved an allocation of \$11 million in seed funding to the Uganda Multi-Year Resilience Programme on 20 September 2018. The allocation was made to two grantees, UNHCR (\$0.5) and a consortium of NGOs (\$10.5). Following approval, the Steering Committee (SC) for the Uganda Education Response Plan (MYRP) invited organisations to submit an expression of interest followed by competitive bids to implement activities funded by ECW. Thirteen NGOs were selected by the Steering Committee and implementation commenced in January 2019.

In preparation of the next tranche of ECW seed funding, the Steering Committee agreed to the review of the framework to ensure a solid foundation for assessing the performance of the first year and the review of priorities. The Steering Committee received the performance assessment of first year in early November and followed-up with a field visit to refugee locations and, based on this, submitted a concept note on the priorities for the second year to the ECW Secretariat.

The priorities for the ECW seed funding have been through a comprehensive country review and reflect a careful consideration of available resources, other funding flows and the local context.

Priorities for Year II and III

The Steering Committee has proposed priorities for year II and III including these three:

- Increasing access through investments to reduce the pupil: classroom ratio, including construction of acceptable, cost-effective teacher housing, gender-sensitive and inclusive sanitation facilities and operationalisation of the Double Shifting guidelines
- Improve quality through common modality of recruitment and remuneration of funding for teacher salaries, continued professional development for teachers and refugee teacher accreditation and training
- Establishment and strengthening of referral pathways and linkages between the community-based protection systems with school and parent management activities, and integration of child protection and mental health and psychosocial activities in teacher professional development.

The revised priorities have resulted in the budget below (year 1 is included for reference).

Outcome	Year I	Year II	Year III
Improved Equitable Access to Relevant Learning Opportunities	5,357,061	4,777,292	3,947,415
Improved Delivery of Quality Education and Training	4,590,985	5,269,021	6,139,544
Strengthened System for Effective Delivery	135,772	127,960	87,314
ERP Secretariat	293,812	293,812	293,812
Evaluation	90,000 ^[1]		
Grant Agent Costs	532,370	531,915 ^[2]	531,915
TOTAL	11,000,000	11,000,000	11,000,000

The Uganda ERP faces a significant funding gap and shortfall for the coming year. Of the \$103,074,421 projected for Year 2, an estimated \$22 million is confirmed for next year. ExCom members are encouraged to discuss how the funding gap can be closed with their country offices and bilateral representations. The Global Refugee Forum would be an excellent opportunity to commit additional funding to the Uganda Education Response Plan.

ECW has followed the review process in Uganda and confirms that there has been a solid in-country review process with strong involvement from the Steering Committee, Grantees and Implementing Partners. While there have been a number of challenges during the first year of implementation, the overall picture remains that the Uganda MYRP is largely successful with satisfactory Grantee performance.

ECW requests ExCom to:

- a) to approve seed funding for year II of the MYRP proposal for Uganda in the amount of \$ 11M.**

^[1] Rolled over to the next period

^[2] Note that this is subject to variance depending on the who receives the budget for the teacher salary payment