

ECW Executive Committee Meeting 17 June 2019

Decision Paper

1. FER Replenishment

- *Background paper – Replenishment of First Emergency Response Reserve*

Background:

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. 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.

At its February 2019 meeting, ExCom agreed to increase the reserve to \$24.7 million in 2019 to be reviewed at its next in-person meeting. Following the February ExCom, ECW received additional contributions and pledge earmarked for the FER window totalling \$7.2 million, made by DFID and Dubai Cares.

As of 30 May 2019, the first round of applications for FER funding to Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe for the immediate responses to Cyclone Idai have all been approved, providing \$7 million allocations. Another \$7 million request was recently approved for the first regional application in response to Venezuelan Refugee and Migrant crisis.

ECW Secretariat is currently reviewing draft FER proposals, including the second round of applications for the post-emergency phase (\$7.50 million Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe) for Cyclone Idai response. Additionally, a regional application in response to growing security in Sahel region seeking close to \$6 million is under review.

ECW has also committed \$1m to supporting the response to Cyclone Kenneth to both Comoros and Mozambique, with the Comoros proposal under review and the Mozambique proposal expected shortly. A \$2.65 million proposal is being prepared to facilitate response to displacement in Cameroon under worsen conflicts as well as a potential \$3 million request of FER allocation for Yemen.

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. (for detailed calculation, please refer to the background paper attached)

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. The replenishment of the FER reserve does not change the resource mobilization target and technically, the replenishment will be funded by forward moving FER allocations planned for 2020-2021.

ECW requests ExCom to approve:

a) the replenishment of First Response Window to \$24.7 million

2. Somalia Multi-Year Resilience Programmes

- Paper – MYRP Somalia Proposals*
- Somalia MYRP Feedback Matrices*

Background:

ECW is pleased to share with you the ECW-facilitated Multi-Year Resilience Programmes for Somalia. The three programmes – for the Federal Government of Somalia and Member States, Somaliland, and Puntland – build on ECW's earlier First Emergency Response allocation (US\$ 4.9 million) made in 2017 which had a significant impact in encouraging children to go to school after three decades of war.

The MYRP with a total of \$21 million over three years aims to reach over 582,000 children and youth in Somaliland (82,000), Puntland (40,000) and the FGS (460,000), between the 6-13 years and 14-18 years, including 12,000 teachers (40% female teachers).

The programmes were developed under the leadership of the three Government Education Authorities, the Strategic Advisory Group plus national and regional clusters and by Task Teams composed of key partners consisting of development and humanitarian stakeholders across the three programme areas.

The process, in addition to addressing the nexus and fostering joint planning, was open, transparent and consultative. Through the elaboration process the three Ministries of Education coalesced around the ECW MYRP, seen as a positive contribution to conflict transformation by getting the three entities to work cohesively towards common goals. The actual Somalia MYRP elaboration process has been important as it brought about the three governments political commitment to education in emergencies, therefore achieving in Somalia through the MYRP elaboration process ECW's strategic objective #1 in 'inspiring political commitment'.

The three programme documents have been strongly influenced by available Education Sector Strategic Plans, the Joint Resilience Action 2018-2022, and are tied together through the shared contribution towards ECW's Strategic Results Framework:

- Increased access to education for crisis-affected girls and boys
- Strengthened equity and gender equality in education in crises
- Increased continuity and sustainability of education for crisis affected girls and boys
- Improved learning and skills outcomes for crisis-affected girls and boys
- Safe and protective learning environment and education ensured for all crisis affected children and youth

Further, the proposals share a common consideration of and contribution towards the Education Response objectives outlined in the 2018 regional Humanitarian Response Plan:

Objective 1: Ensure emergencies and crises affected children and youth have access to safe and protective learning environments.

Objective 2: Ensure vulnerable children and youth are engaged in learning including lifesaving skills and personal well-being.



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Objective 3: Strengthened capacity to deliver effective and coordinated education in emergencies preparedness and response within the education system.

The overall budget of the ECW-facilitated MYRP amounts to \$191 million over the 2019-2021 period, of which the ECW seed funding requested amounts to \$21 million, i.e. \$7 million per year divided in three programs on a needs basis (FGS \$2.9; SL \$2.2m; and Puntland \$1.8m). The amount of 7 million for the first year will be released upon approval of the programme by ExCom. Year two funding in the amount of \$7 million will be released subject to satisfactory performance.

The MYRP has gone through a rigorous review process: Initially submitted in February, the programmes were reviewed and revised several times based on feedback by the ECW secretariat. In addition, the documents benefitted from two rounds of comments by our interim review panel. Comments were addressed by the in-country team through several iterations of feedback and the three Somalia programmes feedback matrices reflect comments addressed attached for your reference.

ECW requests ExCom to approve:

- a) The three MYRP proposals for Somalia.**
- b) The year one and two seed funding in the amount of \$14 million with the first year to be disbursed upon approval and the second year subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funds.**

3. Initiating the DRC Multi-Year Resilience Programme in 2019

- Concept note – Initiating the ECW Facilitated MYRP Democratic Republic of Congo*
- Annex 1 – Targets by location age gender*
- Annex 2 – Needs and targets categorized*

Background:

On 10 July 2018 ExCom approved 11 countries targeted for MYRP development in 2018 and 2019 (Chad, Ethiopia, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, CAR, Palestine, Somalia, Uganda and South Sudan). As the political and security situation in Yemen continues to be precarious, ECW suggests replacing the MYRP for Yemen with an MYRP for the DRC where the FER is coming to an end and the Country Partners have requested for the initiation of the MYRP in 2019. ECW suggests reaching children in Yemen instead through a FER.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains the sixth most fragile state in the world¹, with a humanitarian context characterized by cyclical armed conflict and huge numbers of internally displaced people (IDPs), compounded by epidemic outbreaks and natural disasters. Girls and boys in the DRC are exposed to multi-dimensional shocks and stresses, often deeply interconnected with recurrent pattern, of conflict and displacement. With an estimated 4.5 million IDPs, the already stretched education system is under tremendous pressure to ensure access to quality education for the estimated 1.8 million school-aged children in need.²

¹ Fragile State Index, 2018

² DRC Humanitarian Response Plan 2017-2019, Updated for 2019, p.50



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The ECW First Emergency Response (FER) of \$ 1,000,065 was a crucial funding envelope to address the crises in the eastern provinces of Tanganyika, South Kivu and the Grater Kasai region reaching 245,541 affected children and youth (IDPs, host communities and other). The FER focused on ensuring protective and safe access to education aimed at bringing back normalcy to their lives and strengthening their resilience through interventions such as reconstruction / rehabilitation of schools, equipment and school furniture, training of teachers on child centered methodology, remedial classes to Out-of-school children, specific care and support to GBV survivors as well as psychosocial support to teachers and for children in classrooms.

However, given the breadth and depth of ongoing crises in DRC, the FER lacked sufficient length, breadth, and the sustainability strategy needed to ensure lasting impact. Two Ebola outbreaks and the resurgence of armed conflict during the implementation period resulted in needs that the FER could not address. The end of the FER has left an additional gap in the education response, and the immediate activation of the multi-year resilience program (MYRP) process is urgently needed to engage partners in collaborative, evidence-based response planning that bridges the humanitarian-development divide. As Education Cluster leads, UNICEF and Save the Children see significant potential for ECW to bridge gaps and meet needs through the MYRP as well as act as a catalyst for additional, much needed financing.

The MYRP will target school-aged children affected by conflict, including out of school children and those already in schools from IDPs, returnees, and host community children. With the aim of galvanizing a holistic response to the multiple crises facing the country, the program will span multiple regions, but priority will be given to where the needs of the largest number of children remain unmet.

The MYRP will address critical barriers to access to quality education by using the Humanitarian-Development nexus approach, aiming to respond to the immediate educational needs of conflict-affected girls and boys while contributing to sustainable recovery efforts and longer-term development goals. The MYRP development process will start with a Joint Education Needs Assessment to fill critical information gaps and run parallel to the elaboration of the Education Cluster Strategy. By developing one program situated clearly in the nexus space, the MYRP will bridge the gap between emergency relief and development interventions and actors, which remain separate and uncoordinated in the DRC, to the detriment of good quality educational results for children.

ECW requests ExCom to approve:

- a) Postponing the MYRP for Yemen and instead reach affected populations through a FER**
- b) Initiating the ECW Facilitated Multi-Year Resilience Programme for the DRC**