



a global fund for education in emergencies

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Dear HLSG Members,

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) is growing into a fast and responsive global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises. To date we have invested in 19 crisis countries and have raised \$333 million for the trust fund.

The current ECW Strategic Plan aims to support the delivery of quality education to 8.9 million children and youth and mobilize \$1.8 billion by 2021.

Impressive results and strategic inroads have been achieved thanks to a cost-effective and lean set-up, as well as our collective efforts, including the invaluable support of UNICEF as a supportive host to a very effective ECW secretariat backed by the time given by members of EXCOM and donor governments.

As a global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises, ECW is also becoming a major catalyst for the New Way of Working in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. For instance, in Uganda, the first ever multi-year “Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host-Communities,” lent support to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), provided a model for joint programming in other development sectors in Uganda, all while Inter-Governmental Authority on Development adopted the Uganda response plan as model for the region.

ECW brings together humanitarian and development actors, and governments, private and philanthropic sectors in crisis-contexts through joint-programming. It seeks to strengthen the focus on results, sustainability and accountability free of unnecessary bureaucracy, while also bringing assessment and decision-making closer to the point of delivery. While ECW follows affected populations (refugees, internally displaced and crisis-affected), it is developing a close and trusted engagement with host-governments and has forged partnerships across UN agencies, the EU, World Bank, African Union, civil society, business and the NGO community.

Education Cannot Wait is a global fund hosted by UNICEF.

The Fund is administered under UNICEF’s financial, human resources and administrative rules and regulations, while operations are run by the Fund’s own independent governance structure.

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To maintain ECW's added value, we must be agile, inclusive, and retain the ability to act quickly, while also being fully accountable for our actions and results.

I believe that ECW has reached a level of maturity that enables us to ensure our working methods remain fit for purpose. Allow me to offer a few observations:

- The HLSG offers powerful political and strategic support. It should continue to meet twice a year at ministerial level as a decision-making meeting to provide (a) the overall strategic guidance and (b) political advocacy for ECW's goals.
- The EXCOM has played an instrumental role together with the secretariat in making ECW what it is today. In order for this to continue, it is important that EXCOM members have easy access to his or her HLSG member and thus enables us to act swiftly to respond to emerging crises with both humanitarian speed and development depth.
- The Secretariat led by the Director will continue to have the overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, based on the authority delegated from HLSG, combined with continued periodical and systematic operational and financial reporting to EXCOM.

I look forward to seeing you at our next high-level meeting on April 11 during the IMF / World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, D.C.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Brown".

Rt. Hon Gordon Brown
Chair, Education Cannot Wait High-Level Steering Group
United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education

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