

## **Executive Committee Meeting – Minutes**

Monday, 17 June 2019, 9:00am- 4:30pm, Berlin, Germany

### **Participants**

**Executive Committee members:** Nancy Smyth (Canada - EXCOM Chair), Yasmine Sherif (ECW Director), Alicia Herbert (DFID/U - EXCOM Vice-chair), Ina von Frantzius (BMZ/Germany), Dean Brooks (INEE), Mamadou Dian Balde (UNHCR), Justin van Fleet (Representative of the Chair of HLSG), Stijn DE-LAMEILLIEURE (European Commission, on behalf of Aida Liha Matejicek), Camilla Helgø Fossberg (NORAD/Norway), Maria Agnese Giordano (Global Education Cluster), Robert Jenkins (UNICEF), Kerstin Holst (UNESCO), Annina Mattsson (Dubai Cares), Gertrud Nørbjerg Kümmel Birk (Denmark), Joseph Nhan-O'Reilly (Save the Children), Nina Papadopoulos (USAID), Pdraig Power (GPE), Rolf Wijnstra (Netherlands, on behalf of Eline Ruisendaal), Kathleen Spencer Chapman (Plan International), Margriet Schreuders (Postcode Lottery), Rebecca Shaw (Australia, on behalf of Kerry Leigh), Keiko Miwa (World Bank Group)

**Observers:** Sandra Dworack (Oxfam Germany & GCE Germany), Franziska Pflueger (Plan International Germany), Susanne Hassel (UNICEF Germany Committee), Antje Lüdemann-Dundua (World Vision), Jan-Thilo Klimisch (Christoffel-Blindenmission Deutschland e.V.), Christopher Peter Talbot (Independent Consultant), Eve Hadshar (Cambridge Education), Jan Svihlik (GIZ/Germany), Theresa Rooney (GIZ/Germany)

**Accompanying officials:** Rudolf Huber, (BMZ/Germany), Mirella Bilalagic (BMZ, Germany), Alexandra Galeitzke (GIZ/Germany), Michael Holländer (GIZ/ Germany), Alice Birnbaum (Canada), Randi Gramshaug (Norad/Norway), Linda Jones (UNICEF), Anushya Devendra (DFID/UK), Stephen Close (DFAT/Australia), Laura Davison (INEE), Anthony Nolan (Global Education Cluster Coordinator), Farah Williamson (Plan International Canada), Ita Sheehy (UNHCR)

**ECW Secretariat:** Nagi Messiha, Zeinab Adam, Nasser Faqih, Michael Corlin, Christian Stoff, David Hartstone, Li Peng

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### **Summary of the outcomes of the meeting**

#### 1. Welcome

- The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed newcomers and observers, and announced that Alicia Herbert from DFID is now the new Vice-chair of the EXCOM. She then outlined the items on the Agenda and key decisions of the meeting, namely,
  - 1) To approve the replenishment of First Emergency Response (FER) reserve;
  - 2) To approve three Somalia Multi-Year Resilience Programmes (MYRPs);
  - 3) To approve initiating the ECW-facilitated MYRP for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## 2. Director's Remarks and Financial Update

- The ECW Director gave an update on progress which included the latest figures on programme results, an overview of the financial situation and the status of workplan milestones, drawing on the ECW Results Dashboard and map of country investments.
- During the Q&A session, the ECW Secretariat provided further clarification on utilization rates as follows: 1) ECW reporting timelines are governed by Standard Grant Confirmation Letter, issued to Grantees by UNICEF as ECW's Fund Custodian and the Administrator. According to this letter, each Grantee sends a progress report within 30 days of the end of each six-month period during the term of the Grant, an annual programmatic report within 90 days of the end of each calendar year, and a final programmatic report within 6 months of the completion of programme activities funded by the Grant. Each of these reports includes financial updates. This means utilization rates are not updated in real time, instead, they are updated whenever any of the three types of reports are submitted by Grantees to ECW – for instance the reporting on Uganda was 24 hours overdue of the official deadline for reporting to EXCOM; 2) In Afghanistan, the delays were due to concerns raised by in-country donors with regard to UNICEF's role as both an implementing agency and a Grantee; and, in Somalia delay was due to new government leadership and a reassessment of the MYRP draft so to ensure successful succession/continuation with new federal minister; 3) In some instances, the grantee's process of selecting and contracting of implementing agencies take time to ensure due diligence, including HACT assessments for those who have not undergone it; 4) Finally, commitments may yet have to be executed and turned into actual expenditures.
- On co-financing, the ECW Secretariat outlined its role in supporting in-country resource mobilization and encouraged in-country contributions to be made towards ECW-facilitated investments, as this would help reinforce the strategic donor objectives of coordination, joint programming and humanitarian-development coherence. The responsibility for resource mobilization rests primarily with the MYRP Steering Committee. Mobilizing resources is a collective effort which requires actors at all levels to commit time and finances in order to achieve the targets. Once the Deputy Director is on board (1 August), a system will be put in place to monitor in-country funding directly against MYRPs. All new MYRPs have an RM outcome to measure results, all while progress will be monitored by ECW Secretariat country leads.

### **ACTION and DECISION**

The Chair noted the need for additional narrative and explanatory notes on utilization/delivery rates as well as co-financing. She noted the EXCOM's agreement that EXCOM members stay in contact with their counterparts in-country to facilitate proposal reviews, partnership opportunities and implementation. She took note of the Secretariat's work on guidance and communication aimed at in-country resource mobilization and the role of Grantees to speed up contracting implementing agencies.

## 3. Resource Mobilization and UNGA event

- Nasser Faqih gave a presentation updating progress on resource mobilization, including the launch of the ECW resource mobilization campaign, preparation of the UNGA event and strategies for in-country resource mobilization.
- On in-country resource mobilization, he explained data on "funding leveraged" for ECW MYRPs at country level needs further analysis against specific criteria for qualifying resources. Indicators will be used to systematically track and monitor funding streams from other donors. He also emphasized that in-country resource mobilization is primarily the responsibility of the MYRP Steering Committees and main partners engaged in the

MYRPs. It is also a key function of the ECW-funded Programme Manager and M&E specialist at country level.

- Joseph Nhan-O'Reilly (Save the Children) stressed the importance of diversification of the donor base and collective action. He also encouraged EXCOM donors to use their pledges to encourage other donors - early pledges help mobilize more pledges.
- EXCOM members stressed that ECW's resource mobilization is ongoing. While the UNGA event will serve as a platform for making announcements, it should not be called "Replenishment," as this will continue for ECW beyond UNGA.

#### **ACTION and DECISION**

The Chair concluded the discussion noting the priority for EXCOM to receive updates on the planned event for UNGA. This should include a confirmation of fundraising targets as they relate to the global fund, and to co-financing, including the development of criteria and indicators to track and monitor in-country resources. She also noted that the ECW resource mobilization campaign is part of an ongoing process and thus the UNGA event should not be framed as a replenishment in the common use of the term. Clarification for EXCOM will also be required on how the ECW and IFFED events will be positioned at UNGA.

#### 4. First Emergency Response Replenishment

- The ECW Director gave a presentation which outlined the rationale for a replenishment of the FER reserve to US\$24.7 million. Drawing on the background paper submitted to the EXCOM, she gave an overview of the agreed FER reserve level, criteria used for selection of emergencies and allocations made to date.
- EXCOM members expressed their support for the replenishment and asked for further information on the criteria for the selection of countries. The ECW Director clarified that the allocations from the FER window are based on the overall needs and financing gaps at county level. ECW applies criteria adapted from the CERF model to select target FER countries. The description of the model, including criteria, was presented at the EXCOM in February and will be part of the revised Operations Manual.
- The ECW Secretariat appreciated EXCOM's recognition of the speedy delivery and increased support to education in humanitarian responses under FER window.

#### **ACTION and DECISION**

The Chair noted that EXCOM approved the replenishment of the FER reserve to US\$ 24.7 million and the request from EXCOM members to include funding to date for FER initiatives as soon as possible.

#### 5. Somalia MYRPs

- Zeinab Adam gave a presentation on the three Somalia MYRPs (Federal Government of Somalia and Member States, Somaliland and Puntland). She summarized the development process which took place under the leadership of the three Ministries of Education and highlighted the engagement of key partners consisting of development and humanitarian stakeholders across the three programme areas, including donors. During the development process the three Ministers of Education came together, and this has been seen as a positive development as it has built confidence and fostered collaboration among the three entities working cohesively towards common goals. EXCOM was requested to approve the three Somalia MYRPs for the first and second years, amounting to an allocation of US\$14 million.

- EXCOM members welcomed the proposals and acknowledged the enormous work done to get the proposals to this stage. A few points were raised (including written comments received) which will be taken into consideration during the implementation stage, focusing on: 1) coordination with GPE governance structures; 2) linkages with the girls' education challenge programme and a stronger articulation of promoting gender equality in education, including strengthening multisectoral linkages responding issues like FGM as a barrier to girls' education; 3) measuring learning outcomes; 4) monitoring the disbursement of funds across states; and 5) linking it to the IGAD declaration and call for action.
- Zeinab Adam reassured that the programmes are gender responsive with relevant activities to address these barriers and that the focus will go beyond access. She stressed that the programmes are complimentary to GPE and other programmes and adopt an intersectoral approach. She further explained that the governance structures of the MYRP modalities lend themselves to operate in humanitarian environments which enables the rapid disbursement of funds to partners without going through cumbersome on-budget related processes. EXCOM comments will be shared and discussed during the scoping mission.

### **ACTION and DECISION**

The Chair summarized the discussion and noted that attention needs to be paid to inclusive governance structures and processes, to gender equality including FGM and monitoring the disbursement of funds across all states. With no objections, she concluded that EXCOM

- a) Approved all three MYRP proposals for Somalia.
- b) Approved seed funding for years one and two of the programme in the amount of US\$14 million with the second year of seed funding to be disbursed subject to availability of funds and satisfactory performance.

## 6. Initiating ECW facilitated MYRP for DR Congo in 2019

- As the political and security situation in Yemen continues to be precarious, the ECW Secretariat proposed replacing the MYRP for Yemen with a MYRP for the DRC. The DRC FER is coming to an end and country partners have requested the initiation of a MYRP in 2019. The ECW Secretariat suggested continuing to support the education of children and youth in Yemen instead through a FER.
- Zeinab Adam presented the case for the DRC FER to transition into a MYRP and for this process to be initiated this year. She explained that if not bridged, there will be a gap in the education response between the end of the FER and the start of the MYRP and that most vulnerable children and youth affected by the current conflict would suffer as a result of this interruption in support. The MYRP will target school-aged IDPs, returnees, and host community children affected by conflict, including children both in and out of school. There is significant potential for the ECW-facilitated MYRP to act as a catalyst for additional, much needed financing.
- EXCOM voiced their support for bringing forward the development of DRC MYRP and suggested documenting lessons learnt from the FER. EXCOM noted that development actors are sometimes left out of the FER process and stressed the importance of the MYRP as an opportunity to bring development and humanitarian actors together. EXCOM also suggested the need to revisit MYRP priority countries due to evolving global contexts and to ensure effective sequencing of FERs and MYRPs where possible. Through written

comments, EXCOM also inquired about links to GPE and other funding, how VtM be ensured for the ECW seed funding, as well as utilization of local mechanism.

- The ECW Secretariat noted the importance of feeding in lessons learnt from the FER and using the MYRP to help system strengthening within the context of the DRC. The DRC Partners are currently working on lessons learned paper, and which will be shared upon receipt. The linkage to GPE and other findings will be taken into account and reflected during the designing of the programme. Relevant comments will be shared and discussed during the scoping mission.
- In view of the above, it was also suggested and agreed that the list of the 25 priority MYRPs at large in the Strategic Plan be revisited in the coming months.

### **ACTION and DECISION**

The Chair summarized the discussion and, with no objections, concluded that:

- a) EXCOM approved: the postponement of the MYRP for Yemen and the initiation instead of a FER; and starting development of the ECW-facilitated MYRP for the DRC
- b) ECW Secretariat to review the original 25 MYRP countries, to provide an update on operational and planned MYRP and to recommend as required changes to the list of MYRPs

### 7. Operational Manual revision update

- Michael Corlin presented the progress made on Operational Manual revision and the initial results from the INEE online Survey.
- EXCOM sought clarification on the target group for the survey and inquired about whether there would be an opportunity to consult with all of EXCOM for the draft versions. It was also highlighted that July/August might not be great timing for EXCOM colleagues in Europe to review anything.
- ECW Secretariat explained, that Grantees and implementing partners who had worked on ECW funded programmes were the survey target group. The agreed plan was that the consultation with EXCOM would take place through the Task Team. The inception report will nevertheless be shared with EXCOM for reference. The ECW Secretariat will do their best to work around the timing issue but are bound by the September HLSG meeting adoption of the revision. The governance section of the Operational manual will be tabled for HLSG approval, and the completion of Operational manual will be finalized about six to eight weeks after.
- The Chair asked about the next steps and reiterated the appetite from EXCOM to be kept up to date on this work as it progresses (e.g. by email during the summer). The inception report is due in early July.

### 8. ECW Theory of Change

- Christian Stoff presented the new ECW Theory of Change which has been revised based on the original Boston Consulting Group version. He explained that the revised TOC distinguishes between two different TOC elements, with the first focusing on how ECW enhances the capacity of Grantees through its five core functions/strategic objectives and the second focusing on how grantees effect positive change in education for children and young persons at country and, in some cases, regional levels. The TOC will facilitate the development of accountabilities through the ECW platform.
- EXCOM congratulated the Secretariat on the update of TOC and expressed its broad support for the overall approach. EXCOM inquired about the Evaluation plan identified in

the workplan for this year and proposed that an update would be required if the planned evaluation is no longer moving forward as planned.

- Christian Stoff confirmed that the Evaluation plan and timelines would be developed, then shared and discussed with the EXCOM by Q4. At the meeting, the preliminary ideas were presented.

### **ACTION and DECISION**

The Chair concluded the discussion by noting that the ECW Secretariat should provide an update on the Evaluation plan and proposed implementation with timelines by Q4.

## 9. Collaboration on Education

- ECW Director outlined ECW's contribution to coordination and collaboration in-country and at the global level. She provided illustrative examples of coordination and complementarity between ECW and GPE in Afghanistan and Uganda. She noted that GPE was an active and much appreciated member of the ECW governance structures at all levels: Task Teams, EXCOM and HLSG, which served coordination and collaboration amongst ECW stakeholders at global level. In conclusion, she suggested that an Memorandum of Understanding be developed between ECW and GPE to clarify division of labor based on added value, comparative advantage and mandate, adding that IFFED should be invited too to be part of the MOU. In this context, she suggested that all strategic donor partners be part of these discussions, as this was of special importance to them.
- GPE confirmed that there was an ongoing engagement between GPE and ECW in the technical Task Teams as well as between the leadership.

### **ACTION and DECISION**

The Chair noted the importance of collaboration between two organizations and took note of EXCOM members welcoming the suggestion to develop an MOU and to be part of the discussions.

## 10. Humanitarian development coherence in education White Paper

- Nina Papadopoulos (USAID) briefed EXCOM on the Humanitarian Development Coherence in Education White Paper, which was developed by USAID. She stated that this paper presents a conceptual framework that highlights both the drivers of the humanitarian-development divide and the opportunities to overcome these within the education sector. Although it has a focus on the U.S government, it may be of interest to external agencies working in education across humanitarian and development contexts (below is the link to access the paper:  
<https://eccnetwork.net/resources/humanitarian-development-coherence/>)

## 11. Dubai Expo 2020

- Annina Mattson (DUBAI CARES) updated EXCOM on the Dubai Expo 2020 and highlighted the Global Education Summit, a three-day major education event at Expo. She called for EXCOM's participation to host forums, plan exhibits and events.

## 12. Chair's Summary

The Chair then summarized the decisions and action points from the meeting:

1. The ECW Secretariat will inform EXCOM of any intervention needed to ensure there is no delay related to in-country donors. EXCOM members will ensure close coordination with in-country colleagues.
2. The ECW Secretariat will further explain the delivery rates in the financial narrative and continue to work with Grantees to address any technical and administrative issues which might cause delays in programming.
3. The ECW Secretariat will confirm resource mobilization progress, unpack the MYRP resource mobilization and gaps, and establish a system with defined criteria and indicators to track funds leveraged through ECW-facilitated MYRPs.
4. The FER replenishment was approved. The Chair noted the points raised about the relationship between the FER and MYRP mechanisms and the lessons-learned.
5. The three Somalia MYRPs were approved. The Chair recalled the attention to FGM and the need to monitor closely in all six Somali states.
6. The Yemen MYRP was postponed and replaced by a FER and initiating the DRC MYRP were approved.
7. The ECW Secretariat will provide an update on the Operations Manual revision prior to the September HLSG.
8. The ECW Secretariat will provide the Evaluation plan in Q4.
9. It was suggested for the ECW Secretariat to explore the possibility of a MOU with GPE, also including IFFED.
10. The ECW Secretariat will provide status update on the overall package of MYRPs and make a proposal on revisiting the 25 MYRP countries.
11. A teleconference call will be held to discuss and approve the Syria MYRP.

13. AOB

N/A.

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