

Executive Committee Teleconference - Minutes

Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:00am-11:30am EST

Participants

Executive Committee: Nancy Smyth (Canada - Chair), Yasmine Sherif (ECW Director), Camilla Fossberg (Norway), Pdraig Power (GPE), Eline Ruisendaal (Netherlands), Stijn De-Lameillieure (European Commission), Joseph O'Reilly (SCF), Jo Bourne (UNICEF), Dean Brooks (INEE), Margriet Schreuders (Dutch Postcode Lotterij), Anna Rosendahl (SIDA), Annina Mattson (Dubai Cares), Svein Osttveit (UNESCO), Ben Sadek (Plan International)

Observers: Ashley Henderson (USAID), Kelly Loewer (US State Department/PRM), Alice Birnbaum (Canada), Zahra Boodhwani (Canada), Emma Spicer (DFID), Emily Todd (DFID), Alice Kunz (GIZ), Linda Jones (UNICEF), Ita Sheehy (UNHCR),

ECW Secretariat: Zeinab Adam, David Hartstone, Lucy Earle, John Solecki, Graham Lang, Aida Orgocka, Michael Corlin, Dagmar Kunzmann Briefel

Apologies: Rudolf Huber (Germany BMZ), Alicia Herbert (DFID), Fadi Yarak (Lebanon), Thomas Ostermann (Denmark)

1. Welcome and Roll Call

- The Chair opened the meeting and noted that the two MYRP proposals on the agenda for approval by ExCom today were based on collaboration and coordination in the field and had gone through an extensive review process. Uganda was discussed first.

2. MYRP Uganda

- The Director thanked everyone who was involved in developing the MYRPs, including the interim review panel, and gave a recap of the design process in Uganda sprung from the EiE WG, which formed a Task Force for humanitarian/development and government actors. She highlighted the involvement of donors, specifically thanked DFID and USAID for supporting the process, UN agencies, the Ministry of Education, NGOs and the World Bank.
- *The Education Response Plan (ERP) for Refugees and Host-Communities in Uganda* was launched on 14 September, 2018, in response to the Kampala Summit and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (Uganda a UNHCR pilot country for the CRRF). The ECW-facilitated MYRP was considered to break new ground for Education in Emergencies, as it bridged the Humanitarian-Development Nexus in Education. The Director quoted the in-country leadership (government and humanitarian/development community), suggesting that the SDGs could be reached by 2030 if every sector worked in such a collaborative manner, and noted that this served as a model for how ECW will move forward. She asked that ExCom approve the Uganda MYRP as presented today, as well as the initial allocation of \$11 million with future installments subject to availability of funds and satisfactory performance.
- The Chair opened the floor for discussion:
- Save the Children declared a conflict of interest as it was chosen as a grant recipient and abstained from the discussion.
- SIDA questioned if the total budget was realistic (i.e. the \$389 million of the ERP), as only \$86 million had been secured to date and suggested that this should be addressed in the risk matrix.

- ECW confirmed that, according to the Uganda Steering Committee, more than \$80 million had been secured this year and fundraising efforts will continue for the remaining three years. This should be seen as positive step forward, as the MYRP was more than a plan: it was also the actual resource mobilization tool. Securing \$80 million for the first year was rather a significant achievement and several other donors were coming forward, including the World Bank.
- The Chair noted that results could be achieved with less funding, noting that the funding gaps also entailed risks.
- UNICEF inquired if UNHCR faced a COI as they were listed as grant agent.
- ECW explained that UNHCR's role was to support the ERP secretariat which will monitor the ERP's progress. Funding to UNHCR was relatively small and it had a different function from the implementation role of Save the Children and other NGOs.
- UNHCR confirmed that it would not take part in the discussion.
- GPE noted that their Uganda country lead had been closely involved in the process. GPE was working with Uganda to develop a new US\$ 100 million National Education Plan for 2019. There was no information yet if the overall plan will include the integration of refugees but GPE will push to align the plan with the MYRP.
- The EC requested clarification on how funding contributed by the in-country donors would be managed, and who would have oversight.
- ECW would encourage donors to channel funds through the consortium either through ECW Trust Fund or directly to members (NGOs and UN agencies in-country, as long as these are part of the coordinated ECW facilitated-MYRP) The ERP Secretariat within the Ministry of Education will be responsible for tracking overall progress. Recruitment to staff the Secretariat was currently under way.
- The Chair summarized the discussion and with no objection concluded that **ExCom**

a) **approved the MYRP proposal for Uganda.**

b) **approved the release of \$11 million seed funding as initial support to the three year programme. Future tranches will be approved and released subject to availability of funds and satisfactory performance and implementation of the MYRP.**

3. MYRP Bangladesh

- The Chair informed that UNICEF, UNHCR and UNESCO will stay on the call to answer any questions but will abstain from the discussion, due to CoI.
- The Director introduced the MYRP Bangladesh, noting that last year, the High Commissioner for Refugees as well as the UN Secretary-General had stressed the need for comprehensive investments in supporting the Rohingya refugees. ECW facilitated the MYRP on education in response to these needs. She recapped the collaborative and coordinated process and outlined the lead taken by the inter-sector coordination group.
- NGOs in-country were limited in their ability to deliver programming due to unpredictability as regarded their presence, making it less ideal to receive funding. The inter-agency partners had thus requested that funds be channeled through the three lead UN agencies, each with their comparative advantages, so as to move with efficiency and at speed.
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- Despite political difficulties, ECW managed to broker a two-year program with the Ministry of Education. GPE will be redirecting US\$ 8 million to the Rohingya and will align its funding with the ECW facilitated MYRP. The World Bank will further contribute US\$ 25 million.
- In response to a question from the EC, ECW clarified that it will continue to engage with the government on the issue of language of instruction, to encourage the future use of Bangla, in order to align with the National Education Sector Plan, and the integration of the Rohingya into the Bangladeshi education system.
- DFID questioned why there were three different grant agents, rather than one grant agent and two sub-grantees.
- DFID further noted the absence of a result indicator on quality of education and learning.
- SIDA, while noting the problem of lack of teachers, questioned whether the proposed training targets for Rohingya speaking teachers were realistic. SIDA appreciated the inclusion of adolescents, but questioned why there was no mention of comprehensive sexuality education, which was critical for this age group.
- In response, ECW explained that UNHCR was in the lead since this was a predominant refugee situation, and should normally have been the sole grant agent. However, since ECW sought to diversify funding, strengthen collaboration and reduce transaction (from one UN agency to another), the three agencies agreed in-country to this arrangement.
- ECW noted that it will follow up with partners on the ground on the indicator on learning outcomes. ECW noted the overwhelming need for teachers, and that the plan was accordingly ambitious. Finally, ECW noted the feedback on sexuality education and will pass the information back to the field.
- DFID requested clarification on how the ECW will manage risks around cohesion and coordination, and managing multiple grant agents and grantees. A suggestion was also made that the operating manual provide clarification on how MYRPs will be managed.
- ECW advised that it would use in-country coordination mechanisms, including a steering committee, like in Uganda. The three agencies coming together under this MYRP should be seen as a positive measure, as it addressed silos and strengthened joint planning and implementation in line with 'the new way of working,' which was also one of ECW's core strategic objectives.
- The Chair suggested returning to this at the retreat. She underlined that ECW was trying out different models and the Secretariat will give an update in six months on the implementation and coordination mechanisms.
- Norway questioned further how the language of instruction would work in practice and recommended close reporting on implementation. The funding gap and associated risk was highlighted.
- Norway noted that baseline information on children with disabilities was not provided and questioned how they can be reached. The question of complementarity with GPE was also raised.
- ECW noted that the issue of language had taken more time than anything else and that a learning competency framework had been developed that ECW could share with ExCom.
- Addressing the funding gap, ECW was encouraged by the amount of funding reached within the short time period and optimistic that funding targets could be met. ECW will come back with more detail on children with disabilities.
- The Chair moved on to summarize the discussion and flagged the issues of addressing the funding gap and on close reporting on implementation. ECW will update ExCom on

comprehensive sexuality education and inclusion of children with disability. Coordination mechanisms and complementarity with GPE will be further discussed at the retreat.

The Chair summarized the discussion and with no objection concluded that **ExCom**:

- a) approved the MYRP proposal for Bangladesh.
- b) approved the release of US\$ 12 million in seed funding. The amount of US\$ 6 million for the first year will be released upon approval by ExCom. The amount of US\$ 6 million for the second year will be released subject to satisfactory performance and implementation of the MYRP.

4. AOB

- Agreement on allocation of funds: ECW outlined a request to alter the ratio of funding to Initial Investments from ECW's Trust Fund and from its Bilateral Agreements.
- ECW requested ExCom's permission to amend the Fund Allocation Matrix for the Initial Investments that was agreed by HLSG in February 2017. The Secretariat was also requesting retroactive approval for a change made to the allocations to the Initial Investment in Syria in April 2018. There was no request for any changes to the overall allocations to the Initial Investments.
- Norway and DFID requested time to discuss the matter internally before approving the request.
- The Chair requested that ECW circulate a written note and seek approval on a no-objection basis by email.

Next steps

- Inform ExCom on comprehensive sexuality education and inclusion of children with disability in Bangladesh.
- Retreat: Include coordination mechanisms of MYRPs and complementarity with GPE on the agenda.
- ECW to share note on allocation of funds and requests responses by Thursday, 27 September.
- An ExCom call will be organized prior to the retreat.