



The global fund for education in emergencies

Executive Committee Meeting – Minutes

Tuesday 1 September 2020

Summary of the outcomes of the meeting

1. Welcome

- The Chair welcomed participants, newcomers and observers to the ExCom, including representatives from Canada, US, France, Germany and ICRC.
- She thanked Canada for their dedicated and diligent chairing over the past two years and looked forward to the UK picking up the baton in the coming elected period. The Chair and Vice Chair would seek to hold bilateral discussions with ExCom participants to take stock of priorities and feedback in the next few weeks.
- The Chair provided a summary and recalled key decisions and outcomes of the last ExCom teleconferences on 23-24 June.
- The Chair thanked partners who had come forward with additional financial contributions to ECW since June, such as Canada, the US, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Their World, Verizon and Finland. She noted that in order to sustain the good results presented through the 2019 Annual Results Report, it was important that all ECW members continue to financially support ECW's vital work.
- The agenda of the meeting was outlined as follows:
 - 1- Director's update
 - 2- Approval of full multi-year programme amounts for previously approved MYRPs
 2. HLSG
 3. ECW UNGA event
 4. AoB

2. Director's Update

The ECW Director welcomed the UK as the new Chair of the ExCom and commended Canada for their prior leadership of the group. She proceeded to note the following points during her update:

- Two P5 secondments will have completed their term with ECW, along with a P4 secondment on Monitoring & Evaluation. This will inevitably impact the capacity of the Secretariat. As such, the Director requested the approval to create at least one P5 staffing position (with a focus on governance and private sector partnerships) to make up for the two P5 secondments and expressed hope that France will continue to fund the P4 secondment position on Monitoring and Evaluation.
- ECW was already a very lean organization, so one additional position to cover for the above, was requested to keep with the lean concept.
- Following the last ExCom meeting, ExCom approved the position of Chief (Finance and Operations), which has since been advertised.
- Should the ExCom agree to this, in principle, the Secretariat will go ahead and develop the TORs.

- The draft secretariat budget for 2021, including one (1) new P5 position, represented 6.6% of planned expenditure and below the 7% benchmark discussed with ExCom during the ExCom teleconference on 11 January 2020.
- Finally, the Director thanked France for generously seconding a P4 member of staff to ECW to date and hoped for this opportunity to be renewed. Should the position not be renewed by France, ECW requested that other ExCom members consider supporting this position.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments.

- The US thanked the Chair and the Director for the warm welcome and echoed their appreciation for Nina's prior representation on the ExCom. Prior to approving a new P5 position, the US requested an updated organisational chart for ECW including staff locations for better clarity ahead of advising on the new positions.
- Canada echoed the US's request for an organogram and for the TOR in order to gain a better understanding of how the upcoming recruitment fitted in with the budget.
- Ireland also expressed interest in receiving the above-mentioned documentation.

The Chair concluded the agenda item by noting that the Secretariat would circulate both the TOR for the P5 position and the ECW organogram to the ExCom for their consideration.

3- Approvals of Multi-Year Resilience Programmes- 2nd & 3rd Years

The Chair recalled that the approval of the revised Operational Manual empowered the ExCom to approve the whole seed-funded amount for MYRP investments (replacing the first year or the first two years' approvals previously required), enabling ECW to make multi-year agreements with Grantees and to disburse funding to Grantees as implementation progresses.

Michael Corlin, Chief Advisor, provided an overview of the MYRP allocations to be approved by the ExCom. The following points were highlighted (refer to PowerPoint presentation):

- Full MYRP seed funding for approved MYRPs amounts to USD 235.5 million. So far USD148.7m has been approved, with USD 86.8m requested for approval in this meeting, plus an additional USD 25.6m in earmarked funding.
- In regard to available funds, the financial overview shared on a monthly basis includes ECW's net assets (USD 167.3 million). The funds planned for this year will be taken from this balance. The request for ExCom's approval is thus already covered by the available funds.
- The assessment process prior to disbursement of second and third year MYRPs was outlined [please see attached presentation for details].
- When new funds are requested, the releases are based on available funding. Should ECW be in a position where funds that have been committed are not available, the discussion would be deferred back to the ExCom.
- ECW is seeking the ExCom's approval for the full amounts of MYRP allocations.

The Chair opened the floor for comments and questions:

- The EU noted their appreciation for this process as it allowed for further predictability and transparency. The EU asked for further clarification on the listed annex in the presentation and for an update on the timeline for the drafting of annexes to the Operational Manual.

- Germany agreed with the overall proposed changes with the exception of Syria, which, as agreed at the ExCom meeting in December 2019, required closer monitoring. Germany's preference would be to consider Syria's allocations on a yearly basis.
- Save the Children expressed their support for the changes and asked which processes were in place to ensure the information would be cascaded down to countries so that agreements with partners within the MYRPs would be also be multi-year, guaranteeing thus continuity of education services. Save the Children also enquired about ongoing planning for MYRPs and safeguarding projections for MYRPs that were forthcoming.
- Sweden requested further clarification on the amounts to be approved in regard to the seed funding and the earmarked funding.

In response to the above questions, the Chief Advisor, advised

- The annex guiding the assessment was currently being finalised and could be shared at a later date. The timeline for the completion of the annexes would be shared with the minutes of the meeting.
- Understand the specific sensitivities around Syria and understand the need to approve funds on a yearly basis. The request for approval for the overall MYRPs would thus exclude Syria which would be submitted to the ExCom separately and would be approved each year.
- ECW communicates through country leads and with in-country partners and will ensure they can move to multi-year contracts with both grantees and implementing partners. In terms of safeguarding projections for MYRPs that were forthcoming, MYRPs typically span three years, and planning will be based on what is available in the account, but also on projections on expected income from partners. As an ambitious fund, ECW continues to have new programs approved and continues to mobilise resources so that balance is continuously evaluated.
- The request submitted amounted to USD 86.8 million but by removing Syria it now amounted to USD 66.8 million; the total of earmarked funds was provided for the ExCom's overview. These funds will go towards the MYRPs for specific countries and cannot be used for any other purpose.

The Chair concluded the ExCom's approval of the list of MYRPs with the exception of Syria which was removed from the proposed list of countries. Syria would separately be reviewed and approved on an annual basis. An updated MYRP Decision Paper would be circulated along with the minutes from this meeting.

4- HLSG

The ECW Director provided a briefing of the agenda, preparations and format of the HLSG meeting, reiterating that all speaking interventions would need to be registered with the Secretariat ahead of the meeting, in order to manage time. She then proceeded to deliver an overview of the HLSG agenda items. The Director will provide a global update on ECW's Annual report 2019, followed by presentations from Ministers of Education from Colombia and Ecuador on progress and impact with respect to ECW investments. The meeting will also serve as an opportunity for a plenary discussion on delivering education during COVID-19 and beyond, followed by updates from CSOs and GPE HLSG representatives. USG Mark Lowcock will then provide a briefing on the Anticipatory Action Approach. The meeting will be concluded by seeking endorsement of the renewal of the Chair of HLSG.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments:

- The EU thanked the Director for the presentation and proposed that, given the large funding gap in 2020 and 2021, resource mobilisation be added to the agenda to draw on the HLSG's strong

role and advice. The EU also suggested that the current resource mobilisation strategy be revisited given the COVID-19 context.

- Switzerland echoed the EU's point on calling on HLSG members' role in funds mobilisation. Switzerland also asked if the current crisis in Lebanon, and the role ECW will play, could be discussed given the grave concern.

In response to the above questions, the Director provided the following advice:

- Adding a resource mobilisation element to the agenda was indeed very welcome and the Secretariat would consult with the HLSG Chair on the possibility of adding this item.
- Lebanon would also be included and referred to in the Director's update at the HLSG meeting. As a note, after undertaking assessments with the Lebanese government, ECW would soon be delivering a FER in Beirut which was undergoing the final stages of quality assurance review.
- The Director advised that an amended HLSG agenda will be circulated incorporating the suggestions by EU and Switzerland.

5- ECW UNGA Event

Before giving the floor, the Chair noted that the UK was pleased to co-host the ECW UNGA event as part of the new FCDO.

Nasser Faqih, Chief, Strategic Partnerships, provided an overview of the ECW UNGA event:

- He thanked all partners for the tremendous interest in the UNGA event. Civil society had also demonstrated great support and eagerness in advocating and promoting the cause both on the global and in-country levels. The level of support received clearly represented a statement of commitment to the EiE agenda.
- The event on 17 September would provide a platform for leaders and ministers from all over the world to come together and make a new commitment to EiEPC during the COVID-19 crisis whilst telling a unified story about moving forward jointly.
- The 90min event will focus on four key components : (i) "Learning" where voices from the field will be heard, (ii) "Coordinated investments" requiring the most support to ensure that funding for EiE continues into 2021 and onwards, (iii) "Resilient and inclusive delivery" to ensure quality & holistic learning, (iv) "Innovative partnerships" looking into scaling up this support.
- Two donors will announce their pledge to ECW during the event. Further partners were urged to follow suit and make announcements in support to EiE.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments:

- The UK welcomed CSO's great support and hoped for further donors to come forward. The UK noted the ambitious agenda whilst asking the Secretariat to ensure compliance with timekeeping. The UK furthermore requested clarification on the title of the event.
- The US followed up on the speakers list and the order of interventions.

In response to the above questions, the Chief of Strategic Partnerships provided the following advice:

- The Secretariat would ensure that the event remains energetic whilst keeping to the 90min planned. The title of the event originates from the SG's recently published policy brief on education and served as an homage to his statement "The Future is here", and that ECW is part of this larger global agenda.
- The run of show and speakers list was currently being finalised and would be shared with participants as soon as possible. Individual tailored briefing notes will be also be provided to each

speaker in advance of the event to guide them through their roles and interventions. The Secretariat would be available to answer any questions speakers should have in advance.

6- Chair's Summary and Closing

- The Chair thanked the Director and the Secretariat for the all the preparations made in advance of the ExCom.
- The Chair summarised the meeting and noted the following points to be taken forward:
 1. The Secretariat will share the TOR for the additional P5 position, the ECW organogram as requested.
 2. Given that Syria will be removed from the list, the ExCom approved the MYRP request during the meeting amounting to USD 66.8 million. Syria will be dealt with separately and would thus be reviewed and approved on a yearly basis. The Secretariat will circulate an update on Operations Manual annexes and an updated MYRP Decision paper to reflect the removal of Syria from the list.
 3. The ECW Director will discuss with the HLSG about the possibility of adding Resource Mobilisation and subsequent roles of HLSG to HLSG agenda. Update on Lebanon crisis and potential role ECW could be playing would also be discussed and possibly added to the agenda for the HLSG. ExCom members will confirm HLSG participation as soon as possible, along with preferred speaking slots.
 4. ExCom members to confirm participation in the UNGA side event to the Secretariat, and Secretariat to circulate run of show.
- The Chair concluded by encouraging further donors to come forward by making pledges at the ECW UNGA event and registering this interest in advance of the event, which will take place on September 17, 2020.
