



ECW RESOURCE MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN 2021-2023

November 2020

This document aims to communicate ECW's unique role, impact and value add with new audiences in the post-COVID world. It builds on the **2017 HLSG-approved document *Investing in Humanity: Understanding the Fund's Value Added*** and complements the **ECW 2021-2023 resource mobilization approach**.

Background:

The world has been placed under additional crisis since ECW was created in 2015. Coronavirus has swept through countries and threatens to undo decades of hard-won development gains, while also plunging millions of children and youth already in crisis-contexts into additional burdens of crisis. Millions of people risk falling into poverty and greater humanitarian need. A generation of children caught up in humanitarian crises may never return to school. The need for a speedy, responsive and crisis-sensitive fund that provides essential services to the most marginalised children and youth caught in crises has never been greater.

The impact of COVID-19 on public finances has made our work more challenging but more essential in equal measure. As governments make difficult choices on public sector spending, there is a real risk that education budgets - often one of the largest areas of government spending - will decrease. **These cuts are most likely to impact support for refugees and the internally displaced, support to children with disabilities, specialist programmes to keep girls in school, and wider services like school feeding programmes and mental health support for those affected by crisis.** In this regard it should be noted that, Humanitarian appeals for education also remain significantly underfunded at 43.5 per cent in 2019, down from 47.5 per cent in 2018. This reality reinforces the need for a fully funded ECW.

Since its establishment, awareness of ECW has grown considerably across countries affected by crisis and at global level, particularly among education activists, practitioners and government officials in partner countries. A reservoir of goodwill exists for ECW among those who have seen the work of this unique fund. **There is now an opportunity to leverage this awareness and goodwill to reach new audiences and build more support for our mission in existing and new donor markets, including in the philanthropic community and with the private sector.**

A NARRATIVE TO #FUNDEDUCATIONINCRISIS

This narrative tells the story of Education Cannot Wait. It explains who we are, why we exist, what makes us unique, and what we will achieve through a successful campaign to #FundEducationinCrisis. It distils the story of Education Cannot Wait into a short and accessible narrative that resonates with existing and new audiences. It is not intended to be a comprehensive and detailed overview of how we operate; this information is provided in our Strategic Plan, Multi-Year Resilience Programs and the Operational Manual.

Who is Education Cannot Wait?

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) is a partnership and a movement. It is the coming together of people and organizations to realize a shared ambition: A world where all children and youth affected by conflicts, forced displacement and climate-induced disasters can learn free of cost, in safety and without fear, so they can grow and reach their full potential.

We were launched in 2016 at the World Humanitarian Summit and became operational in 2017. Our goal is to transform the way education is provided to children and youth caught up in emergencies and protracted crises like war, forced displacement, natural disasters and pandemics. We prioritize funding in contexts where it's needed most and we move with unprecedented speed. Because we believe that crisis is not a reason for delay, but rather a trigger for action. Young people cannot wait to access education until the crisis is over. In this regard it should be noted that a refugee crisis averages 17 years.

ECW is hosted by the United Nations and is today considered one of its fastest growing initiatives, optimizing the best of the UN system's structures, procedures and capacity developed for crisis contexts. Deputy Secretary General Ms. Amina Mohammed considers ECW "an example of how the United Nations system delivers quality with speed to advance SDG4 leveraging the best from across the UN family." This also testifies to ECW being a positively disruptive force of change and reform.

While we are hosted by UNICEF and follow UN standards, we have an independent governance structure with strong strategic donor and civil society participation. This allows us to function as an independent decision-making body, able to act rapidly, think boldly and approach complex challenges with innovation, in an agile and results-driven fashion.

Why does Education Cannot Wait exist?

Education Cannot Wait was created because every year conflicts, climate disasters and disease outbreaks threaten to disrupt the education of an estimated 75 million children and youth, depriving them of an opportunity to live a dignified life. This in turn risks holding back their society, as they will not be equipped and empowered to contribute to democratic governance, entrepreneurship, and social cohesion, based on inclusion and equality.

Education is a development sector and ECW's purpose is to deliver on such Sustainable Development Goal4 in a humanitarian crisis. ECW is therefore designed for crisis-contexts. As experience has shown, an exclusive humanitarian response cannot deliver SDG4 in crisis, nor can a traditional development response be effective in crisis. The defining factor is the **context** and **the multilateral machinery designed to effectively operate in a humanitarian context**, such as the UN's coordination structures, security arrangements and combination of institutionalized humanitarian principles and development principles. These are some of the critical factors to achieve humanitarian-development coherence through joint programming in crisis countries.

Longer-term efforts to strengthen education systems are critical, but tend to lack the agility, crisis-sensitivity, speed and operational ability to access vulnerable populations, who are out of school or whose education is of poor quality and/or disrupted. Crises are often protracted, complex and require humanitarian and development actors to work collaboratively together to ensure educational continuity and quality. For too long, children caught up in emergencies have been falling between the cracks of a siloed system

Furthermore, in crisis countries or countries hosting large number of refugees, governments are

frequently unable or unwilling (if not absent) to provide quality education to children in need. This is where ECW makes a difference. It empowers humanitarian and development education responders in a crisis to work together in filling this gap, while also empowering the ministry of education.

In other words, the capacity exists in-country to absorb funding and deliver results, but the predictable multi-year funding is not sufficient. **ECW has delivered a model that that aligns the humanitarian and development response, encouraging collective and integrated responses, to address the learning needs of vulnerable young people at scale.**

How is Education Cannot Wait unique?

ECW is the only global fund devoted to education in emergencies and protracted crises. As outlined above, we fulfil a unique role in the global education architecture, promoting coordination, joint planning and urgency across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus - this is our niche. Our multi-year resilience programmes build on emergency responses to provide certainty and predictability, allowing our partners to explore sustainable development solutions for children's learning, linking with education systems and policies.

ECW supports localised and relevant solutions in constantly evolving crises. Whether it's a chronic environmental disaster, an ongoing regional conflict, a military occupation or a proliferating displacement crisis, our operating model allows us to be agile and flexible, **taking our lead from organisations who understand the local context best to design fit-for-purpose and impactful interventions.** We have exceeded the Grand Bargain target of channelling 25% of funding to local organisations and aim to reach 30% this year.

ECW targets those left furthest behind, i.e. populations in armed conflicts, forced displacement and climate-induced disasters. While our operational model is crisis-sensitive, fast and flexible, it is also geared at quality and sustainability: **learning outcomes, inclusion, continuity. ECW adopts a human rights-based approach and gender equality and protection are non-negotiable.** We invest geographically where others are unable to access or sustain focus on marginalized children such as girls, children with disabilities, refugees, and the internally displaced. When crisis erupts or escalates, ECW has shown to be among the first responders delivering a speedy response and able to go into the crisis and face it head on.

ECW investments go beyond academic education to meet the full needs of the child. Young people affected by the pain of conflict and forced displacement face unique vulnerabilities that extend beyond academic learning. As such, ECW applies a holistic approach linking academic learning to protection, gender, human rights, mental health, and peace, among others. **ECW promotes a 'whole-of-child approach' in which interventions address a variety of academic learning, social-emotional learning and teaching, organizational and safety needs.** By integrating psychosocial support, school feeding, sanitation and protection measures into our education investments, we support safe and nurturing learning environments, which can help improve academic outcomes for children.

ECW incentivises diverse actors to work together towards joint goals. Working in emergencies and protracted crises requires a joint analysis of the education needs and differentiated roles and responsibilities for various actors. Our approach purposefully incentivises the multilateral UN system, International Nong-Governmental Organizations, regional, national and local organisations and governments to design and deliver joint plans with collective outcomes. ECW ensures the most optimal inclusion by optimizing already established multi-lateral coordination structures designed specifically for crisis contexts.

ECW works with agility at speed. When a climate-induced disaster hits Mozambique, Nepal or Peru, or when hostilities escalate in Mali, South Sudan or Syria, we immediately set in motion a coordinated response that delivers on the ground within weeks. Our 2019 Results Report shows 50% of countries received ECW grants in less than 8 weeks. This is possible because ECW has repositioned education in the established crisis-architecture and crisis-sensitive coordination structure, and optimize these, as the UN Deputy Secretary-General mentions above.

ECW brings together innovators to think creatively and reimagine education for children in crises. We reach out beyond the education sector to harness the capabilities of a range of different stakeholders. Our work with the business community, foundations, philanthropists, humanitarians, governments, civil society organisations and others allows us to be more than the sum of our parts, devising innovative and creative solutions, and leveraging the use of technology to get children into learning in the toughest places. This unique approach is needed more than ever as nations and communities grapple with the digital divide and its impact on education provision.

Where does Education Cannot Wait work?

We work in countries affected by conflict, climate-induced disasters and significant forced displacement in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America, where the educational needs and funding gaps are the greatest. So far, we have made investments in 40 crisis-affected countries - the graphic below shows our current map of investments. The needs are enormous in-country and during its three years of operations, Education Cannot Wait has consistently identified and catered to those left furthest behind.

A couple of telling illustrations relate to Afghanistan, where ECW found \$3.7 out of school children and youth around whom ECW developed its MYRP. In Uganda, close to half a million refugee children and youth were left without support and thus became the focus of the ECW MYRP. Most, if not all 25 country situations targeted for ECW MYRPs testify to such enormous gaps between those who have access to education and those left behind.

What impact has Education Cannot Wait had so far?

By the end of 2019, ECW's investments had provided learning opportunities to over 3.5 million children and youth affected by humanitarian crises, 48 per cent of whom were girls. Some 2.6 million children were reached in 2019 alone. By mid-2020, ECW had reached 4.6 million.

Because of the tireless campaigning of ECW and its partners, global humanitarian aid to education is on the rise and grew fivefold from 2015 to 2019, reaching a record amount of more than \$700 million in 2019. The growing humanitarian need because of COVID-19 makes it critically important that this amount also increases. In this regard, however, it should be stressed that **humanitarian-development coherence** in crisis, by default, requires **a combination of both development funding and humanitarian funding.**

Furthermore, data from ECW's earlier interventions are beginning to yield encouraging results. From 2017 to 2019, the primary enrolment rate for refugee children improved from 53 per cent to 75 per cent in Uganda and from 62 per cent to 67 per cent in Ethiopia. Learning levels in reading and mathematics are improving when measured, and through our Acceleration Facility funding we're investing more in the evidence base to know what works. In Chad, ECW investments included support to income-generating activities and led to a decrease in the dropout rate from 23.7 per cent in 2015/2016 to 17.9 per cent in 2019 in the communities we supported.

ECW disbursed US\$131 million across 29 countries in 2019, more than its 2017 and 2018 investments combined. This included over 100 First Emergency Response grants and 10 Multi-Year Resilience Programmes. ECW continued to increase the speed of its operations: 50 per cent of countries that experienced sudden onset emergencies received funds in less than 8 weeks after the humanitarian appeal, up from 41 per cent in 2018.

Our funding is now more diverse than ever, with private sector contributions increasing from 2 per cent in 2018 to 7 per cent in 2019, and US\$120 million in funding now 'actively' aligned to Multi-Year Resilience Programmes at the country level. We have ambitious targets to grow our partnership with non-traditional donors through this fundraising campaign.

You can read more about the impact of ECW in our 2019 Results Report, 'Stronger Together in Crises'.

How much money does Education Cannot Wait need to raise and what will it achieve?

We need to raise \$400 million for the ECW Global Trust Fund during the period 2021-2023 so that children and young people caught up in crises can receive an education over the next three years. Investments will be geared at quality and learning outcomes, rather than spreading resources too thin. So far, we have made 10 investments through our flagship Multi-Year Resilience funding window across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Uganda. These multi-year investments allow our partners to look beyond basic educational needs and focus on learning outcomes, inclusion, gender equality and integration with formal education systems.

A successful campaign to #FundEducationinCrisis will see ECW make at least 16 further multi-year investments, providing greater certainty and predictability to partners delivering education in the world's most complex and protracted crises. This would include investments in the proliferating crisis across the Central Sahel, the Venezuela displacement crisis as well as Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sudan.

ECW will also continue to be the first responders to the onset or escalation of crisis through its First Emergency window (FER). The campaign #FundEducationinCrisis will also enable ECW to replenish our First Emergency Reserve with \$50 million per year. This will equip us with the resources to respond rapidly to new humanitarian emergencies as we did, for example, with Cyclone Idai and Cyclone Kenneth, which hit Southern Africa in 2019 – and with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Over the last three years, ECW has matured from a start-up into an established global fund. We have delivered a new model by optimizing existing structures and best practices. It is now a 'proof of concept' that is ready to scale up in financing. Reaching our fundraising goal will allow us to consolidate, deepen our focus on quality education and respond to education needs in a limited number of new protracted crises. We will utilise our growing evidence base to invest more in what we know works, driving improved learning outcomes and reaching the millions left furthest behind.

ECW Funding Approach 2021 -2023 (Summary)

As ECW gets closer to the end of its first Strategic Plan (2018-2021), the aim of mobilizing 300 million USD by end of 2021 for the ECW Global Trust Fund remains a challenge. With a looming global economic crisis, reduced aid budgets, and increased competition for funding among different humanitarian sectors, ECW decided to adapt its resource mobilization approach to one that is more feasible and ensures that the Fund meets all its commitments over the extended period 2021-2023.

In that context, ECW has identified a modified RM target based on the following three funding scenarios. The scenarios all build on the ECW income gap for the next three years as basis for minimum level of needs and in each scenario a higher level of expansion is proposed to accommodate new MYRPs beyond the approved 2018-2021 list.



ECW Main Resource Mobilization Priorities for 2021-2023

(Details on country-level asks and action plan per priority will be part of a separate document)

Frist Priority: To step up resource mobilization from existing donors to bridge at least 70% of the ECW funding Gap at the trust fund level. Including renewal of multi-year funding cycles for 2021-2023, and annual Top-ups.

Second Priority: To mobilize funds from perspective institutional Donors to contribute at least 15% of the ECW funding gap at the trust fund level

Third Priority: To mobilize funds from the private sector, foundations, and philanthropists to contribute at least 15% to bridge the ECW funding gap at the trust fund level.

Fourth Priority: To step up in-country resource mobilization to bridge the funding gap for ongoing MYRPS.