

**EDUCATION
CANNOT
WAIT**

ECW Initial Investments

PROGRESS UPDATE, JULY 2017

Background

- Initial Investments to the multi-year facility were reviewed and approved by the Recommendation Panel in January-February 2017
- Given a number of observations attached to the approval, partners in Chad, Syria, and Yemen were requested to address these in order to ensure full alignment with ECW objectives
- The investment to the Acceleration Facility was approved in April
- The ECW Yemen program was given final endorsement in May

Progress April-June

- As of June 2017, \$14.5 million disbursed to ECW Initial Investments
 - Disbursements to Chad, Ethiopia, and Syria were made in April
 - Disbursements to Yemen and Global Partners were made in June-July
- M&E of initial investments has been aligned to the ECW Results Framework
- Detailed implementation plans and mandatory gender analyses/plans have been developed by grantees
- Program designs have been strengthened in Chad and Yemen following ECW Secretariat technical support missions in March/April
- Multiple country-specific actions – e.g. recruitment of Program Managers, selection of implementing partners, preparation of sub-grant contracts

Example of country-level progress: Syria

- System strengthening component already began in March – first Education Dialogue Forum meeting took place in Amman, Jordan
- Since then, work ongoing (both Whole of Syria and Development partners) to follow up agreed action points
 - E.g. producing ToRs and a roadmap for taking forward the work on standardization of stipends and framing a dialogue on a Syrian curriculum
- Progress will be presented at next Forum meeting (13 July in Amman)
- Whole of Syria is preparing sub-contracts in order to transfer funds to Hubs and start implementation of ground activities
- Recruitment of an ECW Program Manager is underway (ToRs were agreed jointly with Development Partners Group)

Next steps

- The first mid-term reports with results for Chad, Ethiopia, and Syria will be due in October (6 months after signature of grant agreements)
- In the next months, with more staff dedicated to grant management and M&E, ECW Secretariat plans to conduct visits to countries in order to ensure integration of ECW's five core objectives in delivery on results, raise political commitment, optimize the catalytic role of ECW in generating funding from humanitarian envelopes, and strengthen capacity and accountability
- ECW Secretariat is also looking at risk at the portfolio level – work that will be taken further with additional staff as well as guidance from the relevant Task teams