

ECW Strategic Plan 2023 development

Overview

ECW was born out of the World Humanitarian Summit as an inspired response to the Grand Bargain commitments. The need to break the Gordian knot of combining humanitarian and development action was recognised, so that resources could be unlocked to serve those living in protracted crisis and conflict.

During the current strategic plan period, 2018-2022, ECW has successfully grown into a recognised UN global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crisis. In 2020 alone, the Fund reached 2.6 million children and adolescents in 34 countries.

Throughout the period of the current Strategic Plan, the challenges in securing access to quality education for all children have not diminished. Instead, the world has witnessed an increase in the number of children and adolescents affected by crisis, conflict and natural disasters.

The second strategic plan cycle is an opportunity to deepen efforts and elevate collaboration and synergies within the EiEPC community, so that the most vulnerable children and adolescents are supported to realise their human rights and access quality, holistic education.

Methodology

The ECW Secretariat will lead on developing the next Strategic Plan through a transparent and participatory process. It is imperative that we draw on the experiences of those involved in the wider EiEPC ecosystem, many of whom have played key roles in contributing to the success of ECW as an innovative EiEPC fund. We need to harness the insight and ambitions of the ecosystem, particularly civil society partners, donors and UN agencies who work tirelessly to ensure that more resources are raised and translated into education for those left furthest behind.

ECW will organise targeted consultations with the ExCom membership in Quarter 1 2022. This will enable all ExCom members to participate in the development of the next Strategic Plan, including donors, UN agencies, and civil society constituents, with facilitation of inputs from the latter by the ExCom representatives for civil society organisations, teachers and youth.

The next Strategic Plan will be an inspiring narrative setting out the collective vision and objectives which will drive ECW's continued advocacy and resource mobilisation for education in emergencies and protracted crisis. We will review the vision and objectives of the current Strategic Plan and consider the theory of change and the collective outcomes that everyone has been striving for. In addition, we will draw on the central evaluations of ECW's progress and reflect on strategic recommendations made under the FER, MYRP and Organisational Evaluations.

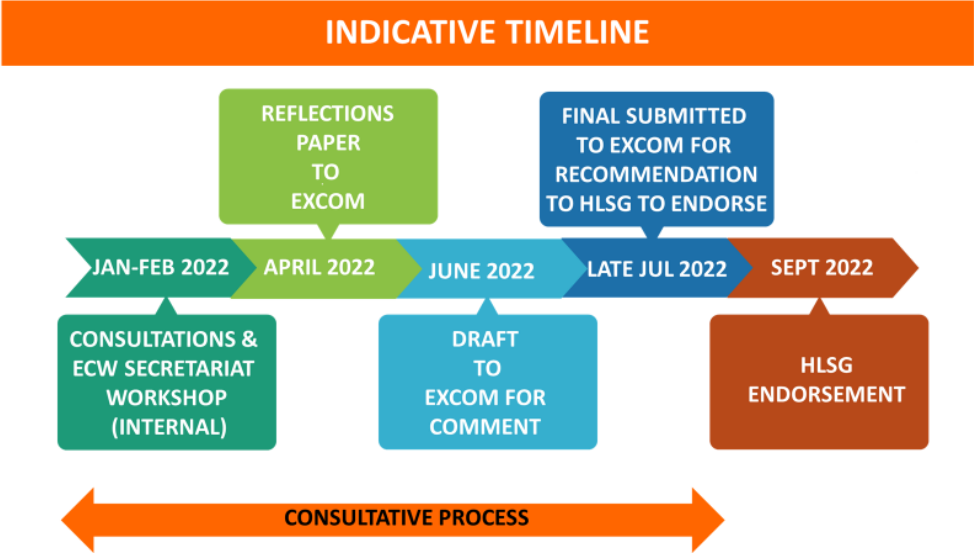
Together with partners, and through insights from the EiEPC ecosystem, we will seek to consider how urgent thematic priorities can best be addressed in ECW investments. A costed Strategic Plan will be needed to ensure it is fit for purpose for a global fund, as well as a detailed resource mobilisation approach that donors and partners can rally behind.

The inputs gathered through consultations will be documented and synthesised. The Secretariat will also undertake its own reflection process to identify lessons learned and explore priorities for the next Strategic Plan, as well as the proposed duration of the strategic planning cycle. A ‘reflections paper’ will be developed by the Secretariat, which will capture feedback from the consultations, Secretariat insights, and best practice approaches. The paper will articulate proposed key areas of focus for the Strategic Plan, and will be circulated to ExCom members for comment before a draft Strategic Plan is developed.

Timeline

The diagram below outlines the indicative timeline for the development of the Strategic Plan. This highlights that consultations will commence in Quarter 1 and continue for the duration of the Strategic Plan’s development. A ‘reflections paper’ will be shared with ExCom members for review and comment in April, followed by a draft Strategic Plan in June. This process will provide an opportunity for reflection and participation in the Strategic Plan’s evolution, and will also serve as a peer review mechanism.

In late July, the final version of the Strategic Plan will be submitted to ExCom for recommendation to HLSG to endorse the Strategic Plan, following which HLSG endorsement will be sought at the September 2022 HLSG meeting. An Advocacy and Communications plan will be developed to support the launch of the new Strategic Plan in the lead-up to the UNGA.



Assumptions

The Strategic Plan will inspire all actors to elevate their perspective, consider the collective priorities of EiEPC and envision the results needed to reach those furthest behind with quality education. While it will be approved by the High-Level Steering Group, the Strategic Plan must be owned by and resonate with the wider ecosystem in order for it to maximise its impact. It will replace other thematic strategies (such as the Gender Strategy or Acceleration Facility strategy). Instead, the Strategic Plan would encompass the overarching strategic vision for cross-cutting areas, taking a holistic, integrated approach. To give practical effect to this vision, cross-cutting areas would be supported by dedicated accountability frameworks which would align with the Strategic Plan.