



HLSG Decision paper

ECW Strategic Positioning and Value Added

- Paper: *Investing in Humanity: Understanding the Fund's Added Value*
 - Verbal presentation: Director, Education Cannot Wait
1. ECW's reason for being is the **75 million children in crises and emergencies who are in dire need of access to education**. These are the children most likely to be left behind as we advance, globally, towards meeting Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education. ECW delivers quality education to the most vulnerable children and youth affected by crises and displacement.
 2. Launched at the **World Humanitarian Summit**, ECW must ensure alignment with the outcomes of that Summit, which called for a new way of working, including: political leadership to prevent and end conflict; cooperation and collaboration rather than competition; bridging the relief-development gap in crisis; multi-year frameworks for financing in protracted crises instead of the traditional one-year humanitarian funding cycles; joint programming; localization and national ownership; and placing women and girls at the center.
 3. ECW – a key outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit – places education, for the first time, as a **central and non-negotiable priority** in emergencies and protracted crises. ECW – as a global political, strategic and financial platform – **repositions education** at the center of conflict prevention and crisis response, paving the way for sustainable human development and gender equality.
 4. The strategic direction from the World Humanitarian Summit was translated into **ECW's five core objectives**:
 - Inspiring political commitment;
 - Collaboration, joint planning and response;
 - Generating and disbursing new funding;
 - Strengthening capacity; and
 - Improving accountability.
 5. **ECW – uniquely - combines humanitarian speed with development depth. This means:**
 - **Less bureaucracy and more accountability**
 - **Bridging relief and development during emergencies and crises**
 - **Translating the World Humanitarian Summit Vision into action**

6. **Translating this into action, ECW will focus on:**

- Being lean, fast, agile, and crisis-focused;
- Connecting to the field to ensure that results are delivered, capacity is built, and accountability ensured;
- Working across the humanitarian and development coordination architecture and actors, supporting reform of the multilateral system at global and country level;
- Engaging at strategic and political levels to bring all partners together in country – the government; Humanitarian and Resident Coordinators; GPE; UN agencies; NGOs; donors; civil society; and communities - to reposition education as central to humanitarian and development priorities and plans;
- Delivering First Response investments to respond to outbreaks or sudden escalations of crisis; and Multi-Year investments in protracted crises, to bridge immediate and longer-term response and ensure sustainability, quality and catalytic financing;
- Catalyzing additional financing to meet ambitious resource targets, including from new sources;
- Building the evidence base and contributing to the global advancement of education in crises; and
- Using the strength of its High Level Steering Group and wider partnership to mobilize global commitments to education in crises.

7. **Developing the ECW Strategy:** The vision outlined above will underpin the development of ECW's three/four-year Strategy, which will start in October 2017 and be concluded for HLSG approval by April 2018. This process will be led by the ECW Director and Secretariat, with support from the Strategy Task Team and Executive Committee. It will be a highly consultative process to determine ECW's priorities, objectives and deliverables up to 2020/21.

8. **ECW's country focus:** ECW two-year programs are underway in **Chad, Ethiopia, Syria and Yemen**, and through a partnership between UNHCR, the Global Education Cluster, and the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies to improve coordination of education in emergencies and protracted crises. As announced at the HLSG in April, one-year First Response grants are being disbursed to support more immediate crisis response in **Peru, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Madagascar, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Uganda**. As agreed by the ECW Executive Committee, ECW holds a **\$30 million contingency** to support rapid response to new or escalating crises.

9. **ECW is delivering on the vision outlined above through the following examples:**

- Meeting critical gaps in the provision of education for refugees, displaced people and host communities in **Chad** while bridging to longer-term programs funded by others, including GPE;

- Building broad political and organizational support in **Uganda** for a multi-year education framework focused on refugees, to support the delivery of the government’s vision, as well as the UNHCR-led Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, and catalyze additional financing;
- Addressing the barriers to support 1.4 million **girls’ education** in the Central African Republic, Chad, Madagascar, Somalia, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. This represents an increase in the proportion of schoolgirls in the targeted countries;
- Improving education access, quality and protection across all 14 governorates of **Syria**, while also building the capacity of the education system for the longer-term through capacity-development, developing school-based governance systems, and addressing systemic challenges such as data collection, curriculum, and the payment of stipends;
- Establishing formal coordination structures to improve joint education response for crisis-affected children involving all key partners. For example: an Education Dialogue Forum has been established in **Syria** to bring together the UN-led humanitarian coordination mechanism with the Syria Education Development Partners Group – helping to bridge from immediate response to longer-term development. In **Ethiopia**, coordination mechanisms are being established between the Ministry of Education and the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs to support joint planning to cover the full range of crisis-affected populations, including refugees.

10. **ECW’s future country priorities:** The ECW Strategy will define ECW’s priorities and programmatic focus up to 2020/21, from April 2018. This will include setting out where ECW will deliver programs, based on an agreed methodology. Until then, ECW’s focus will be on ensuring the **delivery of results through existing investments** and their full alignment to the core functions of ECW and the vision of the World Humanitarian Summit. As the Secretariat looks at alignment, we will work with partners in the protracted crises currently receiving one-year funding to explore and develop **new multi-year frameworks and investments**, in line with ECW’s operational model.

11. Multi-year financing, one of the recommendations of the World Humanitarian Summit, will help to ensure continued support and sustainability to protracted crises, enable the strategic re-positioning of education, improve national ownership and capacity-building, and bridge from humanitarian to development more effectively. We will develop multi-year ECW programs which provide a framework for pooled funding at country level, with some seed funding from ECW which catalyzes new funding from local humanitarian and development partners. Approval for these programs will proceed according to the ECW governance model, with the Executive Committee approving ECW commitments over \$3 million and the HLSG those over \$20 million.

12. **Uganda** is an example of how ECW will build on its First Response funding and develop a multi-year program of longer-term support in response to the

large-scale influx of refugees into that country, in line with the government's leadership and UNHCR's piloting of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. We will also explore transitions to multi-year programs in the **Central African Republic, Somalia, and Afghanistan** given the high needs of crisis-affected populations, as highlighted in ECW's First Response methodology, and the protracted nature of these crises.

13. As previously agreed by the HLSG, ECW will continue to work with **Lebanon** on a multi-year program. The HLSG has also asked the ECW secretariat to work with partners in **Kenya, Cameroon and Myanmar** to develop proposals for future funding consideration, given their original proposals in September 2016 were not funded. In adhering to humanitarian principles, the Secretariat will also remain responsive and evaluate calls for assistance from the field, for example, we have received requests for support from **Iraq** – where up to three million children have lived under ISIS control - and from UNRWA in **Gaza**, which is on the edge of collapse. The Secretariat will explore with partners the potential for new programs in these countries; some may receive ECW funding before April 2018, approved through the agreed governance procedures, while others will be incorporated into the ECW Strategy and ECW's programming from April 2018.

14. Given that \$115.8 million of the \$122 million pledged to ECW has been allocated (including \$30 million to contingency for new crises), substantial future investments will be dependent on ECW raising further resources.

Does the HLSG endorse the approach set out above and in the paper "Investing in Humanity: Understanding the Fund's Added Value" as a guide for the next eight months of ECW operations up to April 2018 and for the ECW Strategy process?

Resource mobilization

- Paper: *Investing in Education in Emergencies: Towards a Resource Mobilization Approach for Education Cannot Wait*

15. ECW's ambitious goal of raising \$3.725 billion over five years will require: continued support from traditional donors through humanitarian and development budgets combined with a larger share from new funding partners (emerging donors, foundations and businesses) and from innovative financing. The ECW Secretariat will now develop a full resource mobilization strategy, alongside the development of the ECW overall Strategy to 2020/2021.

Does the HLSG agree with the approach set out in the paper "Investing in Education in Emergencies: Towards a Resource Mobilization Approach for Education Cannot Wait" to reach ECW's resource mobilization targets?

Advocacy: HLSG collective role

16. ECW's High Level Steering Group is a critical element of ECW's added value and strategic weight. ECW's progress to date has relied on sustained political leadership and engagement, much of which has been facilitated through the advocacy efforts of the High-Level Steering Group. These efforts have successfully underpinned the core objective of inspiring political commitment. Recently, HLSG members advocated for the inclusion of ECW in the G20 communiqué (alongside GPE and the International Financing Facility for Education) and, as offered at the previous HLSG, Dubai Cares organized a high-level event on ECW in the margins of UNGA for private sector and foundations.

17. We encourage HLSG members and organizations to consider how they could further contribute to the re-positioning of education in emergencies and protracted crises, and to ECW's influence and financing. This could include some of the following actions:

- G20 HLSG members to follow up on the inclusion of ECW in the G20 communiqué to help encourage contributions to ECW from other G20 members
- Support in following up the Dubai Cares/ECW UNGA event for private sector and foundations with a further high level, high profile event at the World Economic Forum (ideally part of the main WEF)
- Identifying contacts from businesses and foundations with potential interest in ECW
- Civil society's continued, active engagement to help identify and pursue promising opportunities for new financing
- Outreach to uncommitted traditional and emerging donors, including Gulf and East Asian countries
- Outreach to Permanent Missions in New York
- Profiling ECW at prominent events related to education and/or emergencies and protracted crises
- Profiling ECW through organizational social media channels
- Hosting future fundraising events

What actions can HLSG members take over the next six months to advocate for ECW and for education in crises?