

## ECW Director's Global Update

HLSG 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

1. Since the last HLSG meeting, **ECW has continued to expand its reach** to those left furthest behind in the some of the worst crises on earth which were exacerbated by the onslaught of COVID-19. We have now **reached almost 4 million** girls and boys with comprehensive packages of holistic support.
2. Indeed, **ECW is playing a pivotal role in achieving the SDGs**. Our Added Value is that we follow populations, refugees, internally displaced and crisis-affected children and youth - with affirmative action to reach girls and adolescent girls as well as children with disabilities.
3. When ECW started, studies spoke about 75 million children and youth caught in crisis. Today we hear UNESCO speak about **128 million** girls and boys worldwide whose education has been disrupted by COVID 19.
4. **2020 was our most significant year to date** with more funds allocated through First Emergency Response grants than in 2018 and 2019 combined.
5. Through two phases of COVID-19 support of over **\$ 45 million across 33 countries and contexts**, including Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria the Central Sahel and Latin America we have reached an additional **9 million children**.
6. In addition, we approved more humanitarian-development designed Multi-Year Resilience Programmes in 2020 than ever before – **8 MYRPs were approved** by the end of the year in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, DRC and Nigeria and in the Latin America countries of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, **totalling over \$ 100 million** in multi-year grants.
7. This brings **the total number of MYRPs approved to date to 18, representing over \$ 350 million** in multi-year grants and we are well on track to delivering eight more in Pakistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Libya, Haiti, Cameroon and Burundi to reach the target of 26 by the end of this year as planned.
8. A large part of this work involves working closely with country partners and within the COVID-19 restrictions, **ECW is still travelling countries affected by crisis**. We were in Lebanon at the end of 2020, Burkina Faso in January and have just concluded a mission to Burundi.

9. In the challenging context of the Covid-19 pandemic, ECW continued to mobilise funds both at the global level – the Trust Fund has now grown to over \$ 700 million - and in-country where fund raising has now topped \$ 350 million – meaning **ECW is now a one-billion-dollar global fund**. But much more is required, much more. If all our multi-year joint programmes were fully funded we could reach 16 million children and youth.
10. In making ECW an even faster responder closer to those we serve, ensuring that the **ECW Secretariat is fit for purpose, we also have presence in Geneva**. As part of efforts from the Swiss Government to make Geneva a Global Hub for Education in Emergencies, ECW has moved the majority of its field-based staff - the Education Team and the M&E & Reporting Team - to Geneva.
11. The First Emergency Response evaluation concluded that **this modality is achieving outstanding results and had clearly demonstrated its proof of concept**. The evaluation of the Multi-Year Resilience Programme window is now underway. The organizational summative evaluation is being planned and the timeframe has been aligned with the development of the new strategic plan.
12. Having said that, the **demands under both the First Emergency Response and the Multi-Year Resilience window significantly outstrip our financial supply**. We could have done more, much more, if we had had more funds.
13. The **funding target of \$ 400 million for the coming three years (2021-2023)** was set to the minimum to accommodate the widespread current economic constraints. but it will be impossible to continue to expand our outreach unless we attain that minimum level of predictable, multi-year funding.
14. We are concerned that the momentum that led to our success in resource mobilization between 2016 and 2019 is **now at risk of fading away without sustained political and financial commitment**. We urgently require additional funding to replenish our response windows with the right amounts to be able to achieve our goal of reaching 8.9 million crisis-affected children and youth by the end of our strategic plan.
15. **In addition to calling upon our existing donors, we are eager to reach out to other partners who are not yet sitting around this table**. We cannot do this alone as a secretariat without your active support and engagement. Convincing new countries in Europe, the Gulf, and East Asia, as well as the hundreds of wealthy businesses and foundations to join our cause needs your political weight, your networks and your active leverage and engagement.

**WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**