



## **Education Cannot Wait High Level Steering Group 21 April 2017, Washington D.C.**

### **Participants**

HLSG members and representatives: Gordon Brown (United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair, Education Cannot Wait High Level Steering Group); Marie-Claude Bibeau (Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Canada); Dean Brooks (Director, Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies); Julia Gillard (Chair, Global Partnership for Education); Filippo Grandi (UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR); Tariq Al Gurg (CEO, Dubai Cares); Annemiek Hoogenboom (Managing Director, Deutsche Postcode Lotterrie and Country Director, People's Postcode Lottery, Novamedia); Jakaya Kikwete (Former President, Tanzania); Anthony Lake (Executive Director, UNICEF); Mark Lowcock (Permanent Secretary, Department of International Development, United Kingdom); Stefano Manservigi (Director-General, International Cooperation and Development, European Commission); Charles North (Acting Assistant Administrator, Economic Growth, Education and Environment, USAID); Svein Osttveit (Director, Executive Office, Education, UNESCO); Tone Skogen (State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway); and Tove Wang (CEO, Save the Children Norway). Apologies: Marwan Hamadeh (Minister of Education, Lebanon).

Observers: Tarald Brautaset (Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway and Chair of the ECW Executive Committee); Monica Hapiach Christensen (Head of Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark); Yasmine Sherif (Director Designate, Education Cannot Wait); and Natasha Smith (First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Development and Finance Division, DFAT, Australia)

ECW Secretariat: Jo Bourne (interim co-Director/UNICEF); Justin van Fleet (interim co-Director/UN Special Envoy's office); Emily Travis; and Morgan Strecker (UNICEF). Apologies: Charles Tapp (interim co-Director/Global Partnership for Education).

### **Agenda**

#### **Welcome and introductions**

1. Gordon Brown (United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair, ECW HLSG) welcomed all participants and observers - in particular, those attending for the

first time: Annemiek Hoogenboom from Deutsche Postcode Loterie and Novamedia, as the HLSG's private sector representative; Yasmine Sherif, the Director Designate of the ECW Secretariat; and Natasha Smith from Australia, as an observer.

## **ECW progress and next steps**

2. Gordon Brown welcomed a short video from a young Syrian education advocate, Muzoon Almellehan, who had visited Chad – an ECW Initial Investment country. He then asked the Secretariat to provide an update on ECW. Jo Bourne and Justin van Fleet (interim co-Directors) outlined ECW progress to date and proposed next steps, specifically:
  - \$113.5 million had been raised and further discussions with potential donors were underway to reach the Year One financing target of \$153 million;
  - a database had been established to capture offers from the private sector and to link these up to ECW investments. 250 businesses had been approached, and 50 had signed up and were on the database;
  - governance, operational and results frameworks had been developed and were now being implemented;
  - multi-year initial investments, agreed by the HLSG, were now underway in Chad, Ethiopia, Yemen and Syria and would reach an estimated two million children over the next two years, over half of whom girls. The initial investments would help ECW to learn and to test the beneficiary targets originally envisaged;
  - on next steps, the Secretariat planned to activate the First Response window of ECW immediately, holding \$30 million of contingency funding for rapid response, and allocating \$20 million to seven crises: Peru, Central African Republic, Somalia, Madagascar, Ukraine, Uganda and Afghanistan;
  - the new investments were intended to be catalytic – helping to improve planning and coordination, and well as to crowd in more funding;
  - the Secretariat was also monitoring the Rohingya refugee situation in Bangladesh, with a view to consideration of future ECW funding; and
  - the Roadmap for 2017-2018 set out the priorities to deliver including further multi-year and acceleration facility investments, raising funding, continued global advocacy, establishing the agreed governance structures, and developing the new three-year strategy.
3. Gordon Brown welcomed the update and thanked all involved for the progress so far. Several HLSG members warmly welcomed Yasmine Sherif to her new role as ECW Director and commended the Secretariat and interim-co-Directors – Jo Bourne, Justin van Fleet, and Charles Tapp – for their work in getting ECW up and delivering.
4. HLSG expressed support for the progress to date and the next steps outlined, with the following comments, steers and commitments:
  - it was essential to focus on results and delivery, not just process;
  - ECW should continue to learn, to test and assess intended results and beneficiary targets, and to be flexible;

- bridging between humanitarian and development partners and plans was critical and a key part of ECW's role;
- UNHCR would second one staff member to the Secretariat, who had now been identified;
- developing better synergies with those already on the ground was important. In particular, it was essential to increase synergies with government education plans, not creating parallel systems, but reinforcing the government's role. The role of local NGOs was also important;
- it was right to look at the crisis in Bangladesh/Myanmar, and that this should be done from a regional perspective – UNHCR would appreciate being involved in any early discussions; the Secretariat should also consider South Sudan and its neighbors in its list of countries given the severe crisis and displacement in that country and region; Iraq might also merit further consideration for ECW funding;
- Chad provided a good, real-time example of how partners were able to work together across the development-humanitarian continuum to improve coordination and delivery of education, with complementarity between GPE and ECW;
- ECW should ensure a particular focus on gender, given that crises tended to disproportionately affect girls' education, and including a focus on tackling sexual and gender-based violence;
- it was important to ensure a focus on learning outcomes and protection, especially for girls, not just access and enrolment;
- ECW should move towards a longer-term approach which harnessed the private sector, given the length of most crises;
- ECW needed to ensure the right balance between formal and non-formal education systems;
- on the First Response window, it would be better to focus on a relatively small number of countries to see results and impact, rather than disperse too widely;
- there should be caution about expanding the size of the ECW Secretariat too much and creating a large, new organization;
- Dubai Cares had launched a research program with the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies which was intended to link up with ECW and may, in time, be folded into ECW;
- Dubai Cares was in discussion with potential future donors to ECW and was interested in co-hosting an event on ECW at UNGA for the largest foundations, which they hoped might include some HLSG members as speakers; the Managing Director of the Deutsche Postcode Lotterie and Novamedia expressed an interest in working with Dubai Cares on this;
- ensuring that education was included in humanitarian response remained a struggle, and capacity to deliver was also concerning;
- Save the Children was working actively on increasing financing for education and was meeting 25 INGOs later to push this issue further;
- it was important to ensure synergies with other global initiatives, in particular GPE and the new International Financing Facility for education;

- a key priority was to get the Secretariat and governance structures fully in place;
- clearly some of the ECW investments were in difficult and dangerous situations; ECW would need to do what was possible and be flexible and pragmatic;
- the partnership ECW was now supporting between INEE, UNHCR and the Education Cluster to improve coordination of education in emergencies and crises was important and timely; and
- the three-year ECW strategy process was important and would require investment of time by the Secretariat and the Executive Committee.

**5. Summing up, Gordon Brown confirmed the HLSG's endorsement of the 2017-18 Roadmap for ECW. ECW should focus on results and on learning outcomes; coordination and linking up with existing structures on the ground was important, as well as reinforcing the government's role and plans. ECW should also consider its balance of breadth and depth to ensure impact. The Secretariat will activate the First Response Window immediately, holding \$30M of contingency funding for rapid response, and allocating \$20M to crises in: Peru, Central African Republic, Somalia, Madagascar, Ukraine, Uganda and Afghanistan. In addition, the Secretariat noted the HLSG's concern with regard to the urgent needs in South Sudan and its neighboring countries, and in Iraq, and will explore potential opportunities for investment in a future round of funding. Lastly, the proposal from Dubai Cares for an event at UNGA was endorsed.**

#### **ECW Review of Permanent Hosting – Terms of Reference**

6. Mark Lowcock (DFID) confirmed that DFID was happy to finance and contract the hosting review. It was particularly important to establish a permanent host sooner rather than later, given GPE replenishment and the launch of the International Finance Facility for education over the next year. ECW's permanent host needed to support synergy across the different global initiatives.
7. **Given no objections from HLSG members, Gordon Brown confirmed HLSG approval of the Terms of Reference for the review of permanent hosting and asked DFID to take forward the contracting of consultants for the review, on the HLSG's behalf.**

#### **Conclusion**

8. Given there was no other business, the Chair concluded the meeting. The next face-to-face meeting of the High Level Steering Group will take place in September 2017.