

High Level Steering Group Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday, 25 September 2018, 7am at the Maurice Pate Conference Room, UNICEF House

Participants (in alphabetical order):

Chair: Gordon Brown, United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Tariq Al Gurg, CEO, (Dubai Cares), Harriet Baldwin, Minister of State for Africa and International Development (United Kingdom) Tanya Barron, CEO (Plan International), Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development (Canada), Dean Brooks, Director, (Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies), Julie Cram, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the E3 Bureau USAID (United States), Henrietta Fore, Executive Director (UNICEF), Birgit Frank, Deputy Head of the Education Division of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany), Julia Gillard, Chair (Global Partnership for Education), Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education (UNESCO), Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Martin Bille Hermann, State Secretary for Development Policy (Denmark), Jens Frølich Holte, State Secretary (Norway), Anna Maria Alida Hoogenboom, Country Director (Novamedia / People's Postcode Lottery), Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development (Netherlands), Dr. Justin Lee, First Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Policy Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia), Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (OCHA), Stefano Manservigi, Director-General, International Cooperation and Development (European Commission), Johannes Oljelund, Director-General for Development (Sweden), Jamie Saavedra, Senior Director for the Education Global Practice (The World Bank Group), Yasmine Sherif, Director (Education Cannot Wait), Helle Thorning-Schmiedt, CEO (Save the Children)

Meeting Minutes

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Germany and the World Bank Group who were attending for the first time. He informed HLSG that ExCom had agreed that the financial hosting of ECW would remain at UNICEF. He handed over to the ECW Director for a short presentation of key results and an overview of ECW's new Multi-Year Resilience Programmes.

1. Director's Update

- The ECW Director highlighted that one million children will be reached by the end of 2018 in 17 countries, 48 % of whom are girls.
- ECW has received US \$203 million in donor contributions to date. An additional US\$ 285 million are required to meet the targets set out in the Strategic Plan for the next two years, US\$ 54 Million in 2018 and US \$ 231 million in 2019.
- MYRPs in Afghanistan, Uganda and Bangladesh have recently been approved, and MYRPs are being developed in Palestine, CAR and Somalia. The MYRPs are based on a joint in-country effort to bridge the gap between humanitarian needs and long-term development. This new way of working engages actors in EiE at the start of an emergency with development actors to develop a long-term vision to provide education to children in emergencies and protracted crises.

- The Global Humanitarian Appeal 2018 has set a fundraising target of \$1 billion for Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises (4% of total appeal) but has so far only received US\$ 250 million (2.7% of total appeal), which equals a shortfall of three quarters of the targeted funds.
- The Chair concluded this section by formally announcing that ECW will be disbursing US \$35 million in seed funding for MYPRs in Afghanistan, Uganda and Bangladesh.
- The Chair handed over to Mark Lowcock to introduce the discussion on the Humanitarian–Development Nexus and the New Way of Working.

2. Delivering in the Humanitarian-Development Nexus, the New Way of Working towards the 2030 Agenda and ECW's contribution

- Mark Lowcock pointed out that far more needs to be done to ensure children affected by protracted crises receive an education. Modest progress was made in financing education needs in the appeals system. US \$10 billion were raised this year, but gaps to meet education needs in emergency contexts remain huge.
- Joining together the humanitarian and development systems is a top priority for the UN: every humanitarian dollar invested needs to impact development. The UN is looking for new ways to engage Humanitarian Coordinators through different types of conversations.
- OCHA is looking at diversifying the donor base of the CERF. Currently five main donors account for 70% of the money allocated to CERF. Most funding now also comes in form of multi-year agreements and OCHA will suggest to its advisory group that CERF makes grants that are multi-year.
- Netherlands thanked ECW for its work and underlined that EiE is still an orphan in the sector. The Minister drew attention to high drop-out rates and the need to ensure that the increasing number of children in protracted crises will receive quality education and skills from well trained teachers. The Netherlands announced that it will be financing ECW with EUR 15 million and is keen to partner with IFFEd.
- The Chair thanked the Netherlands for their contribution.
- Canada underlined its support for ECW's work and highlighted the commitment made for girls in crisis environments at the G7 this year. Canada would like to see an increase in discussion around girls' education and greater emphasis on barriers to education. The Minister encouraged support to ECW and GPE, including an ECW replenishment event.
- The United Kingdom is pleased to see the results achieved as one of the early funders of ECW, and echoed the points made about quality education, girls and focusing on teachers. The Minister highlighted a number of under-researched areas, including how to provide better services in a protracted crisis, extend psychosocial services and avoid inequality in host communities. The UK emphasized a desire to see more engagement with OCHA and were pleased to see OCHA at the table.
- UNHCR highlighted the issue of inclusion and noted that 75% of refugees do not finish school and only 1% go on to tertiary education.
- As defined in the global compact for refugees, the effort needs to remain on inclusion in the national education system, even in the face of persistent resistance from host countries. This requires a political discussion and the only way forward is to engage in dialogue with the South. UNHCR inquired why there was no representation from the South at HLSG as this would provide an opportunity to engage in dialogue. ECW cannot overturn the problem but it can help change the conversation.
- The High Commissioner recounted his recent visit to Bangladesh with the UN Secretary-General and the World Bank Group and noted how inadequate the schooling system for

Rohingya children still is. He warned that the world risks another lost generation if the issue of inclusion is not adequately addressed.

- UNICEF noted that an increasing number of multi-year programmes are needed because of protracted crises. In Yemen, for example, the need for long-term psychosocial support for school children is immense. The Executive Director encouraged a focus on informal schooling to prepare children with the skills needed for life.
- Denmark underlined that part of the solution is a stronger focus on host communities. In Bangladesh, Denmark not only contributed substantially to the humanitarian funding but also increased bilateral funding by 10 % in support of the host communities in Cox's Bazaar and a focus on long-term development.
- The European Union emphasized that education is a priority and stressed that donor coordination needs to further improve not just in education but across all sectors. The Director General noted that Resident Coordinators have a key role to play in coordinating system-wide development efforts and that EiE must be in alignment with the national education system.
- Norway explained that its humanitarian strategy reinforced the importance of education for long-term development. There is a need to improve the quality of education in emergencies. Norway approved ECW's financial targets and was pleased to see more realistic targets. The Results Mobilization Strategy is ambitious and Norway encouraged the prioritization of innovative financing approaches.
- The Chair reiterated that ECW still needs US\$ 54 million this year and US\$ 231 million next year to reach its targets for 2018/19.
- GPE emphasized its close working relationship with ECW on the ground, as seen in Bangladesh most recently. At the global level, GPE asked if it would be more efficient for donors if there were joint resource mobilization efforts, i.e. in the form of a joint pledging event for GPE, ECW and IFFEd. GPE asked if this would be desirable in the medium to long term.
- The United States announced that they just released their strategy on international basic education, which brought together 10 agencies working on education. The strategy does not come with money but will increase coordination. The United States is committed to enhance coordination and is looking at recommendations on how to coordinate at local level through existing mechanisms. Education in Crisis is a top priority for USAID. The United States will release a white paper on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus soon.
- The United States further highlighted that they are pleased to co-chair the ECW's private sector committee with Justin Van Fleet and are looking to develop a framework including on how to bring in different types of funding within the next six months.
- The World Bank thanked ECW for the invitation to join this HSLG meeting and noted its interest in formal membership of HSLG and ExCom. An education strategy will be published shortly which will focus on girls, youth and issues around integration. It will look at quality of basic education and at how to absorb a large number of children into the basic education system. At country level the focus will be on coordination.

3. Resource Mobilization

The Chair encouraged HSLG participants to refer to the question of resource mobilization in their interventions.

Save the Children noted the urgent need for a conference where civil society can come behind individual country plans for early 2019. Save the Children offered to support ECW to set up a resource mobilization event in early 2019.

- People’s Postcode Lotterie was impressed with ECW’s achievements over the past 18 months. They continue work internally to establish a mechanism whereby they can contribute to ECW, and are hopeful that they can make an announcement soon.
- Dubai Cares noted its support for ECW since its inception, and announced an additional US \$3.75 million to support the ECW Secretariat. Dubai Cares explained that they continue to encourage other foundations to engage with ECW. They have formed a steering group in preparation for the Expo 2020 and will meet this week. For the first time, the Expo will focus on education.
- The Chair thanked Dubai Cares for their contribution and continuous support of ECW.
- UNESCO emphasized that inclusion and quality education are basic human rights and welcomed ECW’s focus on girls. The enormous potential amongst HLSG to improve coordination in EiE was also noted.
- Sweden reiterated its commitment made to ECW earlier in the year in the amount of US\$ 30 million, and noted that it had decided on the contribution in response to the results achieved and the quality of the strategic plan, that has a strong focus on gender.
- The Chair summarized the meeting by noting that HLSG approved the Resource Mobilization Strategy, Fundraising Targets and the Approach to Innovative Financing. He noted the need to focus on a coordinated response and to include host countries in the dialogue.

The next HLSG meeting will be held in April 2019 in Washington in the margins of the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings.