



**EDUCATION
CANNOT
WAIT**



FROM CRISES TO CLASSES

**Programmatic portfolio
and financial allocations:
2023 overview**

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This programmatic portfolio and financial allocations overview for 2023 was produced under the direction of the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Secretariat. The document covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, donor agencies or United Nations Member States. The boundaries, names, and designations used on the maps in this publication do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations, Education Cannot Wait, or partner countries. All figures are presented in United States dollars.

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INTRODUCTION

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) introduces its first programmatic portfolio and financial allocations overview. This overview presents a summary of ECW-funded education programmes in emergencies and protracted crises in 2023, with related financial allocations.

2023 was the first year of ECW's [strategic plan](#) period (2023-2026). As the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises (EiEPC), ECW operates within a framework of accountability, transparency, and efficiency. This overview of the programmatic portfolio and financial allocations serves as a testament to ECW's commitment, providing a detailed account of the First Emergency Response (FER) programmes, Multi-Year Resilience Programmes (MYRPs), and Acceleration Facility (AF) grants that were newly developed or active in 2023. It describes the acute emergencies and escalated and protracted crises that ECW responded to in 2023, and the initiatives ECW took to strengthen the global institutional architecture on education in emergencies and protected crises.

Section 1 of this overview publication provides a summary of investments by country, programme, and type of grantee organization. Section 2 includes an analysis of programmatic financial allocations by education level, gender, education outcome, and budget per child. Section 3 looks ahead to 2024 and beyond. It elaborates on how ECW's programmatic portfolio can be improved, and the specific actions that ECW has introduced toward this.

At the heart of ECW's mission lies a steadfast dedication to serving the most vulnerable children and adolescents affected by crises, advancing their human right to education and learning, and fostering better cooperation and coordination among humanitarian and development actors. ECW's results towards the new strategic plan commitments, and against baselines, targets and indicators set out in its strategic plan results framework, will be presented in ECW's Annual Results Report 2023, to be issued by mid-2024. This overview presents the allocations to newly approved and active programmes in 2023, from where these results are achieved.



At the heart of ECW's mission lies a steadfast dedication to serving the most vulnerable children and adolescents affected by crises, advancing their human right to education and learning, and fostering better cooperation and coordination among humanitarian and development actors.”

“

Before I came to this school, I was not doing anything. Not even any form of informal education. When I grow up, I want to become a teacher so I can teach other kids.”

—Aisha, Nigeria

© ECIW



“

I thought I would never get a chance to go to school again in my life [after coming to the refugee camp]. A year ago, the community-based learning facility was started here, and many girls like me got the chance to study again”

—Jannat, Bangladesh

© Save the Children Bangladesh/Rubina Hoque Alee





ECW'S PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO IN 2023



Map of ECW country investments active in 2023

Active programmes¹ in 2023 included 27 FERs, 28 AF grants, and MYRPs in 26 countries. This portfolio had a **total value of \$674 million** and is presented on the geographical map. In total, there were 42 FER grants and 74 MYRP grants active in 2023, spanning 32 countries. In addition, 29 AF grants were also active, for a total of \$16.2 million.

Grand total of funds received, in millions (M) of US dollars:

- <20M
- 20M-40M
- 40M-60M
- >60M

M MYRP F FER

ECW approved funding to 13 countries for various programmes in 2023. These included 4 MYRPs, 13 FERs, and 13 AF grants. These investments correspond to \$158 million: \$114.5 million for MYRPs, \$35.4 million for FERs, and \$8.1 million for AF grants. Most of the approved programmes started in 2023 and were therefore active in that year, while some programmes that were approved late in 2023 started in 2024.

Countries that received either a new FER or a new MYRP allocation in 2023

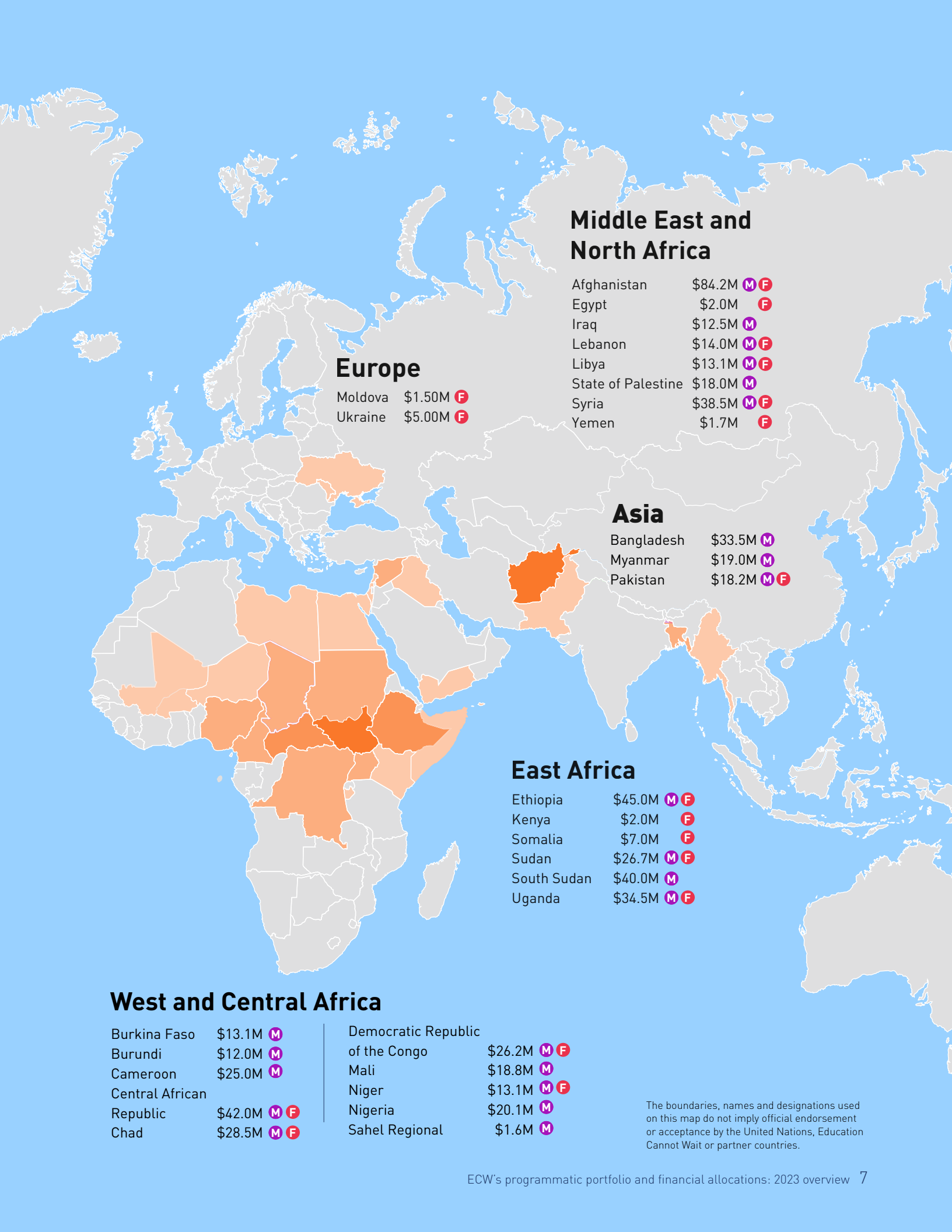
- M Afghanistan
- F Central African Republic
- F Chad
- F Egypt
- F Ethiopia
- F Lebanon
- F Libya
- M Myanmar
- F Somalia
- M F South Sudan
- F Sudan
- F Syria
- M F Uganda



South America and the Caribbean

Colombia	\$12.4M	M
Ecuador	\$7.4M	M
Haiti	\$12.3M	M F
Peru	\$7.4M	M
—		
South America Regional	\$1.6M	M

¹ A programme can consist of multiple grants. 'Active' refers to the situation whereby a programme is implemented during a given year. This can be the entire year or a part of it.



Europe

Moldova	\$1.50M	F
Ukraine	\$5.00M	F

Middle East and North Africa

Afghanistan	\$84.2M	M F
Egypt	\$2.0M	F
Iraq	\$12.5M	M
Lebanon	\$14.0M	M F
Libya	\$13.1M	M F
State of Palestine	\$18.0M	M
Syria	\$38.5M	M F
Yemen	\$1.7M	F

Asia

Bangladesh	\$33.5M	M
Myanmar	\$19.0M	M
Pakistan	\$18.2M	M F

East Africa

Ethiopia	\$45.0M	M F
Kenya	\$2.0M	F
Somalia	\$7.0M	F
Sudan	\$26.7M	M F
South Sudan	\$40.0M	M
Uganda	\$34.5M	M F

West and Central Africa




Burkina Faso	\$13.1M	M
Burundi	\$12.0M	M
Cameroon	\$25.0M	M
Central African Republic	\$42.0M	M F
Chad	\$28.5M	M F

Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$26.2M	M F
Mali	\$18.8M	M
Niger	\$13.1M	M F
Nigeria	\$20.1M	M
Sahel Regional	\$1.6M	M

The boundaries, names and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations, Education Cannot Wait or partner countries.

Table 1, below, shows the number of countries, funding values, and the number of programmes at the start and end of 2023.

TABLE 1. Overview of ECW's active programme portfolio at the start and end of 2023

	 FERs	 MYRPs	 AF	Total
Countries²				
Number of existing countries with active programmes at start of 2023	11	24	-	27
Number of new countries added in 2023	8	2	-	5
Total number of countries active in 2023	19	26	-	32
Funding, in millions (M) of United States dollars				
Value of ECW portfolio at start of 2023 (since inception)	\$193.0 M	\$527.8 M	\$22.3 M	\$798.1 M ³
Value of new programmes starting in 2023	\$48.9 M	\$154.5 M	\$5.3 M	\$208.7 M
Value of additional cost extensions in 2023	\$5 M	\$17.5 M	\$0.6 M	\$23.1 M
Total value of ECW portfolio by end of 2023	\$246.9 M	\$ 699.8 M	\$28.1 M	\$1,029.8 M³
Programmes and grants				
Number of active programmes (and grants) at start of 2023	11 (16 grants)	26 (61 grants)	19 (20 grants)	56 (97 grants)
Number of new programmes (and grants) started during 2023	16 (26 grants)	5 (13 grants)	9 (9 grants)	30 (48 grants)
Total number of active programmes (and grants) in 2023	27 (42 grants)	31⁴ (74 grants)	28 (29 grants)	86 (145 grants)

² As certain countries implement FER, AF, and/or MYRP programmes, the total number of countries is not equal to the sum of FER, AF and MYRP programmes.

³ The ECW portfolio since inception includes \$55M in initial investments (IIN). This investment window has since closed, so is not shown in the table.

⁴ This includes two regional MYRPs and two early-childhood education programmes.



Multi-Year Resilience Programmes: Investing in education for children in protracted crises

MYRPs play a crucial role in supporting the immediate and long-term education needs of children and adolescents in countries experiencing protracted crises. These comprehensive programmes, typically spanning three or more years, provide a holistic and sustainable approach to education within crisis-affected contexts.

The primary objective of MYRPs is to facilitate collaboration between humanitarian and development actors. This collaboration aims to improve the learning outcomes and overall well-being of children and adolescents impacted by crises. By fostering coherence among various systems, approaches, and programmes, MYRPs contribute to a more effective and coordinated response in prolonged crisis settings.





In 2023, ECW approved \$114.5 million in funding for four new MYRPs to be implemented in Afghanistan, Myanmar, South Sudan, and Uganda. This brings the total number of countries supported by MYRPs in 2023 to 26, with funding committed through 74 grants.



\$114.5 MILLION

in funding approved in 2023:

Four new MYRPs:

-  Afghanistan
-  Myanmar
-  South Sudan
-  Uganda



The First Emergency Response Window: Because education cannot wait

ECW's FER investment modality addresses immediate and urgent education needs when a crisis suddenly occurs or escalates. ECW strives to deliver funds promptly after the onset of an emergency through existing coordination mechanisms for education in emergencies, including the Education Cluster, the Refugee Education Working Group, and the Education in Emergencies Working Group.

The size of the ECW investment is determined by the level of need, the scale of the response, available financial resources, and the implementation capacity of partners. In 2023, ECW approved \$35.4 million for new FERs to be implemented in 11 countries (Box 1). The new FERs responded to a range of crises, including a health emergency, an economic crisis, armed conflict and forced displacement, and climate-induced

Noticeably, ECW continued to actively invest in larger funding envelopes per FER grant. In 2023, FER grants initiated in 2023 had an average value of \$2.7 million. 85% of FER grants approved in 2023 had a value of \$2 million or above. For the 2018–2022 strategic plan period, the average value of a FER grant was \$1.1 million, and 14.5% of FER grants had a value of \$2 million or above.



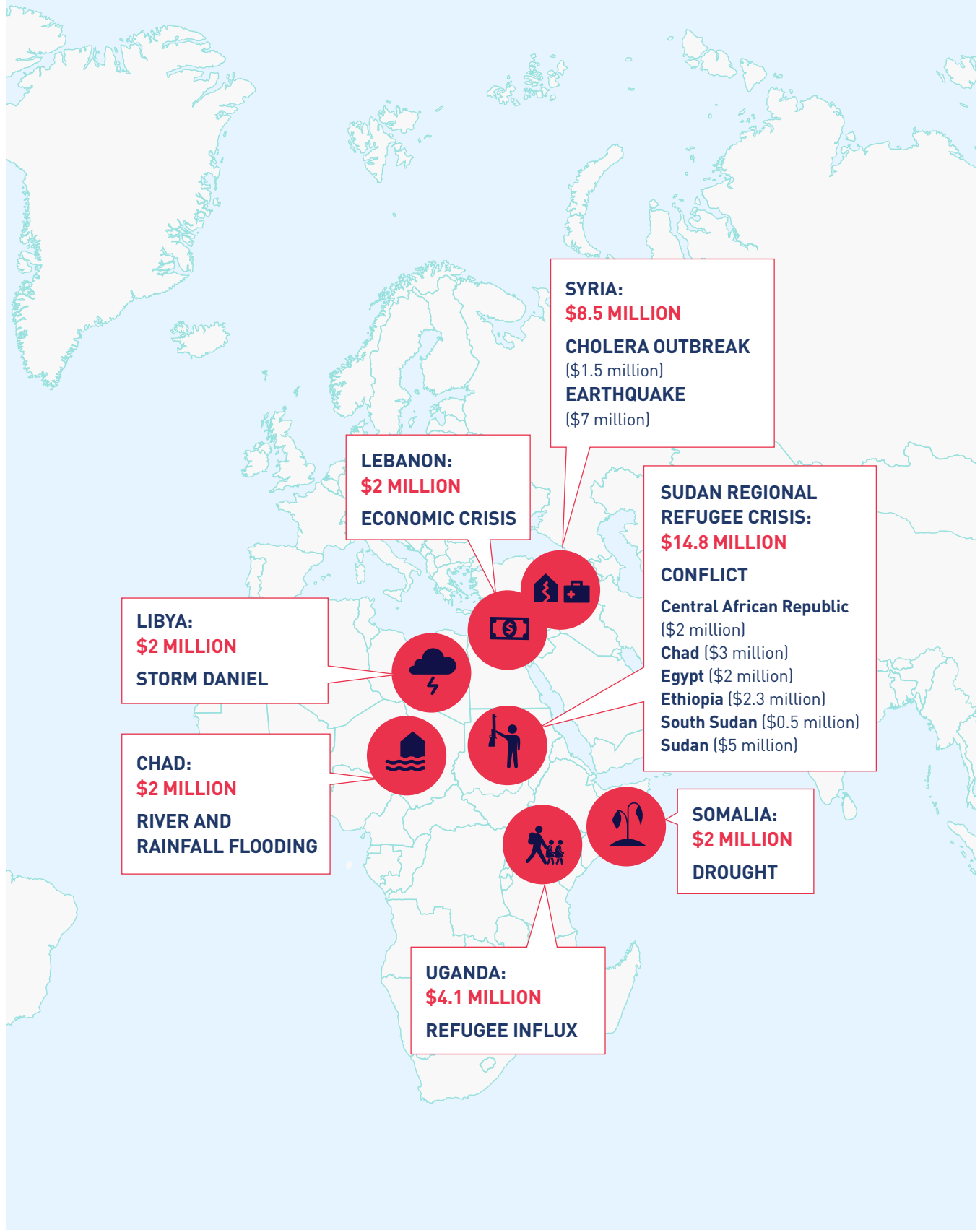
\$35.4 MILLION

for new FERs to be implemented in 11 countries approved in 2023



Over the years, FER grants have been growing in size, averaging \$2.7 million in 2023, compared to \$1.1 million in 2018–2022.

BOX 1. Crisis and FER response





Acceleration Facility: Innovation for quality scalable results

The AF window allows ECW to support the development and uptake of global public goods⁵ within the EiEPC ecosystem. ECW works with partners through the AF to address systemic challenges, strengthen sector capacities, and test innovations.

In 2023, ECW revised the AF window to be more strategic and transparent. These updates were made based on the recommendations in ECW's 2022 [Organizational Evaluation](#) and the commitments in the new strategic plan (2023–2026).

ECW established 13 new AF partnerships, totalling \$8.1 million, in 2023. This reflects ECW's commitment to reducing the number of small, shorter-term AF grants and to instead maximize impact through higher value, multi-year AF investments. The average approved AF grant has increased in value from \$209,000⁶ in 2022⁷ to \$621,000 in 2023. The majority of the new AF grants are also multi-year.

To be more strategic, ECW now supports three types of AF grants, and these three categories are reflected in the 2023 investments. Most of the funding (\$4.3 million) was allocated to the first type, i.e., AF Architecture Partnerships. These are multi-year grants made to key entities in the EiEPC sector that have a mandate for sectoral coordination and collaboration, such as the Global Education Cluster. Secondly, a significant proportion of the AF funds (\$2.5 million) aimed to address key challenges in the EiEPC sector, and these were advertised using a transparent, open calls for proposals process. In 2023, these open calls for proposals focused on challenges related to gender and disability inclusion; the successful grantees are working to develop global goods which are being tested and embedded in ECW's MYRPs. Lastly, AF funds were allocated to respond to innovative best practices as they emerge. For example, AF funds supported the [Nordic Roadmap for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#), an innovative best practice.

⁵ ECW defines 'global public goods' as both products and entities.

⁶ \$209,000 corresponds to the average value of grants approved in 2022. The average active AF grant in 2022 is ~\$370,000, as described in the ARR 2022.

⁷ Including costed extensions



In 2023, ECW established 13 new AF partnerships totalling:

**\$8.1
MILLION**



The average AF grant has increased in value from \$209,000 in 2022 to \$621,000 in 2023. The majority of the new AF grants are also multi-year.

1.1

Grantee diversification

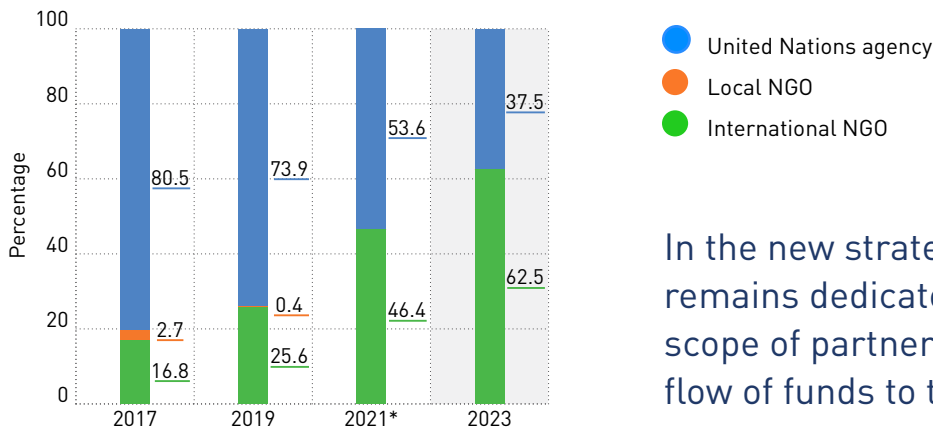
In the new strategic period, ECW remains dedicated to broadening the scope of its partners and diversifying the flow of funds to them. When ECW started its programmes in 2016–2017, United Nations agencies received 80.5% of total ECW funding and less than half the total number of grants. This implies that average budget envelopes to United Nations agencies were fewer but much higher in budget size compared to budget envelopes, on average, to non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Over the years this situation has changed (Figure 1). The funding percentage to United Nations agencies has decreased, to 53.6% in 2021 and 37.5% in 2023, and NGOs received most of the overall funding in 2023 (62.5%). For MYRPs, the average budget envelope to international NGOs increased from \$5.2 million in 2022 to \$10.9 million in 2023.

These changes represent ECW's strategic commitment to diversifying the range of partners, leveraging the expertise of multiple local and international networks, and enhancing community-based approaches to ensure a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to EiEPC. Part of ECW's commitment to localization and community participation is increasing and tracking the level of participation and flows of funding to national/local partners – including local women's organizations, organizations for people with disabilities, and refugee-led. Results against ECW's strategic plan indicator 12, which measures the amount and percentage of funds in FERs and MYRPs that are transferred to national/local partners as directly as possible, will be reported in ECW's Annual Results Report when data become available.

62.5%
of the overall
funding was
received by
NGOs in 2023

FIGURE 1. Allocation of ECW funding, by type of organization, 2017–2023



In the new strategic period, ECW remains dedicated to broadening its scope of partners and diversifying the flow of funds to them.

*Approved cost extensions may account for differences between the amounts described here and those described in ECW's Annual Results Report 2022.

TARGETS AND BUDGET PER CHILD, EDUCATION LEVEL AND EDUCATION OUTCOME

The 4 MRYPs and 13 FERs approved in 2023 aim to reach close to 1.1 million children and adolescents by the end of the programmes. 57% of all children and adolescents targeted are girls, and 8.2% are children with disabilities (56% girls).

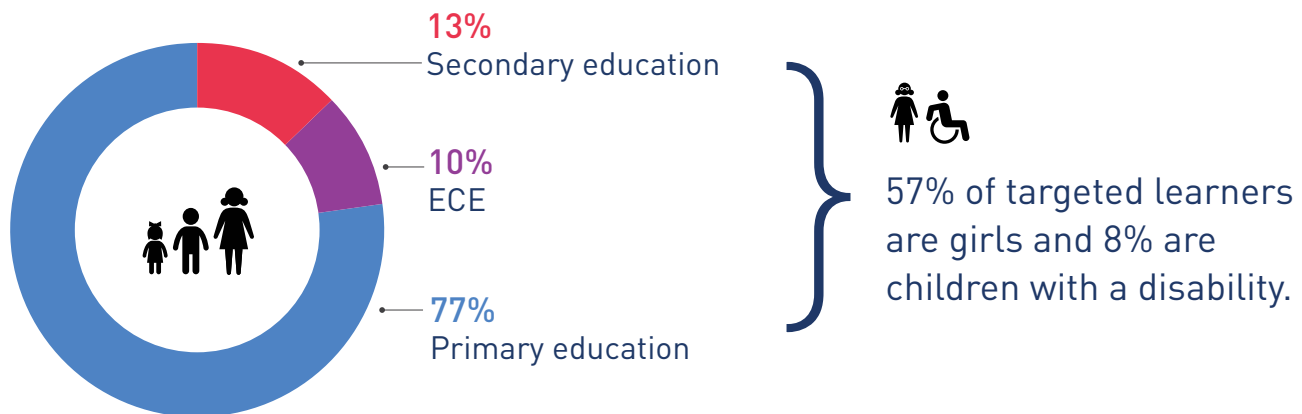
Combining the 1.1 million children and adolescents targeted by newly approved programmes in 2023, with the more than 5.1 million (3.83 million via MYRPs and 1.22 million via FERs) learners targeted by existing programmes active in 2023, implies a targeted reach of about 6.2 million when all these programmes end between 2024 and 2027.

Linking these figures to ECW’s reach targets in the strategic plan (11.9 million to be reached via FERs and 7.6 million via MYRPs), the average number of children targeted is on track for MYRPs and off track for FERs. As FERs are a response to sudden-onset crises, more children on average are to be targeted and reached by each individual FER programme. This can be achieved by increasing the budget envelopes for FERs so that more children can be supported by an individual FER, or by reducing the existing budget per child, thereby maintaining current budgetary levels. A combination is also possible. However, reducing the budget per child would result in a shorter or less comprehensive set of education support to each learner, and less support for their learning spaces.

Like previous years, the vast majority – 77% – of children and adolescents targeted by the programmes approved in 2023 are or will be going to primary school. As aimed for, 10% of children are or will go to pre-primary and 13% will or are going to secondary school (Figure 2). FERs focus more on learners at the primary education level, compared to MYRPs. FERs target 5% of learners at the level of early childhood education (ECE) and 15% at the level of secondary education. MYRPs have a bigger focus on pre-primary education, as they target 15% of the children at the ECE level and 10% at the secondary education level. Only minor differences exist between the percentage of girls and boys targeted at each education level.

1.1 MILLION children and adolescents are targeted by the 4 MYRPs and 13 FERs approved in 2023

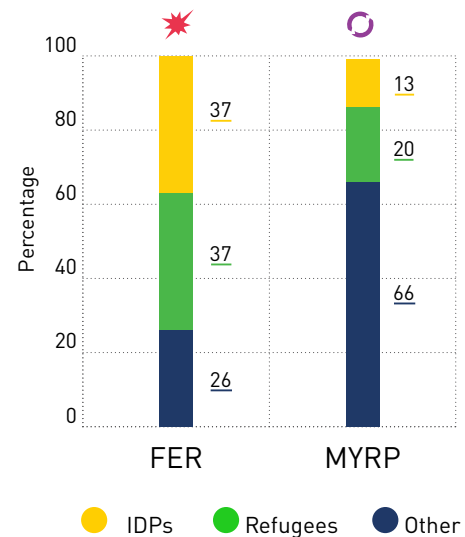
FIGURE 2. Share of total children targeted, by level of education, 2023



With many of the approved programmes responding to forced migration, most targeted learners are displaced populations, 30% of targeted learners are refugees and 27% are internally displaced persons (IDPs). The target for IDPs is twice as high as the actual 13% of IDPs reached by ECW-funded programmes during the 2018–2022 strategic plan period. Substantial differences exist in the population groups targeted between the MYRP and FER portfolio in 2023 (Figure 3), and between 2023 and previous years. This is partly explained by the purpose of both programme modalities and the specific countries and crises to which programmes responded in 2023. The FERs focus on sudden-onset or acute emergencies, which often lead to displaced populations that require education support within their own countries or, often, in neighbouring countries. The regional refugee crisis in Sudan in 2023 is an example where ECW supported Sudan and its neighbouring countries – Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and South Sudan – with a total of \$13 million in FER programmes.

Proportionally, MYRPs target more girls (58.4%) than do FERs (56.5%). Refugees supported by MYRPs have a particularly high proportion of girls, as 60% of all learners are female. In relation to children with disabilities, 12% of learners targeted by MYRPs, and 8% of those targeted by FERs, have a disability.

FIGURE 3. Share of total children targeted, by population subgroup and programme type, 2023



© UNICEF/Mohammed

A girl attends an e-learning session at an ECW-supported child-friendly space in Sudan. The space ensures children affected by the ongoing conflict in the country can access critical services like structured learning and e-learning, mental health and psychosocial support, referrals to healthcare and protective services, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

2.1

Budget per child

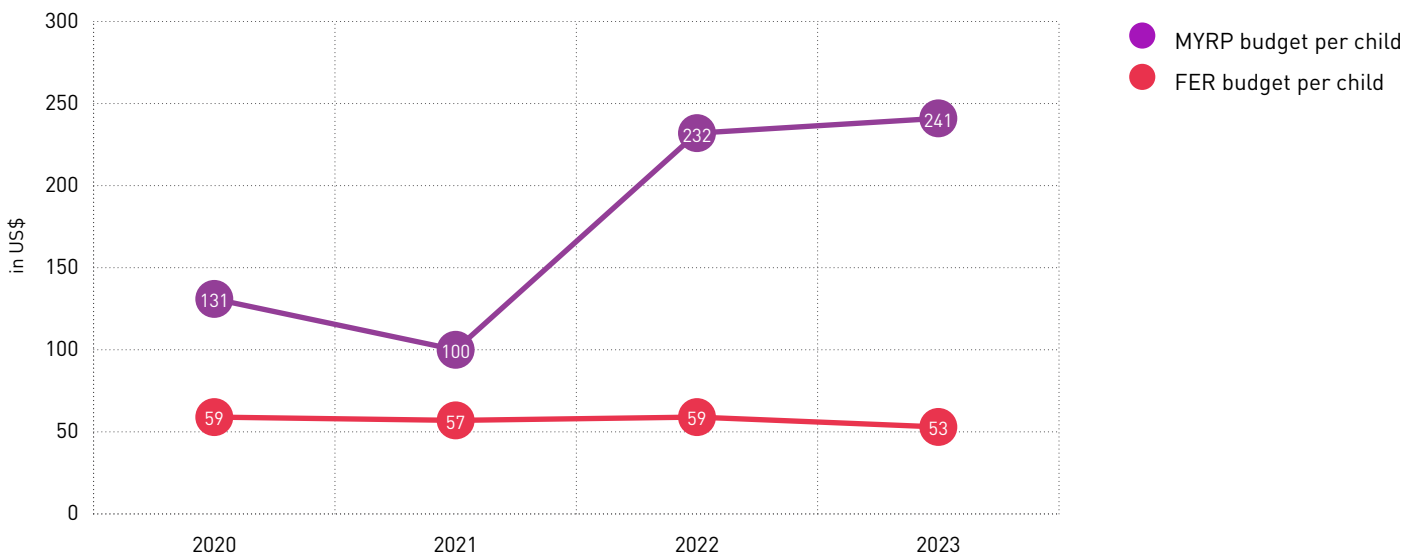
The amount of funding budgeted per child remains about the same in 2023 compared to 2022 (Figure 4). On average, a 3-year MYRP developed in 2023 budgets \$241 per child. A FER developed in 2023 budgets \$53 per child and has an average duration of 13 months. It is important to understand that the depth and breadth of support provided to a learner by a FER is different than that provided by a MYRP. The MYRP provides a longer and more holistic support package to learners and teachers, and equips learning spaces so to become more resilient and better able to cope in a protracted crisis setting. The purpose of the FER is to restore the education function as quickly as possible, to minimize any learning that may be lost.

The average budget of a MYRP developed in 2023 is \$28.6 million, or \$2 million more than that of MYRPs developed in 2022 (\$26.6 million). MYRPs aim to reach about 119,000 learners (58% girls) on average per programme. The average FER budget is slightly above \$2.7 million and aims to support about 51,000 learners (57% girls).

○ **\$241/child**
the average budget size for a 3-year MYRP in 2023

✱ **\$53/child**
the average budget size for a FER developed in 2023

FIGURE 4. Budget per child, by FER and MYRP, 2020–2023



2.2

The gender imperative

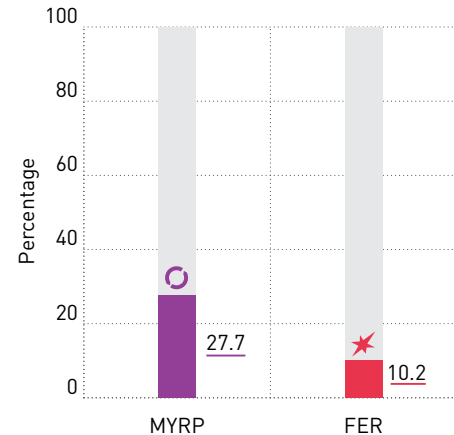
ECW launched a new [Gender Policy and Accountability Framework](#) in 2023, making gender equality a core principle in the Secretariat’s work. This policy aligns with United Nations and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) frameworks to promote gender equality in education during emergencies and protracted crises.

ECW aims to achieve this through a two-pronged approach. First, through integrating gender considerations into all programmes. Secondly, by dedicating a specific portion of funding to interventions directly targeting gender issues. These interventions focus on improving access to education, creating safe learning spaces, promoting participation of girls, and addressing social norms that hinder equality. ECW’s goal is to allocate 15% of FER and 25% of MYRP programme budgets to gender-targeted interventions by 2026.

ECW has significantly increased its focus on gender equality in its funding allocations (Figure 5). In 2023, 27.7% of MYRP and 10.2% of FER programmatic costs are dedicated to gender-targeted interventions compared to 14.7% of MYRP and 7% of FER programmatic costs in 2022. These interventions actively promote gender equality within results on safe and protective education participation, learning, and/or changes toward social norms and values on gender equality and girls’ empowerment.

ECW also launched the new Gender Lead Organization (GLO) function to improve accountability for gender equality efforts within recipient countries. In the first year of this programme, an average of 5% of the budget for new programmes was committed to the GLO function, demonstrating a strong commitment to integrating gender equality throughout ECW-funded initiatives.

FIGURE 5. Proportion of programme costs allocated to gender, 2023



Gender-targeted interventions represent:

- 27.7% of the total programme costs of MYRP grantees initiated in 2023
- 10.2% of the total programme costs of FER grantees initiated in 2023



ECW has significantly increased its focus on gender equality in its funding allocations. In 2023, 27.7% of MYRP and 10.2% of FER programmatic costs are dedicated to gender-targeted interventions compared to 14.7% of MYRP and 7% of FER programmatic costs in 2022.

2.3

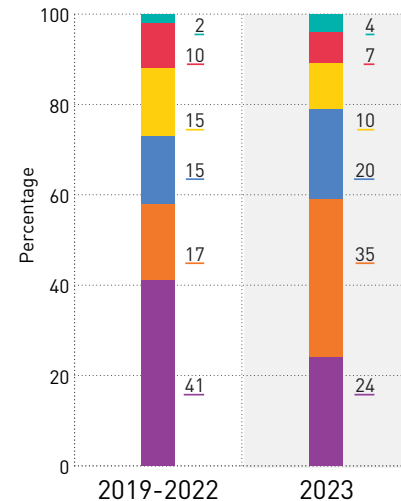
Allocations by education outcome

Looking at monetary flows to achieve education outcome results for children and adolescents provides useful information on the type of education activities that ECW programmes are focusing on. Recognizing that many education activities – for example, teacher development, material distribution, school feeding, classroom construction/rehabilitation, and gender-based violence risk mitigation – are interconnected and serve multiple education outcomes, differences between years are noteworthy.

A comparison between MYRPs that were developed under the previous strategic plan and those developed under the new strategic plan in 2023⁸ shows that proportionally more funding is going toward achieving inclusive, gender-equitable and holistic learning and well-being (35% of MYRPs in 2023 vs. 17% in 2019–2022) (Figure 6). This is especially the case for MYRPs that were renewed in South Sudan and Uganda, which by and large target the same learning spaces. The first phase of these MYRPs focused heavily on getting children into school and making sure that they stay in school or continue their education by moving to the next level or transitioning from a non-formal education programme to the formal, government-led education system. These MYRPs were characterized by the creation of safe learning environments via school, classroom and WASH facility construction; procurement of furniture, and teaching and learning equipment; contracting and remuneration of teachers; and school transportation or school feeding. The renewed MYRPs, on the contrary, focus on maintaining learning spaces, improving the quality of education provision, and making sure that those left furthest behind equally participate in school and continue their education. This development focusing on holistic learning and well-being is a continuation of the MYRPs developed in 2022, whereby 25% went to this education outcome.

The increased funding to the ‘equity’ aspect of education outcomes shows that more attention is given to inclusiveness and gender-equality of the most marginalized within ECW programmes. Specific dedicated support for marginalized groups – such as adolescent girls, children with disabilities, and child refugees or IDPs – is receiving more attention than before. The strong equity and gender-equality focus is particularly the case for the MYRP in South Sudan, as described in Box 2, below.

FIGURE 6. Percentage distribution of MYRP budgets, by education outcome, 2019–2022 and 2023



- Resource mobilization
- Systems strengthening
- Safety and protection
- Equity
- Learning
- Access and continuity

A comparison between MYRPs that were developed under the previous strategic plan and those developed under the new strategic plan in 2023 shows that proportionally more funding is going toward achieving inclusive, gender-equitable and holistic learning and well-being (35% of MYRPs in 2023 vs. 17% in 2019–2022).

8 Afghanistan, Myanmar, South Sudan, and Uganda.

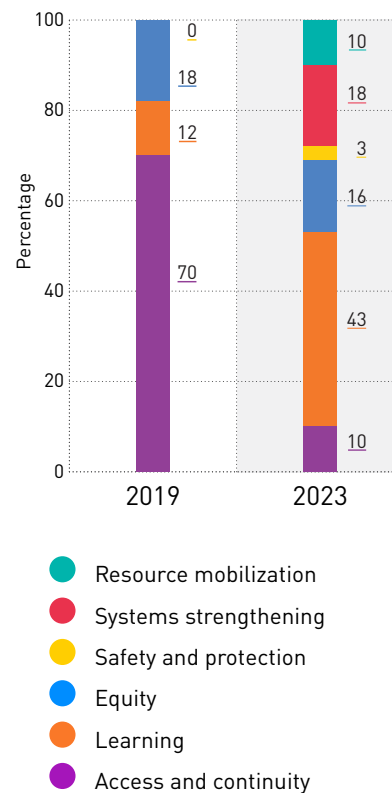
BOX 2. South Sudan MYRP



© AVSI

The \$40 million MYRP for South Sudan was approved in June 2023 and is being implemented for three years by Save the Children, Finn Church Aid, and the Norwegian Refugee Council. It is the second phase of the MYRP, and Figure 7 shows the shift in focus toward equitable programming. 43% of the programme budget and its results have a targeted focus on improving gender-equitable education, access and retention, and holistic learning. Targeted and transformative approaches for girls and boys with disabilities, girl learners, and pregnant girls and young mothers are emphasized in the MYRP document, in a dedicated result statement. Activities that promote inclusivity include the provision of physical spaces for menstrual health and hygiene (MHH), breastfeeding and baby-changing facilities; and support for physical access and distribution of mobility and assistive devices for girls and boys with disabilities. Gender-responsive and disability-inclusive teacher professional development activities – such as training on gender-based violence, mental health and psychosocial support, child protection, and climate readiness – as well as support for teacher well-being, are part of the programme. Life-skills and social-emotional learning (SEL) for adolescent girls, young mothers, and pregnant girls, and comprehensive sexuality education for all are also part of the programme. On a system level, the MYRP works to roll out the Ministry of Health’s MHH strategy, including the replenishment and distribution of dignity kits, and training on menstrual hygiene management for adolescent girls.

FIGURE 7. Percentage distribution of MYRP budgets, by education outcome, South Sudan, 2019 and 2023



2.4

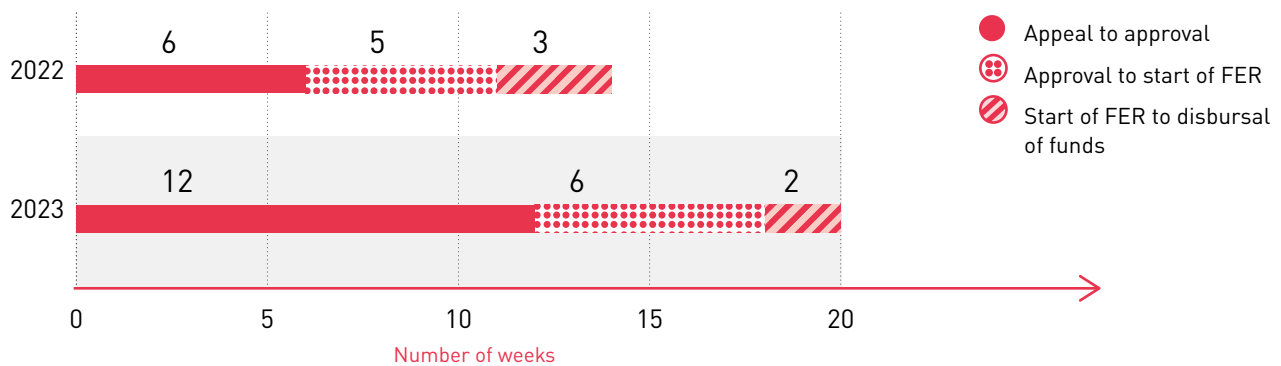
Timeliness of the First Emergency Response

A rapid response is critical during emergencies and crises to mitigate learning disruptions and maintain stability for learners. This principle underpins ECW’s FER investment window mandate, aiming to expedite funding disbursement and empower crisis-affected communities to resume educational activities.

ECW strives to initiate its FER programme within 12 weeks of a humanitarian appeal date. Figure 8 depicts the distribution of time between the issuance of a humanitarian appeal and the disbursement of funds to grantees for the years 2022 and 2023. The average time for FER funding to be disbursed increased from about 14 weeks in 2022 to 20 weeks in 2023. Only 14% of FERs in 2023 were developed within the 12-week target, compared to 42% in 2022.

Looking in more detail across the various stages of FER programme design, contracting, and distribution, the average time from humanitarian appeal to final approval of the proposal increased by 6 weeks in 2023 compared to 2022, reaching an average of 12 weeks.

FIGURE 8. FER timeline across its design stages, 2022 and 2023



Several factors contributed to the increased processing times observed in 2023 FERs. These include:

- **Responding to evolving crises:** FERs are utilized in already protracted situations in which local capacity and resources are limited. Humanitarian appeals such as Humanitarian Response Plans are more planned compared to appeals that are in response to an acute disaster. This makes FERs relevant to count against the timeliness of the disbursement indicator. FERs that respond to these economic or ongoing crises are much slower compared to FERs that respond to natural or climate-induced disasters such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones, or active violence/conflict. New crises can further strain existing structures, potentially impacting application quality and approval timelines.
- **Unfamiliarity with ECW procedures:** Country teams unfamiliar with ECW's procedures and programme requirements may require extended periods to develop compliant applications.
- **Delays in emergency response decisions:** In specific circumstances, coordination agencies may delay initiating FERs, opting to monitor unfolding situations before committing resources.
- **Contracting challenges:** Delays in acquiring complete grantee information or expired Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) assessments can hinder agreements at the contracting stage.

Ali, 18, who has a visual impairment, in his classroom in Syria. Due to persistent conflict in Syria, bullying and lack of accommodations to support his learning, Ali found himself frequently in and out of school. Thanks to assistance from the ECW-supported Blind Care Association Centre, Ali and other children with vision impairments have discovered a supportive and accessible environment for learning.



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MOVING AHEAD INTO 2024 AND BEYOND: A YEAR OF INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, AND ANTICIPATION

ECW's 2024 programme portfolio will strategically focus on maximizing its value addition to the EIEPC space by prioritizing investments in under-funded and under-developed activities. 2024 marks a pivotal shift towards a more proactive, gender-equitable, and streamlined approach to humanitarian education crises.



Here is a glimpse into the future of ECW's FER investment window, for which ECW has reserved about \$59 million in 2024:

- **Standardization for a streamlined approach:** A brand new FER application template will be rolled out for all emergencies addressed in 2024. This streamlined format aims to seamlessly integrate protection, gender and inclusion considerations throughout the response. It will also position the FER process within the broader humanitarian context, ensuring a more comprehensive approach.
- **Faster response times:** There exists a trade-off between speed and quality within FER development, but efforts to meet the 12-week FER timeline will continue. This focus on efficiency ensures that support reaches those in need more quickly and learning continuity.
- **Anticipatory action:** Recognizing the growing impact of climate change on humanitarian crises, ECW will be piloting two anticipatory action programmes within the FER window. These proactive measures aim to mitigate the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations, particularly children and adolescents. The learning acquired and capacity built through these pilots will serve to strengthen the entire sector's approach to anticipatory action in the future.

Recognizing the growing impact of climate change on humanitarian crises, ECW will be piloting two anticipatory action programmes within the FER window.



ECW anticipates about \$4 million to be disbursed via AF grants in 2024.

ECW will be prioritizing open calls for proposals to tackle contemporary EIEPC sector challenges, ensuring strategic focus and diversifying grantee applications. Three open calls for proposals are scheduled for 2024, alongside AF learning events to promote knowledge sharing among ECW grantees and the sector.



Zharick, 18, arrives at the Centre for Development and Self-Management in Monte Sinaí, Ecuador, with her 1-year-old daughter in her arms. ECW support for the Educational Inclusion Programme at the centre is ensuring that young women who have had to drop out of school due to early pregnancies are provided with holistic support as they reintegrate into the education system.



ECW and its partners will continue to leverage the MYRPs as anchors for sector-wide approaches in EIEPC. ECW plans to disburse a total of \$170 million to existing and new MYRPs in 2024.

In 2024, the ECW Secretariat aims to develop new and renewed MYRPs in 16 countries/contexts. These include all ECW investments in Latin America (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) alongside other renewals in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, and Syria. ECW plans to launch a comprehensive MYRP renewal round for the Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger) as well as a response to the crisis in the State of Palestine. The new MYRP for Ukraine, launched in 2023, was approved at the beginning of 2024.

ECW's funding strategy for the MYRP will transition to a contextualized model. By tailoring MYRPs to specific contexts, ECW aims to maximize the impact of its funding and strengthen its added value. This approach will involve:

- **Prioritizing the urgent education needs of crisis-affected children and adolescents:** MYRPs will be designed with the specific needs of each context and learner in mind, ensuring that resources directly address the most pressing challenges.
- **Enhancing MYRP focus:** The 2024 MYRP cohort marks the first aligned with the ECW strategic plan period. These MYRPs will prioritize ECW's commitments in:
 - Localization
 - Gender transformation and girls' empowerment
 - Climate resilience
 - Strengthening coherence across the humanitarian-development nexus
 - Inclusion
- **Leveraging the expertise of a wider range of partners:** By utilizing a 'consortium approach,' ECW will tap into the diverse skill sets and experiences of a broader partner base, fostering innovation and effectiveness.
- **Building upon best practices and lessons learned:** ECW remains committed to continuous improvement. ECW will rely on its partners and monitoring on an ongoing basis to identify opportunities for programme redesign, ensuring to adapt to evolving contexts and maximize its impact.
- **Alignment with global and AF initiatives:** The MYRP design process will consider country-specific needs while strategically aligning with global initiatives. The Secretariat will intentionally connect global best practices and public goods with national efforts to improve gender-equitable education, participation and holistic learning outcomes for marginalized children and adolescents. For instance, AF investment in disability-inclusive education will be incorporated into the Niger MYRP renewal. Similarly, ECW will strengthen its collaboration with the [Global Survivors Fund](#) during the MYRP renewal in northeast Nigeria.

The Secretariat will intentionally connect global best practices and public goods with national efforts to improve gender-equitable education participation and holistic learning outcomes for marginalized children and adolescents.

Furthermore, there is an increased investment in gender-targeted interventions by both MYRP and FER grantees that ECW aims to maintain. MYRP grantees show a particularly strong commitment to this, while FERs are on the right track. ECW will continue to emphasize this important part of its work. In addition, in line with its commitment made during the Transforming Education Summit (2022) and call to action on disability inclusion, ECW will dedicate at least 5% of its programme budget to disability-inclusive targeted interventions in FERs and MYRPs. ECW will be rolling out an internal mechanism to track this for every new FER and MYRP initiated in 2024 for reporting purposes in the future.

This shift towards a contextualized approach promises a more impactful and diverse MYRP portfolio. By embracing innovation, efficiency, flexibility, and proactive solutions, ECW is empowering children and adolescents to access safe, quality education and thereby acquire the learning and skills for a brighter tomorrow. We are confident that by working collaboratively with our partners, we can effectively address the urgent education needs of learners caught in crisis situations around the world. We encourage our partners and donors to embrace this shift as we work together to achieve lasting change – and we look forward to partnering with you in this exciting new approach.



By embracing innovation, efficiency, flexibility, and proactive solutions, ECW is empowering children and adolescents to access safe, quality education and thereby acquire the learning and skills for a brighter tomorrow.”

ANNEX 1

Overview of allocations for programmes approved in 2023

Type of investment	Country	Sum of Allocation
MYRP	Afghanistan	\$30,000,000
	Myanmar	\$19,000,000
	South Sudan	\$40,000,000
	Uganda	\$25,500,000
MYRP Total		\$114,500,000
FER	Central African Republic	\$2,000,000
	Chad	\$5,000,000
	Egypt	\$2,000,000
	Ethiopia	\$2,340,000
	Lebanon	\$2,000,000
	Libya	\$2,000,000
	Somalia	\$2,000,000
	South Sudan	\$500,000
	Sudan	\$5,000,000
	Syria	\$8,500,000
	Uganda	\$4,100,000
FER Total		\$35,440,000
AF	Global	\$8,077,412
AF Total		\$8,077,412
GRAND TOTAL		\$158,017,412













ANNEX 2


Allocations and disbursements in 2023

 Multi-Year Resilience Programme

 First Emergency Response

 Acceleration Facility

Country	Allocation	Disbursements
Afghanistan	\$30,000,000	\$12,541,788
 MYRP	\$30,000,000	\$12,541,788
Bangladesh		\$4,929,101
 MYRP		\$4,929,101
Burkina Faso		\$3,248,448
 MYRP		\$3,248,448
Burundi		\$5,422,254
 MYRP		\$5,422,254
Central African Republic	\$42,000,000	\$20,040,994
 FER	\$2,000,000	\$742,574
 MYRP	\$40,000,000	\$19,298,420
Chad	\$5,000,000	\$9,853,812
 FER	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
 MYRP		\$4,853,812
Colombia		\$4,132,256
 MYRP		\$4,132,256
Democratic Republic of the Congo		\$6,667,270
 FER		\$2,000,000
 MYRP		\$4,667,270
Egypt	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
 FER	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Ethiopia	\$10,340,000	\$13,140,979
 FER	\$10,340,000	\$10,340,000
 MYRP		\$2,800,979
Global	\$5,277,413	\$3,932,131
 AF	\$5,277,413	\$3,932,131

Country	Allocation	Disbursements
Iraq		\$5,190,830
 MYRP		\$5,190,830
Kenya	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
 FER	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Lebanon	\$2,000,000	\$6,258,980
 FER	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
 MYRP		\$4,258,980
Libya	\$2,000,000	\$5,775,704
 FER	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
 MYRP		\$3,775,704
Mali		\$6,847,787
 MYRP		\$6,847,787
Myanmar	\$19,000,000	\$6,822,922
 MYRP	\$19,000,000	\$6,822,922
Niger		\$3,700,000
 MYRP		\$3,700,000
Nigeria		\$9,050,000
 MYRP		\$9,050,000
Pakistan		\$5,157,174
 MYRP		\$5,157,174
Peru		\$2,462,448
 MYRP		\$2,462,448
Sahel Regional		\$912,056
MYRP		\$912,056
Somalia	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
 FER	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000

Country	Allocation	Disbursements
South America Regional		\$520,020
○ MYRP		\$520,020
South Sudan	\$40,000,000	\$17,091,627
○ MYRP	\$40,000,000	\$17,091,627
Sudan	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
* FER	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
Syria	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000
* FER	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000
Uganda	\$29,600,000	\$14,723,408
* FER	\$4,100,000	\$4,100,000
○ MYRP	\$25,500,000	\$10,623,408
GRAND TOTAL	\$211,717,413	\$194,921,988

About Education Cannot Wait (ECW):

Education Cannot Wait is the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises within the United Nations. We support quality education outcomes for refugee, internally displaced and other crisis-affected girls and boys, so no one is left behind. ECW works through the multilateral system to both increase the speed of responses in crises and connect immediate relief and longer-term interventions through multi-year programming. ECW works in close partnership with governments, public and private donors, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, and other humanitarian and development aid actors to increase efficiencies and end siloed responses. ECW urgently appeals to public and private sector donors for expanded support to reach even more vulnerable children and youth.

Additional information is available at
www.educationcannotwait.org
Contact: info@un-ecw.org

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