

MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting

Mon 14 April 2025, Virtual

1. Welcome and introduction

- 1.1 The Executive Committee (ExCom) Co-Chairs opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.
- 1.2 Appreciation was extended to the ECW Secretariat and partners who participated in the 2025 Global Disability Summit hosted by Germany, with reference to the Amman-Berlin Declaration and its objective of “15 percent for the 15 percent.”
- 1.3 The agenda was adopted without objections, and any additional items were invited under Any Other Business (AOB).

[Note: See Annex A for the list of participants]

2. Agenda for HLSG Meeting in April 2025

- 2.1 The ECW Director presented the proposed agenda for the High-Level Steering Group (HLSG) meeting scheduled for 29 April 2025. The agenda had been developed in consultation with the new HLSG Chair and reflected the most pressing strategic issues.
- 2.2 The Director provided background on the delay in the appointment announcement of the new HLSG Chair, citing concurrent UN responsibilities. The Chair brings valuable strategic insight and field experience to ECW governance.
- 2.3 The Director emphasized the importance of high-level participation and strategic engagement by HLSG members, especially in mobilizing resources.
- 2.4 A comment was raised regarding the nature of HLSG interventions, noting the technical focus of several agenda items and advocating for strategic-level engagement.
- 2.5 The Director confirmed that space would be provided for strategic interventions. Members were encouraged to notify the Secretariat in advance if their principals intend to speak. A speaker list will be prepared which will facilitate smooth moderation in the virtual format.

3. Options for Adapting ECW's Portfolio

- 3.1 The ECW Chief of Education presented proposed options for adapting ECW's Multi-year Resilience Programme (MYRP) portfolio in response to reduced financial projections. The Chief of Monitoring and Evaluation provided a technical overview of the prioritization methodology.
- 3.2 The Secretariat recalled that a 17% reduction in the 2025 programmatic budget had been approved in March. This necessitated a reassessment of the MYRP portfolio.

- 3.3** Two options were presented for MYRPs up for renewal in 2025-2026: (i) renew eight MYRPs with reduced funding; or (ii) renew five MYRPs at full allocation levels.
- 3.4** The Secretariat recommended Option 1, targeting eight countries within the top 15 of the Priority Index. Four countries were prioritized for 2025: DRC, Sudan, Lebanon, and Bangladesh.
- 3.5** The Chief of M&E and Global Reporting presented the methodology for country prioritization. It combines a Composite Quantitative Score (80%) and a Multi-Rater Qualitative Score (20%). A refugee adjustment ensures one-third of MYRP investments remain in refugee-hosting contexts. This adjustment aligns with ECW's commitments at the Global Refugee Forum.
- 3.6** The International Civil Society Organization (ICSO) Constituency raised the following points:
- a) The one-week review period for the proposed prioritization methodology was too short given the importance of the decisions. There is a need for more meaningful engagement in future strategic discussions.
 - b) Concerns were raised about using humanitarian financial data from the UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS) to inform funding gap indicators, as it may not reflect needs in underreported or evolving crises.
 - c) The Constituency questioned the approach of making decisions on programme continuation/discontinuation at the same time as endorsing the broader methodology; and
 - d) They also requested clarity on the role and composition of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).
- 3.7** Members asked about:
- a) the refugee adjustment mechanism within the prioritization scoring methodology, noting that while support for refugee-hosting contexts is important, the adjustment could disproportionately influence the rankings and unintentionally disadvantage countries with large internally displaced populations, such as Sudan and Chad;
 - b) the weighting of qualitative (20%) and quantitative assessment scores (80%) and suggested considering an increase in the weight assigned to the qualitative value add assessment scores; and
 - c) the Secretariat's role in ensuring sustainability in close collaboration with GPE and other partners, considering no-cost extensions and potentially First Emergency Response (FER) funding (if they meet the criteria), for those MYRPs for which funding is not renewed.
- 3.8** The Secretariat explained that the refugee adjustment was included to help ECW meet its one-third target for refugee-hosting contexts, as pledged at the Global Refugee Forum. The Chief of M&E and Global Reporting clarified that the adjustment is applied only after the main scoring methodology—based on quantitative and qualitative indicators—is completed and thus is not a component of the scoring methodology itself.

- 3.9** It was agreed that approval of the full country prioritization approach, including the refugee adjustment, should be deferred, with further review and consultation through the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) ahead of final decision-making at the June 2025 ExCom meeting.
- 3.10** The Secretariat reiterated that the current meeting does not approve the methodology in full. Final endorsement of the methodology will be considered at the June 2025 ExCom after TAG consultation.
- 3.11** Members thanked the Secretariat's work in developing the prioritization methodology, recognizing the complexity involved. It was emphasized that the methodology should be maintained as much as possible, with only minimal adjustments where necessary. While a formula-based, criteria-driven approach was considered critical to ensure consistency and objectivity, it was also acknowledged that political considerations inevitably influence decision-making processes. A realistic approach was encouraged, recognizing the intersection between technical assessments and political realities when allocating resources.

Decisions (per official record)

- *Decision 1:* The ExCom deferred the endorsement of the MYRP Portfolio Prioritization Methodology and the MYRP funding allocation methodology including the specific inclusion on countries affected by forced displacement, with a request for additional time to review and further refine the methodologies in collaboration with the TAG. The revised methodologies will be presented for endorsement at the June 2025 ExCom meeting.
- *Decision 2:* The ExCom approved four MYRP countries (Bangladesh, DRC, Lebanon, and Sudan) for renewals in 2025 in line with the portfolio prioritization methodology and funding projections.
- *Decision 3:* The ExCom noted that phasing out should be built into each MYRP and hence ExCom should only decide on renewals – not on whether to exit/withdraw from a country. The ECW Secretariat has the capacity to apply the methodology in combination with the funding outlook to decide on where to continue or not.
- *Decision 4:* The ExCom recognized the Secretariat's operational responsibility to manage MYRPs ending in 2025 based on the draft prioritization methodology and the projected overall funding envelope and asks the Secretariat to ensure sustainability in close collaboration with GPE and other partners, considering no-cost extensions and potentially FER funding (if they meet the criteria), for those MYRPs.
- *Decision 5:* The ExCom noted the implications of the prioritization methodology coupled with the resource mobilization target for 2027-2030 on the overall MYRP list and requests the Secretariat to revert with a proposal for approval at the June ExCom meeting.

4. Any Other Business (AOB)

- 4.1 It was noted that the revised Hosting Arrangement with UNICEF was near finalization and would be submitted to the HLSG for approval. A brief intervention on this topic is expected during the HLSG meeting.
- 4.2 The Co-Chairs announced that the next ExCom meeting is scheduled to take place in June 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 4.3 The Co-Chairs closed the meeting by thanking members for a productive and fruitful discussion.

Annexes

Annex A: [List of Participants](#)

Annex B: [Agenda and Supporting Papers](#)

Annex C: [Recording and transcript](#) (available upon request)

Annex D: [Options for Adapting ECW's Portfolio Presentation](#)