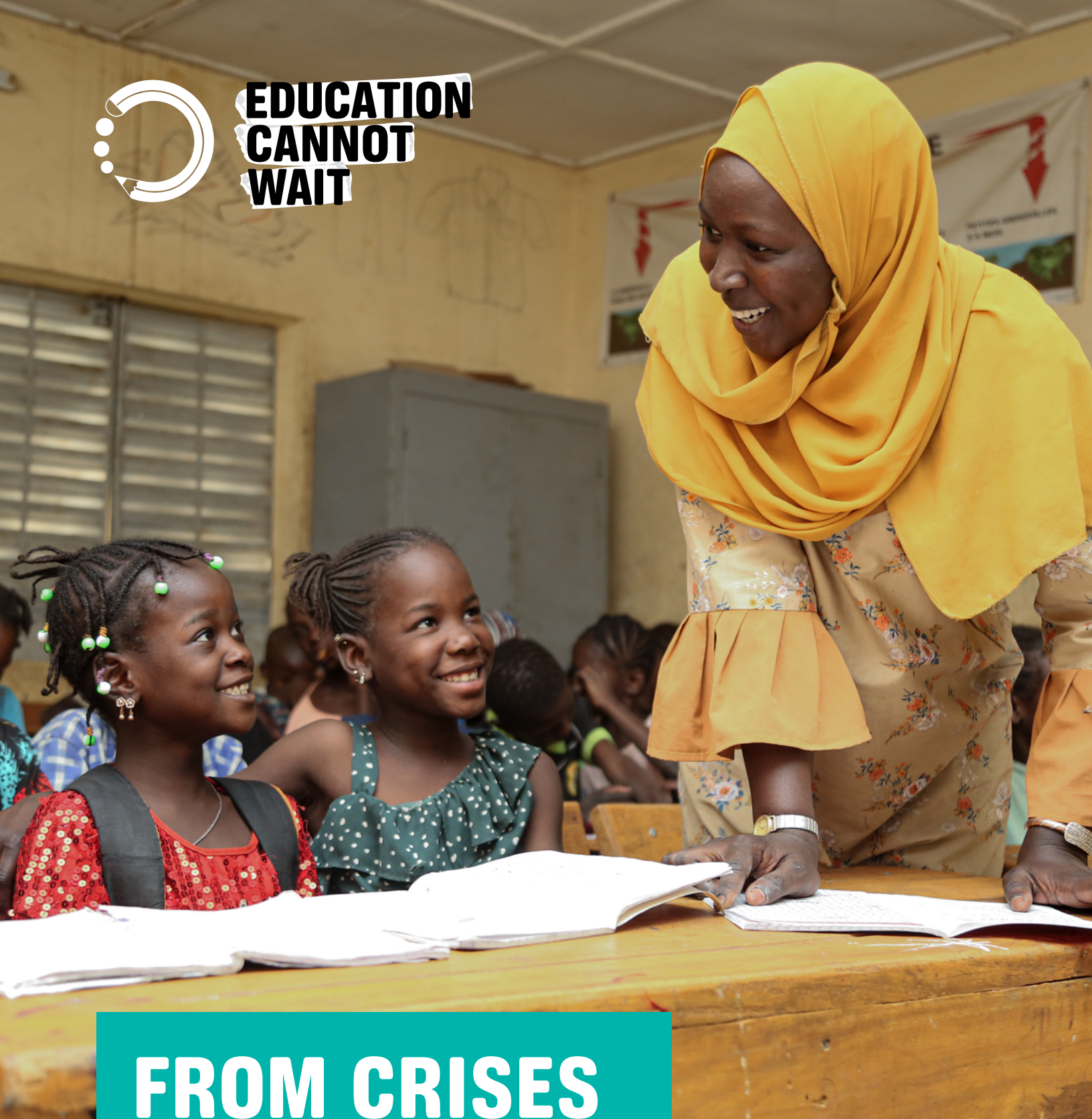




**EDUCATION
CANNOT
WAIT**



FROM CRISES TO CLASSES

**Programmatic portfolio and
financial allocation overview 2023**

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This programmatic portfolio and allocations overview 2023 was elaborated 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, including donor agencies or the UN 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 US dollars.

Education Cannot Wait, April 2024

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INTRODUCTION

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

2023 is the first year of ECW's [strategic plan](#) period. As the global fund dedicated to funding and advancing education in crisis, ECW operates within a framework of accountability, transparency, and efficiency. This overview serves as a testament to this commitment, providing a detailed account of where First Emergency Response (FER) programmes, Multi-Year Resilience Programmes (MYRP), and Acceleration Facility (AF) grants have been newly developed and were active in 2023. It describes to what acute emergency, escalated, and protracted crises ECW responded and what initiatives it took to strengthen the global institutional architecture on education in emergencies and protected crises.

Within these pages, in section 1, you will find an overview of investments by country, programme, and type of grantee organization. Section 2 includes an analysis of the programmatic financial allocations by education level, gender, education outcome, and the cost-per-child. The third section looks ahead into 2024 and beyond elaborating on how the characteristics of ECW's programmatic portfolio can be improved and what specific actions we are taking to do so.

At the heart of ECW's mission lies a steadfast dedication to serving the most vulnerable crisis-affected girls, boys and adolescents, advancing the human right to education and learning, and fostering better cooperation and coordination among humanitarian-development actors. ECW's results towards the new strategic plan commitments, related results-framework and its indicators shall be presented in the annual results report 2023, planned to be published by mid-2024. This portfolio and allocation 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 crisis-affected girls, boys and adolescents, advancing the human right to education and learning, and fostering better cooperation and coordination among humanitarian-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:

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

M MYRP F FER

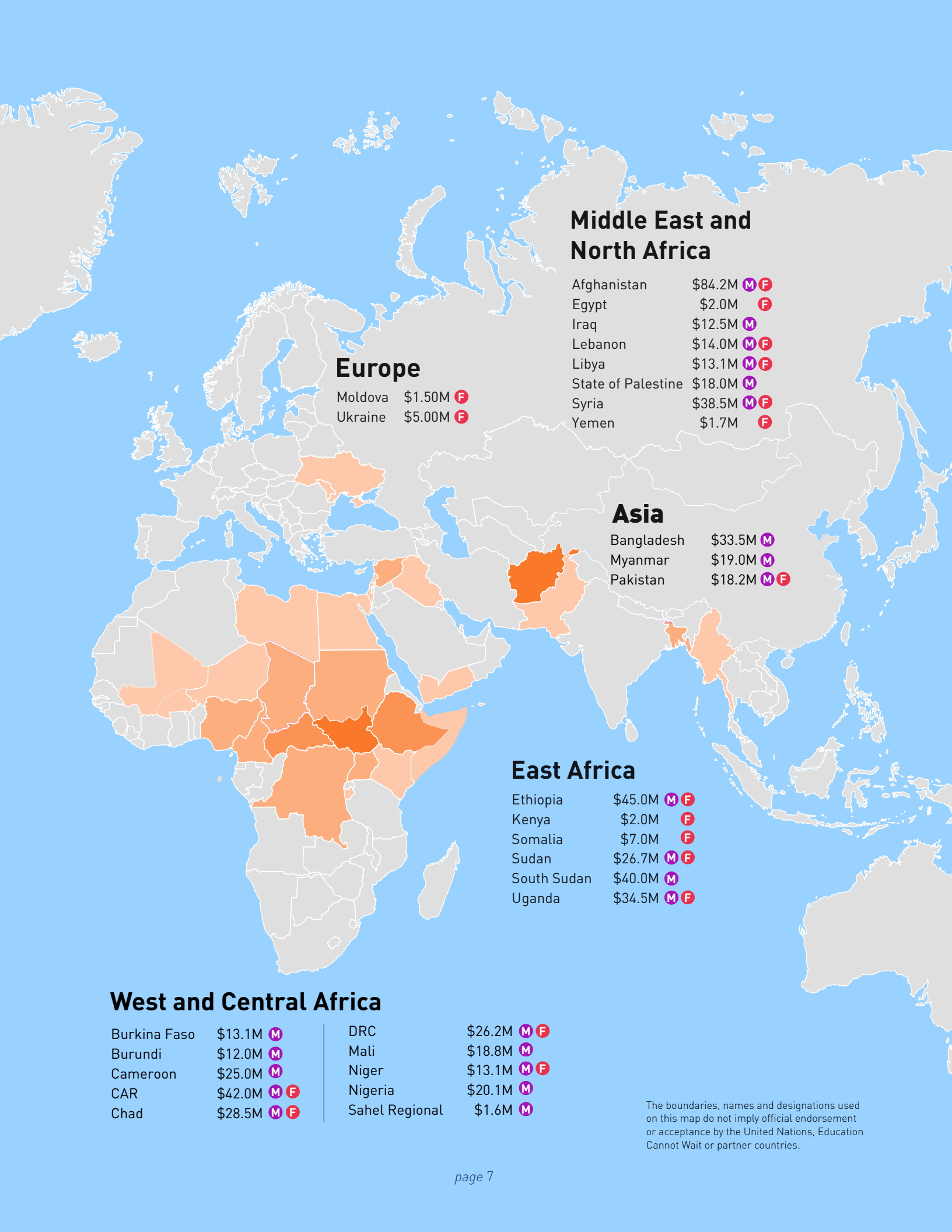
ECW approved funding to 13 countries for various programmes in 2023. These included 4 Multi-Year Resilience Programmes (MYRPs), 13 First Emergency Response (FERs) grants, and 13 Acceleration Facility (AF) grants. These investments correspond to \$158 million - \$114.5 million for MYRPs, \$35.4 million for FERs, and \$8.1 million for AF grants. Most of the approved programmes started and were therefore active in 2023, while some that were approved late in the year started in 2024.

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

- M Afghanistan
- F CAR
- 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



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	DRC	\$26.2M	M F
Burundi	\$12.0M	M	Mali	\$18.8M	M
Cameroon	\$25.0M	M	Niger	\$13.1M	M F
CAR	\$42.0M	M F	Nigeria	\$20.1M	M
Chad	\$28.5M	M F	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.

A summary table is provided below showing number of countries, funding, and 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
Countries*				
A. Number of existing countries with active programmes at start of 2023	11	24	-	27
B. Number of new countries added in 2023	8	2	-	5
C. Total number of countries active in 2023	19	26	-	32
Funding				
D. Value of ECW portfolio beginning of 2023 (since inception)	\$193.0 M	\$527.8 M	\$22.3 M	\$798.1 M
E. Value of new programmes starting in 2023	\$48.9 M	\$154.5 M	\$5.3 M	\$208.7 M
E2. Value of additional cost extensions	\$5 M	\$17.5 M	\$0.6 M	\$23.1 M
F. Total value of ECW portfolio by end of 2023	\$246.9 M	\$ 699.8 M	\$28.1 M	\$1,029.8 M
Programmes and grants				
G. Number of active programmes (and grants) at start of 2023	11 (16 grants)	26 (61 grants)	19 (20 grants)	56 (97 grants)
H. Number of new programmes (and grants) started during 2023	16 (26 grants)	5 (13 grants)	9 (9 grants)	30 (48 grants)
I. Total number of active programmes (and grants) 2023	27 (42 grants)	31² (74 grants)	28 (29 grants)	86 (145 grants)

* 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.

2 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, the ECW fund 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 relevant emergency education coordination mechanisms, 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. The newly started FERs responded to a range of crises, including a health emergency, an economic crisis, armed conflict and forced displacement, and climate and natural disasters.

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



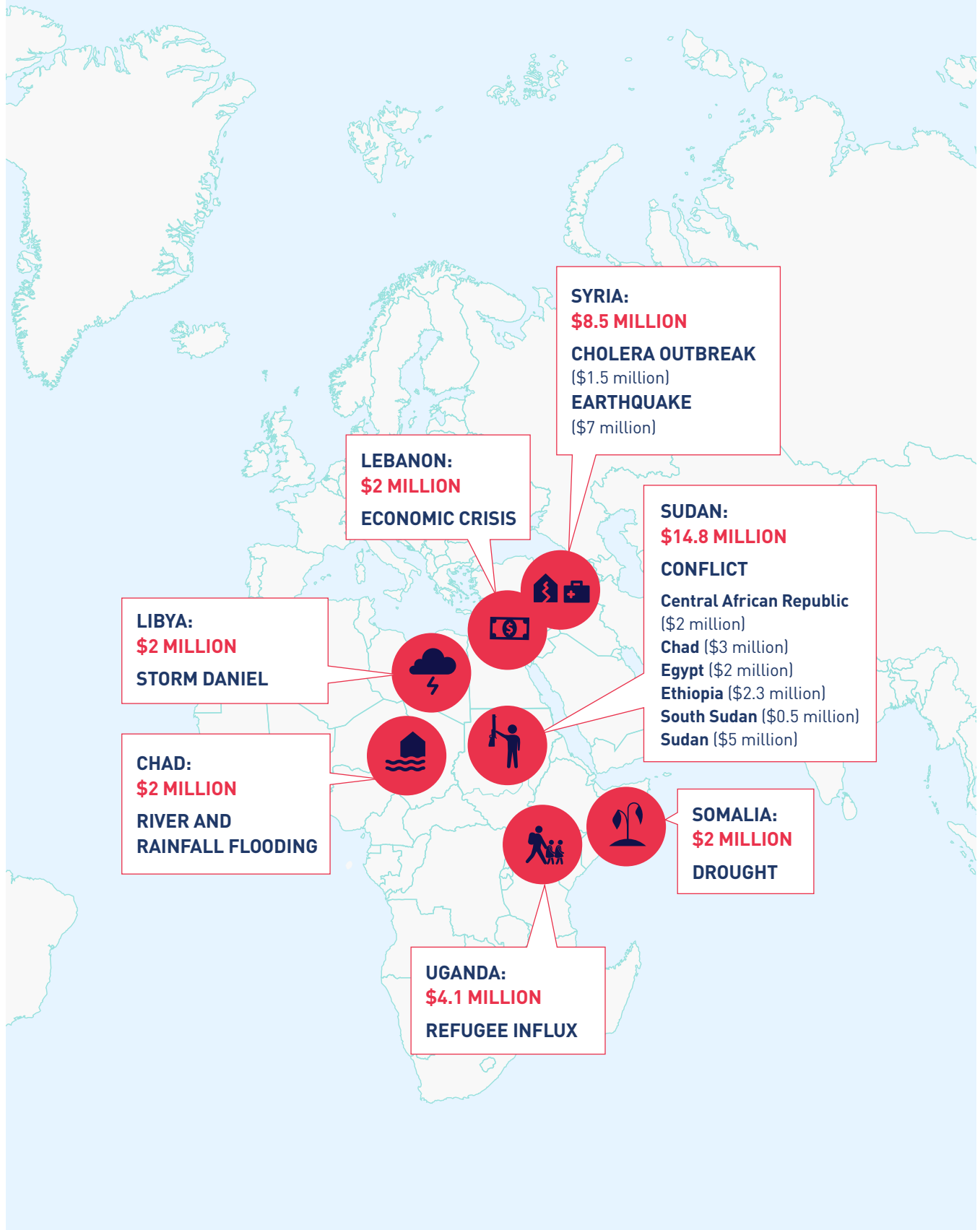
**\$35.4
MILLION**

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 between 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 goods³ within the Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises (EiEPC) ecosystem. Through the AF, ECW works with partners 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.

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 maximise impact through higher value, multi-year AF investments. The average approved AF grant has increased in value from \$209,000⁴ in 2022⁵ 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 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. In addition, 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 and Open Calls for Proposals process. In 2023, these Open Calls for Proposals focused on challenges related to Gender and Disability Inclusion, and 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 emerging innovative best practices, for example, supporting the [Nordic Roadmap for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#).

³ ECW defines 'global public goods' as both products and entities.

⁴ \$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.

⁵ 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

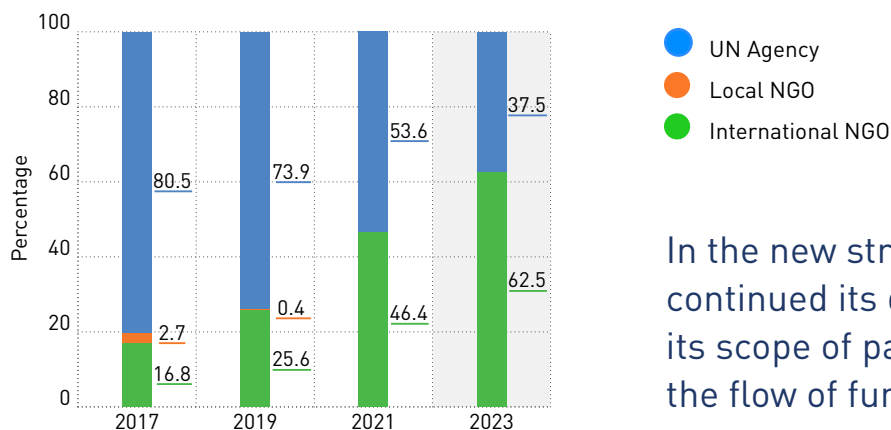
In the new strategic period, ECW continued its dedication to broadening the scope of partners and to diversify the flow of funds to them. When ECW started its programmes in 2016/2017, UN agencies received 80% or more of total ECW funding while receiving less than half of the total number of grants. This implies that average budget envelopes to UN agencies were fewer but much higher in budget size compared to that of NGOs.

Over the years this situation has changed and the funding percentage to UN agencies decreased to 54% in 2021 and 37.5% in 2023. Instead in 2023, NGOs received most or 62.5% of the overall funding. Especially for MYRPs, the average funding for each envelope to INGOs increased from some \$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 education in emergencies and protracted crises. Part of this localization and community participation commitment is analysing the participation and flows of funding to national/local partners, including local women organizations, organizations for people with disabilities, and refugee-led organizations. ECW's strategic plan indicator 12, that 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 on in ECW's annual results report when data becomes available.

62.5%
Percentage of the overall funding received by NGOs in 2023.

FIGURE 1. Allocation of ECW funding by type of organization



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

6 Residual deviations from ARR 22 result from approved cost extensions.

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 girls, boys 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).

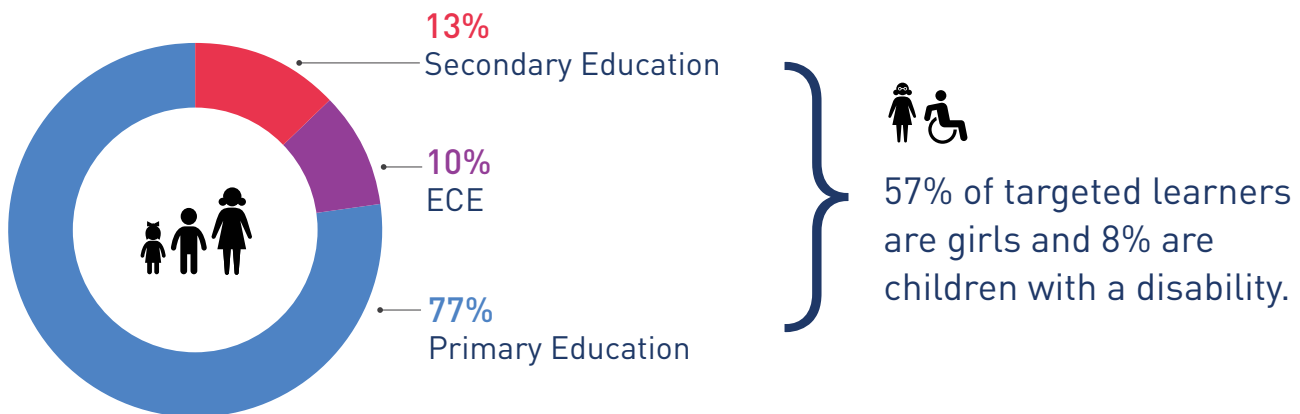
Combining the 1.1 million girls, boys and adolescents targeted by newly-approved programmes in 2023, with the approximate 5.1 million (3.83 million via MYRPs and 1.22 million via FERs) of already target learners from existing programmes active in 2023, implies a targeted reach of about 6.2 million when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

Linking these figures to ECW's reach targets in the strategic plan (11.9 million reach for FERs and 7.6 million reach for MYRPs) estimates that the average number of children targeted is on-track for MYRPs and off-track for FERs. As FERs are a response to a sudden onset crisis, on average, more children 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 cost-per-child, thereby maintaining current budgetary levels. A combination is also possible. However, the result of the latter approach would result into shorter or a less comprehensive set of education support to each learner and their learning space.

Like previous years, the vast majority – or 77% – of girls, boys and adolescent children targeted by the programmes approved in 2023 are or shall be going to the primary education level. As aimed for, 10% of children are or shall go to early childhood education, and 13% shall or are going to secondary education (see figure 2 below). FERs focus more on learners at the primary education level compared to MYRPs whereby 5% and 15% of learners are targeted at Early Childhood Education (ECE) and secondary education level, respectively. MYRPs on the contrary have a bigger focus on pre-primary education as 15% of the children targeted are or will be going to ECE, and 10% to secondary education levels. Only minor one percentual differences of girls targeted exist between education levels.

1.1 MILLION girls, boys and adolescents aimed to be reached with the 4 MYRPS and 13 FERS approved in 2023.

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

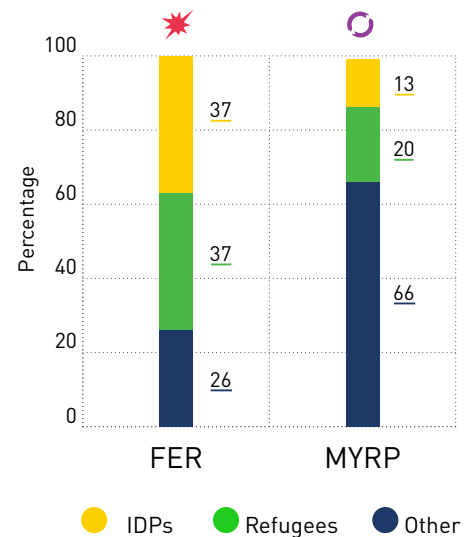


With many of the approved programmes responding to forced migration, most targeted learners are displaced populations, with 30% targeted learners being refugees and 27% Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The target for IDPs is twice as high as the actual 13% of IDPs reached by ECW funded programmes during its 2018-2022 strategic plan. Substantial differences exist in the targeted population groups between the MYRP and FER portfolio in 2023 and years before that. This is partly explained by the purpose of both programme modalities and the specific countries and crises to which programmes were approved in 2023. The FERs aim to focus on sudden onset or acute emergencies that often lead to displaced populations that require education support within their own or in other often 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 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 a MYRP are learners with a disability. In FERs 8% of learners targeted 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.

2.1

Budget per child

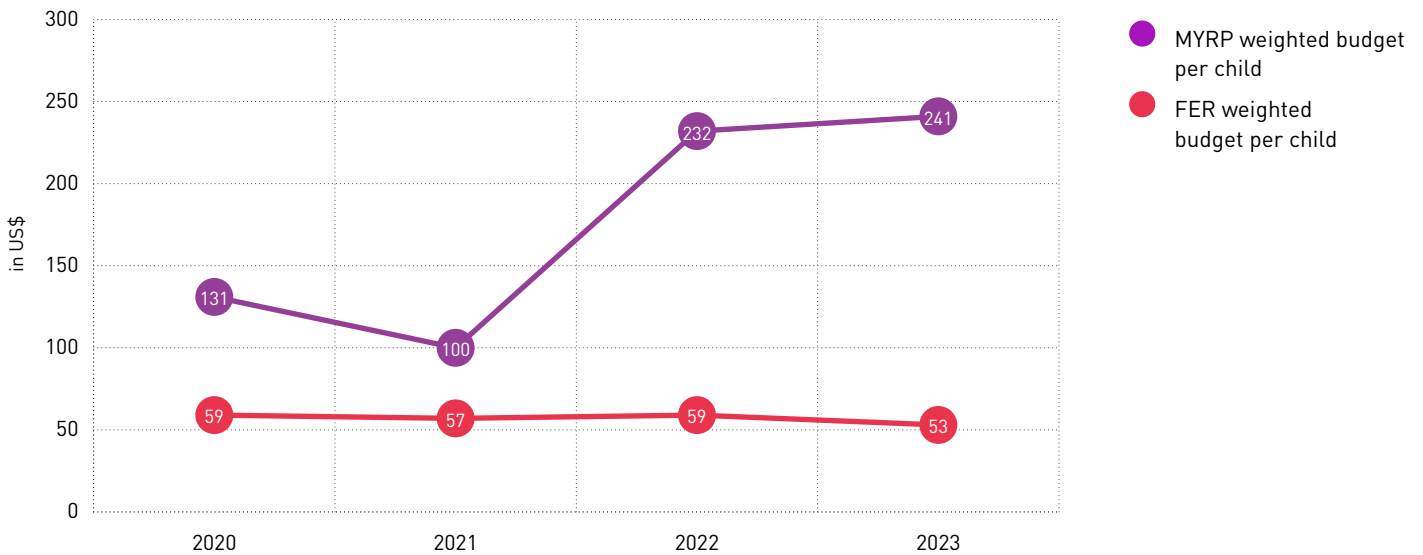
The amount of funding budgeted per child remains similar compared to 2022. A 3-year MYRP developed in 2023 budgets on average \$241 per child. A 2023 developed FER budgets \$53 per child and has an average duration of 13 months. It is important to understand that between a FER and a MYRP, the depth and breadth of support provided to a learner is different. The MYRP provides a longer and more holistic support package to learners, teachers, and learning spaces so to become more resilient and better able to cope in a protracted crisis setting. The purpose of the FER is to, as quickly as possible, restore the education function so that learners lose out as little as possible on their education.

The average budget size of a MYRP developed in 2023 is \$28.6 million, two million more than the \$26.6 million of MYRPs developed in 2022. 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 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 FER developed in 2023

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



2.2

The Gender Imperative

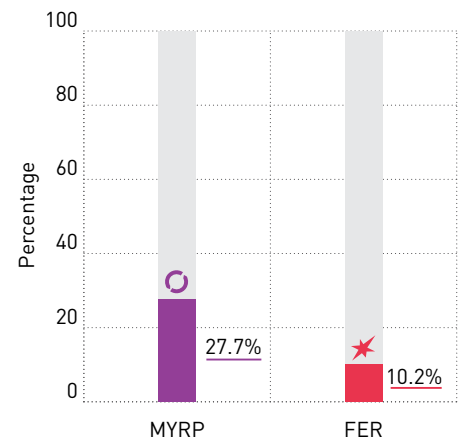
ECW launched a new [Gender Policy and Accountability Framework](#) in 2023, making gender equality a core principle in the Secretariat's work. This policy aligns with UN and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) frameworks to promote gender equality in education during emergencies and protracted crises.

ECW aims to achieve this through a two-pronged approach. First, through integrating gender considerations into all programmes. Secondly, 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 targeted interventions by 2026.

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 FERs 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 costs in 2022.

2.3

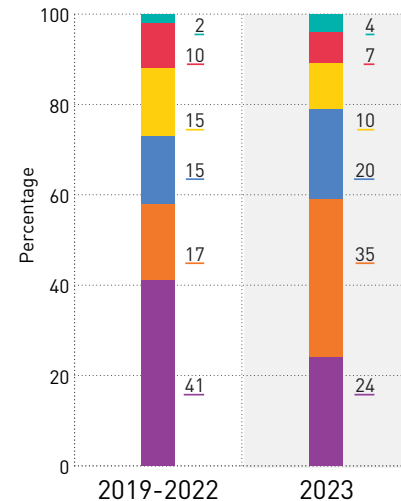
Allocations by education outcome

Looking at monetary flows to achieve education outcome results for girls, boys and adolescents provides useful information on the type of education activities that ECW programmes are focusing on. Recognizing that many education activities towards, 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.

Comparing MYRPs that were developed during the previous strategic plan with the new strategic plan in 2023⁶ shows that, proportionally, more funding is going toward achieving inclusive, gender-equitable and holistic learning and well-being (35% in 2023 vs. 17% between 2019-2022). This is especially the case for MYRPs that are renewed in South Sudan and Uganda that target by and large 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 as well as continue their education by moving to the next level, or from a non-formal education programme to the more formal government-led education system. These MYRPs were characterized by the creation of safe learning environments via school, classroom and WASH facility construction, the procurement of furniture, and teaching and learning equipment, contracting and remuneration of teachers, school transportation, or school feeding. The renewed MYRPs, on the contrary, focus on maintaining learning spaces, the quality of education provision, and making sure that those left furthest behind equally participate in 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.

Increased funding to the “equity” aspect shows 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, refugees or internally displaced – 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 the textbox 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

Comparing MYRPs that were developed during the previous strategic plan with 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% in 2023 vs. 17% between 2019-2022).

6 Afghanistan, Myanmar, South Sudan, and Uganda.

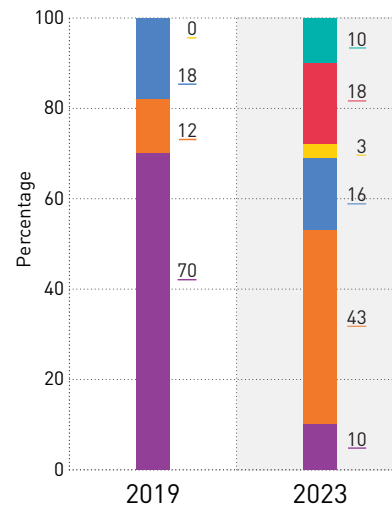
BOX 2. South Sudan MYRP



© AVSI

The \$40 million MYRP for South Sudan was approved in June 2023 and is being implemented for 3 years by Save the Children, Finn Church Aid, and the Norwegian Refugee Council. It is the second phase of the MYRP, and the figure below 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 approach for girls and boys with disabilities, girl learners, and pregnant girls and young mothers are emphasized in the MYRP document via 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 physical access support and distribution of mobility and assistive devices for girls and boys with disabilities. Gender-responsive and disability-inclusive teacher professional development activities including training on gender-based violence, mental health and psychosocial support, child protection, and climate readiness, as well as wellbeing support for teachers, 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 rollout the Ministry'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, 2019 and 2023, South Sudan



- Resource mobilization
- Systems strengthening
- Safety and Protection
- Equity
- Learning
- Access and Continuity

2.4

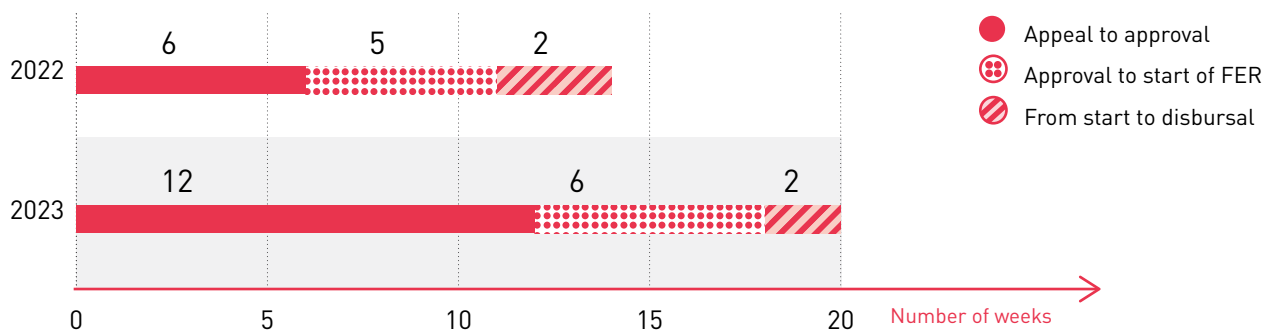
Timeliness of the First Emergency Response

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 first emergency response programme within 12 weeks of a humanitarian appeal date. Figure 8 depicts the distribution of time taken 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 15 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 proposal approval increased by 6 weeks compared to 2022, reaching an average of 12 weeks. Conversely, the period from the start of a programme to fund disbursement decreased by almost 2 weeks for FERs developed in 2023 compared to those developed in 2022, indicating a more streamlined and quicker process to disburse funding internally.

FIGURE 8. FERs timeline across its design stages



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

- **Responding to evolving crises:** FERs are utilized in already protracted situations with limited local capacity and resources. Humanitarian appeals such as Humanitarian Response Plans are more planned compared to appeals that are a response to an acute disaster. This makes them less relevant to count against the timeliness of the disbursement indicator. FERs that respond to these economic or on-going crisis 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 the contracting stage.

Ali, 18, 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 an 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, & 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 matters. 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:** While there exists a trade-off between speed and quality within FER development, efforts to meet the 12-week FER timeline will continue. This focus on efficiency ensures faster support reaches those in need 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 girls, boys, and adolescents. The learnings and capacity built through these pilots will serve to strengthen the entire sector's approach to anticipatory action in the future.

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

ECW shall 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 Center 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 center is ensuring young women who have had to drop out of school due to early pregnancies are provided with holistic support as they reintegrate back into the education system.



ECW and its partners will continue to leverage the MYRPs as anchors for sector-wide approaches in EIEPC and plans to disburse around \$170 million in total 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), DRC, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, and Syria. The new MYRP for Ukraine, launched in 2023, will be approved beginning of 2024. ECW plans for 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.

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

- **Prioritizing the urgent education needs of crisis-affected girls, boys and adolescents:** MYRPs will be designed with the specific needs of each context and learner in mind, ensuring our 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:
 - Localisation
 - Gender Transformation and Girls' Empowerment
 - Climate Resilience
 - Strengthening Nexus Coherence
 - Inclusion
- **Leveraging the expertise of a wider range of partners:** By utilizing a 'consortium approach', ECW will tap into the diverse skillsets and experiences of a broader partner base, fostering innovation and effectiveness.
- **Building upon best practices and lessons learned:** ECW remains committed to continuous improvement. We will rely on our partners and ongoing monitoring to identify opportunities for programme re-design, ensuring we adapt to evolving contexts and maximize the value we deliver.
- **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 girls, boys, and adolescents. For instance, the Acceleration Facility's 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.

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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 Call to Action on Disability Inclusion', ECW shall 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 so that it can report on it 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, we empower girls, boys, and adolescents to access safe quality education, thereby fostering a brighter tomorrow. ECW is confident that by working collaboratively with our partners, it can effectively address the urgent education needs of learners caught in crisis situations around the world. ECW encourages its partners and donors to embrace this shift as we work together to achieve lasting change – and looks forward to partnering with you in this exciting new way forward.



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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	CAR	\$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

-  First Emergency Response
-  Acceleration Facility
-  Multi-Year Resilience Programme

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
CAR	\$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
DRC		\$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, UN 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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