

**Education Cannot Wait  
Frequently Asked Questions  
DRAFT – 16 February 2017**

**About ECW:**

**Why the need to create a fund like Education Cannot Wait?**

- **Because children and their families want an education** and available funding consistently fails to reflect this prioritization. Crisis-affected communities cite the intrinsic value of education and the added benefits in terms of protection, resilience, recovery, stability and livelihoods.
- **Because the education needs of children and youth are often the last consideration when a crisis erupts, an afterthought following food, water, shelter and protection.** In 35 countries affected by emergencies and protracted crises, 75 million children need educational support, 17 million of whom are school-age refugees, internally displaced, and other populations of concern. Yet, a staggering finance gap of US\$8.5 billion a year means that 37 million children are likely to remain out of school.
- **Because education accounts for a small fraction of humanitarian aid.** Within UN-coordinated appeals, education has become increasingly underfunded. In 2015, the education sector received just one-third of its requested amount (31% or US\$197.4 million) compared with two-thirds in 2005 (66% or US\$189.1 million). Despite a 126% increase in requirements for education over the 11-year period, funding increased by just 4% (US\$8.3 million).
- **Because silos between the humanitarian, development and security sectors currently fail to respond to the challenges presented by protracted crises.** Today's crises are not short term with people spending on average 17 years in displacement, yet most funding is provided through short-term humanitarian appeals.
- **Because greater capacity to lead and deliver education and recovery efforts is needed, both nationally and internationally.** Three key gaps need to be addressed to strengthen education response in crisis: inadequate capacity for response, lack of coherence across assessment and planning, and poor data collection and use.
- **Because education is instrumental to economic development and social stability.** Many of the 35 countries affected by crisis are in regions that are driving global economic growth. Yet the economic strength of these regions can be compromised by the lack of an educated workforce and the instability caused by mass migration and forced displacement.

**Why invest in ECW?**

ECW will bring together a fragmented system. It will better safeguard humanitarian and development investments by modelling and informing best practice. It will protect gains made by partners in education and will combine humanitarian and development interventions to contribute to medium and long-term development goals. It offers a catalytic investment designed to deliver early, cost-effective results while building for the future.

**How does ECW add value within the current existing development and humanitarian architecture?**

Rather than create a new institution and more fragmentation, ECW brings together the expertise, energy and capabilities of a range of actors. The two financing mechanisms – an Acceleration Facility and a Breakthrough Fund – provide clear added value by making investments to allow more children to benefit from education and learning and improving the existing architecture so that it becomes more than the sum of its parts. They will enable agencies to do more of what they currently do well,

while mobilizing and disbursing new funds and leveraging additional support for greater efficiency and collaboration. The flexibility built into the proposal will enable financing to be calibrated against the needs and circumstances of individual countries and specific crises.

### **How much money has been mobilized to date for ECW?**

Launched at the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit, Education Cannot Wait has galvanized an initial commitment of US \$113.4 million from Dubai Cares, the European Commission, the governments of Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The Global Business Coalition for Education announced the mobilization of USD \$100 million in financial and relevant in-kind contributions for Education Cannot Wait.

### **How much money do we need to get all children in school and learning by 2030?**

Expanding global education opportunity to meet SDG 4 and progress towards what the Education Commission calls “The Learning Generation” requires an unprecedented increase in the level of education finance to \$3 trillion by 2030. Money alone won’t suffice – such an expansion also requires reforming education systems to improve results and efficiency so that every dollars delivers real learning.

### **Where will this money come from?**

1. **Official Development Assistance (ODA):** While the vast majority of financing must come from developing countries themselves, international financing continues to play an important and can be leveraged to increase domestic spending to education.
2. **Multilateral development banks (MDBs):** MDBs have the power to leverage up to \$20 billion of extra funding for education annually.
3. **The Global Partnership for Education (GPE):** The GPE<sup>1</sup> is carrying out a major set of reforms and, if they are successful, their financing should increase to \$2 billion per year by 2020 and \$4 billion per year by 2030. This would make the work of the GPE equivalent in scale of financing to the levels the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria receives today.
4. **Education Cannot Wait (ECW):** ECW will mobilize resources from both public and private sector partners to reach \$3.85 billion by 2020. Nearly a quarter of the world’s children and young now live in conflict or disaster-stricken countries. As the world’s out of school children become increasingly concentrated in these areas- the fund will transform the potential for delivering education in the world’s most complex and dangerous environments.
5. **Domestic Resource Mobilization:** calls for low- and middle-income countries to increase domestic public expenditures on education from an estimated \$1 trillion in 2015 to \$2.7 trillion by 2030, or from 4 to 5.8 percent of GDP, requiring an annual rate of growth in public education spending of 7 percent.

### **How do ECW and GPE differ or overlap?**

GPE and ECW are complementary initiatives, essential for achieving quality education for all children, especially the most marginalised. GPE works closely with developing partner governments to provide core funding and support for sustained improvement in the education sector. ECW aims to provide targeted interventions in forgotten crises, focussing on the most underserved communities, working across humanitarian and development stakeholders. Both initiatives are paramount to reaching the breadth of communities and contexts that children grow up in.

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<sup>1</sup> 61 countries are eligible for GPE support, 41 countries received financing in 2014, all but one are LICs/LMICs. (it says 65 on their website/ 61 according to the Commission report)

GPE and ECW grants differ in both length and scope. For example, most GPE budget support is for a period of 5 years, whereas ECW grants are shorter and intended to address an immediate gap/need. ECW recipients therefore need to include transition plans for more sustained provision of education. Wherever possible this provision should come from the government, through domestic financing or support from organisations like GPE. GPE is operational in 65 LICs and LMICs worldwide, primarily working through governmental infrastructure. ECW's footprint is likely to be smaller and will often work in environments – where government infrastructure is poor or non-existent – ineligible for GPE funding. In contexts where GPE is present, ECW will play a complementary role, by channelling money to those children that may be beyond the reach of the education sector, for example refugees.

### **How is ECW governed?**

ECW is under the stewardship of a High Level Steering Group (HLSG). The HLSG includes 12-16 principals from organizations, including 3-5 bilateral donor ministerial representatives or agency heads (initially EU, UK, USA, Norway and Canada); 2-3 senior ministers, including current or former heads of state from crisis-affected countries (initially Lebanon and Tanzania); the heads of UNICEF, UNESCO, GPE, UNHCR and the UN Special Envoy; a private sector CEO or sector leader; a private foundation head (Dubai Cares); the head of an NGO (Save the Children, alternate Plan International); and the head of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies. The Terms of Reference for the HLSG are available [online](#).

### **How will ECW report on its results?**

A single Annual Report will be prepared by the ECW Secretariat which will set out results achieved during that period.

### **Can support provided to ECW be earmarked to specific countries or issues?**

Funding from the two mechanisms, the Acceleration Facility and the Breakthrough Fund can involve limited earmarking by contributors, allowing specific contributions to be applied to programmes that meet agreed criteria.

### **How can the private sector, foundation or philanthropies support ECW?**

Education Cannot Wait encourages the widest range of partners to participate in reaching all children whose education is interrupted because of emergency and protracted crises. Collaboration across sectors, funders and society is needed to have a lasting impact on the education and learning of the most vulnerable children. The [Global Business Coalition for Education \(GBC-Ed\)](#) has identified the following practical ways in which businesses, foundations and philanthropists can support ECW:

- **Contribute Financial Resources:** The private sector can provide philanthropic contributions ECW so that it can respond immediately in an emergency. Companies could contribute to ECW or to specific emergencies. We encourage companies to creatively identify ways to engage in mobilizing resources, including through their corporate social responsibility or philanthropic initiatives, customer contributions, or employee and external matching campaigns.
- **Donate In-kind Services or Products:** Companies can provide core business assets, including the deployment of products and services as well as human resources to operationalize the ECW's activities, and provide support to address barriers to education post-emergency.
- **Sign Up for an Innovation Team:** GBC-Education will work with ECW to pinpoint specific challenges and form targeted, short-term business task teams to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the identification of specific, relevant and transformative solutions.

- **Join the Corporate CEO Challenge:** Business leaders can provide thought, political, and community leadership to jumpstart and accelerate progress. CEOs engaging with ECW can challenge their corporate peers to join them and match their efforts.

### **Can any company or organization support Education Cannot Wait?**

As ECW is hosted by UNICEF, any company interested in supporting ECW must meet UNICEF's screening criteria for corporate due diligence. Exclusion applies to sectors that are harmful to children, such as tobacco or gambling, as well as companies involved in major violations of international sustainability standards. Exclusion from funding engagement also applies to companies that are directly responsible for unethical business practices and to companies with an indirect interest or influence over such practices (i.e., when implicated through a parent company/subsidiary with an ownership level that is greater than 20 per cent).

### **How can I, as an individual, support ECW?**

Individual support was galvanized at the launch of the fund in May 2016, when over 250,000 million citizens worldwide signed a petition calling on world leaders to support and invest in ECW. This contribution, facilitated largely by a wide range of civil society groups, played a critical role in generating initial investments of \$113.4 million from donor governments. Acting as powerful local advocates for the fund, individuals will continue to play a unique and invaluable role in raising awareness of the value of education in emergencies, the impact of critical underfunding and the catalytic effects of investing in the ECW fund. The Education Cannot Wait website and #EducationCannotWait will provide platforms for individual supporters to continue their engagement, in order to generate the essential political, operational and financial commitments.

### **Are there matched funding schemes available and how will they work?**

Matched funding offers potential to engage with a wide range of non-traditional contributors including companies and their employees. The ECW Secretariat welcomes expressions of interest from match-funders who would like to engage (email: [info@educationcannotwait.org](mailto:info@educationcannotwait.org))

### **How will those providing support to ECW be recognized or given visibility?**

The ECW Secretariat will develop branding guidelines, including guidelines for recognition of partners and donors.

### **The working modalities of ECW:**

#### **How will ECW provide financial support?**

ECW will provide financial support to through two mechanisms:

1. First response programmes (6 – 24 months) and multi-year (3-5 years) support to countries where emergencies and protracted crises have disrupted education and learning and targeted programmes to improve delivery of education and learning. This will be funded from a window referred to as the "Breakthrough Fund" and make up 95% of all allocations;
2. Global or regional programmes designed to increase the scale, efficiency and effectiveness of existing humanitarian and development initiatives including evidence, policy and delivery. This will be funded from a window referred to as the "Acceleration Facility" accounting for the remaining 5% of allocations.

### **When will the fund's mechanisms be formally developed?**

Following ECW's official launch at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, ECW is now establishing its legal, strategic and operational framework. This includes:

- **A comparative analysis**, to map and summarize existing fund distribution / grant modalities and other financing mechanisms, draw out current good practices and challenges associated with current pooled funding mechanisms, and implications for ECW's complementarity
- **Design of the funding 'windows'**:
  - A First-response Window to funding initial time critical interventions that can be implemented in less than a year to support safe, quality education as well as improve education planning.
  - A Multi-year Window to support longer-term education plans and transitional plans (of up to five years).
  - A Pop-up Window to allow donors to channel financial support to a specific country, region or issue, quickly and easily.
- **An Operational framework**, setting out the parameters for each of the funding windows and their interlinkages;
- **A Grants Implementation Mechanism**, inclusive of applicant eligibility criteria, with options for how applications will be assessed and prioritized.
- **Results frameworks**; setting out yearly as well as five year milestones, outcome and output targets; mid-level - setting out yearly indicators and milestones against each of the outcomes and outputs;
- **A Costed workplan**; setting out indicative support requirements.

### **What sort of system is in place to hold different actor accountable?**

Accountability for use of funds from ECW rests with recipients, as set out in the following documents:

- a) a Standard Contribution Agreement between contributors and UNICEF as Fund Custodian and Administrator; and
- b) a Standard Grant Letter between Education Cannot Wait and fund recipients, describing the accountabilities of the fund's governance entity (a High Level Steering Group), the ECW Secretariat, UNICEF as Fund Custodian and Administrator and recipients.

### **As host of ECW, can UNICEF receive funds from ECW?**

UNICEF is eligible to be a Grantee of ECW. To avoid possible conflict of interest, the following measures have been put in place:

- a) Allocations from the Fund will be determined by the HLSG which is independent of UNICEF;
- b) The Secretariat will arrange for advice to be provided to the HLSG from persons who are independent of UNICEF and acceptable to the HLSG;
- c) The Secretariat will be operationally independent of UNICEF's programme and resource mobilization services (while being supported by UNICEF's centrally administered functions including human resources, finance, legal and audit).

### **UNICEF and ECW:**

#### **Why was UNICEF selected to host ECW on an interim basis?**

UNICEF offered to host ECW on an interim basis in order to get ECW up and running. This decision was based on UNICEF's track record of successfully managing new initiatives with separate identities and governance arrangements, which work on behalf of children for the realisation of their rights,

including GAVI, UNITLIFE and the Global Partnership for Ending Violence Against Children. ECW will operate independently of other UNICEF units and offices but its objectives are well aligned to UNICEF's own strategic priorities.

#### **What are the legal and financial structures of ECW?**

UNICEF is the Funds Custodian and Administrator (FCA) of the Education Cannot Wait Fund. As such, UNICEF will receive and manage contributions to the ECW Fund, and operate the Fund, in accordance with a Standard Contribution Agreement (SCA). UNICEF has established a special account under its Financial Regulations and Rules, and agrees to undertake the activities contemplated in the SCA, on the understanding that UNICEF is accountable for funds while on deposit in the Fund and that the Government, organizations and entities receiving disbursements from the Fund for implementation of programmes will have full and exclusive programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them from the Fund.

Any Government or other entity wishing to make a contribution to the Fund may do so by entering into the SCA established by UNICEF, and transferring funds in accordance with the SCA. In order to promote equality among all contributors and facilitate efficient administration of ECW, the SCA shall not be the subject of negotiation or amendment.

#### **How will a permanent host be identified?**

A process to identify a permanent host will be initiated 12 months after operation of the fund. Criteria to inform permanent hosting arrangements will be agreed by the Fund's High Level Steering Group.

#### **How does the fund align with the Global Partnership for Education?**

GPE has played a vital technical and advocacy role in the establishment of the fund and is a member of the HLSG. ECW is designed to be complimentary to GPE's existing operations and to integrate easily with systems support already flowing to crisis countries through their programming.

#### **ECW Initial Investments:**

##### **What initial investments can be expected from ECW? And by when?**

The ECW High Level Steering Group agreed that 3-4 initial investments will be announced during the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the United National General Assembly in September 2016, with disbursement of funds commencing in early 2017. These investments will enable ECW to make an immediate contribution to address the interruption of education and learning, and provide evidence of its value added in supporting areas of work that fall between the gap of humanitarian and development financing, as well as leverage other resources at both the global and the country level.

With a key focus on refugee contexts, these investments will contribute to two of the four objectives of the Leaders' Summit on Refugees:

- increase humanitarian financing by 30 percent this year; and
- increase the number of refugee children enrolled in school by one million

*NB: As the fund's operational and results framework will only be in place by early 2017, the process for initial investments is exceptional. Invitations to submit concept notes have been issued to education sector coordination bodies (including but not limited to governments/Local Education*

*Groups, refugee coordination groups, country level clusters, and education in emergency working groups). As strengthened coordination is a key intent of the initial investments, education sector coordination bodies are expected to lead the collaboration between partners and government in choosing the appropriate intervention for support from ECW.*

**Can commitments at the Leaders' Summit on Refugees count towards ECW? If yes, how will these commitments be counted and monitored?**

ECW will announce 3-4 initial investments of approx. US\$15m each during the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the UNGA in September 2016. With a key focus on refugee contexts, these investments will contribute to the expected outcomes of the Leaders' Summit on Refugees and the UN High Level Summit to address large movements of refugees and migrants.

**Can governments receive funds from ECW?**

For ECW's initial investments to be announced in September 2016, it is expected that only humanitarian and development partners including international non-governmental organizations, international agencies and registered non-governmental organizations can serve as Grantee. This does not preclude governments from participating (and receiving funding) if there is a role for government in implementation as envisaged in any Grantee's proposal. Grantees will have exclusive accountability for implementation of activities.

**Are conventional consortiums allowed – for example a lead NGO working in consortium with several NGOs?**

Conventional consortiums are allowed. However, there should be one Grantee (signatory to a Grant Confirmation Letter) which shall exclusively be accountable for implementation of activities which the High Level Steering Group has authorized support from the Fund.

**What type of programming or examples of interventions is the fund looking for? What is the scope for creativity, or are the proposals looking for very standard EiE interventions?**

Each proposal should meet objectives and criteria set out by the High Level Steering Group. It is expected that in the first five years of operation, ECW will support early learning through to secondary, including higher secondary and vocational levels. Each proposal will require careful planning based on context and ability to deliver results as envisaged by Education Cannot Wait.

**Other questions:**

**What is the link between No Lost Generation and ECW?**

Similar to the framework for ECW, No Lost Generation is embedded within existing planning and coordination structures and brings together key partners to achieve agreed outcomes essential for the education of children and young people affected by the Syria and Iraq conflicts. ECW is complementary to the work of NLG in its vision to strengthen and scale up delivery of quality education in humanitarian crisis. While No Lost Generation is a strategic framework for the responses to the Syria and Iraq Crises, ECW expands this remit to include crisis-affected children and youth globally. Both ECW and NLG are aligned in their calls to address both humanitarian and development needs in education through increased funding, strengthened coordination and strategic shifts to secure lasting, long-term results.