



**EDUCATION
CANNOT
WAIT** a fund for education
in emergencies

INVESTING IN HUMANITY

Understanding the Fund's Added Value

A NEW WAY OF WORKING: HUMANITARIAN SPEED WITH DEVELOPMENT DEPTH

Deprived of their childhood, education and preparation for a productive adulthood, an estimated 75 million children and youth are currently denied the opportunity to transform their suffering and resilience into productive lives. Yet, education in emergencies falls between the cracks in humanitarian aid, leaving education dramatically underfunded, while development aid alone cannot cope with crisis. This has to change: investing in humanity means investing in human capital.

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), launched under the banner of the **Agenda for Humanity**, marked a shift in global, strategic, political and financial approaches to humanitarian crises. Despite increased spending, strengthened response capacities and technologies, and greater access to political actors, humanitarian crises were increasing, protracted crises saw no end, and recovery/development was slow to take hold.

The WHS committed to a new way of doing business in emergencies and crises:

- Cooperation and collaboration instead of competition;
- Coordination to end fragmentation;
- Closing the gap between the humanitarian, development, peace & security pillars;
- Placing women and girls at the forefront;
- Leaving no one behind;
- Localization and national ownership; and,
- Financing for humanity.

In line with the WHS transformative *Agenda for Humanity*, ECW's added value and the meaning of **Humanitarian Speed with Development Depth** can be summarized under the following 3 headings:

- 1. Less Bureaucracy – More Accountability**
- 2. Bridges Relief to Development during Emergencies and Crises**
- 3. Translates WHS Vision into Action**

1. LESS BUREAUCRACY – MORE ACCOUNTABILITY

HERE IS HOW:

- ECW is **uniquely lean and agile**. Its secretariat is composed of twelve staff with the combined capacity of crisis, recovery and development expertise in emergencies. The team of senior staff brings together long experience from across the multilateral system, such as the UN humanitarian, development, gender, human rights and peace & security arms, the World Bank, NGOs and bilateral donor partners. The combined expertise in crisis and development, the familiarity with the pillars of the UN architecture, the knowledge of UN rules and regulations, the lean organizational set-up and business processes, and the immediate connection to the field, allow ECW to implement the UN reform agenda in the spirit of “less bureaucracy-more accountability.”
- ECW is **field-driven** and maintains a close and direct connection to both the field and the multilateral coordination architecture in crisis/post-crisis. In translating global commitments to the field-level, ECW staff undertake rapid assessment missions to: (a) familiarize in-country host-governments, UN leadership, implementing and bilateral partners on the ECW core-objectives; (b) serve as a facilitator to strengthen coordination, collaboration and a holistic approach to education; and, (c) offer technical support in programme development, alongside strengthened monitoring of results.
- **ECW’s design is geared at value for money.** A lean and cost-effective structure, it focuses on implementation and impact. All functions of the ECW secretariat are inextricably linked under a strong due diligence framework geared towards results. Given its small size and agility, performance is measured on an individual basis at frequent intervals. Results-based management mechanisms are linked to individual performance reports, which are directly linked to the ECW objectives and targets. Similarly, the ECW results-and-resource frameworks (RRF) are based on strong data analysis, which is reflected in sharp indicators designed to report on outcomes. The global RRF connects directly to the RRF’s at national level. Performance and results are monitored, addressed and reported on in a speedy, transparent and effective manner, assessed through external audits and transparently shared with stakeholders through active and regular engagement with its governance structure and annual reports.

- ECW is **crisis-sensitive** and its focus lies on crisis-affected children and youth: refugees, internally displaced, crisis-affected and host-communities. At the same time, ECW ensures that linkages are made to national planning efforts and national ownership. In pursuing a crisis-sensitive response, ECW adopts a protection-lens and 'do-no-harm' principles, and pays particular attention to the challenges faced by communities affected or displaced by sudden onsets of natural disasters and epidemics, or by systematic and widespread violations of international law in armed conflict. In the same vein, ECW is mindful of the challenges faced by national systems and institutions, which are either unable or unwilling to offer protection and ensure the basic right to education.
- ECW has **flexible funding modalities**. This allows ECW to invest in a wide range of partners, including governments, UN agencies, international and local NGOs who have undergone HACT assessment, all the way down to grassroots level. As a result, ECW plays an instrumental and catalytic role in supporting the WHS localization agenda - **the Grand Bargain** - which is geared at resilience and empowerment at all levels and ensures inclusive national ownership.



2.

BRIDGES RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT DURING EMERGENCIES AND CRISES

HERE IS HOW:

- ECW provides **rapid First Response at the onset or escalation of crisis** (armed conflict, natural disasters and epidemics) and speedily deploys **Multi-Year frameworks in protracted crises**. As such, ECW ensures that SDG4 and the right to quality education is delivered without delay to crisis-affected populations in a practical and measurable manner at the local level during the crisis. In parallel, ECW works with partners in driving implementation of SDG4 at the institutional level through the recovery phase until development takes hold.
- Rapid First Responses adopt a UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)-like **response for the most immediate and urgent needs as a crisis suddenly occurs or escalates**. The First Response is invoked immediately at the outbreak of a crisis, and funds are delivered within three to four weeks of its onset. For protracted crisis, Multi-Year frameworks are rolled out within eight weeks. Designed to link with national plans (where these exist), multi-year frameworks are **tailored to address immediate and urgent needs alongside recovery and development needs** in a mutually reinforcing fashion.
- Bridging the relief-development gap also requires bringing humanitarian and development actors together around the same table to jointly conduct planning and implementation. It warrants a shared set of principles, a common coordination structure, the consolidation of expertise, and a clear division of labour at the outset to ensure accountability. In this vein, **ECW pursues a whole-of-system approach, and recognizes the comparative advantages of both humanitarian and development actors**.
- By situating ECW within the broader UN multilateral coordination structures for humanitarian and recovery response, ECW optimizes in-country expertise and experience, tapping into the added value of development actors during a humanitarian response. Thanks to its agile structure, field-experienced staff, and connections to the on-the-ground teams through the UN humanitarian/recovery architecture, ECW is able to **move with speed, rapidly mobilize and work across the humanitarian/recovery system** to achieve development depth.
- **ECW leverages the multilateral coordination architecture through Multi-Year frameworks for joint programming**. As the WHS concluded, traditional humanitarian responses based on a one year-cycle of funding have failed to address the root-cause, bridge relief to development and create predictable and sustainable financing for protracted crises. Conversely, traditional development approaches have proven ineffective amidst crisis situations marked by armed conflict, forced displacement and other widespread violations of international law, as well as weakened state- and other institutions. ECW's crisis-sensitive multi-year frameworks enable an interdependent approach, ensuring that the **immediate humanitarian crisis-response is designed as a stepping stone for recovery towards development**.

3. TRANSLATES WHS VISION INTO ACTION

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) was established against the backdrop of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). The goal for ECW is to cater to an estimated 75 million children and youth living on the margins of crisis-affected societies. ECW adopts an approach that is aligned with the **WHS responsibilities** for change and a new way of doing business.

HERE IS HOW:

WHS GOAL #1

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO PREVENT AND END CONFLICT:

By mobilizing collective commitment and unified determination through the ECW High-Level Steering Group at ministerial and heads of agency level, the multilateral coordination leadership in-country, UN Member States and the UN secretariat, regional organizations and national partners, ECW works systematically and strategically to draw attention to education for what it is: a very real investment in human capital. Quality education is central to achieving all the other SDG's; good governance, the rule of law, conflict prevention, peace & security and economic development. Indeed, neglecting education has a direct bearing on the most compelling challenges of our time, and thus requires leadership.

WHS GOAL #2

UPHOLD & RESPECT THE RULES OF WAR:

Education is a basic human right. Education and educational institutions are protected under a comprehensive international legal framework. The deprivation of this right is often connected to systematic violations of international law in crisis environments. ECW takes a rights-based approach to education and advocates for the right to education, as well as the protection of students, teachers and schools. ECW investments also recognize that

protection cuts across access to education, such as the legal and physical security of children and adolescents, and their educational institutions. ECW pays particular attention to gender and the protection of girls, whose loss of education render them particularly vulnerable to domestic and gender-based violence, and further violations and marginalization. This makes it virtually impossible to successfully recover and rebuild a country from crisis, let alone reverse the damage made on a generation of girls and young women.

WHS GOAL #3

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND:

According to the UN Secretary-General's report, *One Humanity: Shared Responsibility*, about half of the world's refugee children are missing out on primary education, and three quarters have no access to secondary education. Considering that the average time for displacement amounts to 17-20 years, young refugees fleeing brutal conflict can easily lose hope in the absence of productive opportunities to shape their future, and risk being exploited. ECW, therefore, prioritizes countries in which the Global Compact for Refugees and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework are being piloted by UNHCR, as this provides a conducive starting-point for Multi-Year support.

WHS GOAL #4

WORK DIFFERENTLY TO END NEED:

Through Multi-Year frameworks, ECW finances and supports joint programming that brings together humanitarian and development actors, empowers national governments, civil society and communities, and transcends the humanitarian-development divide. By applying development principles of national ownership, sustainability and capacity-building during a crisis with greater speed and humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality and independence, ECW serves as a catalyst for humanitarian and development actors to address the full spectrum of needs at grass-roots level and at national levels.

WHS GOAL #5

INVEST IN HUMANITY:

ECW pursues the recommendations of the **High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing**. To this end, ECW's Multi-Year frameworks provide a vehicle for pooled funding against inclusive and clearly designed objectives, outcomes and robust results-frameworks, which leverage the multilateral humanitarian/recovery coordination architecture. ECW also works with emerging and non-traditional donors, and has dedicated capacity to engage specifically with these stakeholders. Private sector organisations and foundations are engaged through strategic partnerships with the Global Business Coalition (GBC-Ed) and Dubai Cares, and are expanding to include philanthropists and other forms of innovative financing.

ECW brings education to the heart of the multilateral humanitarian/recovery system and mobilizes action towards the WHS core responsibilities, which in turn impact humanitarian reform. Investing in ECW is thus a game-changer for the larger multilateral system operating in crises and emergencies. With this mandate, ECW and its partners works with humanitarian speed and development depth to deliver transformative changes through education for the estimated 75 million children and youth in emergencies and crises.



**INVESTING IN THEIR EDUCATION MEANS
INVESTING IN OUR SHARED HUMANITY.**