



Photo: ECW

MULTI-YEAR EDUCATION RESPONSE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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The Central African Republic (CAR) is one of the world's most unstable countries. Widespread violence has had a heavy toll on the population. One in four Central African is uprooted by the conflict and over two-thirds of children need humanitarian assistance. Girls and boys are particularly affected by the violence, with reports of separated children, sexual violence, forced marriage and early pregnancies, and forced recruitment into armed groups. Since 2017, 89 attacks against schools have been reported. Across the country, about 20 per cent of schools remain closed. Today, 485,000 school-aged children in the country are out of school. And only 60% of children who are enrolled in school complete primary school. This rate is even lower at the secondary level. Girls are particularly affected. While very little data is available, it is estimated that only one in four girls in CAR can read and write.

The prevailing instability, population displacements and disruption in salary payments have led to a dire lack of qualified teaching staff. Nationwide, the educational system primarily relies on untrained community teachers. To respond to some of the most pressing needs, in 2017-2018, Education Cannot Wait supported a US\$6 million First Emergency Response. Interventions reached over 100,000 children and youth and included basic literacy and numeracy, early childhood development, vocational training, teacher training, distribution of learning materials and the rehabilitation of facilities and classrooms.

Building on these results, Education Cannot Wait supported the development

of an innovative multi-year response programme seeking to mobilize US\$77.6 million over the next three years. Education Cannot Wait is contributing \$6.5 million in seed funding to kick start operations and catalyze the required resources by additional donors. Education Cannot Wait has also tentatively committed to renewing its initial seed funding for the second and third years of the programme, dependent on results progress and availability of funds.

As part of Education Cannot Wait's efforts to strengthen links between humanitarian and development aid efforts, the programme connects actors from across the government, UN organizations, national and international NGOs and the private sector.

Highlights of Multi-Year Resilience Programme:

- Targets children affected by the crisis – internally displaced, returnee and host communities – with coordinated efforts to increase access to quality education
- Aims to improve retention and ensure education continuity, support women's and girls' protection and promotion of their rights, improve the quality of learning and teaching, establish safe, protective and inclusive learning environments
- Innovative radio education programmes to reach 300,000 girls and boys in remote locations
- Looks to test cash transfer programmes and implement school feeding programmes in 35 schools

BY THE NUMBERS

900,000



Number of girls and boys targeted by the 3-year programme

US\$77.6 MILLION



Resources to mobilize to implement the 3-year programme

US\$6.5 MILLION



ECW seed funding allocation for the first year

360,000 CHILDREN



Number of out-of-school children back in learning environments

90%



Of the nation's out of school children reintegrating into the formal education system

12,000 TEACHERS



Teachers provided with incentives and training

5% YEARLY INCREASE



participation of girls in formal and non-formal education

90,000



Number of girls and boys supported in obtaining official documentation.