

Selection of Grants Management for ECW Funding

In order to reposition education in emergencies and protracted crisis, ECW's delivery at country level is strategically positioned within the multilateral humanitarian coordination system. The strategic value of this positioning is outlined in the ECW Added Value Note, the ECW Strategic Plan and was also recognized by the Mokoro Hosting Review Report. All three documents have been endorsed by the EXCOM and the HLSG.

By optimizing the multilateral humanitarian coordination system specifically designed for emergencies and protracted crisis, ECW can influence humanitarian priority setting to elevate education and ensure access to the thereby linked funding envelopes and humanitarian funding allocations. As the first year of ECW operations also illustrates, development actors and development coordination mechanisms in-country have actively and productively engaged around ECW multi-year programming through established humanitarian coordination mechanisms. In this way, ECW has also begun implementing the 'New Way of Working' and its related development reform to bridge relief and development through joint programming and pooled funding in emergencies and protracted crisis.

The Cluster Coordination system represents the multilateral humanitarian coordination system under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Humanitarian Reform, endorsed by the governments of all EXCOM and HLSG members. Under the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator's leadership, working closely with the Government, UNICEF is the designated Cluster Lead for Education and Save the Children is the designated Co-Lead of the Education Cluster.

Differing from some other clusters, the Ministry of Education often co-leads and co-chairs the Education Cluster. UNICEF's and Save the Children's cluster lead is separate from their agencies respective programming, as their entrusted coordination role serves the cluster members as a collective. In refugee situations, outside complex emergencies, UNHCR is the designated coordinator for the response in cooperation with the government.

This is how ECW optimizes the humanitarian coordination system, which is entrusted through the above multilateral and agreed framework to coordinate the selection of grants-managers. Selection is made on the basis of priorities, capacity and ability (added value and comparative advantage) and due diligence assessment. It is designed to – and is very experienced in - selecting grants-managers through a consultative, inclusive, accountable and transparent process that is sanctioned by donor government and host-governments. In-country oversight is exercised by the most senior UN official on the humanitarian response, the Humanitarian Coordinator, who is normally also the Resident Coordinator (development), and in close cooperation with the host-government.

Given the above, selection of grants-manager for ECW funding is aligned with the system best placed to reposition education in emergencies and protracted crisis, including humanitarian funding. It strengthens accountability and transparency, and also ensures that decision-making and ownership are retained by in-country partners and stakeholders.