



**EDUCATION  
CANNOT  
WAIT**

May 2021

The global fund for education in emergencies



# **DELIVERING QUALITY EDUCATION TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH LEFT FURTHEST BEHIND IN CRISES**

**A Case for Investment**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
A call to action	4
Resources required 2021-2023	5
ECW's niche	8
ECW's commitment: Spotlight on climate change	11
Climate emergency in Southern Africa	12
Complex protracted crisis in the Central Sahel	14
Inclusive education - leaving no child or youth behind	16
ECW's commitment to girls and gender responsive education	18
Responding rapidly to Covid-19	21
ECW's commitment: Spotlight on connectivity	24
A new way of working: transforming education in emergencies and protracted crises	26
Innovative partnerships to get displaced children learning	31
How can your business help?	32

# FOREWORD

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically impacted millions of people already reeling from conflict, record levels of displacement and climate change shocks. According to the United Nations, 235 million people worldwide will need humanitarian assistance and protection in 2021 alone - an increase of 40 per cent in one year.

Some 79.5 million are currently displaced: more people than at any time since World War II. Almost half – 34 million – of those displaced are children and youth. Humanitarian crises are lasting longer than ever before, extreme weather events caused by climate change are on the rise and schools continue to face the threat of attack and armed violence.

Among those urgently in need of assistance are 128 million children and youth whose education is disrupted by humanitarian crises, up from 75 million before the pandemic struck. For these children, COVID-19 is a crisis upon a crisis. Most have been out of education for so long that they now lack the most basic competencies in reading, writing and mathematics. Many, forced to flee their homes at a young age, have never stepped foot in a classroom.

Take [Nyagoa](#), a young girl who lost her parents to conflict in South Sudan and now lives as a refugee in Ethiopia. When she arrived, there were no education opportunities for refugees – let alone for a girl with a disability like her. Unable to walk, she was left out of activities in the camp. She didn't play with other children. She didn't go to school. Nyagoa was a forgotten child trying to survive in a forgotten crisis.

Access to a quality education in times of humanitarian crisis is lifesaving for young people like Nyagoa – it offers protection, a sense of

normalcy, and hope. When formal education systems are disrupted, damaged or destroyed, humanitarian responders are uniquely placed to help fill this gap. However, with crises becoming more protracted, predictable multi-year funding to deliver and sustain meaningful learning opportunities requires humanitarian and development actors to work together with the host-governments and local communities.

With support from Education Cannot Wait, parents and teachers are mobilizing communities to get girls like Nyagoa and other vulnerable children and youth into school, support them to remain and access a continued, inclusive quality education. Nyagoa, thankfully, has now returned to the classroom.

Together with our partners – public and private donors, host governments, United Nations agencies, international and national civil society organizations – ECW follows children and youth in need, wherever they are. Our collective commitment is to uphold their fundamental right to education. Our joint actions provide them with quality learning opportunities, including whole-of-child services to help them overcome the specific challenges they face amid crisis and yet achieve learning outcomes.

In less than five years, Education Cannot Wait's investments have reached close to 5 million children and youth in some of the most challenging crisis settings: ongoing armed conflicts, forced displacement, refugee exodus and climate-related emergencies.

Yet, millions of other girls and boys are still left behind. Without education, what does the future hold for them, their societies and nations? How can they become positive changemakers and rebuild their communities and countries?

To avoid losing entire generations in hotspots around the globe – and thus derail attempts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 – we must take immediate bold action and finance education or Sustainable Development Goal 4 for those left furthest behind. Only then can we close the gap of all the other SDGs.

As the only global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises, Education Cannot Wait has demonstrated its proof of concept. Through its First Emergency Response and its Multi-Year Resilience Programme funding windows, Education Cannot Wait delivers with the speed and flexibility required to achieve results in crisis settings and the depth necessary to yield quality education outcomes.

Education Cannot Wait's investment modalities deliver rapidly at scale, while also ensuring depth in quality and sustainability. To be able to continue to do so, the Fund urgently needs additional and substantive resources.

We are therefore calling on governments, businesses, philanthropists and the international community to contribute at least \$400 million for Education Cannot Wait by 2022 to provide education for a generation of children and young people affected by armed conflict, forced displacement, climate change and protracted crises – a generation now doubly impacted by COVID-19.

A fully financed Education Cannot Wait is essential to avert an education catastrophe for the world's children and adolescents as stated by the [Save Our Future campaign](#) – an ambitious blueprint led by the Education Commission and a global coalition of all major education aid stakeholders.

Join the Education Cannot Wait global movement! Together, we can empower the next generation of teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, civil servants and leaders, while delivering on our collective commitment to build a world where universal education truly means education for every single child and youth. We must not fail Nyagosa and the millions of other vulnerable and marginalized girls and boys left furthest behind in the world's toughest crisis settings. Their hope and their future rest with us all.



**Gordon Brown**

**The Right Honourable Gordon Brown**, Chair of the Education Cannot Wait High-Level Steering Group and United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education



**Yasmine Sherif**

**Yasmine Sherif**,  
Director,  
The Education Cannot Wait Fund

# A CALL TO ACTION

**ECW needs at least an additional \$400 million to bridge its funding gap for the period 2021-2023 and ensure that an additional 4.5 million children and young people - including 2.7 million girls - affected by conflict, climate change and COVID-19 receive an education over the next three years. This will bring the total number of children reached by ECW between 2017-2023 to 9 million.**

Reaching our funding target means that ECW can **provide seed funding for Multi-Year Resilience Programmes (MYRPs) to at least 26 countries** over the next three years, while enabling ECW to **leverage an additional \$1 billion towards the outcomes of the programmes**. Our seed funding provides certainty and predictability to partners delivering education in the world's most complex and protracted crises – building resilience and establishing a foundation for longer term scale and impact.

Meanwhile, we will also keep our *First Emergency Response (FER) Reserve* replenished to respond rapidly to new and escalating humanitarian emergencies as we did with the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response in 2020.

Reaching our fundraising goal of \$400 million will allow us to consolidate and deepen our focus on quality education and learning outcomes, while also responding to the education needs in any new protracted crisis.

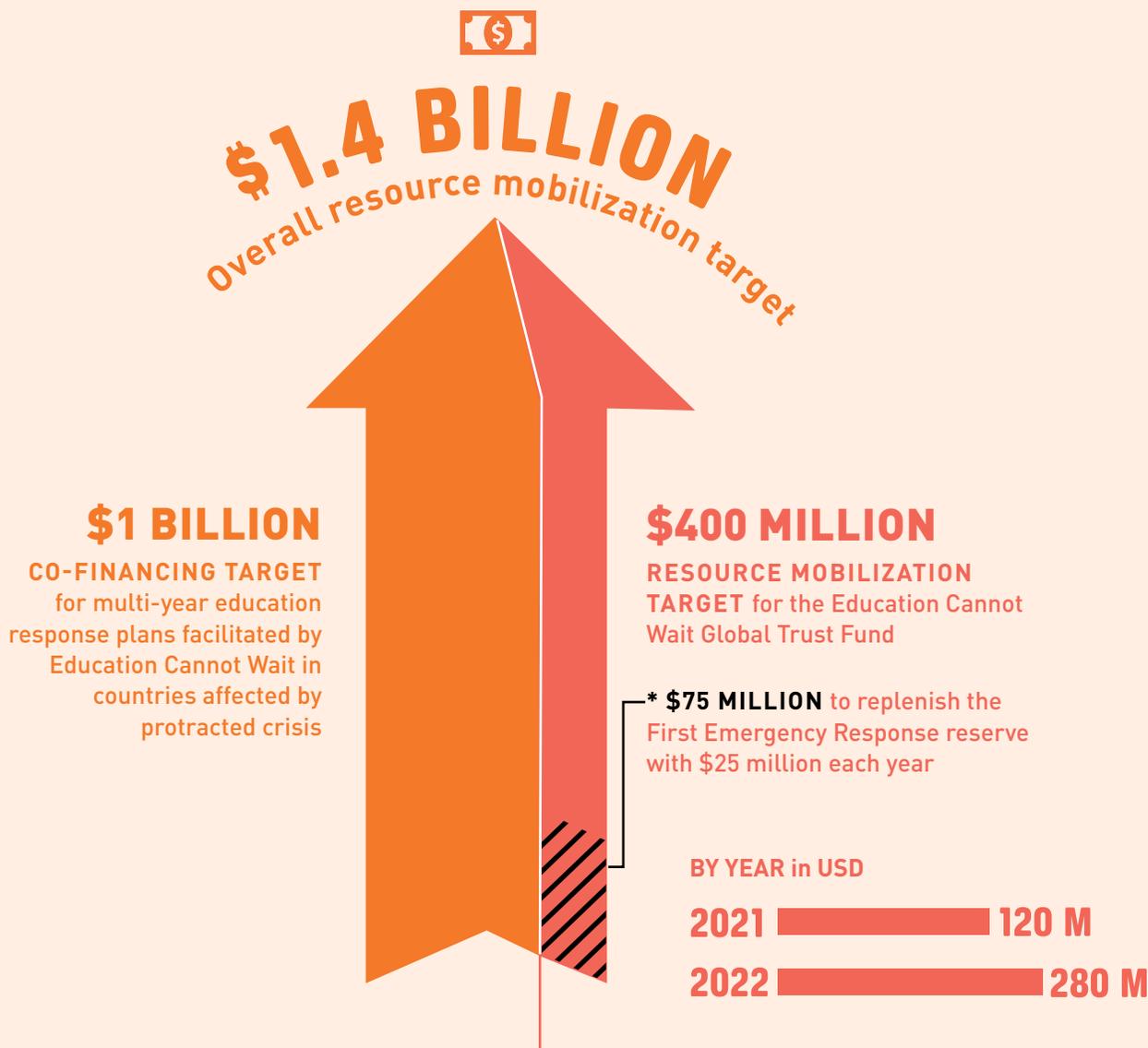
Drawing on our growing evidence base to invest more in what we know works, we can continue to strengthen learning outcomes and reach the most marginalised, particularly girls, forcibly displaced and children with disabilities.



**ANTÓNIO GUTERRES,**  
United Nations Secretary-General

**“ Without resolute political commitment by global leaders, as well as additional resources for Education Cannot Wait, and its UN and civil society partners, millions of girls and boys may never return to school. Investing in the education of these vulnerable children and youth is an investment in peace, prosperity and resilience for generations to come – and a priority for the United Nations. ”**

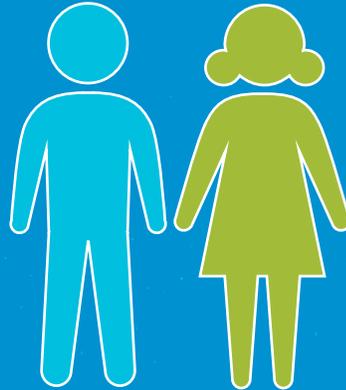
# RESOURCES REQUIRED 2021-2023



## ECW GOAL BY 2023

**30%**

Minimum proportion  
of ECW funding going  
to local organizations  
2021-2023



# 9 MILLION

children will be supported with  
education 2017-2023 by ECW through  
MYRPs in 26 crisis-affected countries

**(4.9 MILLION GIRLS)**

**\$25**

The indicative cost to get a child back into education after he/she is affected by an acute emergency or escalation of crisis through ECW's First Emergency Response funding

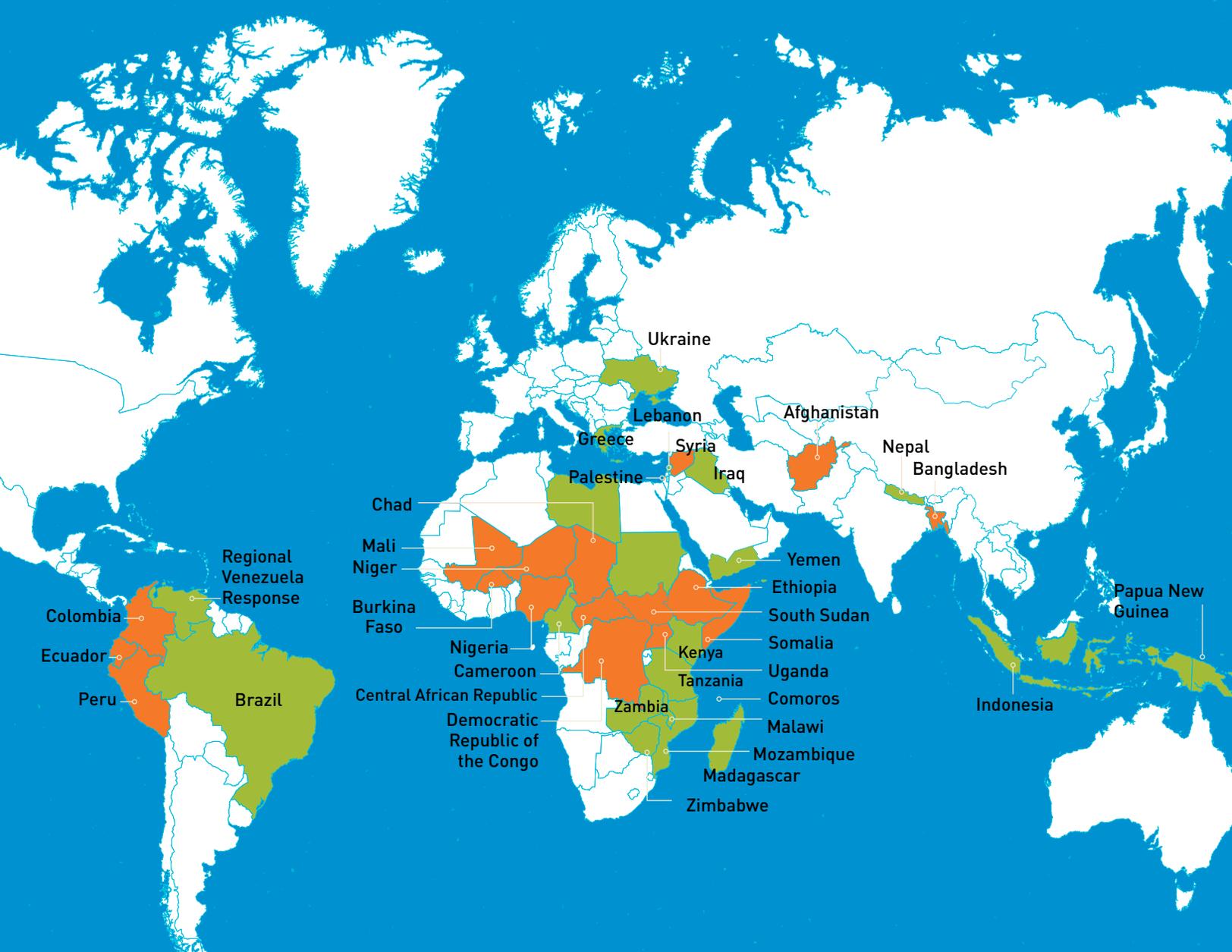
**\$220**

The average cost to support a child with a holistic education package - which includes school rebuilding, learning materials and programs, teacher training and incentives, establishing safe learning environments, mental health services and support, sanitation and hygiene, school feeding, school management and administration support, and integration of refugees into national systems - for three years through ECW's seed funding for Multi-Year Resilience Programmes

# MAP OF ECW CURRENT COUNTRY INVESTMENTS

MYRP

FER



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.

# ECW'S NICHE

**ECW follows populations: refugees, internally displaced and crisis-affected, with special emphasis on girls and children with disabilities.** ECW is a unique multi-stakeholder movement and the only global fund dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises. Our goal is to transform the way education is provided to girls and boys caught up in conflicts, climate-related disasters and forced displacement, while ensuring less bureaucracy and more accountability. ECW ensures that the children and youth left furthest behind from Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) can enjoy their right to a quality education.

ECW is grounded in the United Nations. A global fund hosted by UNICEF, ECW follows UN standards but functions as an independent decision-making body where strategic donor partners have an active role to ensure that SDG4 is delivered rapidly and with quality through bold approaches in complex challenges, in an agile and innovative way.



**KARINA GOULD,**  
Minister of International Development,  
Canada

👉 ***We are proud of the achievements ECW has already made in quickly responding to the COVID pandemic and in some of the most difficult contexts across the world and we are committed to doing our part to enable ECW to continue this critical work.*** 👈



**We invest in the world's most complex and protracted humanitarian crises**

Education Cannot Wait invests geographically where others are unable to reach those left furthest behind. Whether it is a chronic climate disaster, an ongoing regional conflict, a military occupation or a proliferating displacement crisis, our operating model allows us to be flexible and retain a non-compromising focus on the educational needs of children and youth. During active conflicts and complex crises - where educational needs are most acute - Education Cannot Wait fulfils a unique role, providing funding while promoting coordination, joint planning and urgency across the nexus between humanitarian assistance and long-term development. In doing so, ECW translates the United Nations reform into results on the ground through the New Way of Working and the Localization Agenda.



**We fund those best placed to deliver, leveraging the diverse expertise of our partners**

Education Cannot Wait is a catalyst for change and real results. We take our lead from organisations who understand the local context best to design fit-for-purpose, impactful interventions. **We have exceeded the Grand Bargain target of channelling 25% of funding to local organisations and will reach 30% in 2021.** Our work with the business community, foundations, philanthropists, humanitarians, governments, civil society organisations and others allows us to be more than the sum of our parts, devising innovative solutions and leveraging the use of technology to get children learning in the toughest places. This unique approach is needed more than ever as communities grapple with the digital divide and its impact on education provision.



**MP WENDY MORTON,**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development  
Office (FCDO), United Kingdom

©Richard  
Townshend

### **We work with agility at record speeds**

When a climate-induced disaster hits Mozambique, Nepal or Peru, or when hostilities escalate in Mali, South Sudan or Syria, Education Cannot Wait immediately sets in motion a coordinated response that delivers on the ground within weeks. Our 2019 Results Report shows 50% of countries received ECW emergency response grants in less than 8 weeks. An investment in ECW delivers on the G7 Charlevoix Summit commitment to “reduce the time that conflict and crisis situations keep children and youth, especially girls, out of school.”

### **We incentivise diverse actors to work together to reach the most marginalised and improve learning**

Working in emergencies and protracted crises requires a joint analysis of the education needs and differentiated roles and responsibilities for various actors. Education Cannot Wait’s approach purposefully incentivises the multilateral system, INGOs, local organisations and governments to design and deliver joint plans with a strong focus on inclusivity and improved learning outcomes. Education Cannot Wait has ambitious targets and policies to reach the most marginalised girls, displaced populations and those with disabilities - our results show that the approach is working and set an example for a proven and results-driven model.

### **Our investments go beyond education to meet the full needs of the child**

Children and youth affected by the horrors of conflict, disaster and forced displacement face unique vulnerabilities that extend beyond education and which affect their ability to learn. ECW promotes a ‘whole-of-child approach’ that addresses a variety of learning, teaching, organizational and safety needs. By integrating psychosocial support, school feeding, disaster risk management and sanitation into our education investments, we support safe and nurturing learning environments, which can help improve academic outcomes, as well as mental, emotional and physical well-being for girls and boys.

**“ Before the COVID-19 pandemic, children caught up in emergencies and protracted crises were amongst those least likely to be in school. In conflict zones, girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than those not living in conflict. Now these girls face even greater barriers. Let’s seize this opportunity to reset and build back better so all children are safe and able to learn. Only then can we ensure no child is left behind. Now more than ever the international community must coordinate its efforts through Education Cannot Wait and provide the leadership needed to deliver for some of the world’s most marginalised children. ”**

A young girl with a bright smile is the central focus, wearing a vibrant pink and black patterned headscarf and a matching dress. She is standing in a refugee camp, with several white tents visible in the background. The ground is dry and sandy, and the overall atmosphere is one of resilience and hope.

Ensuring girls' access to education is a sustainable and cost-effective way to **improve societies' resilience to climate change.**

# ECW'S COMMITMENT: SPOTLIGHT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and extreme weather events will continue to present key humanitarian challenges. Natural disasters, such as cyclones, typhoons and floods, continue to trigger the majority of new internal displacements worldwide. The total number of people newly displaced because of natural disasters in the first half of 2020 was 9.8 million. By 2050, this number is expected to rise to 140 million people across South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

ECW will address and mitigate the devastating impact of climate change through its investments and policy work. We will identify the impact and intersection of climate change and education in emergencies and embed climate priorities into our programmes. For example:

- Integrating preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience into all education programmes.
- Helping national education systems to recover from disasters and provide education access and continuity to children and youth affected.
- Empowering young and adolescent girls and boys to be at the forefront of climate response.
- Ensuring that learning in emergency contexts prepares children, particularly girls, to lead and influence the growth of the green economy.
- Mobilizing new resources to increase our response to climate disasters and mainstream climate into our programmes and policy work.



**140 million**

people across South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America are expected to be newly displaced because of natural disasters.



**12.5 million**

girls will be prevented from completing their education each year due to climate change as a contributing factor by 2025, if current trends continue.

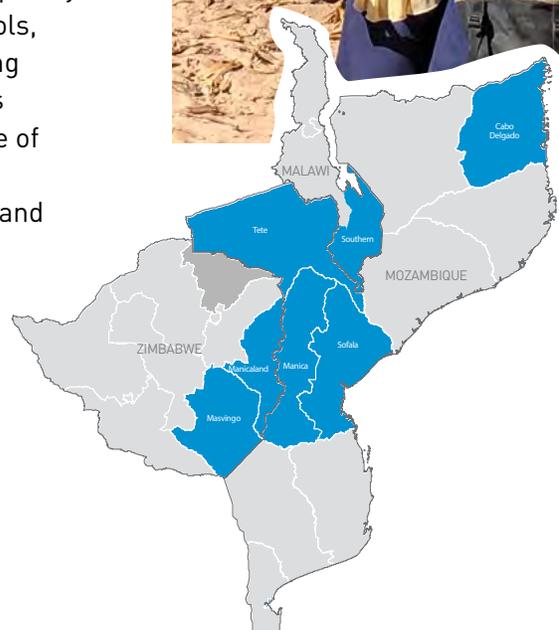
*Source: Malala Fund*

# CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

In 2019, Southern Africa was hit by two cyclones, Idai and Kenneth, that left a trail of destruction in their path. The heavy rain and strong winds destroyed homes, schools and livelihoods. In Mozambique alone, the disaster affected 1.8 million people and destroyed over 3,300 classrooms, leaving 263,000 children out-of-school. In Zimbabwe, close to 150 schools were impacted, affecting an estimated 60,000 children. In Malawi, an estimated 200 schools were impacted.

ECW responded swiftly, activating its First Emergency Response (FER) and securing additional resources from the UK Government and Dubai Cares to provide a coordinated and speedy response in partnership with Ministries of Education, affected communities, the Education Cluster, UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations.

ECW funding supported back-to-school campaigns, focusing on encouraging girls back into school. The funds also helped the construction of temporary learning spaces, rehabilitating damaged schools, supplying educational materials, school feeding programmes and psychosocial support. ECW's grant also helped to build resilience in the face of future climate disasters. Teachers and school administrators were trained on preparedness and disaster management.





© ECW/Manan Kotak

**MARIA ALBERTO,**  
Teacher, Mozambique

**ECW RESULTS IN THE RESPONSE TO CYCLONE IDAI AND KENNETH**

**49% girls**



**649,475**  
Children reached



**5,945**  
Teachers trained



**345**  
Classrooms rehabilitated

*“If I were more prepared for this nature of disaster and knew what to do before and during the cyclone, I could have helped more people in my town.”*

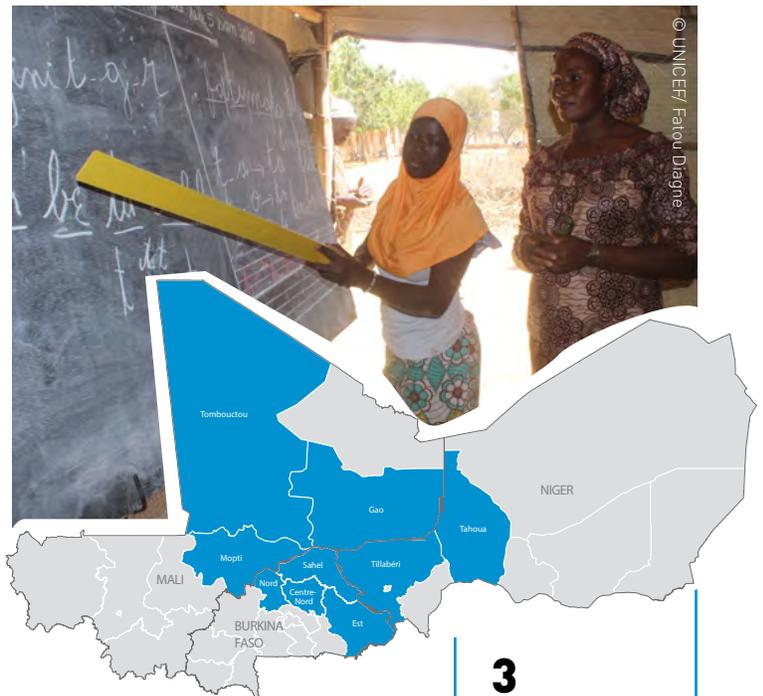
Through Education Cannot Wait’s funding to the emergency response in Mozambique – and in other countries affected by the devastating cyclones – teachers like Maria Alberto are receiving training to teach children about disaster preparedness and facilitate the psychosocial support needed to help children recover.

# COMPLEX PROTRACTED CRISIS IN THE CENTRAL SAHEL

The humanitarian situation across the Central Sahel is among the most quickly deteriorating in the world. The region has been hit by a double blow of growing insurgency and food insecurity – the latter fueled by the devastating effects of climate change.

In the face of conflict, forced displacement and natural disasters, education is generally the first service interrupted and the last to be resumed. Between 2017 and 2019, violent attacks on children and teachers forced the closure of at least 2,300 schools and disrupted the education of more than 400,000 children across the region.

More than 2.6 million children and youth are now estimated to be out of school in Burkina Faso alone, with another 1.7 million students at risk of dropping out. Adolescent girls are disproportionately impacted, facing heightened risk of child marriage, early pregnancy and gender-based violence. Adolescent boys are at increased risk of recruitment into armed groups. Education Cannot Wait focusses on these groups as a matter of priority.



ECW seed funding:

**\$33 million**

Children to be reached with ECW seed funds:

**144,000**

Funding gap:  
**\$117 million**

**60% girls**



**813,000**

Children to be reached if MYRP fully funded

**3**  
Countries supported:  
Burkina Faso,  
Mali and  
Niger

## A Regional Approach To Emergency Response

Education Cannot Wait has adopted a regional approach to the complex crisis in the Central Sahel, dispersing an initial \$30 million across Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger since 2019. Rather than responding to individual countries, the cross-border response promotes regional coordination, knowledge sharing and increased efficiencies, while allowing for greater engagement with policy dialogues and advocacy.

Since 2019, ECW funds helped address the most urgent needs for the delivery of pre-school, primary and secondary education. Teachers were recruited and trained in child protection and mental health, gender-segregated latrines were built so girls could feel safe and distance learning opportunities were provided for the hardest-to-reach children. These first emergency responses are reaching over a quarter of a million girls and boys affected by forced displacement.

## A Regional Multi-Year Programme Targeting The Most Marginalized

In 2021, building on the First Emergency Response, ECW launched a regional Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) in Sahel. The programme - which will reach 300,000 children in total - specifically targets displaced, refugee and returnee children, adolescent girls, children with disabilities and children currently out of school.

ECW funds support a comprehensive package of interventions, addressing the myriad needs of young people affected by conflict, forced displacement and COVID-19. School feeding, psychosocial support and improved sanitation facilities complement investments in teacher training and recruitment, school rehabilitation and back-to-school campaigns.

The joint programme is running for three years and ECW has provided \$33 million in seed funding to get the programme off the ground. An additional \$117 million in co-financing is now urgently needed.



**H.E. MR. STANISLAS OUARO,**  
Minister of National Education  
and Literacy for Burkina Faso

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**“ In Burkina Faso, the education sector is suffering the negative effects of both the ongoing security and COVID-19 crises. The security crisis resulted in the closure of more than 2,300 schools and a massive displacement of more than one million people. The COVID-19 pandemic further resulted in the closure of all schools in Burkina Faso for several months. ”**

# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION - LEAVING NO CHILD OR YOUTH BEHIND

ECW exists to support education for children and youth left furthest behind in crises. Ensuring our investments reach the forcibly displaced, children and adolescents with disabilities, vulnerable adolescent girls and children traumatized by the horrors of conflict is central to our values and operating model. All our Multi-Year Resilience Programmes are designed in view of evidence-based targeting to ensure that children and communities left furthest behind are reached.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) are a core priority of ECW's investments. MHPSS is at the center of our COVID-19 emergency response and is mainstreamed across ECW's Multi-Year Resilience Programmes. ECW recognizes that no child or youth can learn unless their trauma of conflict and forcible displacement is addressed. We are also mindful of the fact that these experiences can be a great source of resilience when managed and channeled through effective MHPSS.

ECW also supports organizations to spearhead a new approach to inclusive education for children with disabilities. Moving away from outdated approaches that isolate children with disabilities in separated learning environments, ECW grantees have shown, using assessments and databases, that children and youth with special needs caught up in crises can access education within an inclusive schooling environment. To build on this, we have put ambitious targets in upcoming MYRPs and are leveraging our learning to reach more children with disabilities.

## ECW GLOBAL RESULTS SINCE ECW INCEPTION



**45%**

children and youth reached who are refugees or internally displaced



**35,143**

children with disabilities reached



**63%**

of country investments include mental health and psychosocial support interventions



**SABIR,**  
Refugee from South Sudan

© Humanity and Inclusion/Joan Nkamushaba

▀▀ *My family and I were having lunch when we heard gunshots. Moments after, armed people entered into our house and shot my father dead. We all ran for our lives but while running, my knee knocked an anthill, and I felt a sharp pain. The pain kept increasing day by day until I entered Uganda and sought medical attention. I was told the damage was great and the only remedy was to amputate the leg. My life has never been the same since. ▀▀*

Sabir is an 18-year-old refugee from South Sudan who currently lives in the Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in the West Nile Region of Uganda. He fled South Sudan following the outbreak of war and insecurity.

With support from Humanity and Inclusion, Sabir was provided with a set of crutches, a mobile phone and psychosocial support to help him to cope with his new situation. Humanity and Inclusion works with community leaders, teachers and other ECW partners to identify children with disabilities for assessment and referral to specialized services.

# ECW'S COMMITMENT TO GIRLS AND GENDER RESPONSIVE EDUCATION

Education Cannot Wait recognizes the complex and multi-dimensional barriers to education that girls face in emergencies and protracted crises. We also recognize the ripple effects that educating a girl has on her family, community and society. Based on our Gender Accountability Framework, Gender Strategy and Gender Policy, ECW has taken affirmative action, putting in place bold targets and policies to ensure that all our multi-year investments address the root causes of gender discrimination and respond to the unique challenges faced by girls and adolescent girls in crisis contexts. We also disaggregate our results and track the progress across investments to better identify their impact and transformative effect on girls and gender.

**ECW's multi-year investments have reached gender parity, with girls representing 50 per cent of all beneficiaries.**

In Afghanistan, a **successful model of the government's community-based education has reached 57 per cent of girls among its beneficiaries.** In addressing gender-based barriers to education, ECW has reduced the distance to school, provided safe transportation and increased the number of trained and sensitized female teachers.

As a result of ECW's work with national governments, donors, and humanitarian and development partners at the country level, **all multi-year investments launched from 2019 onwards ensure the integration of gender-awareness and gender-inclusion in education policies and practices.**

- In Chad, an analysis of gender inequities during the first year of programming identified gaps in policy, in particular with regards to literacy among girls. This will be addressed in a multi-year response plan to bridge the gaps.
- In Somalia, ECW's multi-year investment supported the integration of education in emergencies and protracted crises in the Education Ministry's gender policy. Embedding EiE in the gender policy has increased political will and funding for education in Somali regions affected by crisis.

## ECW GLOBAL RESULTS



**50%**  
girls reached  
through Multi-  
Year Resilience  
Programmes

**60%**  
girls to be reached  
through Multi-  
Year Resilience  
Programmes  
**2021-23**



© ECW/UNICEF/Nahom Tesfaye

**KURESHA YUSUF,**  
12-year-old in Ethiopia

“ I feel sad to see my school damaged like this. We had proper classrooms and desks; but now, we are attending class here [under the tree]. ”

Often, refugee girls experience some level of trauma or violence due to their forced displacement. Promoting a safe and protective learning environment is critical to ensuring their success in school.



**1.8**  
**million**  
girls reached



**45%**  
of females  
among  
teachers/  
administrators  
trained



**57%**  
girls reached  
through  
community-  
based education  
programme  
in Afghanistan



**MALALA YOUSAFZAI,**  
Co-founder of Malala Fund

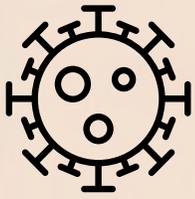
© UNICEF/Fati Abubakar

“ ***In a crisis, girls are often the first to be removed from school and the last to return. Yet girls’ education is central to rebuilding communities and countries. Educating young women grows economies, improves public health and reduces the risk of future conflict. To keep girls learning and build a safer world, we need leaders to renew their investment in Education Cannot Wait.*** ”

Education Cannot Wait knows that business as usual will not work to overcome the immense barriers faced by girls and adolescent girls in humanitarian emergencies and protracted crises.

To address existing gender imbalances in education outcomes, **ECW is committed to reaching more girls than boys through our multi-year programmes between 2021-2023:** girls will account for up to 60 per cent of all those benefiting. ECW ensures to take a holistic approach to remove gender-biases and gender-barriers.

ECW is also developing a Gender Business Case to report on the impact of existing gender investments, enhance the impact of future investments and to highlight girls’ education funding needs to prospective donors.



# RESPONDING RAPIDLY TO COVID-19

**The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented learning crisis around the world, exacerbating existing inequalities.** The closure of schools has severely affected children and young people caught in conflict, forced displacement and climate-induced disasters, many of whom already faced severe learning disruptions prior to COVID-19.



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## 33 countries/ emergency contexts

reached through our COVID-19 rapid responses:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh  
Brazil, Burkina Faso  
Central African Republic  
Cameroon, Columbia  
Chad, DRC, Ecuador  
Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq  
Kenya, Lebanon  
Libya, Malawi  
Mali, Mozambique, Niger  
Nigeria, Palestine  
Peru, Somalia,  
South Sudan  
Syria, Tanzania  
Uganda, UNRWA  
Venezuela, Yemen  
Zambia, Zimbabwe

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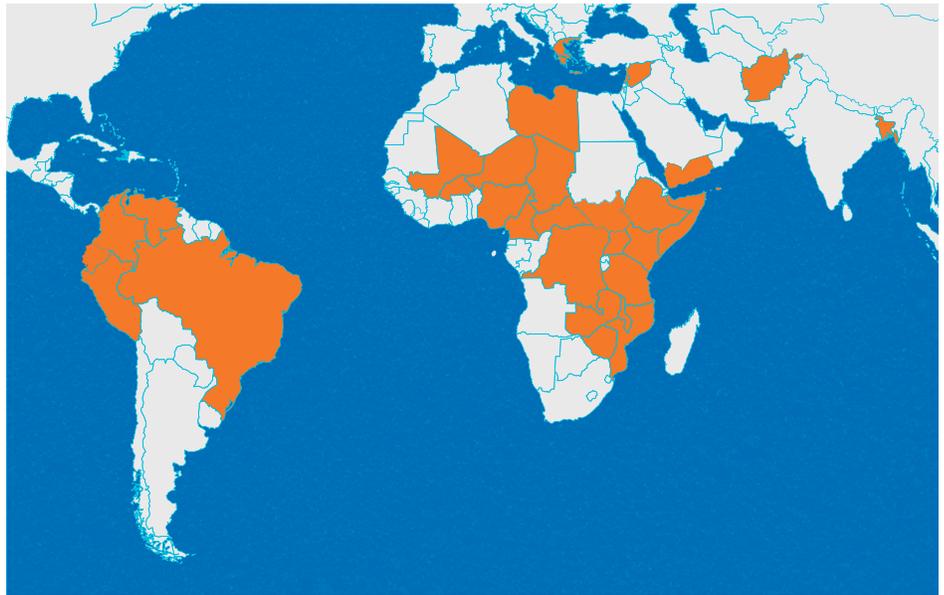
**\$45.4**  
**million**  
disbursed



**32 million**  
children reached



**\$60 million**  
funding mobilized



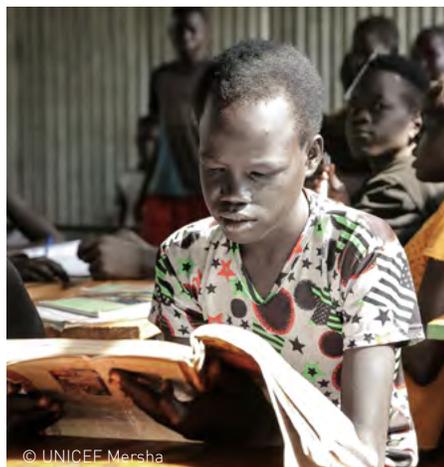
The boundaries, names and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations, Education Cannot Wait or partner countries.

While some countries quickly rolled out digital learning programs, many regions did not have the means and technical infrastructure to do so. Access to online resources and reliable electricity is out of reach for many children affected by crises, especially those living in remote locations, refugee camps or informal settings.

Responding to this reality, ECW activated its First Emergency Response window within days of the World Health Organization announcing the pandemic. By April 2, a first round of funding was released to 16 countries. ECW issued a simplified application process to fast-track applications, ensuring funds could be urgently disbursed.

In total, ECW allocated \$45.4 million to support actors on the ground across 33 countries/emergency contexts, of which \$22 million was exclusively dedicated to refugees and the internally displaced.

ECW's COVID-19 response, which could reach up to 32 million children, aligned with national COVID-19 strategies and financed a broad range of interventions – including communications campaigns to help prevent spread of the virus, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, radio and other forms of distance learning, mental health and psychosocial services, and support to get children back into school when facilities re-opened.



In **Ethiopia**, ECW's support enabled federal and regional education bureaus to deliver distance education to crisis-affected children residing in their homes. Through UNICEF, ECW helped fund over 5,000 episodes of television and radio broadcast education programmes which reached 4 million children in the regions Amhara, Oromia, Somali and Tigray.



In **Yemen**, where digital learning is not commonplace or well understood, ECW funding supported teacher upskilling in e-learning of the national curriculum and enabled UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to provide sufficient personal protective equipments and heighten awareness and staff capacity in 4250 testing centres, allowing nearly 428,000 students to take their national exams in a safe and protective environment with social/ physical distancing. This enabled 83 per cent of the students, who received passing grades, to not fall behind and to progress to the next grade despite the pandemic.



In **Bangladesh**, with ECW's support, BRAC has been able to reach nearly 110,000 Rohingya children in the Cox's Bazaar district and Rohingya camps with innovative alternative learning resources and communication messaging via social media videos and tele-counselling services to provide psychosocial support during the crisis.

# ECW'S COMMITMENT: SPOTLIGHT ON CONNECTIVITY

At least 463 million of the children affected by COVID-19 have been cut off from education because of a lack of household assets necessary to access remote learning. Yet, 90% of ministries of education worldwide enacted some form of policy to provide digital resources and broadcast remote learning. Distance learning has also proved to be a key tool for children to continue learning when schools are attacked, damaged or not accessible because of disasters, conflict or pandemics.

Children and youth in displacement camps and rural areas are too often left behind from policies intended to increase access to education. Connecting schools with digital and remote tools, technology and teaching is an investment priority for ECW. ECW will also help to scale up the work of GIGA, an initiative led by UNICEF to encourage universal connectivity and to close the digital divide for 3.7 billion people.



Yedidiya Sisay and his sister attending classes via Radio which is one of the government's initiatives to support studying at home due to closed schools across Ethiopia.



**Globally,  
1 in 3 children**

missed out on remote learning when  
COVID-19 shuttered schools

Source: UNICEF, August 2020



**BEYCIVECK,**  
14-year-old, Venezuelan refugee in Peru

© RET

“*In my home country I was attending the second year of secondary school. I want to be an industrial engineer in the future, an engineer like my brother.*”

*For me, the virtual program “Learning Together” [at Home] has been a great help. I learned things about Peru that I did not know before. It is important that a child, an adolescent, an adult studies in order to achieve their goals in life, to help themselves, for their home, their family and to help their parents.*”

In Peru and Ecuador, with ECW’s support, the Refugee Education Trust (RET) is supporting girls, boys and adolescents who have fled the crisis in Venezuela to continue learning through a web platform. Learners received educational materials to continue studying during the COVID-19 crisis under the education plan called Learning Together at Home (“Aprendamos Juntos en Casa”). Support for teachers and learners included devices such as tablets and phone credits to support online teaching and learning.

# A NEW WAY OF WORKING: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES AND PROTRACTED CRISES

During a humanitarian crisis, education is not only a human right, but also a lifesaving need that is all too often put aside to prioritize sectors such as health and shelter by the humanitarian system.

Education provides immediate physical, psychosocial and cognitive protection, it contributes to individual, community and societal resilience, and it is consistently recognised as a top priority for communities, parents and children themselves. Because, without education, there can be no recovery and building back better.



**DAG INGE ULSTEIN,**  
Minister of International  
Development, Norway

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Ganesh Eknes

“ **Education Cannot Wait has played a key role in putting education in emergencies at the top of the agenda. It has mobilized substantial funding and presents new and promising ways of delivering education in emergencies. ECW’s programmes offer predictable and flexible funding and promote a better coordinated and more holistic education response.** ”

# ECW is ensuring that education is prioritized as a non-negotiable right in the humanitarian response

## Our successes so far include:

Our **First Emergency Response funding window** has released over \$100 million in response to cyclones, typhoons, earthquakes, conflict escalations and COVID-19.

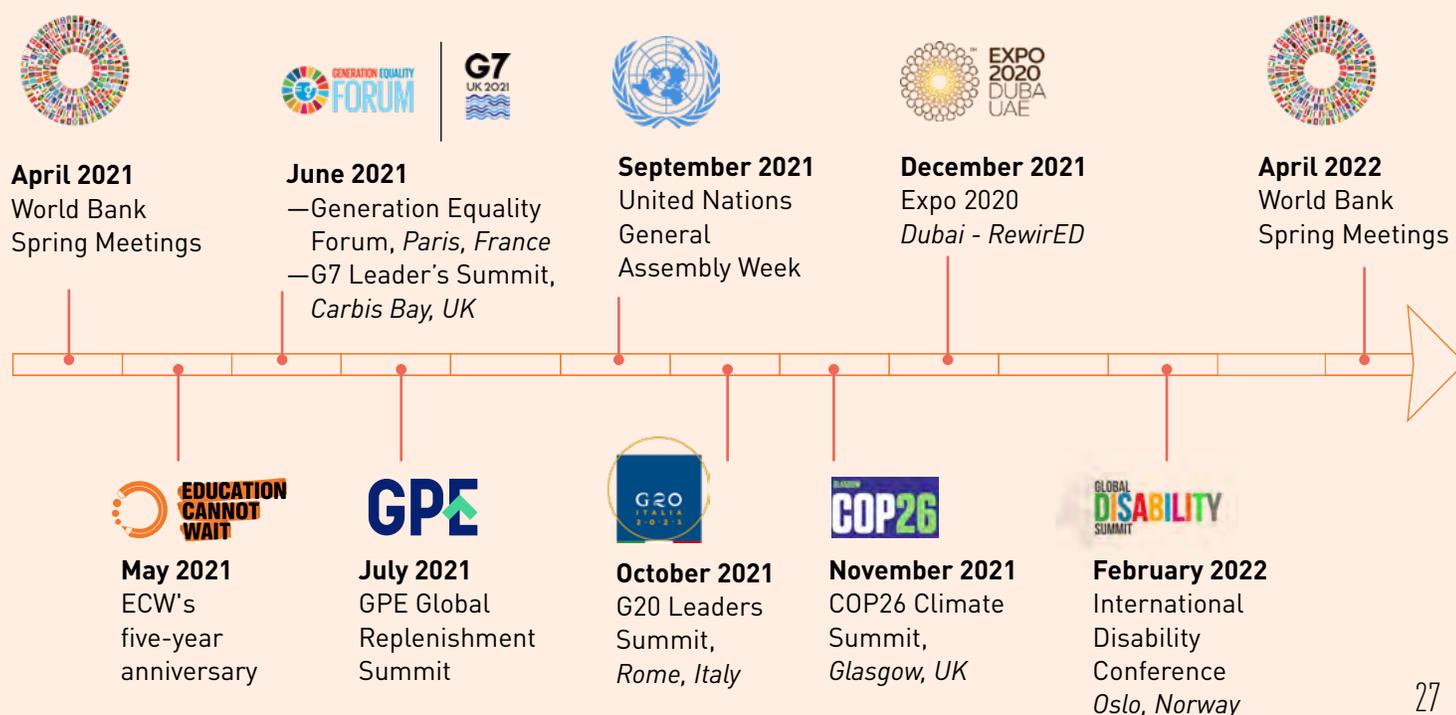
ECW's global **advocacy has contributed to the upward trends in humanitarian funding for education**, with global humanitarian aid to education increasing fivefold from 2015 to 2019.

ECW's **High-Level Steering Group** - specifically the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator - has been instrumental in **positioning education more centrally in humanitarian appeals**, elevating education as a priority in emergencies and humanitarian crises.

## Yet, more needs to be done:

Humanitarian appeals for education remained significantly underfunded in 2019 at 43.5 per cent. Rising humanitarian need as a result of COVID-19 will place further pressure on education appeals.

## ROADMAP FOR ACTION



## ECW was created to ensure humanitarian and development coherence, and our results show that it is working

Humanitarian crises are increasingly protracted, complex and require humanitarian and development actors to coordinate and work collaboratively to ensure educational continuity. For too long, children and youth caught up in emergencies and protracted crises have been falling between the cracks of a siloed system.

ECW's multi-year investments bridge the gap between short-term humanitarian relief and long-term development investments, providing a platform for joint assessments and implementation, as well as collective advocacy and resource mobilization. Education Cannot Wait brings all actors together through joint programming.

### Our successes so far include:

By the end of 2020, at least **\$350 million of additional funding** was leveraged for ECW-facilitated multi-year programmes.

ECW funding is mobilized almost **equally from humanitarian and development aid** sources.

ECW's Multi-Year Resilience Programmes have provided the coordination, resources and predictability needed to get **4.3 million children learning** in 16 of the world's most complex protracted crises, including in Afghanistan, the Central Sahel, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Syria.

### But more needs to be done:

Since ECW investments serve as seed-funds to leverage additional resources, an additional \$1 billion is required to fill the funding gaps for planned Multi-Year Resilience Programmes.



**FILIPPO GRANDI,**  
The United Nations High  
Commissioner For Refugees

Education Cannot Wait's support for education programming immediately after the onset of an emergency and the longer-term assistance provided through Multi-Year Resilience Programmes plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between humanitarian and development financing.

## BRIDGING THE HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT GAP



**AMINA J. MOHAMMED,**  
UN Deputy Secretary-General

“ *Education Cannot Wait is an example of how the United Nations system delivers quality with speed to advance Sustainable Development Goal 4, leveraging the best from across the UN family.* ”

## ECW GLOBAL RESULTS



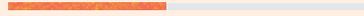
**5.1%**

The amount of **humanitarian funding provided to education** in 2019



**X5**

The increase in total **humanitarian aid funding to education** between 2015 and 2019



**43.5%**

The percentage of **humanitarian appeals for education mobilized** in 2019



**\$350 million**

The total amount of **funding leveraged** for ECW-facilitated multi-year programmes by 2020



**36%**

The percentage of ECW funding from **development funding sources**



**H.E. MARIA VICTORIA ANGULO,**  
Minister for Education for Colombia

© UN

“ **With the support of Education Cannot Wait, Colombia has learned to innovate and create learning opportunities during multiple crises.** ”



**DR. MARIA FLACHSBARTH,**  
German Parliamentary State Secretary  
to the Federal Minister for Economic  
Cooperation and Development

© Thomas Trutschel

“ **Thanks to Education Cannot Wait, partner countries have received urgently needed support very quickly. Solidarity and cooperation are more important now than ever before if we want to ensure that we leave no one behind.** ”

# INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO GET DISPLACED CHILDREN LEARNING

ECW works in partnership with a range of private and philanthropic partners to transform education for children and youth affected by conflict, forced displacement and climate disasters.

Education Cannot Wait adopts an entrepreneurial spirit towards results and impact. In this vein, ECW recognizes the value and need to work together with companies, philanthropists and foundations to address the unprecedented challenges that face the education community today.

## ECW and LEGO Foundation partner to promote quality learning

The LEGO Foundation partnered with ECW to ensure that children in conflicts and crises get psychosocial and developmental support by securing Learning Through Play in preschools and classrooms of refugees and their host communities. Through this partnership, Education Cannot Wait promotes quality learning that is playful, holistic skills development and protection of children who are the most marginalized and need support. The LEGO Foundation has provided over \$27 million in direct funding to ECW.

## ECW and HP partner to tackle the digital divide for refugees in Uganda

In order to effectively pilot technology deployments in protracted refugee settings, ECW partners with HP, Learning Equality, the Global Business Coalition for Education and UNHCR. HP donated technology and



**ALEX CHO,**  
President, Personal Systems,  
HP Inc.

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**“ We share a vision that what will unlock the world for all of us is investing in real learning outcomes and our partnership with ECW is a huge part of that. ”**

resources to leverage Learning Equality’s Kolibri offline learning platform and improve the learning outcomes of Uganda’s Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities. The collaboration builds on existing collective work in Uganda by UNICEF, UNHCR, Learning Equality and others. Since the pilot launched in Kampala, the program has extended to over 15 schools in the region and initial results and learnings are now being compiled to inform projects across other regional programs.



# HOW CAN YOUR BUSINESS HELP?

## **Financial support**

Funding is the most helpful way of contributing to our mission as it allows us to address the most pressing needs through those best placed to respond. We can facilitate unearmarked contributions, matched contributions, country-specific support or thematic support.

## **Spread the word**

You can reinforce ECW's value and impact with industry peers, partners, government representatives, employees and consumers and help us reach new audiences. From branding on corporate assets to public forum engagement and peer introductions, we rely on the endorsement of our partners.

## **Gifts, matching & employees**

Our donation platform, Pledgeling, enables easy intergration into organizational initiatives. Corporate and employee giving, corporate social responsibility contributions or supply chain efforts can help support ECW and simultaneously engage internal and external stakeholders to raise awareness for our cause.

## **Innovative solutions**

Support for innovative education approaches through our Acceleration Facility can help ECW bring impact to scale, minimize duplication and provide a clear and easy entry point for other donors to support innovation.

## **In-kind / technical support**

While welcome, this type of support goes hand in hand with other partnership offerings and must always first be vetted by local implementers to ensure there is an existing need, determine fit for purpose and adequate funding.



**JOHN GOODWIN,**  
CEO, LEGO Foundation

© LEGO Foundation



**DR. TARIQ AL GURG,**  
CEO Dubai Cares

© Dubai Cares

**“ We are grateful to ECW for bringing us all together in this great partnership to reimagine education for those left furthest behind. We want to do that with quality learning through play experiences. In non-threatening ways, it encourages the children to respond to the challenges with creative problem solving. We are also partnering as funders to find synergies. We’ve got a new partnership with USAID and through our partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark we are bringing our joint expertise together to focus on the crisis settings that are most important to both organizations. So come and join us at ECW to build a future where no child is left behind. ”**

**“ In a world where conflicts, natural disasters and pandemics are increasingly forcing people to move from their homes or migrate to another country, children and adolescents are struggling to access quality education. In the context of crises, as little as 5% of international humanitarian funding goes towards education in emergencies. If we do not provide the necessary financial support, an estimated 128 million vulnerable girls and boys living in these emergency contexts, will be denied their basic human right to education. They will neither graduate, nor will they acquire the skills they need to enter the job market and support their families in the future. Education Cannot Wait (ECW) was established to provide critical education support to the most vulnerable children across the world living in fragile contexts due to these crises, and ensure they can benefit from a better future. ECW’s ability to reach the most unreachable with speed and efficiency has been unmatched. We as Dubai Cares are proud to be part of ECW’s mission technically, and contribute to its secretariat on a higher level as well. ”**

**Education Cannot Wait (ECW)** is the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies. It was launched by international humanitarian and development aid actors, along with public and private donors, to address the urgent education needs of 75 million children and youth in conflict and crisis settings. ECW's investment modalities are designed to usher in a more collaborative approach among actors on the ground, ensuring relief and development organizations join forces to achieve education outcomes. Education Cannot Wait is hosted by UNICEF. The Fund is administered under UNICEF's financial, human resources and administrative rules and regulations, while operations are run by the Fund's own independent governance structure.

For more information:  
[www.educationcannotwait.org](http://www.educationcannotwait.org)

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