



EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT

The global fund for education in emergencies

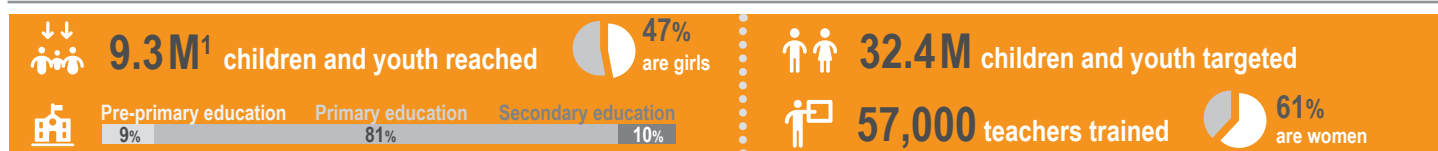
EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT: COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Working Together with Partners with the Fierce Urgency of Now!

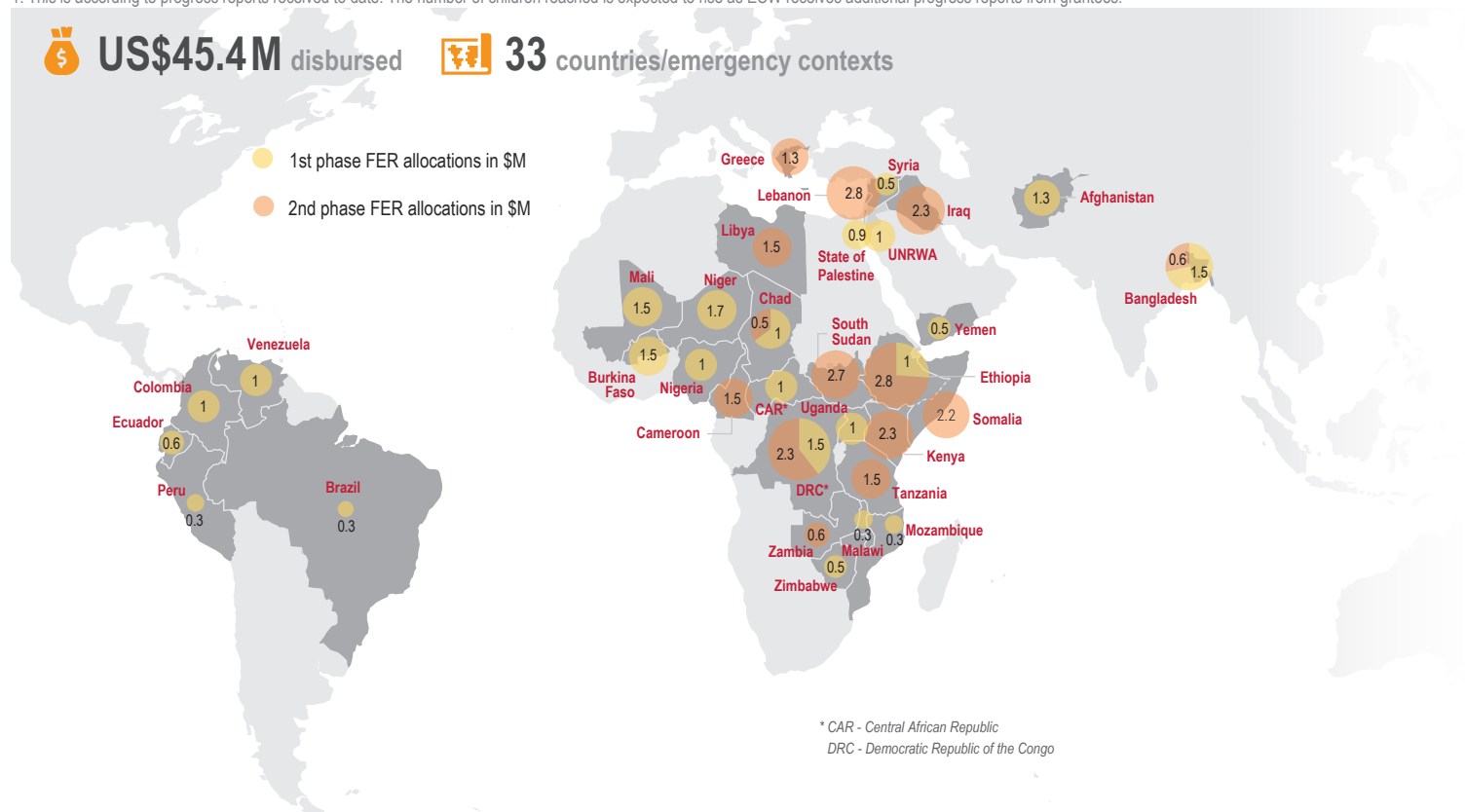
February 2021

Education Cannot Wait's (ECW) COVID-19 emergency response has reached over 9 million children and youth (47% girls) to date. ECW's COVID-19 emergency grants span across 33 crisis-affected countries/emergency contexts. Funds were allocated in two phases to 25 United Nations agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations, with the second phase focusing on refugee, internally displaced and host community girls and boys. ECW's 6-12 month First Emergency Response (FER) grants support continuous access to education including: distance, online and, radio learning; information campaigns on health and hygiene; risk communication and community engagement in local languages; psychosocial and mental health support; and, water and sanitation facility upgrades in schools and learning centers.

KEY FIGURES



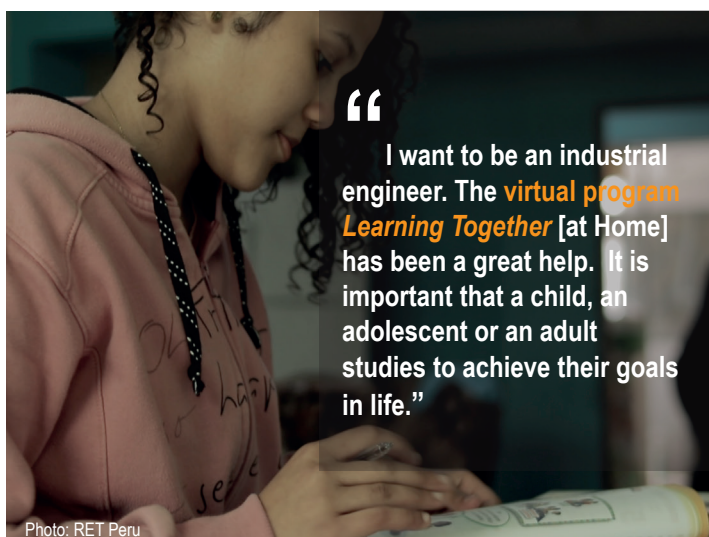
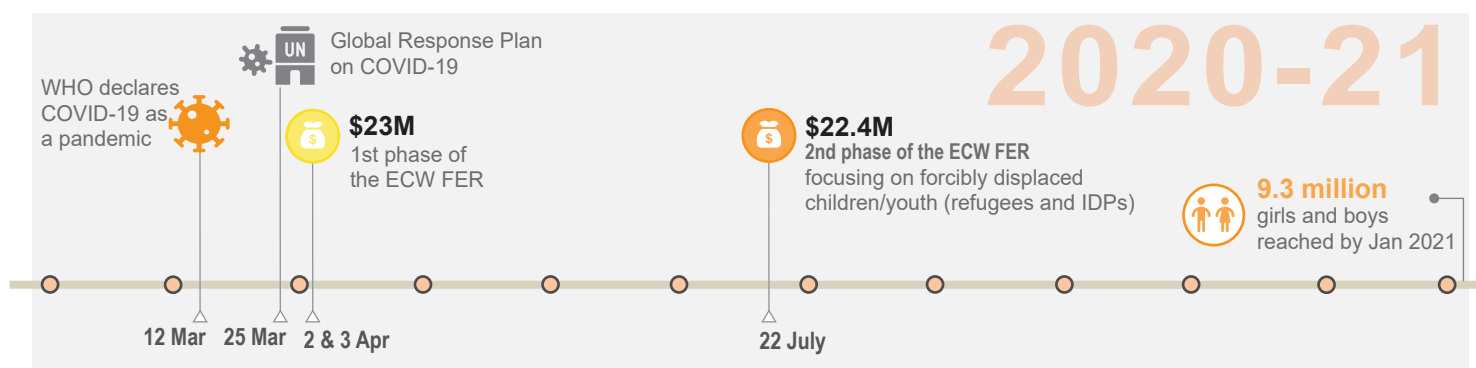
1. This is according to progress reports received to date. The number of children reached is expected to rise as ECW receives additional progress reports from grantees.



* CAR - Central African Republic
DRC - Democratic Republic of the Congo

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.

TIMELINE OF ECW COVID-19 FIRST EMERGENCY RESPONSES



Beyciveck, 14, arrived in Peru in 2019. In her home country of Venezuela, she was in the second year of secondary school. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, she continues to study thanks to an ECW-supported distance learning programme implemented by RET Peru.



ECW Director, Yasmine Sherif, visits an ECW-supported school during her January 2021 mission to Kaya, in the Center North region of Burkina Faso. The school offers a safe and protective learning environment for children displaced by violence and facing the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sherif also visited Lebanon in December 2020, where ECW is supporting COVID-19 education responses for refugee and host community children and youth.

KEY INTERVENTIONS



Remote learning

With the total disruption of the usual education systems in emergency-affected areas, ECW grants support alternative delivery models, including informal education materials at the household level, as well as scaling up distance education programmes, particularly via interactive radio.



Children and youth displaced by armed conflicts and climate-induced disasters

ECW's second phase of emergency grants focuses on refugee, internally displaced and host community children and youth. ECW announced these allocations in July 2020 after analysis showed significant needs remained to be met for these vulnerable girls and boys².



Reaching women and girls

ECW grants integrated gender-specific actions at the design stage of the response, supporting rapid gender assessment and targeted approaches for girls. Half of the children and youth reached to date are girls and 61% of all teachers trained are women.



Safe and protective learning environment

ECW grants improved access to water, hygiene and sanitation to protect children and their communities against the risks of COVID-19. Messaging, tailored to local languages and contexts, provides practical advice about how to stay safe, including through handwashing and social distancing.



Mental health and psychosocial support

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) is a core component of ECW-supported interventions. This includes COVID-19-specific guidance and training for parents and teachers to promote the resilience and the psychosocial wellbeing of children and youth. ECW also supports all children and adolescents to receive instruction in social emotional learning (SEL).