



**Executive Committee Meeting – Minutes**  
Friday 24 June 2022

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**Summary of the outcomes of the meeting**

**Chair’s Welcome**

The Chair:

- Welcomed participants to the meeting and recalled key points and outcomes from the last ExCom meeting such as the ExCom’s approval to add Ukraine to the list of MYRP countries and Moldova to the list of FER countries, and Mokoro’s Organisational Evaluation Inception Report.
- Thanked France for their recent contribution of 4 million Euros and **USAID** for their contribution of USD 18 million.
- the Chair outlined the agenda for the meeting as follows:
  - 1) Director’s Update
  - 2) Presentation: Organisational Evaluation
  - 3) 2021 Annual Results Report
  - 4) Update on the Strategic Plan Process & Localisation
  - 5) ECW Governance Structure
  - 6) ECW Finance Challenge
  - 7) Announcing the ECW High-Level Financing Conference and #222MillionDreams Campaign

**1- Director’s Update**

The ECW Director provided the ExCom with an update and made the following points:

- Thanked Switzerland, Germany, and Norway for their leadership as host and co-conveners of ECW’s upcoming High-Level Financing Conference in February and thanked ECW’s Strategic Partners for their support and engagement towards the launch of the Campaign.
- Thanked France for their recent contribution to ECW and all ExCom members for attending the Strategic Plan Retreat.
- Welcomed the increased focus on Education in Emergencies (EiE) in the SG’s Transforming Education Summit (TES).
- ECW and GPE Secretariats hold monthly catch-up meetings and joint-coordination efforts have gone from strength to strength. Both Secretariats will brief the ExCom at the next meeting on results achieved through shared commitments across Afghanistan and Myanmar.
- As advised by ExCom members recently, there is a clear need for additional staff as the Secretariat has been overstretched since ECW has been growing. The Secretariat will share a draft updated staffing plan with ExCom in August, as part of the ExCom package for 1 September meeting. At the ExCom meeting on 1 September (once the Organisational Evaluation Report and Strategic Plan have been completed), the Secretariat will submit an updated staffing plan aligned with the recommendations of both pieces of work for non-objection. ECW will however still seek to remain a lean and agile Fund. The Secretariat is now unfreezing and reactivating the Deputy Director position, which was advertised the week before the ExCom meeting. When the position had been drafted and approved in 2019, it exclusively focused on finance and operations, and was later transferred to a P5 position focusing on Finance and Operations in line with UNICEF practice.
- ECW is seeking approval for a P4 FT Advocacy position to support on advocacy efforts and preparations as of July in the run up to the HLFC.

The Chair noted that ExCom members could submit feedback to the Secretariat in regards to the information they wished to received in order to approve the presented positions and staffing plan. The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments:

- **GPE** echoed the positive cooperation between ECW and GPE and approved the additional P4 position at this stage to support replenishment efforts, and the activation of the Deputy Director position. In terms of operational costs, GPE suggested that the Secretariat factor in different scenarios for the replenishment outcomes in terms of targets and how these may affect the work of the Secretariat and staffing needs.
- **Germany** thanked the Director for the update and echoed GPE on the different scenarios adding that it would be helpful to understand the location of the positions. Germany endorsed the Deputy Director and P4 positions, and further asked for a rational on the location (New York) noting that it may be more strategic to consider placing them in Geneva, especially in the run up to the HLFC.
- The **EU** supported postponing the discussion on staffing until the outcomes of the Organisational Evaluation and the Strategic Plan were clearer. The EU endorsed both positions which were put forward for approval and also asked for further clarification on the location and nature of each position in the Staffing Plan. The EU also welcomed different scenario outcomes for the replenishment as proposed by other ExCom members.
- **Canada** endorsed the Deputy Director and P4 positions. Canada welcomed the postponement of decisions on the Staffing plan in order to ensure that the proposal is well aligned with the Organisational Evaluation and Strategic Plan's recommendations, as well as with improving learning outcomes.
- **Norway** echoed Canada on postponing the discussion around the Staffing Plan, underlining the need to also receive information from ECW about cost implications, administrative costs and a rational for all positions. Norway noted that the Staffing Plan included many higher-level grades and recommended including more mid-level grades such as P3 positions. Norway wished to further discuss a ceiling for administrative costs.
- **USAID** welcomed the updates received and supported all points made. USAID wished to underscore Canada's point on taking the Organisational Evaluation into account and looking into the right balance between functions, the increasing need for technical specialists and ensuring that all the decisions are aligned with the new Strategic Plan.
- **World Vision** welcomed ECW's efforts to overcome the challenges of an overstretched secretariat through the interim staffing structure circulated. World Vision sought further clarification on the new positions shown in the plan (the positions for which there will be a recruitment process, those that will be seconded, their duration and home organisation and upgraded positions). World Vision offered its support to ECW in sharing announcement on new positions available.
- The **LEGO Foundation** endorsed both jobs submitted for approval and agreed with the proposed expectations.
- **ICRC** and the **Netherlands** endorsed the job description of the Deputy Director which will ring well needed capacity support.
- **Ireland** and **Denmark** also endorsed the activation of the Deputy Director position and advocacy position and welcomed pushing the next ExCom to 1 September.
- The **UK** thanked the Director for the helpful update and noted that the ExCom approved of the Deputy Director activation and to the advertising of the P4 position now. For additional posts to be submitted in August and approval in September, the UK noted that it would be helpful to understand the rationale for all posts, how they link to the Mokoro evaluation, their overall costs and locations. The UK also sought further clarification on which existing jobs were to be upgraded and the rationale for the upgrade.

In response to the above questions and comments, the ECW Director provided the following answers:

- The Deputy Director will be based in NY, as proximity will be imperative for effective and efficient collective management and is in line with organisational practices.
- Thanks to all who provided comments and helpful steers on the Staffing Plan.

- As background documents will need to be sent out 3 weeks ahead of time for the HLSG meeting, the latest date for the ExCom meeting will have to be 1 September to ensure the Secretariat respects the agreed deadlines.

**The Chair noted that no objections were received for the activation of the Deputy Director JD and the P4 position recruitment.**

**2- Organisational Evaluation Presentation:**

**Stephen Lister, Mokoro**, delivered a presentation on the findings of the Organisational Evaluation. The following highlights were made **[Please refer to the attached Powerpoint Presentation and Report for full details]**:

- The Organisational Evaluation was based on interviews conducted with the Secretariat, partners, HLSG and ExCom members, ECW's results data, but also on the findings of prior Evaluations also led by Mokoro (MYRP, FER and Acceleration Facility).
- **ECW's relevance and Coherence:** ECW has proven to be a valuable addition to the EiE sector and architecture in terms of support, advocacy and funding. ECW's basic operating model is functional and the Fund appropriately focuses on the nexus although more efforts were needed in this regard to ensure proper coherence across the various agencies.
- **ECW's Results:** ECW has overall substantively committed to strengthening the political commitment towards EiEPC. Resource Mobilisation efforts, although successful, have been hampered a growing financing gap linked to an ever-growing number of children affected by crises and missing out on an education. Capacity strengthening is at the core of ECW's mandate and the Fund has effectively made substantial contributions to strengthening systemic capacities. Support to local partners however requires further strengthening.
- **Explanatory Factors – Efficiency, Governance and Organisational fitness:** ECW has proven its strength in terms of operational efficiency through its model of humanitarian speed and development depth. The short response time to prepare proposals is a disadvantage for new grantees and a further caveat in prioritizing speed is a weakening of transparency. ECW is working on recommendations from both the FER and MYRP evaluations to address this. In terms of allocated efficiency, MYRPs are taking a larger share of the portfolio but it is important to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the FER window. ECW's efficient use of resources is linked to its lean structure and low percentage of operating overhead costs. This was however leading to unsustainable workloads in the long-term. On the Secretariat's size and composition, some teams require strengthening, and increased inclusivity and gender parity is recommended for future staffing.
- **How can ECW strengthen its positioning and performance over the next strategic period?** A strong focus must remain on mobilising more international and multi-year funding from varied sources. ECW should continue to seek a higher ambition of funding to ensure that the MYRPs are properly funded and should take the lead in seeking additional funding for the programs it invests in. In terms of organisational strengthening, the HLSG requires further strengthening around resource mobilisation as formulated in the Operational Manual and the ExCom should strive to be an efficient board able to hold the Secretariat accountable for proper implementation. The Secretariat should also consider ways to streamline its Executive Committee whilst opening up for southern representation. As a matter of urgency, ECW must seek and negotiate an appropriate hosting agreement with UNICEF. Longer-term hosting options should be explored again two years in advance of the preparation of ECW's third strategic plan.
- **Next steps:** The ExCom will have the opportunity to provide written feedback to the draft report before it is reviewed and finalised by Mokoro on 21 July.

**The Chair** opened the floor for questions and comments:

- **GPE** noted Mokoro's recommendation for ECW to increase its overall funding and in turn its grant allocations, and asked if this were not to happen, would the recommendation thus be for ECW to focus on fewer countries and provide higher allocations or to remain within a geographical scope?

In regard to ECW's operational efficiency and the comparative analysis with other agencies, GPE clarified that its operating costs stood at 6.3% rather than 11.2% as stated in the report and this was due to GPE adding on the costs of grant agents separately.

- **Canada and Germany** requested additional time to review the report given the conflict with the pre-TES Summit meetings which most ExCom members would be attending.
- **The EU** welcomed Mokoro's Report and presentation noting that both could guide some of the decisions yet to be taken following the Strategic Plan retreat. The EU requested further clarification justifying why it had been difficult to find evidence around how ECW is contributing to collective outcomes and if this was partially due to the ambitions being too high or unrealistic or because of incorrect indicators.
- **Norway** – thanked Mokoro for the extensive evaluation and presentation. Given the concerns raised on results reporting and collective outcomes reporting, Norway expressed interest in receiving Mokoro's recommendations to ensure that improvements can be made to the results framework and reporting in the next Strategic Period. Norway further requested to add ECW's Management Response to the agenda for the next ExCom meeting.
- **The UK** thanked Mokoro for the report noting that its finding will be helpful for the preparation of both the Strategic and Staffing Plans. The UK echoed GPE's comment on the geographical scope of ECW; interventions to ensure that no unfunded emergencies are forgotten. The UK looked forward to the Evaluation's findings on the balance between the MYRPs and FERs and welcomes more information and recommendations on the hosting agreement to better understand whether current arrangements are impeding delivery.
- **UNICEF** expressed support towards ECW's work and Mokoro's Evaluation and looks forward to a continued engagement. UNICEF echoed comments made about the need to continue focusing on forgotten emergencies that are often seen as lesser priorities.
- **ICRC** noted and applauded the efforts to consult with 120 ECW stakeholders, asking if the grantee organisations were also consulted.
- **UNHCR** noted that the continued questions about the size/number of the MYRPs noted by GPE and discussed at the Retreat, remain relevant from UNHCR's perspective.
- The **Youth Representative** asked what can be done in future evaluations to more easily engage Southern voices.

In response to the above questions and comments, the following responses were provided:

- All comments and feedback were well noted.
- A meeting was scheduled after the ExCom meeting between ECW and UNICEF to discuss the hosting agreement.
- The Director thanked Mokoro for the very comprehensive report and agreed on the recommendations. The idea to review the hosting agreement ahead of the next Strategic Plan was well noted but the Secretariat will also need to consider where it is at that point, stressing that UNICEF has been a gracious and very supportive host. ECW has grown larger than many Funds or smaller UN departments, so the question to be posed will be is if ECW has grown too big to be hosted and can stand alone, like the Peacebuilding Fund?
- Thanks to the relentless work of the M&E team to reach the new figure of 222 million children, ECW's figures have been endorsed and validated by the EiE reference group, composed by UNHCR, UNICEF, CSOs, UNESCO, etc.
- ExCom members were encouraged to direct any questions on results and how they are measured to ECW's Chief of M&E and Global Reporting.
- On funding, where ECW could at times fall short with programs are underfunded, in comparison to other actors in the sector, was largely due to the fact that ECW shares its funding from both the humanitarian and development budgets. Education typically sources its funding from the development sector, but ECW's strategic partners are not all funding from the development budget.

- The Deputy Director post was not linked to Mokoro's Evaluation. It was approved in 2019 and based on organizational functionality. The Director thanked ExCom for approving its reactivation and advised that it will shortly be advertised.
- Mokoro confirmed that the deadline for comments and feedback could be extended to 5 July.
- The Secretariat will develop a Management Response by 12 August in consultation with the ExCom and the final Report is due to be published around the same time as the Strategic Plan.
- Reminder to all ExCom of the Advisory Group to collect comments for the Organisational Evaluation and feed into this process. ExCom members were encouraged to focus on the strategic aspects of the Evaluation given the time constraints.

### 3- 2021 Annual Results Report

Christian Stoff, Chief Monitoring & Evaluation and Global Reporting, delivered a presentation on the overarching findings from the draft Annual Results Report. The following points were made [\[Please refer to the Draft 2021 Annual Results Report and the PowerPoint Presentation for further information\]](#):

- Resources Mobilised: Following ExCom's recommendation, the Secretariat refined its methodology for the tracking of in-country resources mobilised and developed a new approach in consultation with the ETRG and partners, whereby only new and strongly aligned funding received in the start year of MYRPS were being tracked. The new outcome figure is however different to the USD 1 billion referred to in the 2020 Annual Results Report (ARR) which had been calculated through a different measurement approach. The USD 1 billion had used weakly aligned and coordinated funds and included pre-existing funds that had been accounted for. In the 2021 ARR, pre-existing funds are separately accounted for.
- The findings on children and adolescents reached are reported through active grants: a total of 3,7 million children were reached, 2.2 million of which were reached through MYRPs, which represents an increase from 1 million in 2020. ECW increased its results to 7 million children reached in 2021, since inception.
- Improved access and continuity: The challenge to determining outcome level result in crisis settings is twofold- achieving the results and then measuring the results. Both elements are captured in the attached presentation. A total of 112 programmes (FERs and MYRPs) were active in 2021, 87 of which measured outcome level results on access and continuity. Out of these 87 programmes, 70 reported an outcome level change, and out of the 70 programmes, 63 showed improved level of access and/or continuity.
- Improved Learning Outcomes: Out of the 112 programmes 35 programmes measured learning outcomes, 31 reported on outcome change and 30 (21 FERs and 9 MYRPs) showed improved level of learning outcome. The data demonstrates that ECW is making progress on outcome level results, measurements and reporting. However, in order for these to be collective for an entire crisis -affected population, all partners would need to submit to a common results framework or selective indicators across programmes.
- The 2021 ARR New Report Features implements recommendations drawn from consultations with the ETRG and partners in order to improve the report.
- Way Forward on Results

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments. The following statements were made:

- **Canada** and **Germany** thanked the Secretariat for the rich presentation and findings. Both provided feedback on the timeline to receive such presentations and requested that they be circulated in advance alongside other background documents. This would enable ExCom members to have sufficient time to absorb and disseminate the findings in order to have a meaningful discussion during the meeting.

- The **UK** welcomed the positive results achieved and seconded Canada and Germany's request. Given the scale of needs underpinned by a recent UNICEF report, the UK asked if and how ECW could support better global data collection on the scale of reach and response.
- **World Vision** echoed previous comments made on the challenge to provide feedback with short deadlines, especially where large groups/constituencies are represented through one ExCom member.
- **Norway** welcomed the opportunity to provide written comments to the report and asked that also appreciate if the key results, findings and lessons learned could be discussed in the next ExCom meeting.
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In response, ECW's Chief of M&E and Global Reporting provided following responses:

- Comments on deadlines have been well noted. The team is however overstretched and working at full capacity thus making it virtually impossible to circulate the presentation and background documents any sooner. Furthermore, many consultations with partners and grantees are required to ensure quality and most up to date data is provided, leaving the team with little time to begin drafting the report.
- The Secretariat proposes to organise an ETRG meeting to discuss the results and implications in more detail or at the next ExCom Forum.
- The Secretariat welcomes the UK's proposal for ECW to play a role in collective data collection and reach by setting up a common reporting mechanism facilitated by the Secretariat.

The Chair reminded ExCom members to send any further comments or feedback in writing to the Secretariat by Tuesday 5 July.

#### **4- Update on the Strategic Plan Process and Localisation**

Joseph Nhan O'Reilly, ECW's Senior Strategic Planning Advisor, provided a brief overview of progress made thus far and presented the timeline for the next phase of the strategic planning process in the run up to the strategy's publication in September. The following points were made **[Please refer to the attached SP Timeline]**:

- The Strategic Planning (SP) team has aimed to align all processes linked to the Organisational Evaluation and the Strategic Plan given the strong linkages between both documents. The SP team will be incorporating relevant recommendations made by the Organisational Evaluation into the Strategic Planning process.
- The Strategic Plan Development Timeline presented was circulated as part of the package sent to ExCom on 17 June and included a Results Framework, a visual of the Theory of Change and a draft Outline of the Strategic Plan. The SP team welcomed the ExCom's feedback and inputs for all three documents and extended the deadline for comments to the week of 4 July.
- The aim was to circulate the first draft by 13 July and ExCom members will have an opportunity to discuss this first draft and share their reflections at the ExCom Forum meeting on 20 July.
- At the ExCom's request during the Strategic Plan Retreat, the Secretariat agreed to develop a note on Localisation, which was also circulated to ExCom members ahead of the meeting. ExCom members were encouraged to send any additional comments on this paper, which will be fed into the Strategic Planning process.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments

- **Education International** welcomed the inclusion of teachers, teaching and learning, including support mechanisms for teachers in the Theory of Change. However, across the indicators and the outline for the Strategy, there was no alignment and teachers were not very visible. Education International called on the Secretariat to ensure that the content of the Theory of Change also

appeared in the Outline Strategy and the indicators whilst also offering its support in this process if needed.

- **Canada** thanked the SP team for the helpful overview and timeline. On the localisation paper, Canada wished to have further information on how the Strategy will be articulated and implemented. Canada also recalled that a number of concerns were raised around the Theory of Change and the inclusion of gender equality during the last Gender Reference Group meeting and looked forward to seeing the feedback provided incorporated into the document.
- The **UK** thanked the SP for the helpful presentation and asked if partners who were unable to attend the scheduled meetings could provide feedback bilaterally to the Secretariat. The UK noted that in order to reach the USD 1.5 billion target, the ExCom will need to have a detailed conversation or a clear steer in the Strategic Plan about how to manage the forecasted restricted budgets, especially given the increased focus on Ukraine. The UK further followed up on the MYRP discussion paper as agreed during the Strategic Plan retreat noting that the need for detailed discussion about the balance between FERs and MYRPs, and on the sustainability and the exit strategies for the MYRPs. Tradeoffs will need to be discussed as retaining all 28 MYRPs will limit donors' flexibility given the numerous calls for funding across numerous sectors. On localisation, the UK noted its concern about how ECW was planning to promote meaningful participation and influence in the design process if the number of staff on the ground is limited. It will be important to avoid further fragmentation within a country response whilst building up the capacity of local organisations.
- **Germany** congratulated ECW on the new ambitious Policy and Accountability framework and echoed Canada's point on localisation. Germany wished to have further information on its implementation and accountability.
- **USAID** underscored the limited time given for feedback and recommended that more time be built into the process for discussions as there were critical decision points around strategic issues that were needed to in order to move forward with the development of the new Strategic Plan.
- **Norway** welcomed ECW's considerations towards strengthening its focus on localization noting that local actors can play an important role in the design and implementation of educational programmes. This approach is also important in relation to ECW's aim to support better coherence between humanitarian and longer-term support and to contribute to sustainable solutions. Norway further noted that it is crucial that local actors are meaningfully included in all phases of the design of the program and not only contracted for the implementation stage as this will not only contribute to capacity building, but will improve both the efficiency and quality of the program Norway emphasized the need to involve and develop capacities of local and national authorities in addition to local organisations. When direct funding is given to local actors, Norway wished to receive more information on how this will be implemented, including planned systems for due diligence, follow up of partners and legal agreements.

In response to the above questions, the Secretariat provided the following answers:

- The Strategic Planning team will offer the opportunity to partners to provide feedback bilaterally.
- For the purpose of the next strategic plan, the SP team and Secretariat are working on the assumption of a total of up to 30MYRPs over the next operational period and will be using this number to establish the reach figures that are contained in the projections.
- In terms of funding, the working assumption is based on a doubling of funding that will be available for FERs over the next operational period based on the replenishment target of 1.5 billion.
- Canada's point on implementation was well noted. However, articulating how the strategy will deliver on some of the aspirations set out will likely not be possible at this stage. This was often the nature of many strategic plans where the strategic intentions are set out with clarity but their operationalization needed further work ahead. Indeed, many elements of the Strategic Plan will need to be operationalised and there will need to be further documentation and processes to support that.



- Education International's recommendations on indicators were well noted and the SP team will work on this alignment. Much feedback was however received from implementing partners in regard to having too many corporate indicators which pose a challenge for the design, implementation and monitoring of quality programming. Amongst the corporate indicators that ECW reports on, there will be a list that implementing partners will be able to choose from, and there will be a choice of indicators that will measure activities that relate to teachers.
- The current version of the results framework has taken into account and incorporated the feedback on gender equality received from the GRG and the ETRG.
- The UK raised further concerns about presupposing that all MYRPs would continue through-out the four-year period, as this would effectively limit ECW's ability to respond to new emergencies and is contrary to the evaluation findings on MYRPs being currently underfunded. They asked about the MYRP paper that was agreed at the Geneva retreat. The Secretariat confirmed that they had indeed committed to developing a MYRP paper, which will be circulated to ExCom.

## 5- ECW's Governance Structure

Kathleen Flynn-Dapaah, Canada's ExCom Representative, delivered an update and recommendations on ECW's governance structure. The following points were made:

- During the Strategic Plan Retreat in April, the ECW Secretariat and Canada's ExCom Representative were asked, in the context of the Organisational Review, to undertake an analysis of ECW's governance structure focusing on the issue of diversity and southern representation and to provide feedback and recommendations. Both ECW's Operating Manual and the agreed upon governance structure were reviewed as part of this process.
- The following observations and recommendations were provided:
  - Country/Constituency representatives sit on both of ECW's governance bodies (ExCom and HLSC). There have been known challenges in regards to participation at times, especially at the HLSC level. One recommendation may be to review these representatives and determine whether there is a need to have a transition to potential representatives who may have more availability or wish to be more strongly engaged, especially in the run up to the HLFC. Other factors to take into consideration that may have hindered in-person participation are of financial nature (although when needed and asked, ECW has offered to cover the costs), and in other instances, are down to a lengthy approval process within governance bodies to attend meetings.
  - CSOs representation: There are currently 4 representatives of CSOs who both on the ExCom and HLSC. This is based on a model that creates a balance between Southern and Northern representation. However both representatives of the youth constituency on the ExCom and HLSC are from the North. Within this context, the recommendation would be for CSO's, at the next cycle of elections, to explore representation of youth from the South.
  - ExCom Chairmanship: As terms come up for chairmanship and co-chairmanship within the ExCom governance structure, the recommendation is to use this opportunity to seek co-leadership from the North and South in this context.
- Canada proposed to set up a small working group to develop a more substantive and strategic plan to discuss at the next ExCom meeting in September.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments. The following statement were made:

- **USAID** thanked Canada for leading this review. As ECW is growing and institutionalising as an organisation, reviewing CSOs' representation will be essential and this could also be done by looking into representation from beneficiary countries, whether from ministries or clusters in-country.
- **Germany** fully supported Canada's recommendations and the inclusion of Global South and youth representation. Germany offered support to Canada across this task if needed.



- **Ireland** thanked Canada and the Secretariat for leading this review and recommended further investigating why it had been so challenging to receive responses from Southern partners in the context of the Organisational Evaluation, as this might aid in understanding how to get more engagement. Ireland, in addition, proposed to seek representatives from regional organisations such as the African Union, as an alternative.
- ECW's **Youth Representative** explained that the Youth constituency has also discussed the importance of having a youth representative from the South but wished to have a process of election. The Youth Constituency submits to a democratic election process rather than an appointment process, signifying that a Southern youth candidate would need to stand for election and then be elected. The Youth Representative further noted the rationale of having a smaller governance structure but recommended, as discussed within the constituency, that if the goal was to have equal representation then any beneficiary country of ECW funding should also be represented within the governance bodies.
- **GPE** briefed on its long history of working with focal points from developing country partners as part of its constituency governance structure, and offered to share and helpful information on this mechanism. GPE holds regular meetings prior to its Board meetings with focal points whom are often senior civil servants with greater technical knowledge of programmes, as opposed to ministers who have a more strategic overview. GPE also offered to look into ways ECW could join these consultations for efficiency.
- **World Vision** underlined the challenges that are brought along with diversifying representation such as around language support during meetings and the impact on discussions within constituencies.

In response to the above questions and comments, the following answers were provided:

- The ECW Secretariat welcomed the opportunity to have a Youth representative from the South in its governance bodies. In regard to overall Southern representation, the Secretariat was currently in discussions with several co-conveners from the South such as South Sudan, Niger and hopefully Colombia once the elections were concluded, to play a greater role within the governance bodies. This is in addition to Lebanon who was already represented in the HLSC and ExCom, although a new member for the latter still needed to be appointed since the new government was put in place. The Secretariat also wished to explore how the Refugee Council or the Youth4EiE Campaign can add further diversity and ensure refugee voices are heard.
- Canada welcomed further discussion on these matters at the next ExCom meeting and will develop a timeline leading up to the HLFC which will be circulated to ExCom.

## 6- ECW Financing Challenge

The co-conveners of the upcoming High-Level Financing Conference and the Secretariat briefed ExCom members on the progress made so far in preparation for the conference. The following points were made

- **Switzerland:** The dates for the HLFC are confirmed for 16 and 17 February 2023 in Geneva. The HLSC will showcase positive North/South partnership through its co-conveners (Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Niger and South Sudan). Switzerland will be providing a secondment to ECW to support preparations as of August. Switzerland began its lobbying efforts at the World Economic Forum in May together with ECW and the Jacobs Foundation, marking the start of engagement with the private sector and foundations. Follow-up meetings will also be organized with the private sector in Switzerland with the aim of working together towards a joint pledge. Switzerland is also looking into a follow-up event at the 2023 World Economic Forum to showcase the progress made and explore the possibilities of partnership on EiE with the private sector. Switzerland will be hosting high-level meetings with Permanent Missions and the private sector to give more visibility and priority to EiE in the run up to the conference. Bilateral outreach to donors has also begun through the multilateral fora, existing missions and events, such as at

the pre-TES , HLPF and UNGA. Switzerland will be taking up a seat on the UN Security Council next year and will use this opportunity to give visibility to EiE as one its main priorities.

- **Germany** has encouraged ECW and the other Co-hosts/-conveners to develop a common narrative language around the replenishment and congratulated the ECW Secretariat for its in giving such good and widespread visibility to the financing campaign throughout the world. Though its presidency of the G7 this year, Germany has referred to ECW and GPE in the G7 Development Ministers' Meeting Communiqué, the G7 have agreed to support resilient, inclusive and gender -transformative education systems. Furthermore, Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development has underlined her commitment to gender equality and girls' education co-signing ECW's "Call to Action to Empower Her" and by working closely with Canada on the INEE Mind the Gap Report. Germany will be undertaking bilateral outreach with partners.
- **Norway** has been focusing its efforts on mobilising Nordic donors and have held meetings with Norwegian civil society for their steer in mobilizing CSOs across other Nordic countries. A Nordic Development Ministers' Conference will be coming up, where ECW and EiE will be discussed. Norway's Minister for International Development recently met with Malala and both expressed their commitment to jointly collaborate in support of the conference. The Minister is looking into undertaking a mission to one of ECW's MYRP countries to galvanise support. Norway will also be looking into including references to ECW's Financing Campaign across different contexts and all relevant engagements.

Nasser Faqih, ECW's Chief of Strategic Partnerships provided the following update from the Secretariat's perspective [\[Please refer to the attached PowerPoint presentation\]](#):

- The Secretariat conveyed its sincere thanks to its co-conveners and to all partners that have lent their support for the HLFC preparations.
- 3 workstreams were set up within the Secretariat to ensure that the full capacity of the Secretariat is efficiently used: i. Lobbying and Diplomatic outreach, led by Nasser, focusing on partnerships and on the dialogue with CSOs and governments to determine what are appropriate asks; ii. Conference Planning, led by Maarten, focusing on the actual event in Geneva and how ECW can contribute in knowledge and in transformative solutions to advance the EiE agenda during ECW's replenishment; iii. Comms & Media outreach, led by Kent.
- These 3 workstreams will carry and support a lot of the work behind the scenes alongside co-conveners to ensure a successful replenishment.
- In terms of in-house capacity, ECW will be receiving an additional 4 staff who will join to support the campaign, which includes Switzerland's secondment.
- Next steps will revolve around the launch of the Case for Investment and the need to determine partners' likelihood of a pledge and what amount this may be in order to realistically set a target on the day.
- The Secretariat called on ExCom's support to provide guidance on what would be a feasible ask/pledge in 2023, to bring out the success of the EiE community and not result in a failure to meet minimum targets.

The ECW Director:

- Conveyed her gratitude to ECW's HLFC co-host and co-conveners for their incredible efforts, to Helen Grant for offering to be a Champion for ECW and to USAID for supporting ECW on US private sector mobilisation.
- Extended the invitation to all ExCom and/or HLSC partners who wish to also come forward as Champions.

**7- Announcing the ECW High-Level Financing Conference and #222MillionDreams Campaign**

Kent Page, ECW's Chief of Communications and Advocacy, delivered an update on the launch of ECW's #222MillionDreams campaign. The following points were made [\(Please refer to the PowerPoint Presentation for further details\)](#):

- The 222 Million technical study and launch of the #222MillionDreams campaign was launched by ECW on 21 June at the UN Geneva Press Conference and the UN-ECOSOC high-level panel. Thank you to all partners for their tremendous support and collaboration. At time of the meeting have received 42 HI VIDEOS have been received promoting the Campaign.
- The launch included global media coverage, a Project Syndicate op-ed, high-level UN, Donor, CSO, private sector video statements and a social media campaign, shared with all ECW partners.
- An important part of the social campaign highlights the voices of children benefiting from ECW and partners support, through the sharing of the children’s stories in the #MyDreams component of the campaign.

The Chair opened the floor for questions and comments. The following statements were made:

- **GPE** reiterated its offer to share its experience from previous replenishment campaigns and invited the ECW Secretariat to reach out to the GPE advocacy team for any support needed to amplify the Campaign. GPE noted that it has been working, as has ECW, to build relationships with certain donor markets that are not funding EiE and that it may be worth coordinating these efforts as there are potential opportunities for advocacy.
- The **UK** congratulated ECW on the campaign and underlined that the TES, as a critical moment for ECW, was not referred to. The UK noted that it would be helpful to understand ECW’s level of ambition and offered its help in the tun up to the HLFC.

In response to the above questions and comments, the Secretariat provided the following responses:

- Thanks to partners who have been lobbying for EiE to feature more prominently in the TES agenda.
- The TES features in the timeline running u to the HLFC.

**Chair’s Summary and Close:**

The Chair thanked ExCom members for their participation and summarised key points and decisions of the meeting:

- The Deputy Director JD and P4 Advocacy Position were both approved.
- The ExCom agreed to review an updated Staffing Plan accompanied by a costed plan set out against the Organisational Evaluation and Strategic Plan for discussion and decision in the 1 September ExCom meeting.
- The deadlines for comments on the draft Annual Results and the Organisational Evaluation Report are postponed to 5 and 6 July respectively.
- The Secretariat will organize an ETRG meeting on the Annual Results Report and the lessons learned in terms of the Monitoring and Evaluation and Learning approach under the new Strategic Plan in the week of 8 August.
- ExCom members were requested to look at the Strategic Plan timeline which indicated upcoming milestones and detailed dates for comments on the process.
- Canada will revert with a follow up plan and a timeline for comments on the Governance structure review.
- The next HLSG will take place on Tuesday 20 September in New York.

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