

# Request for Proposals (RFP)

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*Addressing the intersection  
of Climate Change and  
Education in Emergencies &  
Protracted Crises*





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## *Addressing the intersection of Climate Change and Education in Emergencies & Protracted Crises*

**The Request for Expressions of Interest consists of this cover page and the following sections:**

1. Instructions
2. Terms of Reference

This RFP will use a two-stage application process. The first stage is an Expression of Interest (Eol). Shortlisted applicants that pass the Eol stage will be invited to submit a full proposal for review and final selection.

**A complete first-stage application consists of:**

- A. Eol Application
- B. Eol Budget

**For shortlisted applicants (who progress to the second-stage, after the conclusion of the Eol stage), a complete full application will consist of:**

- A. Narrative Technical Proposal
- B. Results Framework
- C. Budget Template
- D. Risk Assessment

### Eol Submission requirements

**Deadline:** August 5, 2024

**Subject Line:** ECW AF Eol: [Insert Organisation]

**Email:** [rfp@un-ecw.org](mailto:rfp@un-ecw.org)

The Eol Application and Eol Budget should be submitted as separate PDFs in one email. Incomplete Eols received after the deadline will not be considered. Full proposal submission requirements will be communicated to shortlisted applicants once the Eol stage concludes.

An online orientation to the RFP will be announced soon.

For updated information about this RFP and the online orientation, please visit the Education Cannot Wait website at:

<https://www.educationcannotwait.org/news-stories/featured-content/ecw-calls-proposals-addressing-the-intersection-climate-and-education-crisis>

For questions about this RFP, write to: [rfp@un-ecw.org](mailto:rfp@un-ecw.org)

# Instructions

## 1.1 General

Proposers must strictly adhere to all the requirements of the RFP and the guidance of the RFP template. No changes, substitutions or other alterations to the requirements stipulated in the RFP may be made unless agreed in writing by Education Cannot Wait.

Proposers acknowledge that all obligations stipulated by the RFP will be met, unless otherwise specified. The submitting organization will have read and understood all instructions, terms of reference and other requirements.

Submitting a proposal does not constitute or imply the acceptance of the proposal by Education Cannot Wait. No binding contract, including a process contract or other understanding or arrangement will exist between the Proposer and Education Cannot Wait and nothing in or in connection with this RFP shall give rise to any liability on the part of Education Cannot Wait unless and until the Contract is finalized by Education Cannot Wait and the successful organization. Education Cannot Wait is under no obligation to award a contract to any Proposer as a result of the RFP.

Education Cannot Wait may, at its discretion, cancel the requirement in part or in whole.

As a UNICEF hosted fund, Education Cannot Wait adheres to UNICEF policies on fraud, corruption, and unethical practices.

Information relating to the examination, evaluation, and comparison of proposals and the recommendation of contract award shall be treated with appropriate confidentiality.

Proposers should not have been, directly or indirectly, engaged in the preparation of any part of this RFP document or Annexes.

## 1.2 Eligibility

This RFP is open to all international and national organizations that can provide the requested goods/services/works and are legally constituted or represented in the country where the services will be delivered. Successful applicants will need to be HACT assessed as being either “low” or “medium” risk (in all localities of implementation, not only at HQ level), be able to register at the United Nations partner portal and pass the core assessment and PSEA assessments. Other parties may receive funds as implementing partners of direct grantees in line with the direct grantees’ policies on sub-grants.

## 1.3 Cost of proposal

The cost of preparing a proposal, attendance at any pre- meetings or oral presentations shall be borne by the proposers, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the solicitation process. The Proposer shall not in any way include these as a direct cost of the assignment. Proposals must offer the services for the total requirement; proposals offering only part of the services will be rejected unless the option of submitting a proposal for any or all lot/s of the requirement has been expressly stated in the terms of reference/statement of work.

## ***1.4 Amendments to the solicitation of documents***

Education Cannot Wait retains the right to amend the RFP documents during the solicitation period. Any amendments to the RFP will be noted on ECW's website.

Any errors that are identified in the RFP by potential applicants should be addressed to ECW via the submission email address.

## ***1.5 Withdrawal of submission***

Applicants may request to withdraw their submission by writing to the ECW Secretariat. Once a proposal has been withdrawn, it cannot be resubmitted during the same RFP solicitation period.

## ***1.6 Language of the proposal***

It is expected that the proposal will be submitted in English. The submitting organization is solely responsible for the cost of any required translation.

## ***1.7 Proposal currency***

The proposal must be submitted in US Dollars (US\$).

## ***1.8 Review and selection process***

No additional applications will be considered after the deadline has passed. The ECW Secretariat will review each submission to first assess if the proposal is complete. All complete applications will be reviewed against a set of technical and financial criteria as outlined in the Terms of Reference. The proposal(s) receiving the highest technical and financial score will be selected to continue to a full application stage. All organizations will receive an email informing them of the outcome of the selection process.

## ***1.9 Award and contracting***

The selected organization(s) may be asked to submit additional information and undergo further assessments. Organizations that pass the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit a full proposal for further review and final selection. An award is not considered official and binding until a grant confirmation letter is signed.

# Terms of Reference

## 2.1 Background

### 2.1.1 Education Cannot Wait

The Education Cannot Wait (ECW) fund was established during the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 to help reposition education as a priority on the humanitarian agenda, usher in a more collaborative approach among actors on the ground, and raise additional funding to ensure that every crisis-affected child and young person is in education and learning. ECW is a multi-stakeholder fund that funds education in emergencies and protracted crises (EIEPC). ECW's day-to-day operations are carried out by the Secretariat. 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.

ECW's mission is to reach with education the most marginalized girls and boys of all ages in all their diversity in emergencies and protracted crises. ECW utilizes three different funding/program modalities that together aim to achieve collective education outcomes for the hardest-to-reach children and young people: (i) the First Emergency Response (FER) investment window/modality supports education programs immediately in sudden-onset or escalating crises; (ii) the Multi-Year Resilience Program (MYRP) investment window addresses longer-term needs through a multi-year joint program in protracted crises affected countries, enabling humanitarian and development actors to work together; (iii) the Acceleration Facility (AF) focuses on innovation, capacity development and the creation of global public goods for the education in emergency sector to address key priority systemic obstacles.

### 2.1.2 The Climate Crisis and EIEPC

The climate crisis is an education crisis. Climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss threaten children's right to quality, safe and inclusive education, well-being, and protection. At the same time, education can be a gateway towards adaptation and mitigation.

One billion children live in extremely high-risk countries vulnerable to the impact of climate change. ECW's latest analysis suggests that 62 million crisis-affected children and adolescents have had their education disrupted by climate shocks since 2020, with 13 million displacements of school-aged children due to floods, droughts, and other extreme events. The climate crisis is not "gender neutral," and women and girls – including those with disabilities – often experience the most significant impacts of climate change, amplifying existing inequalities.

### 2.1.3 ECW and the Climate Crisis

In its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, ECW made several bold commitments in response to the climate crisis. These commitments cut across all of ECW's work, spanning programming, advocacy, funding, and operations. Against a backdrop of devastating floods, prolonged drought and increasing displacement, ECW has already accelerated this work both at the global level, through advocacy and strategic partnerships, and at the country level through investments and capacity strengthening for partners at the frontline of responding to climate-induced crises. More information can be found in [ECW's Strategic Plan](#), Climate Background Paper, the [Right Here Right Now appeal](#), and the [Flagship Climate Report](#) from the Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies.

Dedicated Acceleration Facility funding will enable ECW and partners to advance innovation, capacity development, and global goods at the intersection of Climate Change and EIPC. Through this Request for Proposals, three new Acceleration Facility partnerships will be established, to

ensure greater focus and improved responsiveness within the EIEPC sector to climate-related risks and hazards in the countries worst affected by the climate crisis.

### 2.1.4 ECW's Acceleration Facility

ECW's Acceleration Facility provides a flexible financing mechanism to fund strategic initiatives which tackle systemic barriers to quality education and stimulate and catalyze advancements in the EiEPC ecosystem. The Facility is centred on ECW's ambition for global change and ECW's core mandate on global advocacy. ECW's AF grantees are encouraged to think ambitiously and innovatively in the way they deliver their work.

AF grantees undertake a range of activities under their grants. Examples of their work include, but is by no means limited to, the following activities:

- Piloting/testing innovations, leading to lessons learned and scalable models which can be shared with the broader sector.
- Developing, testing and disseminating meaningful, evidence-based guidance, principles and standards for the EIEPC sector, in response to identified gaps and challenges.
- Building sustainable capacity for the coordination and delivery of EIEPC.
- Building quality data and analysis that can help the EIEPC sector to advance.
- Increasing political will and financing for the EIEPC sector.

Notably, the AF is not a programmatic window that funds standard programmatic interventions. Where ECW does fund programmatic country-based work in the AF, it is robustly linked to a wider ambition around building an evidence base, piloting or lesson learning. By piloting or delivering these interventions and services the RFP seeks to develop globally relevant public goods and evidence that can be used to strengthen the resilience of EIEPC and uphold children's right to quality education.

It is intended that proposals funded under the Acceleration Facility feed into investments from ECW and other actors to ensure that more girls, boys and youth in crisis contexts are reached more quickly with quality, inclusive, gender-responsive and climate-resilient education. Examples of how existing AF grants are linked to ECW's country investments include, but are not limited to:

- Consulting with MYRP partners in a specific context to inform, and even co-design, the development of tools and resources.
- Piloting initiatives with MYRP and FER partners in a specific context, and then sharing findings/resources in other contexts – creating a replicable model for MYRP and FER partners where possible.
- Conducting research with and through FER and MYRP partners in multiple contexts and sharing the evidence widely.
- Creating tools and resources that can then be used by FER and MYRP partners (and other actors) in EIEPC response.

All AF grantees are expected to engage in cross-learning with other ECW grantees and the wider sector. This may include, for example, taking part in webinars, writing blogs, presenting in MYRP design or steering committee meetings, presenting findings at academic conferences, and participating in ECW learning events.

## 2.2 Scope of work

The RFP seeks proposals to address one of three objectives. ECW has identified these objectives after careful analysis of systemic obstacles and sectoral gaps at the intersection of EIEPC and the Climate Crisis.

### RFP Objectives:

1. **Develop and disseminate Global Guidance for the greening of Temporary Learning Spaces**
2. **Undertake research and advocacy on Loss and Damage and Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises.**
3. **Scale up and share effective models for locally-led, innovative, climate-smart EIEPC programming**

We anticipate issuing three separate grants to three separate organizations under this RFP. That is, we do not expect organizations to submit a proposal against all three objectives (unless they feel they are uniquely placed to do so) but rather expect organizations to play to their strengths and submit an Expression of Interest against one strand alone. While the three objectives fall under this one RFP on climate, they are three distinct areas and will be treated as such in the review process.

If an organization wishes to submit a proposal against more than one objective, separate, individual proposals must be submitted for each objective.

Successful partners will combine experience in EIEPC, Climate Change, and meaningful global good development. They will also be, have strong relationships with, and/or have the capacity to sub-grant to local and national organizations. We welcome applications from consortium or multiple partners, provided that one organization is clearly nominated as the lead.

### **OBJECTIVE 1: Develop and disseminate Global Guidance for the greening of Temporary Learning Spaces**

**The challenge:** The education sector is making progress in ensuring permanent education structures are more environmentally friendly and resilient. However, there is minimal evidence and guidance to support the greening of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), which are a crucial part of education response in emergencies. Currently, there is no established guidance for the EIEPC community. ECW seeks to address that gap.

**The proposition:** Under this objective, ECW are looking for an AF partner to develop and disseminate guidance, standards and/or principles for the EIEPC sector to support the greening of TLS. ECW requires the selected AF partner to collaborate with INEE, the Global Education Cluster, and other sector actors (including from the climate and environment sector), to ensure any global tool is adhering to global standards and is as meaningful and relevant to the sector as possible.

**Proposal requirements:** The initiative would be expected to include the following steps:

- Capturing good practices from ECW's programmes and from the wider sector and defining what good greening models look like.
- Developing meaningful, quality global guidance and associated tools on how to procure, establish and reuse TLS (including gender and inclusion considerations).
- Costing greener TLS, including the difference between these and current TLS.

This includes the financial cost, and the time/effort cost to communities and local organisations in sourcing more environmentally friendly TLS (including considering differing resources/capacity in different contexts).

- Piloting the global guidance and associated tools in a select number of ECW MYRPs and FERs.
- Supporting effective dissemination and capacity development with the wider sector in collaboration with INEE, the Global Education Cluster and other relevant partners.

**Partner requirements:** This objective requires an organization with the following strengths:

- Expertise in both Climate and EIEPC, and specifically understanding of the role and use of TLS in EIEPC response.
- Experience of developing global goods in a way that is meaningful to the sector - avoiding the guidance becoming a traditional 'on the shelf' product with limited use
- The capacity (themselves or through partners) to field-test any new tools in ECW countries.
- A plan for collaboration and/or partnership with INEE, the Global Education Cluster, and/or other sector actors as essential to the use and uptake of the new guidance.

## **OBJECTIVE 2: Undertake research and advocacy on Loss and Damage and Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises.**

**The challenge:** Under this objective, ECW aims to address the current gap in education and climate-induced loss and damage evidence, policy, and funding. While non-economic loss and damage is slowly gaining more traction and awareness, education (and specifically Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises) is still largely overlooked in terms of loss and damage. Loss and damage in the education sector can look like lost school days, children never returning to school and losing years of education and future economic opportunities, damaged school infrastructure, lack of protection, forced displacement and psychosocial impacts.

This objective responds to a recommendation in the EiE Hub's recent report on climate change: *The Loss and Damage Fund, which was established at the 2022 United Nations Climate Conference (COP27) and is to be operationalised, supports the countries most impacted by climate change. The Fund's next goals, set for 2024, are to reconstruct the climate finance delivery scheme and set a new climate finance goal. This opens opportunities for EiE actors to advocate that children and young people disproportionately affected by the climate crisis should receive a fair share of the funding in order to secure their right to education.*

**The proposition:** ECW ultimately wants to ensure greater financial commitment to address loss and damage experienced by the EIEPC sector, especially ensuring the new Loss and Damage Fund adequately reflects education and receives a fair share of funding. Decisions around this Fund are progressing quickly, so any grantee(s) would need to act smartly, quickly and politically, and align with ongoing processes.

To achieve the ambition, ECW are looking to fund a grantee/grantees to do two things: i) to develop new evidence/research; and ii) deliver an advocacy campaign specifically geared to influencing UNFCCC processes and climate member state decision-makers. ECW are not looking to produce a product to influence the education sector - the objective is specifically to influence the climate sector and climate decision-makers.



The research should build on ongoing efforts, including, for example, UNICEF Innocenti's [Loss and Damage Finance for Children report](#), [Plan International's report on Loss and Damage](#), [The Loss and Damage Collaboration](#), IIED's [Non-economic loss and damage: closing the knowledge gap](#) and the recent ODI [working paper](#) and World Bank [Policy Note](#).

ECW are particularly interested in the idea of organisations partnering up to apply for funding under this objective. ECW would positively score organisations that show collaboration across industrial and programme countries, and across the research and advocacy sectors. ECW would especially welcome engagement of relevant climate coalitions.

**Proposal requirements:** Proposals will be expected to include the following:

- Knowledge of existing research and activities in this area and understanding of the gaps in loss and damage work on education.
- A clear approach to building evidence on how the EiEPC sector experiences climate-induced loss and damage, including quantifying education loss and damage. Any evidence generation should be proportionate to ECW's end goal of influencing the climate sector in a timely way, aligned with UNFCCC timelines.
- A focus on countries with ECW programmes (see Annex A).
- Ability to analyse how climate-induced loss and damage interacts with other social and economic issues, such as conflict, poverty, gender, inclusion, food insecurity and displacement, within the lens of education.
- A concrete advocacy plan to turn research into positive outcomes for ECW. This includes influencing climate decision-makers, with appropriate consideration of the political dynamics and advocacy opportunities and mechanisms to achieve this.
- Understanding of UNFCCC, IPCC and World Bank processes, specifically the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), the Loss and Damage Fund and the Santiago Network.
- If funding and the organisation's capacity allow, ECW is open to receiving proposals that include longitudinal research on loss and damage in the education sector, in a few specific countries.
- An inclusive approach to bringing in child voice and participation into any aspect of the delivery of this objective.

**Partner Requirements:** This objective requires an organisation with the following strengths:

- Expertise on loss and damage and key financing and policy processes (UNFCCC, IPCC, World Bank processes).
- Experience in climate advocacy including of the political dynamics, opportunities and mechanisms to achieve influence in the climate sector.
- Existing networks with relevant stakeholder groups (e.g. WIM members)
- The ability to translate climate expertise and experience to the EiEPC context, including in close collaboration (or partnership) with EiEPC actors, and/or the ability to translate EiEPC expertise to climate policy contexts.
- A track record of providing credible and quality research and evidence.

### **OBJECTIVE 3: Scale up effective models for locally-led, innovative climate-smart EiEPC programming**

**The challenge:** ECW is aware that work on climate change and Education in Emergencies and

Protracted Crises is a rapidly evolving space. This objective creates an opportunity for partners to further develop/expand exciting new initiatives which could have a catalytic effect for the wider sector. ECW is particularly interested in funding locally-driven solutions and initiatives.

**The proposition:** ECW is intentionally keeping the parameters for this objective broad, given a number of innovative, locally-led solutions are being developed in multiple contexts, in response to ever-increasing and differing needs. In the Expression of Interest, the partner should be clear about the specific needs that the initiative responds to, the work and evidence it is based on, and the details of the programmatic solution itself.

Example areas of focus might include, for example:

- Scaling an education program focused on the intersection of MHPSS, Education and Climate Action. For example, an intervention that successfully uses child and youth-led climate action for climate benefits but also as a therapeutic tool for children suffering from trauma.
- A climate-focused capacity development initiative for teachers in crisis settings.

### Proposal and Partner Requirements:

- The partner would be expected to focus on 1 – 3 MYRP contexts (see Annex A) and collaborate with ECW's in-country partners.
- Local actors must be directly involved in the proposal.
- The approach must uphold ECW's strong commitments to Gender, Inclusion and Protection
- The initiative should make clear how the intervention will support global goods – through, for example, developing a replicable model, or producing significant evidence for the sector to build and learn from
- The proposal should clearly state how learning, best practices, and recommendations will be shared with the EIEPC and Climate sectors. There must be a robust learning agenda running alongside the pilot/scaling up, which provides evidence of what works/what doesn't work.
- The proposal can be a series of different interventions testing the best way to deliver a specific goal e.g. trauma-sensitive climate action.

## 2.3 Implementation Modalities

### 2.3.1 General information

Through this RFP, ECW seeks to fund **three partnerships** that can **each deliver on one** of the **RFP objectives**.

The current RFP makes available USD \$2.4 million divided across the three areas. The specific amount for each objective has not been predetermined and will depend on the specific proposals. ECW is therefore inviting proposals against a predetermined 'ceiling amount' listed below. The eventual allocations will be based on the review of proposals. All applicants should be aware that they may be asked to reduce their overall budget if successful in progressing to the next round.

<b>Develop and disseminate Global Guidance for the greening of Temporary Learning Spaces</b>	<b>Up to 750,000 USD</b>
<b>Undertake research and advocacy on the Loss and Damage and Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises</b>	<b>Up to 1,200,000 USD</b>
<b>Scale up and share models for locally-led, innovative climate-smart EIEPC programming</b>	<b>Up to 750,000 USD</b>

The proposal should respond to a specific amount within this range. The grants are anticipated to run for 3 years, depending on the specific proposal.

The RFP partner will be accountable to ECW for the entire grant. If any, sub-contracted partners would normally be based in-country and will directly report to and be financially accountable to the selected partner of this RFP.

### 2.3.2. Linkages with FERs and MYRPs

The Acceleration Facility aims to foster innovative approaches in both programmatic work and the strengthening of capacities and systems. As such, this investment window should not duplicate activities that are commonly designed and included in FERs and MYRPs to enhance access and learning. However, ECW is seeking partners with capacities to work closely alongside MYRP grantees in emergencies and protracted crises.

Any EoI with a focus on piloting, delivering or researching in EIEPC contexts should therefore focus on the priority countries listed in Annex A. It is not expected that proposals will focus on the full list of countries, but a selected few. These countries have been selected as they correspond to countries with relevant ECW in-country investments. EoIs should highlight how the prospective grantees plan to engage and coordinate with MYRP grantees to advance efforts to promote climate resilience in education in emergencies and protracted crises.

The grantee(s) should indicate their focus countries in their EoI, justifying their selection and describing any in-country presence/or partners for the relevant countries. However, final country selection will be determined during the second stage of the application process, when the full proposal is developed. This final selection will be done in collaboration with the ECW Secretariat and country partners to ensure the approach is as meaningful as possible to the specific context. In the second stage of the application process the prospective grantees will be expected to engage with relevant ECW in-country investments as part of developing their full proposal.

### 2.3.3 Connection with other national, regional and global Initiatives or actors

As a global fund focused on education in emergencies and protracted crises and with its mandate to create, facilitate and share knowledge on education for those affected by conflict, ECW is committed to collective action and collective outcomes. In this spirit, AF proposals should clearly demonstrate how the proposed activities will build on and link to existing work, evidence and actors in the sector – at national, regional, and global levels.

A partnership approach to implementing the recommended activities is encouraged, including in-country partners, Government partners and education in emergencies and protracted crises country-level stakeholders, ECW Secretariat staff, and other relevant organizations at global,

regional and national levels, particularly national and local women and girls' organizations.

### 2.3.4 Timeline and deliverables

We envision a grant start date in the last quarter of 2024. The envisioned budget is US\$ 2.4 million in total, for the full portfolio of work that responds to this call. ECW suggests a 3-year grant proposal period from disbursement but are open to bids covering a shorter/longer period if there is compelling rationale, up to a maximum of 5 years. Not all programmes or grants allocated through this RFP are anticipated to move at the same speed.

### 2.3.5 Assessment Criteria

The application process will be in two stages. The first stage is an Expression of Interest (Eol) stage, based on which ECW will shortlist applicants that meet minimum criteria and pass the bar for invitation to full proposal. The template for the full proposal will be shared with applicants that pass the first stage.

All eligible proposals will be assessed based on these Terms of Reference. For each stage (Eol and full proposal stage), applications will be granted scores following objective technical criteria. Percentages on how much each criterion influences the total score are given in brackets below. ECW will shortlist applicants based on this Eol stage, and invite the highest-scoring applicants that meet a minimum benchmark to submit a full proposal for final review and selection.

#### Eol Stage Scoring:

##### Technical:

- A. Expertise and track record of the firm or institution in climate change and education in emergencies and protracted crises (30%)
- B. Extent to which proposed approach thoughtfully delivers on scope of work set out in the Terms of Reference (50%)

##### Financial:

- D. Value for money (20%)



# Annex A - Priority countries

Where applicants are proposing projects which will deliver services or products, or conduct research, they should focus on the following countries. Please note that this list is provisional and subject to change.

- Chad
- Car
- Somalia
- DRC
- Afghanistan
- Niger
- Ethiopia
- Burkina Faso
- Bangladesh
- Uganda
- Haiti
- South Sudan
- Mali
- Pakistan