Press release

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: ECW ANNOUNCES US$1.5 MILLION TO RESTORE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY EARTHQUAKE

New-York, 1 June 2018 - The Education Cannot Wait (ECW) fund announces an allocation of US$1.5 million to bring thousands of children back to school in Papua New Guinea. The island nation was struck by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake at the end of February which affected more than half a million people and damaged key infrastructures, including hundreds of schools.

This ECW emergency response allocation will provide resources for humanitarian aid organizations to immediately start restoring education services, particularly through the setting up of temporary learning spaces. The funding will cover activities for a period of one year.

“It is urgent for children to recover a sense of normalcy in their lives after living through such a disaster. Going back to school is crucial to help them overcome the trauma they have endured and to ensure they continue to learn and thrive,” says ECW Director, Yasmine Sherif.

ECW’s emergency response allocation targets some of the areas most affected by the earthquake in the Southern Highlands Province and in Hela Province. Thanks to ECW’s support, children will benefit from a safe learning environment while damaged infrastructure is being rehabilitated. They will also receive psychological support as well as learning and recreational materials. At total of 10,000 teachers will also be supported through these funds.

This is ECW’s second First Emergency Response allocation this year, further to a $3 million allocation announced in April to support the education response in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

ECW is a new global fund set up by international humanitarian and development aid actors, along with public and private donors, to support education for children and youth affected by conflict and natural disasters. Since the start of its operations in 2017, ECW has invested a total of $87 million in 16 crisis-affected countries, reaching more than 650,000 children and youth with quality education.

For press enquiries contact:
Ms. Anouk Desgroseilliers, adesgroseilliers@unicef.org, +1917 640-6820