



a global fund for education in emergencies

## PRESS RELEASE

### EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT ANNOUNCES US\$35 MILLION ALLOCATION

#### **ECW provides its largest allocation to date to support quality education for 1.6 million crisis-affected children and youth in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Uganda**

**20 September 2018, New York** – The Education Cannot Wait fund (ECW) is allocating a total of US\$35 million as seed funding to support the launch of three ground-breaking multi-year education programmes designed to deliver quality learning opportunities to 1.6 million children and youth affected by conflict and violence.

This is the largest allocation from the ECW Fund since its inception. It comprises \$11 million to support the *Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host communities in Uganda*, \$12 million allocated to the *Delivering Collective Education Outcomes in Afghanistan* programme, and \$12 million to support *Education for Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities* in Bangladesh.

“The launch of these three multi-year programmes marks a turning point in the way the multilateral aid system delivers education in emergencies and protracted crises,” said Education Cannot Wait Director Yasmine Sherif. “It sets concrete examples of ‘the new way of working’ through cooperation and collaboration between humanitarian and development actors. It is about all coming together, about how global, national and local stakeholders join forces to find solutions to provide quality education and restore hope to millions of children and youth caught up in some of the most difficult circumstances of conflict and displacement.”

ECW is pioneering the new way of working in the education-in-emergencies sector to strengthen the links between relief and development efforts, and deliver rapid and sustainable responses to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4. The Fund provided the impetus and supported the development by in-country partners of the three multi-year programmes, acting as a catalyst to bring together humanitarian and development actors.

“The announcement of ECW’s allocation today is the starting line. In order to deliver on our collective obligation to fulfill the right to education of all children in conflict and crisis, public and private donors must deepen and expand their investment specifically addressing education in humanitarian contexts,” said Sherif. “Valued stakeholders and donors have already indicated their support to these ECW-facilitated programmes, and we are confident additional actors will come forward and contribute.”

The three ECW-facilitated multi-year education programmes aim to provide quality education to refugees, internally displaced, and host community and vulnerable children and youth as follows:

- **In Uganda:** The 3.5-year programme calls for contributions of \$389 million to reach over 560,000 refugee and host community children and youth, recruit and remunerate more than 9,000 teachers

on a yearly basis, train over 12,500 teachers and build close to 3,000 classrooms yearly. The response plan has been developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and UNHCR, and will be managed by consortium facilitated by Save the Children. Other key partners include UN Agencies, bilateral donors, and international and local civil society organizations. To date, \$80 million in contributions from the Government and its partners has been identified, including ECW's seed funding.

- **In Afghanistan:** The 3-year programme calls for contributions of \$150 million to reach over 500,000 internally displaced and returnee children and youth as well as vulnerable children in remote areas and host communities. It will create an inclusive teaching and learning environment; improve continuity of education; and create safer and more protective learning environments, with a target of 50 per cent towards girls' access to quality education. The key partners facilitating the programme under the leadership of the Ministry of Education include UNICEF, Save the Children, UN agencies, bilateral donors, and international and local civil society organizations. To date, \$22 million in contributions has been allocated to the programme, including ECW's seed funding.
- **In Bangladesh:** The 2-year framework calls for contributions of \$222 million to build on the existing emergency response and reach over 560,000 refugee and host community children and youth and 9,800 teachers in Cox's Bazar district. It is an extension of the humanitarian response and is therefore aligned with the current Joint Response Plan. Key partners who have participated in the development of this framework include UNHCR, UNESCO, UNICEF, and international and local civil society organizations. To date over \$97 million has been allocated towards the framework, including ECW's seed funding.

This \$35 million allocation brings ECW's investments to a total of \$127 million in 17 crisis-affected countries since the Fund became operational eighteen months ago. ECW's investments are currently reaching 765,000 children and youth in the world's worst crises, half of whom are girls and adolescent girls. The number of children and youth reached will now scale up significantly.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

Information on the ECW Fund and its investment modalities are available at: [www.educationcannotwait.org](http://www.educationcannotwait.org)

#### **About Education Cannot Wait (ECW)**

ECW is the first global fund dedicated to education in emergencies. It was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit 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 respond rapidly to crisis and usher in a more collaborative approach among actors on the ground, ensuring relief and development organizations join forces to achieve collective education outcomes.

To date, the following 13 generous donors have contributed a total of \$203 million to the ECW Fund: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Dubai Cares, European Commission, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

ECW's Secretariat is hosted by UNICEF in its Headquarters in New York.

Additional information is available at [www.educationcannotwait.org](http://www.educationcannotwait.org)

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