

# Education Cannot Wait MYRP: Overview

*(Draft Version: 3.0)*

## I. Overview

### A) Introduction / Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year-Resilience Programme

1. Education Cannot Wait (ECW) was launched to transform the aid system that currently leaves behind 75 million of the most vulnerable children and youth on the planet. ECW is the first global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises designed to address the obstacles that have prevented humanitarian and development actors from delivering quality education in humanitarian crises. In 2018, ECW has contributed \$134.5 million to education projects in 19 crisis-affected countries reaching 1 million children.
2. Afghanistan has been chosen as an Education Cannot Wait Programme fund recipient in 2019. A comprehensive multi-year proposal was finalized by partners in 2018 and has been endorsed by the Secretariat. The proposal targets 500,000 emergency affected children and has a budget of over \$150 million USD. To date, SEED funds to the amount of over \$12 million USD per year have been guaranteed to Afghanistan, once the governance structure to manage the fund is in place. The 2018 Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Multi-Year Resilience Program (MYRP) will target the most vulnerable emergency-affected populations in Afghanistan, with a particular focus on girls and displaced populations.
3. Interventions will improve access to education through community based and innovative approaches; create an inclusive teaching and learning environment for emergency affected girls and boys; improve continuity of education by facilitating opportunities for students to transition to from lower to higher grades; improve the quality of learning; and create safer and more protective learning environments. The MYRP links humanitarian Education in Emergencies (EiE) programming with the mid and longer-term development objectives for the sector. By effectively bridging the humanitarian-development divide the strategic intention is to: a) catalyse recovery, b) help implement Afghanistan's new Community-Based Education Policy and c) promote continuity of education. The programme targets 500,000 children.
4. The MYRP is closely aligned to the ECW Global Strategy, Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes (NPP), Citizen's Charter, National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), National Education Strategic Plan (NESP III, 2017-2021), as well as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) goal 4, 5 and 10, and the Government – One UN Mutual Accountability Framework.
5. UNICEF will take on the role of the grantee for the ECW MYRP for the first-year and channel funds to implementing partners, namely NGOs as recommended by the in-country ECW Steering Committee.

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## B) Situation overview

6. More than three decades of conflict have devastated Afghanistan's education system. Completing primary school remains a distant dream for many children, especially in rural areas as well as for girls in poor and hard-to-reach areas of the country. There has been genuine progress in rebuilding the once-shattered education system and the number of primary school students has jumped from just over one million in 2002 to more than 8.5 million to date.
7. However, there is still some way to go before Afghan children enjoy universal access to primary education. There are approximately 3.7 million out-of-school-children (OOSC) in Afghanistan. Significantly, 60% of OOSC are girls, and in some provinces as many as 85% of girls are out-of-school. Additionally, it is estimated that 95% of children with disabilities do not attend school. There are multiple reasons for this situation, including poverty, damaged and inadequate numbers of classrooms, shortage of teachers (especially female teachers) and relevant learning and teaching resources, lack of inclusive facilities at schools, cultural norms which deprioritise education for girls and long distances to schools for many children. Continuity of education is another significant problem, with many girls and boys unable to progress from one stage of study to the next largely due to capacity limitations in the formal hub schools. All of these challenges have been exacerbated by the protracted emergency situation, combined with the prevalence of natural disasters and climate change impacts and resulting dislocation of populations.
8. In 2018, some 550,000 Afghans have been forced to leave their homes either due to conflict or the loss of livelihoods associated with drought. While returns from Pakistan are at an all-time low, an unprecedented 673,000 Afghans have come back from Iran, many of them under duress – creating increased and significant challenges to education access. Assessment findings indicate that over half of displaced and returnee girls and boys are currently out of school due to lack of capacity of schools to enrol additional children, lack of required documentation to facilitate enrolment, cost factors, language, gender and cultural barriers. If not adequately addressed by effective education emergency preparedness and response, this situation will create a generation of children deprived of education. While a growing number of girls and boys are able to access temporary education, and enjoy a sense of normalcy and stability due to EiE operations, options for transition into public schooling are limited, threatening gains made.

## B) Purpose of request for proposals

9. This Request for Proposals is issued to solicit interest from existing and prospective NGO and CSOs partners that are interested in implementing ECW funded education in emergencies projects in Afghanistan. The preferred NGO and CSOs should have a strong technical and organizational expertise in education in emergencies and project management.
10. To be considered for funding, projects and activities must:
  - 10.1. Be aligned with the strategic objectives of the ECW MYRP;
  - 10.2. Be able to start or boost work immediately;
  - 10.3. Exemplify quality programming (i.e. be conflict, gender and disability sensitive and reflect do no harm approaches; integrate protection activities where possible) taking into account international and national best practices, policies, guidelines and standards and especially the MoE CBE policy; and

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10.4. Adhere to this guidelines, in particular for concept and proposal submission criteria including the MoE Budget Proposal Guidelines.

## II. Geographic and programmatic parameters for proposals

11. The geographic and programmatic parameters eligible for ECW MYRP funding are aligned with the MYRP proposal and were re-confirmed by ECW Technical Committee and ECW Steering Committee during the ECW Request for Proposal development.

### 12. Activities

12.1. All activities included in the ECW MYRP (see ECW MYRP - Results Framework or ECW MYRP Request for Proposals) are eligible for programme implementation. Concept notes and project proposals proposing activities not included in the list are not eligible for ECW MYRP funding if not consulted and approved in writing by the ECW Secretariat.

### 13. Geographic areas

13.1. The allocation aims to allocate one partner or consortium to one province to minimize duplication and coordination.

13.2. The below table summarizes the provinces eligible for programme implementation. The provinces were selected based on a severity raking conducted in line with the development of the ECW MYRP. Due to the drought, the ECW Technical Committee and ECW Steering Committee decided to add Herat to the original selection. Additional provinces will be added as additional funding becomes available. Concept notes and project proposals targeting provinces/districts not included in the list are not eligible for ECW MYRP funding.

SN	Province
1	Uruzgan
2	Nangarhar
3	Kandahar
4	Paktika
5	Helmand
6	Badghis
7	Kunduz
8	Sar-e Pul
9	Herat

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### III. Prioritisation of Projects

14. Proposals are prioritized in a two-step approach: For the first stage, interested partners submit a short concept note. For the second stage, short-listed partners submit a full project proposal. The prioritization process is explained in more detail below.
15. Concept Notes should be concise, **not exceeding 1,100 words**, utilize the provided template and be guided by the “Call for Concept Notes – Guidance Notes”. Concept notes will be pre-screened by the ECW Secretariat based on the pre-screening criteria included in the Guidance Note and short listed by the ECW Technical Committee based on the score card included in the Guidance Note. Following the submission of concept notes, short-listed partners will be invited to submit full project proposals.
16. Full project proposals should be concise, utilize the provided template and be guided by “Call for Proposals – Guidance Notes”. Project proposals will be pre-screened by the ECW Secretariat based on the pre-screening criteria included in the Guidance Notes and ranked by the ECW Technical Committee based on the score card included in the Guidance Note. Recommendations are submitted by the Technical Committee to the Steering Committee for a final decision on funding.
17. A partnership or consortium approach is encouraged, with weight being given in the assessment of proposals to a) partnerships with local NGOs and b) strong partnerships arrangements that maximise coordination and complementarity between agencies, with multiple partners bringing their respective strengths to larger implementing partnerships. This will help ensure a strong role for a wide range of partners in implementation, including local and international NGOs, and Civil Society Organisations.
18. Each partnership or consortium will submit a **single** proposal to implement individual projects over a one-year implementation period according to approved designs, and requirements of the ECW MYRP. The next two years of implementation will be covered by the governance structure using a multi-pooled funding mechanism and subject to approval of the ECW High-Level Secretariat. As such partners are expected to reference their plans for the following two years but not submit a three-year proposal as this process will be expanded upon during the implementation phase of year 1.

### IV. Review process and timeline

19. The deadline for submission of concept notes is **06.02.2019 COB**. Duly completed Concept Note(s) and supporting documents as defined in the Guidance Note should be sent by e-mail to [afg.ecw@humanitarianresponse.info](mailto:afg.ecw@humanitarianresponse.info) with the subject “ECW MYRP Proposal: <Organization/Consortium lead>”. Deadline for submission is no later than **06.02.2019 COB**. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted. To receive clarification of this request please send queries to [afg.ecw@humanitarianresponse.info](mailto:afg.ecw@humanitarianresponse.info) by **05.02.2019 COB**.
20. Following the submission of concept notes, short-listed partners will be invited to submit full project proposals. The deadline for submission of full project proposals and supporting documents is **18.02.2019 COB** (tentative).
21. Concept notes and project proposals submitted on/before the deadline will undergo the following screening/review process. The composition of the governance bodies is described in the ECW Governance Overview and ToRs of the respective governance bodies.
22. **Review and short-listing of Concept Notes**

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## 22.1. ECW Secretariat pre-screening for consideration

22.1.1. Project proposals and supporting documents submitted will be pre-screened by the ECW Secretariat. Concept notes will not proceed in the review process if non-compliant with any of the criteria specified in the pre-screening criteria included in the Guidance Note.

## 22.2. Technical review

22.2.1. The Technical Committee is chaired by the ECW Secretariat and comprised of the EIEWG SAG. The TC will use the score card included in the Guidance Note to ensure that proposals are uniformly evaluated.

22.2.1.1. Concept notes, which reached less than 75 (to be verified at later stage) of 100 points in the score card, will not be able to proceed to the next stage, to ensure high-quality proposals.

22.2.1.2. The highest ranked concept notes exceeding 75 points will be short listed for full project proposals until a total proposal funding request of \$18m is reached. Concept notes (even if exceeding 75 points) above this threshold will not be short-listed for the submission of full project proposals in order to limit the number of full project proposals to be prepared and submitted.

22.2.2. Only members of the SAG have voting rights. Members are not allowed to vote on their own proposals and have to leave the room during the discussion of their organizations proposal.

## 22.3. Steering Committee approval of short-listing

22.3.1. After recommendation by the Technical Committee, the Steering Committee will receive project proposals for approval of short-listing.

## 22.4. Feedback

22.4.1. The Secretariat will provide partners, which submitted concept notes, with feedback and invites partners to submit full project proposals.

22.5. Following the submission of concept notes, short-listed partners will be invited to submit full project proposals.

## 23. Project Proposals

### 23.1. ECW Secretariat pre-screening for consideration

23.1.1. Project proposals and supporting documents submitted will be pre-screened by the ECW Secretariat. Project proposals will not proceed in the review process if non-compliant with any of the criteria specified in the Guidance Note.

### 23.2. Technical review

23.2.1. The Technical Committee is chaired by the ECW Secretariat and comprised of the EIEWG SAG. The TC will use the score card included in the Guidance Note to ensure that proposals are uniformly evaluated. The TC will recommend proposals to the Steering Committee for funding contingent possible request for revisions.

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23.2.2. Only members of the SAG have voting rights. Members are not allowed to vote on their own proposals and have to leave the room during the discussion of their organizations proposal.

### 23.3. Project proposal revisions

23.3.1. Projects proposals may need to undergo revisions of the proposal sections and budget before a final review. These project proposals are not guaranteed approval for funding. The revision requirements are mandatory and non-compliance will result in no funding. Considering the timeline, at most two rounds of revision are possible.

### 23.4. Steering Committee review and approval

23.4.1. After recommendation by the Technical Committee, the Steering Committee will receive project proposals for review and final approval.

### 23.5. Feedback

23.5.1. The Secretariat will provide partners, which submitted full project proposals, with feedback.

## 24. Tentative timeline

24.1. The dates within the tentative timeline outlining the complete process are dependent upon the number of submissions received and might change. The timeline will be re-visited on a weekly basis and any updates shared with partners.

Phase	Order of Responsibility	Tentative timeline
Request for Proposal development (6 days)	Secretariat, SC	22.01. – 28.01.
No-objection vote of TC on RFP (1 day)	Sec, TC	28.01.
No-objection vote of SC on RFP (1 day)	Sec, SC	29.01.
Q&A Meeting with interested partners (1 day)	Secretariat	31.01.
Concept note development (4 days)	IPs	01.02. – 06.02.
Concept note review (2 days)	Sec, TC, SC	07.02. – 08.02.
No-objection vote of SC on short-listing (1 day)	Sec, SC	09.02.
Project proposal development (9 days)	IPs	10.02. – 18.02.
Project proposal review and revision (4 days)	Sec, TC, SC	19.02. – 23.02.
Approval and final allocation process (4 days)	SC, Grantee	24.02. – 28.02.
Fund disbursement and project start	Grantee	TBA

## V. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

25. To prevent any impression of possible conflict of interest

25.1. UNICEF as grantee will not submit any project proposal in the first year and

25.2. Organizations, which are submitting project proposals to ECW and are members of the EiEWG SAG and ECW Technical Committee are **not** allowed to vote on their own proposals and have to leave the room during the discussion of their organizations proposal.

26. There is a strong preference for diverse partners; National partners are strongly encouraged to apply.

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27. Applicants do not have to be HACT approved; The HACT assessment can be conducted during the project approval stage.
28. Funds will be transferred through UNICEF as the ECW MYRP grantee for the first year.
29. Grant agreements will be established with each partner according to UNICEF standards and will outline the reporting requirements. Reporting will primarily consist of standard reporting against ECW's indicators and results framework.
30. There is no limit to the number of projects or partners that can be recommended – as long as the total costs do not exceed the envelope (Minimum \$1,500,000).
31. Consortiums are permitted; Consortiums including national partners and consortiums maximising complementarity and coordination are preferred.
32. This Request for Proposals and responses thereto, including initial short-listing, do not bind ECW or UNICEF to enter into any form of contractual agreement with the agencies submitting concept notes or proposals.

## VI. Resources

33. The following resources are available for guiding the preparation of ECW proposals on the ECW Afghanistan website:
  - 33.1. ECW: Education Cannot Wait - Facilitated Multi-Year-Programme, Afghanistan 2018-2021
  - 33.2. ECW: Afghanistan Governance Overview and ToRs
  - 33.3. MoE: National Education Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021)
  - 33.4. MoE: Community Based Education (CBE) Policy and Guidelines (2018)
  - 33.5. ECW: Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021
  - 33.6. ECW: Investing in humanity - Understanding the Fund's Added Value
  - 33.7. ECW: Gender Strategy 2018-2021
  - 33.8. ECW: Results Report: April 2017 - March 2018
  - 33.9. The global Education Cannot Wait website also provides detailed information about the ECW at: <http://www.educationcannotwait.org/>

## VII. Information and Support

34. For questions on sectoral and programmatic issues or the allocation process and assistance with the submission of project proposals, kindly contact the ECW secretariat at: [afg.ecw@humanitarianresponse.info](mailto:afg.ecw@humanitarianresponse.info).

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35. A dedicated section on the ECW on the HumanitarianResponse.info platform can be found at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/education-cannot-wait> (to be established)

## VIII. Attachments

36. The following templates should be used for the development of concept notes and project proposals:

36.1. ECW MYRP concept note template

36.2. ECW MYRP project proposal template (only to be completed by short-listed partners)

36.2.1. ECW MYRP budget template (only to be completed by short-listed partners)

36.2.2. MoE Proposal Budget Guidance (for reference only)

## IX. Change Log

Version 3.0 (01. February 2019)

- IX. Change Log: Added change Log
- 19. Moved deadlines 2 days.
- 20. Moved deadlines 2 days.
- 24.1. Update of the timeline: Moving all deadlines 2 days.

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