

EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT

YOUTH- AND STUDENT-LED ORGANISATIONS

MEMBERSHIP & ELECTION PACK



FREE.SAFE.EDUCATED.



**EDUCATION
CANNOT
WAIT**

The global fund for education in emergencies

© FRAD Foundation (youth-led organisation working on EiE in Nigeria)

WHAT IS EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT?

222 million school-aged children and young people are in desperate need of educational support, either in danger of, or already missing out on their education.

78 million of those children and young people are already out of school. Communities highlight the importance of education during times of crises, yet only around 3% of global humanitarian funding is allocated to education.

[Education Cannot Wait \(ECW\)](#) is the only global multilateral fund dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises (EiEPC).

Launched at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit by international humanitarian and development aid actors alongside public and private donors, ECW aims to address the urgent education needs of children and youth in crisis settings. Since then, they have generated unprecedented political and financial commitment to education in emergencies, already securing over \$1.1 billion and reaching over 7 million children.

ECW's ultimate vision is a world where all children and adolescents affected by crisis can learn free of cost, in safety and without fear.

HOW ARE YOUTH- AND STUDENT-LED ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED?

Education Cannot Wait was the first, and is still the only, global multilateral fund to invite young people to participate directly in its decision-making processes.

Organisations led by and representing children and young people are invited to join a 'sub-group', which is represented by a youth- and student-led organisation elected by the members of the sub-group to sit on the High-Level Steering Group (HLSG) and the Executive Committee (ExCom) of ECW. This means that young people have a direct say in the way that ECW operates, including decisions about where funding goes and the policies that ECW sets.

While some global organisations may have 'youth ambassadors', no other global multilateral fund includes young people who have been given a mandate by other young people. This makes a huge difference to the children and young people living in an emergency setting, and is a huge step forward for organised, representative, youth-led movements to be recognised as the valid youth voice in global policy and decision-making.

Currently, the youth- and student-led subgroup has over 100 member organisations, ranging from refugee youth-led groups operating in settlements, national networks of youth activists to global student unions.

HOW IS 100 MILLION INVOLVED?

[100 Million](#) supported ECW to set up the youth- and student-led sub-group in 2020 and serve as the impartial returning officer for sub-group elections.

100 Million is a campaign led by young people for the right of every child to be free, safe, and educated. We focus on the world's most marginalised children, including child labourers, children out of school, children enduring violence, and refugee and displaced children.

100 Million is **not eligible** to be a member of the sub-group or to stand for election.

Instead, recognising the capacity constraints of many youth- and student-led organisations, our role is an impartial supporter of the elected representative organisation where needed. This includes running transparent and open election processes, completing due diligence on the youth-led governance of sub-group applicants and running consultations for input on ECW or wider EiEPC policymaking.

HOW DOES THE YOUTH- AND STUDENT-LED SUB-GROUP FIT IN?

The youth- and student-led sub-group is one of four sub-groups which together make up ECW's 'civil society constituency'.

Overall, ECW is governed by representatives from Member States, other multilateral funds, UN agencies, private sector organisations, and civil society organisations. These different entities each have their own 'constituency', and the youth- and student-led sub-group is part of the civil society constituency.

The other parts of the civil society constituency are:

- International NGOs/northern networks
- National/local/regional NGOs/CSOs/networks
- Teacher organisations

Each of the civil society sub-groups elects one organisation from within their group, and these organisations will put forward a representative to sit on ECW's High-Level Steering Group (HLSG) and Executive Committee (ExCom).

WHAT DOES BEING A MEMBER OF A SUB-GROUP MEAN?

By joining a sub-group, you will be able to participate in ECW governance and accountability, including electing an organisation from within your sub-group to represent you. You will also be invited to support ECW with its advocacy efforts.

You will receive documentation in advance of ECW's meetings, and have the opportunity to feedback and make recommendations to your elected representative.

There is no specific time requirement, but members are strongly encouraged to play an active role in regular calls and consultations ahead of ExCom and HLSG meetings.



WHO CAN JOIN THE YOUTH/STUDENT-LED SUB-GROUP?

To join ANY of the civil society sub-groups, your organisation must not be a corporate or for-profit entity.

For the youth- and student-led sub-group any youth or student-led organisation is welcome to join the sub-group as long as your work involves education **OR** emergencies, or you are based in an emergency context.

Please note that if your organisation wants to stand for election, it must work on education in an emergency context(s) – although this does not have to be the ONLY area you work on.

Individuals cannot be members of the sub-group: membership is only open to organisations, but your organisation can be any size, and it does not have to be legally or formally registered.

You can only join one sub-group. If you are an international youth-led NGO, for example, you can choose to join the INGO sub-group **OR** the youth/student-led sub-group.

More detailed information on eligibility to join the sub-group is available below and in the Terms of Reference for the ECW Civil Society Constituency.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA TO BE A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH- AND STUDENT-LED SUB-GROUP

Membership of the sub-group is open to organisations (not individuals) which meet the following criteria:

- **Organisations which are youth- or student-led:** this means where the organisation is led predominantly by young people aged 30 or below.

For example, if your organisation has a formal board (such as a student union), at least 51% of your board must be young people aged 30 or below. If your organisation is a grassroots or informal entity (such as a campaign group), at least 51% of the people who make decisions regarding the work of your organisation must be aged 30 or below.

YOUR ORGANISATION MUST ALSO BE ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **Organisations which work in the field of education:** this includes both formal education (such as school/university-based groups) and informal education (such as community-based groups working on education issues).
- **Organisations which work in or on emergency contexts:** this includes organisations of any size working directly with displaced populations or advocating for the rights of displaced populations.

Examples of **eligible** members of the sub-group include local and national student unions, local youth-led campaign groups calling for quality education, grassroots groups providing support for refugee children, groups led by refugee or displaced young people.

Examples of **ineligible** members of the sub-group include youth ambassador teams or advisory committees working on behalf of a national or international NGO, youth groups or organisations where decision-making is led by a majority of individuals aged over 30.

WHO CAN STAND FOR ELECTION AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YOUTH/STUDENT-LED SUB-GROUP?

As stated on the previous page, if your organisation wants to stand for election, it must work on education in an emergency context(s) – although this does not have to be the ONLY area you work on.

No voice is more powerful for the rights of marginalised young people than the voice of marginalised young people themselves. This is a principle to which 100 Million works, and this standard used to make sure that there is **genuine** representation of young people who understand the dire situation of education for children forced to live in emergency contexts.

In practice, the elected organisational representatives (the individuals who will sit on ECW's governance bodies) must have an understanding of the challenges in the field of education in emergencies to be as effective as possible. This will mean they are in the best position to respond to questions and issues that are raised by members of the sub-group, as well as ensure their credibility in formal meetings of ECW's High-Level Steering Group and Executive Committee.

Elected organisations serve a two-year term, renewable once by re-election should they wish.

More detailed information on eligibility to stand for election is available below and in the Terms of Reference for the ECW Civil Society Constituency.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA TO STAND FOR ELECTION AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YOUTH/STUDENT-LED SUB-GROUP

If your organisation wishes to stand for election to represent the youth/student-led sub-group in the ECW governance structure, **BOTH** of the following criteria must be met:

- **Must be youth- or student-led** based on the definition for membership of the sub-group.
- **Must work in the field of formal or informal education in emergency contexts.** Working in formal or informal education includes direct interventions like providing or supporting educational activities, or advocacy work, like campaigning for education in emergency contexts.

Examples of **eligible** candidates include student unions based in countries operating in an emergency context, student unions or federations of student unions which run campaigns for education in emergencies, local youth-led campaign groups which call for quality education in emergencies, grassroots groups providing educational support for refugee or displaced children, and groups led by refugee or displaced young people which are focused on education.

Examples of **ineligible** candidates include student unions which do not operate in emergency contexts, student unions or federations of student unions which do not campaign for education in emergencies, youth-led entities which operate in emergency contexts but do not run activities relating to education.

ELECTED ORGANISATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

If your organisation decides to nominate itself to stand in the sub-group election, you must identify who will be your nominated representatives.

There should be one person for the High-Level Steering Group and another person for the Executive Committee. However, if your organisation is small, this can be the same person.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTED ORGANISATION AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES?

Elected organisations and their representatives should work to support ECW deliver upon its two main strategic objectives:

- **Increased and better funding** for education in emergencies and protracted crises
- **Stronger** education in emergencies and protracted **crises capacities and systems.**

They should also work to support ECW's five new priorities:

- Prioritizing **holistic outcomes**
- Transforming **global financing data**
- Responding to **climate change**
- Placing **localisation** and **community participation** at the core
- Advancing commitments to **gender equality, disability inclusion** and addressing **forced displacement**

More detail on these objectives and priorities can be found in ECW's [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#). They will do this by:

- Representing the views of their sub-group in ECW's High-Level Steering Group & Executive Committee

- Coordinating youth/student-led advocacy in support of ECW and education in emergencies.
- Engaging with the ECW Secretariat to strengthen ECW's systems, process and policies, including ensuring that other members of their sub-group are represented on ECW Reference Groups.*

In practice, this means that elected organisations must communicate and consult regularly with the sub-group on the issues that are to be discussed during ECW governance meetings. They must also listen to the issues raised by the sub-group and seek ways to effectively represent or table these with ECW.

This can be a lot of work! However, support will from 100 Million will be provided: as well as drawing from the expertise and experience of the other elected organisations within the civil society constituency.

**Reference Groups are groupings of experts drawn from ECW constituencies and established by the Secretariat to provide technical advisory inputs to ECW's work. They can be one-off or have a short-term remit, or have a long-term/standing remit.*



© World Vision Uganda (young refugee speaks to decision-makers at Rhino Refugee Settlement)

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTED ORGANISATION AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES?

ECW acknowledges that whoever is nominated by the elected organisation of the youth- and student-led sub-group could be aged anything between 13-30 years old. You will not be expected to have years of work experience, or to have previous experience of participating in similar governance processes. If you represent an organisation which is eligible to stand for

election, the experience you have from this should provide you with a good basis for being a representative on the ECW High-Level Steering Group or Executive Committee.

However, there are some expectations regarding your skills and your willingness to learn and participate - please read the information below!

CORE EXPECTATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ELECTED ORGANISATIONS: YOUTH- AND STUDENT-LED SUB-GROUP

- Commitment to fulfil the role based on the Terms of Reference for HLSG and ExCom members.
- Demonstrated dedication to the cause & a current work focus in the education in emergencies sector
- Committed to working with their counterpart representatives in their role.
- Make every effort to effectively and accurately represent their sub-groups in ECW face-to-face meetings, teleconferences and online communication, throughout the two-year term.
- Knowledge of and willingness to learn about ECW, its mission and processes, particularly country-level processes such as local education groups (LEGs), Education Cluster, Education in Emergencies Working Groups (EiEWGs), as well as general issues in the field of education in emergencies.
- Strong communication skills in order to fully participate at face-to-face meetings at a high level.
- Strategic thinking, political understanding, and ability to represent civil society at high levels.
- The ability to operate in English.*

*100 Million is committed to working towards more languages being added, but at present, English is the only working language of ECW.

TIME COMMITMENT

For representatives to the HLSG:

- Preparation/reading ahead of meetings: approximately 1/2 day ahead of meetings
- Consultation & feedback with ExCom Board Members Regular/constant
- Attendance at meetings: twice a year, 1 hour per meeting
- Liaison/lobbying of other HLSG members: 2-4 working days per year
- Attendance at extraordinary meetings: up to 1-2 days per year

For representatives to the ExCom:

- Preparation/reading ahead of meetings: approximately 1 day per meeting
- Consultation and feedback with sub-group members and engagement with HLSG representatives: Regular/constant
- Attendance at meetings: twice a year, 2-3 days per meeting
- Participation in ExCom teleconference meetings: 1-3 hours per call, once every 1-2 months
- Liaison/lobbying of other ExCom members: Around 5 working days per year
- Attendance at extraordinary meetings: up to 2-5 days per year.

FIND OUT MORE: www.100million.org/ecw

We hope this pack provides the critical information you need to join the youth- and student-led sub-group and to encourage your organisation to stand for election.

But we know it's a big leap from being a member of the sub-group to representing all of the members of the sub-group in a formal governance structure!

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ECW CIVIL SOCIETY CONSTITUENCY

This contains the full eligibility criteria for joining the sub-groups and standing for election, role profiles and responsibilities, and information about elections and accountability processes.

You can find all information and the link to register at www.100million.org/ecw, and we've linked below some core documents which you may want to read through, particularly if your organisation wants to stand for election. However, **please feel free to contact Georgia Potton, Head of Activism at 100 Million**, if you would like to have a conversation about this opportunity: georgia@100million.org

ECW's OPERATING MANUAL

This is a user-friendly guide which contains all the information about how ECW is organised and run, including its decision-making processes.

ECW's STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026

This is another user-friendly document which explains ECW's strategic priorities for the current period.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?

We'd love it if you decide to get involved!

It is incredibly rare for young people to be invited to actively participate in global decision-making, and Education Cannot Wait is offering a truly ground-breaking opportunity for youth/student-led organisations.

100 Million is committed to encouraging as many eligible organisations to get involved as possible, as we believe that young people – particularly those who have a deep commitment and understanding of education and emergency situations – should have a say in decisions that effect them.

If you're ready to get involved, follow the link below!

IMPORTANT NOTE!

Even though organisations can join the sub-group at any time, **you MUST register to be a member of the sub-group by 21st May 2023 if you want to vote and stand in the next election.**

Please register as soon as possible to make sure you're eligible!

**REGISTER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH/STUDENT-LED
SUB-GROUP NOW!**