



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



## USAID EDUCATION

Investments in education in developing countries are a wise use of U.S. taxpayer dollars: they support U.S. foreign policy, drive development efforts, and help reduce extreme poverty.

USAID works in more than 50 developing countries to ensure that children have access to a quality education and the skills needed to be productive members of society. USAID invests in global education because we know that the positive effects of education are far-reaching - that it serves as a foundation for lifelong learning as well as a driver for global prosperity and security.

### OUR WORK

Since 2011, USAID's Education Strategy focuses on three goals:

- **Improve reading skills of children** to promote literacy and lifelong learning.
- **Strengthen higher education and workforce development programs** so young people gain meaningful skills for employment and contribute to their country's economic growth.
- **Expand access to education in crisis and conflict** so that even the world's most vulnerable children and youth can continue their education.

From 2011 to 2015, USAID Education interventions have resulted in:

- 50.2 million children and youth benefitting from USAID and partner-supported programs in 51 countries
- 1.5 million students with improved reading scores
- 2.4 million students with access to education who were previously out of school

PHOTO COURTESY OF USAID

## PARTNERING FOR RESULTS

USAID partners with other donors, host governments, civil society, and the private sector to leverage resources and expertise, strengthen education systems and drive change so that children and youth can learn. Some of USAID's global partnerships include: the **Global Partnership for Education**, mobilizing global and national efforts for equitable, quality education and learning for all; the **All Children Reading Grand Challenge for Development**, using science and technology to improve early grade literacy; the **Global Book Alliance**, to ensure that all children have access to books to learn to read and read to learn; the **Mobiles for Education Alliance**, to use technology to improve student learning; **Education Cannot Wait**, to strengthen the global response to education in emergencies and protracted crises; and the **Building Evidence in Education Donor Working Group**, to strengthen the use of evidence in education. Three communities of practice, the **Global Reading Network**, the **Education in Crisis and Conflict Network** and **Workforce Connections** all foster technical leadership, evidence building, and knowledge sharing on critical issues in global education.

## WHY USAID INVESTS IN EDUCATION

USAID's education work, on behalf of the American people, strengthens education systems so that teachers can teach and children can learn, creating greater opportunity for individuals and their communities. Examples include:

- Education creates opportunity: In Central America's "Northern Triangle," (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala), one of the most violent regions of the world, USAID is working with private sector, NGO and government partners to increase educational and employment opportunities. Programs provide high-risk unemployed youth with demand-driven training that helps connect youth to jobs in their own countries.
- Education engages youth in a positive way: Across Sub-Saharan Africa, 89 million youth are out of school and violent extremism is growing. In Somalia, where a recent study showed that "when combining education with civic engagement...participation in and support for violence drop significantly" (Mercy Corps), USAID provided education services in 2016 to 25,000 youth, and engaged more than 41,000 youth across Somalia in civic engagement activities.
- Education builds resilience: Schools can provide a safe space for children to learn and grow. School information can also be used to identify migratory trends, dropouts, and children at risk of dropping out, including vulnerable groups like girls. USAID works with Pakistan, an important U.S. strategic partner, to ensure girls have equal access to a quality education. Since 2015, USAID has reached more than 265,000 girls in Pakistan with reading programs, enrolled or re-enrolled more than 38,000 girls in school in areas of the country affected by crisis and conflict, and built or rehabilitated over 45 co-ed or girls' schools.

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