



# KENYA AND EAST AFRICA EDUCATION AND YOUTH

As the responsibility for leadership passes to the next generation, Africa's future and its global competitiveness will be driven by academically gifted and entrepreneurial young people empowered to lead. USAID is providing state-of-the-art education to millions of Kenyan children, expanding educational and employment opportunities for young adults, and preparing a new generation of young African leaders with the skills and mindset to transform the region and the continent.

# **EARLY-GRADE READING**

Reading is a fundamental skill that lays the foundation for all future learning. USAID partners with the Ministry of Education (MOE) to implement the Tusome Early Grade Reading program in every public primary school and over 1,500 low-cost private schools across Kenya. Tusome ("Let's Read" in Kiswahili) has trained nearly 70,000 teachers and dramatically improved the reading skills of over six million learners throughout the country.

Through Tusome, teachers and learners are utilizing over 26 million new Tusome textbooks and learning materials, enabling every child to have their own book. Tusome utilizes an electronic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to receive real-time data and provide instructional feedback to teachers and administrators throughout the country to help adjust programmatic approaches. The technical interventions and methodologies of Tusome are producing a new generation of Kenyan children reading at higher levels of fluency and comprehension.

# **ACCESS TO EDUCATION**

Extensive public private partnerships drive the USAID Global Give Back Circle (GGBC) activity. GGBC empowers high achieving yet impoverished students to continue their education and realize their potential through scholarships, training, and mentoring. To date, GGBC has provided college and university scholarships to 1,000 young women and 28 young men who all commit to giving back to their communities.

# YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Lack of access to education and job skills are two barriers for youth. USAID's youth programs target key growth sectors and develop skills that boost competitiveness for the job market. Generation Kenya, a youth workforce development program, teams up with employers to identify skills gaps in target industries and customize job training programs for young people. To date, nearly every Generation graduate has secured employment in their target industry, thus meeting the needs of both unemployed youth and the emerging job market. The Kenya Youth Employment and Skills (K-YES) activity brings together public and private sector leaders to solve Kenya's youth employment challenges, spur economic growth, and embed results at the county level. K-YES connects young people with market-relevant training that translates into jobs.

# **YOUTH LEADERSHIP**

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) supports young people to drive growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa. There are three YALI programs in Kenya and East Africa: the Mandela Washington Fellowship provides skills and support for young African leaders through training and coursework at 40 U.S. universities. YALI leadership training has enabled thousands of young Africans to make a difference and lead a new generation back in their home countries. The YALI Regional Leadership Center for East Africa at Kenyatta University in Nairobi has trained over 3,200 young leaders from 14 East and Central African countries in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management with an eye toward regional networking and collaboration. The **YALI Network**, with 500,000 members continent-wide, provides online courses and a forum to equip young leaders with 21st century skills to transform their communities.

## **KEY GOVERNMENTOF KENYA PARTNERS**

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Industrialization

## **EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS**

- Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development
- Kenya National Examinations Council
- Kenyatta University
- Teachers Service Commission

## **PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS**

- Deloitte East Africa
- McKinsey & Company
- MasterCard Foundation
- Coca-Cola Foundation

## **IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

- Deloitte East Africa
- Kenya Community Development Foundation
- McKinsey Social Initiative
- RTI International

## **ACHIEVEMENTS SNAPSHOT (2018)**

- 26 million textbooks and learning materials distributed to all public schools
- 45,540 new or better jobs acquired by Kenyan youth
- Over 25,000 people benefited from community service initiatives led by YALI Regional Leadership Center alumni

## USAID CONTACT

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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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