



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# EDUCATION IS TRANSFORMATIONAL

Education is transformational for individuals and societies; it creates pathways to better health, economic growth, a sustainable environment, and peaceful, democratic societies and to achieving self-reliance. Our vision is a world where partner country education systems enable all children and youth to acquire the education and skills needed to be productive members of society.

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID

## STRATEGY AND POLICY

USAID leverages its expertise, partnerships, and global perspective to guide and influence the education sector, advancing the Agency's development priorities. In September 2018, USAID released the first-ever [U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education](#). The [USAID Education Policy](#), launched in November 2018, provides an Agency-wide vision and direction for supporting partner countries in strengthening their capacity to deliver quality learning opportunities for children and youth from pre-primary through higher education. Its priorities are that:

- Children and youth, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable, have increased access to quality education that is safe, relevant, and promotes social well-being.
- Children and youth gain literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills that are foundational to future learning and success.
- Youth gain the skills they need to lead productive lives, gain employment, and positively contribute to society.
- Higher education institutions have the capacity to be central actors in development by conducting and applying research, delivering quality education, and engaging with communities.

**“Investing in high-quality education for all children and youth builds the human capital partner countries need to lead their own development and growth.”**

—USAID Administrator  
Mark Green

## PARTNERING FOR RESULTS

USAID supports global partnerships and initiatives that foster innovation, create new opportunities for collective action, and leverage the Agency's annual \$1 billion investment in education. Global partnerships include: the [Global Partnership for Education](#), the [All Children Reading Grand Challenge for Development](#), the [Global Book Alliance](#), the [Mobiles for Education Alliance](#), and [Education Cannot Wait](#). USAID is also expanding engagement with the private sector through programs like the [Youth Employment Funders Group](#) and initiatives such as the [Blended Finance](#) grant to leverage private capital and support entrepreneurs to achieve education outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa since there is tremendous opportunity for private investment in the education sector in emerging markets.

In 2018, USAID reached more than 35 million children and youth with basic and higher education programs. Examples include:

- In **Kenya**, the Tusome program (Kiswahili for “Let’s Read”) is a partnership between USAID and the Ministry of Education to improve literacy for 7.4 million pupils in all public primary schools and 1,500 low-cost private schools across the country. The Tusome technical approach employs research-driven learning materials, proven teaching methodologies, and cutting-edge tablet-based feedback and monitoring system. To date, the program has trained every lower primary school teacher in 24,136 schools with state-of-the-art interventions that define how Kenyan children learn to read and provided more than 24 million new textbooks to schools.
- In **Jordan**, where the unemployment rate is above 30 percent and an influx of refugees from Syria has increased the number of out-of-school youth, a USAID-funded “second chance” education program has allowed 18,000 youth to complete a 10<sup>th</sup> grade certificate and helped them become contributing members of society.
- In **Indonesia**, through the Mitra Kunci initiative, USAID is partnering with the Government of Indonesia and the private sector to equip 200,000 poor and vulnerable youth aged 18-34 with the skills and resources needed to compete in that country’s job market. Young people, especially women and people with disabilities, will receive training, information, and resources to prepare them to meet the needs of the private sector.
- Current education and training systems in most of the Europe and Eurasia countries are not adequately linked with the labor market needs. The Supporting Entrepreneurship Education in Europe and Eurasia (SEEEE) regional project (in **Serbia, North Macedonia, Moldova, and Georgia**), in collaboration with private sector partners, prepares the next generation of young people to meaningfully engage in supporting economic development of their countries. In FY18, SEEEE reached 15,154 students and 814 teachers.

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