



UNIVERSITY STUDENTS USE RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE AT THE USAID-FUNDED MOROCCO CAREER CENTER. PHOTO COURTESY OF USAID.

USAID EDUCATION: HIGHER EDUCATION

USAID believes that education is a foundational driver of development and fundamental to achieving self-reliance. When children and youth go to school and receive training in skills they can use in the workforce and to navigate life, they are able to build more hopeful and prosperous futures for themselves, their families, communities, and countries. USAID works in more than 50 developing countries to ensure that investments in education systems—from pre-primary to higher education—enable all children and youth to acquire the education and skills needed to be productive members of society.

HIGHER EDUCATION: CENTRAL ACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT

Higher education plays a major role in building the intellectual capital required by a country for poverty reduction, sustainable development, and positive engagement in the global knowledge economy. USAID works in the higher education sector to provide access to quality education, prepare the workforce, raise industry standards, and build research and evidence. Through the development of relevant curricula, research to build evidence, and increased community engagement, faculty, students, and graduates contribute to strengthening all sectors of the economy—agriculture to energy, business services to technology, health to engineering.

Returns to education are the highest for higher education—the global average is 15.2 percent. Returns are higher for women and highest in the developing world.

- Montenegro & Patrinos, 2014

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

USAID partners with host country, regional, and U.S. higher education institutions to educate youth through quality and relevant instruction, generate and apply new approaches, and develop tools and research to inform investment decisions and improve development outcomes across sectors.

Examples include:

- In **Afghanistan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Pakistan**, USAID scholarship programming is helping students, who would otherwise not have the means, attend and graduate from higher education institutions. USAID provides scholarship opportunities at the post-secondary technical, undergraduate, and post-graduate levels and is committed to improving access to quality higher education, particularly for women and girls.
- In **Morocco**, it is hard for job growth to keep up with skyrocketing demand as the country's youth enter the job market. Launched in 2015, USAID's Career Center activity assists youth people to transition from education to employment through six career centers hosted by partner universities and vocational training center, and a virtual career center that provides access for youth unable to visit the physical centers. More than 200,000 youth have benefited from counseling sessions and soft skills training, as well as workshops on job search techniques, resume and cover letter writing, and interview preparation. The Career Centers have established more than 300 partnerships with the private sector, ensuring that training is relevant to the market.
- In **Georgia**, maintaining a vibrant and resourceful media sector is essential to the success of the country's young democracy. Partnering with local universities and educational institutions, a USAID activity established the Multimedia Education Center—a state-of-the-art facility where teachers train students in a real-world studio environment. More than 700 students from six partner universities and educational institutions have taken classes at the center.
- In the **Philippines**, the Science, Technology, Research, and Innovation for Development program is working with Philippine academic institutions and industries to create a network of researchers innovating in technology and the sciences. The program has awarded 62 research grants to 20 Philippine universities, 16 U.S. universities, and 33 industry partners to collaborate in cutting-edge and inclusive science and technology innovation research. It has established Knowledge and Technology Transfer Offices and Career Centers. Engagement with Philippine higher education institutions went from a narrow focus on commercialization of intellectual property to creating one-stop shops for fostering relationships.
- **The Higher Education Solutions Network 2.0** global partnership works closely with universities, scientists, and development actors from around the world, enhancing USAID's mission through convening, researching, testing, and translating solutions to development challenges. This expanded global network of hundreds of development actors, platforms, and programs allows USAID to source, convene, fund, and translate research in new and high impact ways, and contribute to sustainable development outcomes.

CONTACT

E3: Office of Education
U.S. Agency for International Development
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 8th fl
Washington, DC, USA 20009

Email: officeofeducation@usaid.gov
Phone 202-712-0000