



## FACT SHEET

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# Improving Training for Quality Advancement in National Education

## CONTEXT



Students enjoying club activities Halima Saadia  
Middle School El Jadida, Morocco. (Photo: Christina  
N'Tchougan-Sonou)

Over 90 percent of school-aged children in Morocco are now enrolled in primary school. Drop-out rates double between primary and middle school and only 53 percent of middle school students begin high school. Less than 18 percent of grade one students will reach high school. The Ministry of Education (MOE) and USAID aimed to reduce the high middle school drop-out rates and to increase student success rates by promoting education quality through improvements to teacher education and school support systems. USAID's future education program will focus on early literacy to assist the MOE and civil society to reinvigorate their efforts to increase student learning.

## USAID RESPONSE

USAID assisted the Ministry of Education in consolidating successful lessons learned from past USAID education programs and adapting them to the needs of a modern Moroccan teacher training system. Through this project, USAID guided education administrators and teachers to implement classroom-level innovations and enhance community participation in education quality issues. The project focused on three intervention areas:

- **Improved Pre- and In-service Teacher Education:** In partnership with the Ministry of Education, USAID developed pre-service teacher education coursework now in use at teacher training colleges nationwide and in the Ministry's e-learning program. USAID also developed an interactive in-service teacher training program for middle school teachers and an orientation program for newly hired professors at teacher colleges. USAID trained Ministry monitoring and evaluation specialists to track progress of teacher education at the provincial and national levels.

## QUICK FACTS

- **Project Name:** Improving Training for Quality Advancement in National Education (ITQANE) Project
- **Project Duration:** 2009 - 2014
- **Program Goal:** to advance Moroccan initiatives for peaceful reform
- **Project Objective:** to improve the quality of teaching and introduce new methods of education

- **Improved Student Learning:** USAID developed life skills/employability programs for use in after-school clubs in middle schools. An innovative partnership with the U.S. Peace Corps has expanded the program to youth centers and other settings outside schools. The project developed enhanced reading materials for teachers to address the problem of poor reading skills.
- **Strengthened Community Support:** The project strengthened school-community relations through school development project planning and has provided instructional materials kits to middle schools. It also developed a youth-led school dropout prevention program, Youth Speak, to raise awareness and to mobilize communities to respond to this critical problem facing Morocco's youth.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3,250 teachers received in-service professional development, including 1,269 women.
- Over 4400 student-teachers received pre-service coursework.
- 670 teachers trained to deliver life skills/employability programs to youth with student clubs established in 191 schools, reaching 10,400 students.
- 70 percent of middle schools in two priority regions received Ministry approval for their school development projects and received instructional material kits.
- 252 Ministry staff received monitoring and evaluation training, resulting in improved data collection for tracking the progress of teacher training.
- 24 Youth Speak young researchers conducted a study on school dropouts.