



USAID EDUCATION: EDUCATION IN CRISIS AND CONFLICT

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 driver for all other development and for the reduction of extreme poverty. USAID's education work focuses on improving the reading skills of children; strengthening youth workforce development and higher education; and expanding access to quality education in crisis and conflict environments. We partner to leverage resources and expertise, strengthen education systems and drive change so that children and youth can learn.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN CRISIS AND CONFLICT

Crisis and conflict negatively affect the education of 80 million children. During major conflicts and crises, many children do not go to school—and the longer they are out, the less likely they are to ever go back. School is necessary for their continued education and their emotional and physical protection while their worlds are in chaos. USAID's programs expand equitable access to education for children and youth in crisis and conflict-affected environments by:

- **Providing safe learning opportunities for students and teachers**, especially for the most vulnerable (i.e., girls, children with disabilities).
- **Rebuilding education systems**, including support to teachers.
- **Preventing and mitigating conflict and crisis** through conflict-sensitive education programs, community engagement and disaster-risk reduction activities.

Children are most at risk of missing out on an education during crisis and conflict--at the exact time that they need the stability education provides.

STUDENT IN USAID EDUCATION CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM, YOLA, NIGERIA. PHOTO BY CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

FILLING THE GAP BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AID AND DEVELOPMENT

Today's more complex, urbanized and protracted humanitarian crises require policies and practices that go beyond responding to sudden onset emergencies with short-term humanitarian interventions. Context-specific approaches that reinforce local systems and build community resilience to shocks require bringing humanitarian, stabilization, peacebuilding, and development efforts together in a more coherent and effective way. USAID's education programs in crisis- and conflict-affected environments work to bridge humanitarian aid and development assistance and build resilience by increasing equitable access to education, providing safe spaces to learn, and improving educational outcomes.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

USAID plays a lead role in global education partnerships including: **Education in Crisis and Conflict Working Group**, a forum for all U.S. Government agencies working on education in crisis- and conflict-affected environments to coordinate and ensure efficient use of U.S. taxpayer dollars and effective education programming; **Education Cannot Wait**, a fund to transform the delivery of education in emergencies and protracted crises; the **Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies**, a global network of donors, practitioners and policymakers working on education in crisis- and conflict-affected countries; and USAID's **Education in Crisis and Conflict Network**, a community of practice fostering technical leadership, evidence building, and knowledge sharing on education in crisis and conflict.

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, including 11.8 million in crisis and conflict environments, and 2.4 million who were previously out of school. Here are some examples:

- 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 10th grade certificate and helped them become contributing members of society.
- In South Sudan, since civil war erupted in December 2013, 17,000 children have been recruited into armed forces or groups. USAID is working in UN Protection of Civilians sites and local communities to provide safe, quality education and psychosocial support for 300,000 children.
- In Nepal, following the 2015 earthquake, USAID programming created 1,045 temporary learning centers so that children could return to the classroom and resume learning without delay. These programs have since been transitioned to support the Government of Nepal in rebuilding schools using earthquake-resilient construction technology.

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