USAID EDUCATION:
EDUCATION IN CRISIS AND CONFLICT

Children are most at risk of missing out on an education during crisis and conflict—exactly when they need the stability education provides.

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.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN CRISIS AND CONFLICT

During 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 marginalized (i.e., girls, children with disabilities).

More than 75 million children and youth between the ages of 3 and 18 living in crisis- or conflict-affected countries need educational support.

- Rebuilding education systems, including supporting teachers.
- Preventing and mitigating conflict and crisis through conflict-sensitive education programs, community engagement, and disaster-risk reduction activities.

All of USAID's investments in education should lead to improved well-being and increased learning outcomes for children and youth, even where there is crisis or conflict. In these complex environments, USAID takes a conflict-sensitive or "do no harm" approach, working to increase positive education outcomes. Programs are designed and managed with an awareness of how they could affect power dynamics and inter-group relations, particularly important in crisis and conflict situations.

USAID's education programs improve the delivery and quality of education services through state and non-state actors, improve equity in education services, improve the safety of education services, and strengthen the capacity of local institutions.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- In **Jordan** there are an estimated 650,000 registered and 643,000 unregistered Syrian refugees living in the country. In response, USAID is supporting the Government of Jordan's Ministry of Education to increase the capacity of the education system by building, expanding, or renovating more than 275 schools and training over 14,000 teachers. USAID improves teaching techniques in reading and math for all public school kindergarten through grade 3 students in Jordan. After a year with teachers providing supplemental support, over three quarters of students improved their reading skills by one or more grade levels.

- **South Sudan** has the world's highest proportion of out-of-school children, with nearly 72 percent of primary school-aged children missing out on education. Since a political crisis erupted into civil war in 2013, more than 800 schools have closed, and an estimated 900,000 children have abandoned their studies. As part of its Integrated Essential Emergency Education Services initiative, USAID enrolled more than 514,000 South Sudanese children and adolescents, including recently demobilized child soldiers, in school. Since the war began, the initiative has provided literacy, numeracy, and psychosocial support services in more than 950 temporary learning spaces and has trained 7,347 volunteer teachers (2,272 women).

- In the **Philippines**, where peace returned to Marawi in October 2017 following a five-month siege by ISIS-affiliated militants, USAID's Mindanao Youth for Development (MYDev) project helped local residents and internally displaced persons regain a sense of normalcy. In partnership with the project's Out-of-School Youth Development Alliances, MYDev provided vocational training for nearly 3,500 out-of-school youth in conflict-affected areas, and 9,800 young people participated in more than 200 community service projects.

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