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USAID EDUCATION: ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION FOR MARGINALIZED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

USAID works to ensure children and youth, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable, have access to quality education that is safe, relevant, and promotes their social well-being.

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.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

Despite worldwide improvements in access to education, millions of children and youth still lack access to quality learning opportunities. Even after being enrolled in learning opportunities, these children and youth still face inequities in receiving the full benefit of education. This is especially pronounced for marginalized and vulnerable children and youth, such as girls, those in rural areas, individuals with disabilities, children and youth

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

from poor households, and those in crisis and conflict settings. USAID and its partners are working to bring education opportunities to these populations and address the barriers that prevent equity and inclusion for all children and youth.

Many interventions show promise, such as making financing more equitable and accessible to poor families; using technology to expand access to learning in hard-to-reach locations; and providing flexible, second-chance, or alternative learning opportunities to reach children or youth who have dropped out of formal education. But enrollment and attendance in primary, secondary, higher education, or training does not automatically lead to learning. The expansion of schooling and learning opportunities is a necessary first step to education but must be coupled with investments that improve quality. USAID's programs unlock the true potential of education as children and youth gain more skills, capabilities, and competencies.

Approximately 50 percent of the 150 million children with disabilities worldwide are out of school; 90 percent of those have never been in school.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- In **Cambodia, Malawi, and Nepal**, USAID programming is addressing critical needs in the education system for students with disabilities such as development and use of teaching and learning materials; efforts to screen, identify, and refer children and youth with disabilities for services that enable greater access to school; or training of teachers to better support these students in the classroom. In total, approximately 900,000 students with and without disabilities will benefit from these programs.
- In **Liberia**, the Accelerated Quality Education for Liberian Children program condenses six years of primary education into only three years of instruction, giving learners the education they need to reenter formal schooling. There are no school fees, and the program provides instructional materials, effectively removing the biggest reason why 300,000 Liberian children do not attend school: cost.
- In **Mozambique**, instruction was previously all in Portuguese, which many children do not speak when they start school. The five-year Let's Read! bilingual early grade literacy program is working in partnership with the Mozambique Ministry of Education and Human Development to improve early grade literacy instruction in Grades 1-3. The program promotes instruction in three local languages – Emakhuwa, Elomwe and Echuwabo – in Nampula and Zambézia provinces to prepare children for transition to Portuguese in later grades. In 2018, Let's Read! reached over 110,000 Grade 1 students in 907 schools in Nampula and Zambézia. The Bilingual Education Campaign in Nampula and Zambézia reached approximately 7,410 participants.

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