

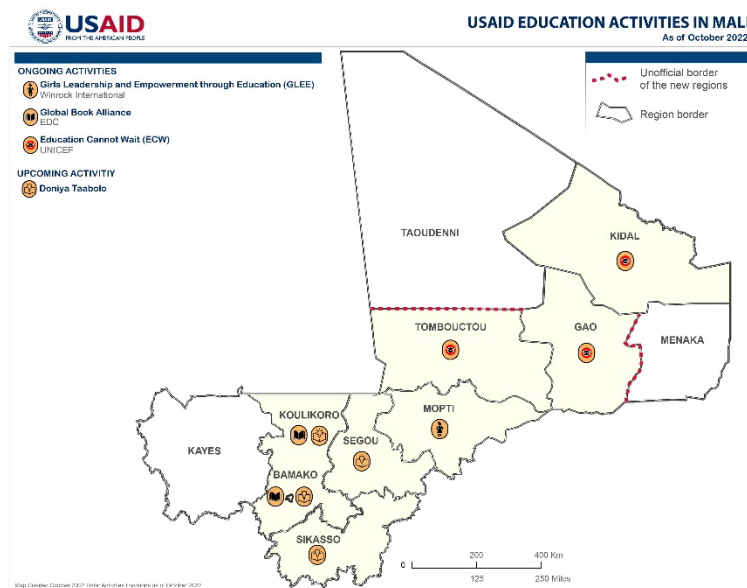


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USAID MALI

EDUCATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW



USAID has financed education programs in partnership with Mali’s Ministry of National Education for more than 60 years. In 2022, USAID managed a \$16.8 million portfolio improving learning outcomes for primary school and lower secondary school Malian students. USAID education activities align with U.S. and Malian government strategic education priorities. Focus areas include early-grade reading and mathematics, adolescent girls’ education, education

policy reform, teacher professional development, education in emergencies, development of teaching and learning materials in local languages, and community engagement for improved learning outcomes.

Quality primary school education inclusive of students, teachers, school directors, parents, communities, and Mali's Ministry of National Education is fundamental for successful learning. USAID/Mali's education program supports equitable access for children and youth to high-quality, locally relevant education. USAID's approach fosters a better educated, healthier, more resilient Malian population.

IMPROVEMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

USAID's basic education program in Mali prioritizes evidence-based pedagogical interventions to strengthen primary and lower secondary education stakeholders and systems and to improve student learning outcomes. As the largest bilateral education donor in Mali, USAID affects meaningful technical and policy changes to maximize the impact of strategic USG education investments and reform the national education system through coordination with the Ministry of National Education. In alignment with USG policies and Mali's ten year education sector plan, PRODEC II 2019-2028, USAID/Mali focuses on early-grade reading instruction in mother tongues for improved learning outcomes, enrolls out-of-school children in quality accelerated learning and transitions them to formal schools, supports the local private sector to publish and distribute grade-level reading books to primary school students, champions adolescent girls' education, and remains a steadfast provider of education services and materials in conflict-affected central and northern regions of Mali.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

USAID efforts to support Mali's decentralization process focuses on improving local delivery of basic education services. Technical assistance is provided at the national, regional, and local levels to improve the operational efficiency and management of the decentralized education system. Training at the commune level on school management in a decentralized system reinforces the management capacity of local actors and increases children's access to education. Women receive training that builds their leadership capacity to participate in school management committees and local branches of the Association of Students' Mothers.

EDUCATION IN CRISIS AND CONFLICT

Protracted conflict and insecurity has weakened Mali's educational system. Educational facilities, equipment, and supplies have been damaged or destroyed. Teachers and school administrators have abandoned their posts due to insecurity. As of April 2023, more than 1,700 schools in Mali remain closed due to insecurity. USAID continues to fund an appropriate mix of interventions that expand education services in northern, central, and other conflict-affected areas of Mali.