

**AGENCY NOTICE 08304**  
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## **Continuation of the USAID Education Strategy**

The [USAID Education Strategy 2011-2015](#) set a direction aligned with Presidential and Agency policy, grounded in evidence, and aimed at investing to achieve measurable, sustainable outcomes through enhanced focus and selectivity. The Strategy delineated three goals:

- Improved reading skills for 100 million children in primary grades;
- Improved ability of tertiary and workforce development programs to generate workforce skills relevant to a country's development goals; and
- Increased equitable access to education in crisis and conflict environments for 15 million learners.

Over the past four years, in more than 50 countries, USAID has worked with host governments and local stakeholders to identify policy priorities; collect baseline data; design and procure new projects; and initiate robust, evidence-based programs. Missions have put in place 140 projects benefitting over 30 million children and youth. Data on learning is being used to inform reading programs in more than 40 countries, and robust evaluations are underway. There is progress to celebrate. We have an increasing number of data sets showing improvements in reading skills—data from projects in countries such as Liberia, Kenya, and the Philippines are indicating improved learning outcomes. Yet much work remains to be done. Globally, 250 million children are still not learning to read and 59 million children of primary school age are still out of school.

From 2013-2014, the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment (E3) led a management review to examine progress to date and to get feedback on the relevance of the Education Strategy to global trends and priorities in education. The process revealed strong overall support for the strategy.

USAID's next Education Strategy (2016-2020) will maintain the goals and focus that our Agency introduced over the last four years of education programming. Over 70 percent of education programs initiated since 2011 will continue beyond 2015, improving student learning; advancing workforce

development and higher education; and ensuring that crisis and conflict do not prohibit children and youth from getting an education. At the same time, an update of the Education Strategy, working from extensive feedback and consultations, will ensure our new strategy enables us to achieve maximal impact at least cost, deepens our collection of data and use of evidence to support our investments, clarifies cross-goal priorities and connections, and continues to promote the utilization of technology to enhance learning and innovation to better results. The new Strategy will also reflect new initiatives such as Let Girls Learn, which strives to close gaps in access and achievement for adolescent girls.

An updated Education Strategy will be issued in early 2016, and the effort is being coordinated out of E3/ED. Until then, the USAID Education Strategy 2011-2015 will remain in full effect. Missions programming Basic and Higher Education Funds should continue to align with the Education Strategy as laid out in "[Implementation of USAID Strategies](#)" Agency Notice issued by PPL in May 2013 and "[Parameters for Education Program Area Funding](#)."

For any questions related to this Notice, or to the strategic and budgetary parameters of USAID's Education Strategy, please contact Christine Veverka at [cveverka@usaid.gov](mailto:cveverka@usaid.gov).

Any questions concerning this notice may be directed to:

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