



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



USAID EDUCATION: HIGHER EDUCATION

More prosperous countries with educated populations make for better trading partners for the U.S.

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.

HIGHER EDUCATION: PARTNERSHIPS THAT BUILD CAPACITY

The higher education sector is growing around the world, serving as an engine for social and economic change, and addressing global challenges. USAID works in the higher education sector given its unique role in preparing the workforce, raising industry standards, building research and evidence, and increasing overall GDP to reduce extreme poverty. Through the development of relevant curricula, evidence-building research agendas, and increased community engagement, faculty and students contribute to strengthening all sectors of the economy - from agriculture to energy, from business services to technology, from health to engineering, among others.

Increasing the average level of higher education in a country by just one year can add 18% to GDP.

--UNICEF

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

USAID partners with host country and U.S. higher education institutions to connect science, technology, and innovation to the demands and challenges of the “knowledge-based economy.” Two key USAID partnerships strengthen research systems and develop new technologies: the USAID **Higher Education Solutions Network** engages students, researchers, faculty and their partners at seven universities in innovating scientific and technological approaches to the world’s most challenging development problems. In addition, **Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research**, an international grants program, funds scientists and engineers in developing countries who partner with American researchers to address global development challenges.

From 2011-2015, USAID supported 72 joint research programs between U.S. and host country institutions, advancing economic growth and sustainability.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

From 2011-2015, USAID supported 72 joint research programs between U.S. and host country institutions, advancing economic growth and sustainability. Examples include:

- In **South Sudan**, a partnership between Indiana University and the University of Juba is helping to address the needs of educational institutions, teachers and students affected by conflict through a Master’s in Emergency Education program. The project works to support and empower students, including women and underrepresented ethnic groups, with a focus on conflict transformation, promoting peace building and creating social cohesion.
- In **Vietnam**, the education system did not include accredited engineering schools to meet the demands of a growing youth population and a highly competitive global economy. USAID worked with Intel and Arizona State University to introduce professors from eight Vietnamese universities to engineering teaching practices and curriculum focused on accreditation. Now Vietnamese institutions offer engineering education and training that will lead to long-term improvements in the engineering sector - including greater participation by women in the field.
- In **Uganda**, where the northern part of the country has been devastated by decades of conflict, a USAID-supported partnership between State University of New York, Albany (UAlbany) and Makerere University is helping to rebuild communities and improve access to clean water by disseminating Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) information and leading training for village residents.
- In **Indonesia**, the world’s third largest democracy, USAID works to connect promising individuals with professional training and educational opportunities at U.S. universities. Participants have included six cabinet ministers, seven director generals, three governors, and 60 percent of the presidents of Indonesia’s public higher education institutions. These individuals bring back best practices and leadership capacity to address national and regional issues through democratic processes and drive system-level reform.

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