



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Photo Credit: USAID

USAID EDUCATION: YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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.

EDUCATION THAT CONNECTS YOUTH TO JOBS

With 73 million young people unemployed worldwide in 2015, the lack of economic opportunity is a matter of worldwide concern. Private sector investment in education lags far behind investments in other sectors, yet private sector companies are key beneficiaries of improved education. Young people often don't have the knowledge and skills they need to get decent jobs, and employers find it difficult to recruit people with the skills they need.

USAID's market-driven workforce development programs help connect youth to jobs and create greater economic opportunity to mitigate root causes of migration, crime, instability and violent extremism. We partner with local businesses to ensure youth learn the technical, entrepreneurial and other critical skills they need to obtain good local jobs to support themselves and their families, and prepare them for a successful lifelong career.

“Companies operating in Africa repeatedly cite insufficiently skilled labor as a bottleneck to growth.”

--UNESCO, United Nations, World Bank

HOW WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

From 2011 to 2015, USAID programs connected more than 609,000 individuals with new or better employment. Here are some examples:

- **Connecting Youth to Jobs:** USAID partners with the McKinsey Social Initiative through the Generation Program to accelerate learning, and place disconnected young adults in jobs, giving them the skills and support they need to achieve personal and professional success. With this market-driven model, private sector partners pay fees to cover costs of the program, with several business partners funding the training 100 percent. In FY 2016, job placement rates for youth were 85 percent in India, 93 percent in Kenya, and 86 percent in Mexico. Of significance, more females than males graduated from all three programs and were placed in jobs.
- **Creating Alternatives in Crisis Situations:** In post-conflict Liberia, hit hard by the deadly Ebola outbreak, many youth and young adults are unschooled or out of school. USAID is working closely with Liberia's Ministry of Education and community-based organizations to provide 22,256 youth (70 percent women) with alternative education, social and leadership development, and livelihoods so they have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.
- **Vocational Education Public-Private Partnerships as a Corporate Strategy:** The Volvo Group intends to sustainably grow revenues in Africa by 25 percent, though a key obstacle is the severe shortage of trained drivers, technicians and operators. To address this issue and provide economic opportunities for Moroccan youth, the Government of Morocco partnered with the Volvo Group, USAID, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and OCP Foundation (Office Chérifien des Phosphates) to create vocational training to make 450 young men and women from Morocco, the Ivory Coast and Senegal work ready through hands-on experience with Volvo industrial equipment mechanics, coaching, and internships in Moroccan companies.
- **Creating Economic Opportunity to Mitigate School Dropout and Migration:** In the absence of educational and economic opportunity at home, parents from Central America often send their children to North America to get an education or find a job, creating pressure on U.S. institutions, fiscal resources and services. USAID works directly with schools in high-risk communities to prevent school dropout, and stem irregular migration to the United States by helping vulnerable youth gain skills they need to compete for productive employment in their home countries. In Honduras, for example, USAID has trained over 20,000 youth in work readiness skills, attitudes and behaviors necessary to create promising futures in their home countries, and has worked with employers to encourage them to be more receptive to hiring youth from disadvantaged neighborhoods.

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