

# USAID NOTICES

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## Extension of the USAID Education Strategy

The [USAID Education Strategy 2011-2015 \(http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/Pdacq946.pdf\)](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pdacq946.pdf) was issued in February 2011 after approval by Administrator Rajiv Shah. The strategy set forth three ambitious goals for USAID programs and investments in the education sector:

- 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.

The Agency has achieved tremendous impact under the USAID Education Strategy 2011-2015. We launched 116 new basic education activities in 43 countries. In the five years following the launch of the strategy, USAID reading programs reached nearly 38 million unique learners, around 19 million girls and 19 million boys. We now have more than 40 countries with USAID-supported reading projects and every year more children are learning to read early and well. Thus far, 13 USAID country programs have at least two learning assessments completed and this data shows that USAID programs have contributed to improved reading fluency for 1.5 million children in primary grades, 900,000 girls and 600,000 boys.

USAID education programs in conflict and crisis-affected environments improved or established quality education in safe learning environments for 11.8 million individual children and youth: 5.6 million girls and young women, and 6.2 million boys and young men. These programs created learning opportunities for 2.4 million children and youth who would otherwise be out of school: around 1.1 million of them are girls and young women, and 1.3 million boys and young men. USAID workforce development programs led to more than 609,000 individuals gaining new or better employment: around 298,000 females and 311,000 males. USAID supported capacity development in higher education institutions through more than 70 partnerships operating in 57 countries.

Agency technical experts and program staff have learned much from our implementation of the 2011-2015 strategy. Successes and challenges are informing the development of a new strategy. The latest draft of the new USAID Education Strategy document has been strengthened and improved based on feedback from education sector staff around the world, representatives from regional bureaus, members of a sub-ALC group, and consultations with partners.

The new strategy will not be approved or issued during the current Administration. Upon thoughtful consideration, the Administrator concluded that the approval and issuance of a new strategy should be deferred in order to have the full backing and ownership of a subsequent Administration. E3 Bureau technical experts will continue to seek feedback and consult with stakeholders with the goal of presenting a polished draft to our next Administration as an early policy deliverable.

While USAID will continue to move forward with the development process for the new strategy, it is necessary to formally extend the current USAID Education Strategy 2011-2015 in order to maintain a clear, relevant Agency-wide policy for education programming until a new strategy is approved. The USAID Education Strategy 2011-2015 is hereby extended to September 30, 2017, or until a new strategy is approved, whichever is sooner.

In late 2015, E3 issued an Agency Notice titled [Continuation of the USAID Education Strategy \(https://notices.usaid.gov/notice/32629\)](https://notices.usaid.gov/notice/32629) that provided the following: "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." This guidance remains in place and there are no revisions to the USAID Education Strategy 2011-2015 aside from extending the end date.

Missions programming basic education and higher education funds should continue to align with the USAID Education Strategy 2011-2015 in accordance with ADS [200 \(https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/200\)](https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/200) and [201 \(https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/201\)](https://www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/200/201) and as laid out in the [Implementation of USAID Strategies Agency Notice \(https://notices.usaid.gov/notice/25352\)](https://notices.usaid.gov/notice/25352) issued by PPL in May 2013 as well as the [Parameters for Education Program Area Funding \(https://programnet.usaid.gov/library/parameters-education-program-area-funding\)](https://programnet.usaid.gov/library/parameters-education-program-area-funding).

Any questions concerning this notice may be directed to:

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