

# AEI



## **Africa Education Initiative**

*Improving Africa's Future Through Education*

Improving the quality of basic education for children in Africa is the essence of President Bush's \$200 million multi-year **Africa Education Initiative (AEI)**. The Initiative will offer more opportunities for African children, especially at the primary level, to learn and become productive members of society. Under the Initiative, 250,000 scholarships will be provided for girls, more than 160,000 new teachers will be trained, 260,000 existing teachers will receive in-service training, and partnerships will be developed with U.S. historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to provide 4.5 million textbooks and other learning tools for African children. Two important elements, HIV/AIDS mitigation and prevention, and the involvement of communities and parents in the education system, will be included in all aspects of the Initiative.

Through education and training, the AEI will build on the Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI) to ensure Africa's future in transparent democracy and good governance, improved health care, increasing income, and environmental conservation. The Initiative will strengthen and extend vital development partnerships between America and Africa by beneficially engaging African leaders and educators, the international development community, and U.S. interest groups.

### ***Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program***

Girls account for 60% of the approximately 40 million children out of school in Africa. As they are often kept out of school due to a lack of school fees, the Initiative will provide educational opportunities through scholarships at the primary and secondary levels. Scholarships will be offered in a manner that guarantees the most disadvantaged receive financial assistance to bridge the gender gap through the advancement of female education. Assistance will be inclusive of tuition, books, uniforms, and other essential expenses to ensure access to education opportunities. Participants will be further encouraged through mentoring activities that promote self-development and provide inspiration from notable female contributors to society.

### ***Teacher Training***

In most African schools where teachers are the primary disseminators of knowledge, competent teachers are conduits for maintaining a system that effectively delivers quality education. AEI will improve the caliber of teachers through pre-service training and in-service training for more than 420,000 new and existing teachers thus potentially improving the learning process for millions of African children.



*"Education is the foundation of development and democracy—in every culture, on every continent. We'll work to give Africa's children the advantages of literacy and learning so they can build Africa's future."*

*President George W. Bush*

*June 20, 2002*

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### ***Textbooks and Other Learning Materials (TOLM)***

Textbooks and learning materials, indispensable elements of any education system are scarce, outdated or nonexistent in many African schools. The Initiative will provide high-quality, low-cost relevant textbooks and learning materials to USAID basic education program countries.

Through the Initiative, relationships and partnerships between U.S. HBCUs and counterpart African institutions will be strengthened, with the goal of improving learning materials for African children. The HBCU consortium will work collaboratively with the USAID Missions and African education institutions to develop, publish, and distribute skilled learning materials to several African countries. Initially South Africa, Senegal, Ethiopia, Mali, Guinea, and Benin have been identified to participate in this partnership with Hampton University, Elizabeth City State University, Alabama A&M University, Albany State University, Dillard University, and St. Augustine's College.

### ***Cross-Cutting Themes***

HIV/AIDS undermines the capacity of educational institutions to deliver quality education, as it drains the material and human resources of the system as well as makes it far more difficult for learners to attend school regularly. The goal of education for all cannot be met until challenges posed by the AIDS pandemic to education structures are addressed. Through varied mechanisms, the Africa Initiative will increase the capacity of African education ministries to strengthen their focus on prevention and mitigation to help reduce and compensate for the loss of skilled teachers to HIV/AIDS.

Bringing more poor rural students, particularly girls into the education system can be facilitated through the active involvement of parents and communities in the delivery of quality education. The Initiative will provide support for increasing and strengthening parent and community involvement in children's education through such activities as parent-teacher associations, thus ensuring school systems that are transparent, responsive and open to reforms.

**For more information please contact:**

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