

# World Learning



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Photo by Geoff Ward

## EDUCATION for Children and Youth

Driving positive change by improving opportunities for quality education

World Learning believes that education is the driving force behind positive change. Improving educational opportunities for all children, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, is essential to the development of human potential worldwide.

The wider benefits of education are significant and far-reaching. Education is crucial to improve child and maternal health and reduce poverty and inequality. It is essential to encourage civic participation and strengthen democracy. Keeping young people in school is the single most effective means to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Out-of-school children are more likely to be engaged in hazardous labor and recruited by armed forces. Quality education has the power not only to prevent these threats to children's welfare and development, but also to reverse intergenerational cycles of poverty.

### Scope of the Problem

Globally, more than 75 million primary school-age children are not enrolled in school. In the least developed countries, high dropout and repetition rates mean that only about 40 percent of children who begin school will complete primary school. All too frequently, even children who have the opportunity to attend and complete school receive such poor quality instruction that they still lack basic reading and math skills. Additionally, significant barriers to equality of opportunity including wealth, language, location, gender, and disability contribute to vast disparities in educational attainment within nations.

#### Contributing factors include:

- Prohibitive school fees and associated costs
- Teacher shortages, poor training, and insufficient support
- Inadequate education infrastructure and equipment

- Absence of parental and community involvement in school management
- Lack of local involvement in centralized curricula and administration
- Cultural and institutional practices that disadvantage girls and minority groups
- Natural disaster, insecurity, and protracted armed conflict

### The World Learning Approach

World Learning supports the development of more inclusive, equitable, and responsive education systems that meet the needs of all children, especially those who are most disadvantaged. World Learning engages stakeholders in all aspects of project development, implementation, and evaluation, through approaches that are **participatory, child- and youth-centered, holistic, asset-based, sustainable, research-based, and collaborative.**

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## Key Interventions

### World Learning programs to improve access to and quality of basic education:

**Make education affordable** by creating economic strengthening models for community schools, and engaging stakeholder investment in the long-term financial benefits of education.

**Train school professionals** through new teacher recruitment, training opportunities for experienced teachers and administrators, and support for child-centered teaching practices and new technologies.

**Support efforts to decentralize** administration and transfer school management responsibility to regional and local education authorities.

**Build safe, sustainable schools** and develop environmentally appropriate teaching materials using local resources and community assistance.

**Build alliances and empower parental and community leaders** to support schools.

### World Learning programs to support education for vulnerable groups:

**Customize curricula** to meet local needs through resources such as native language textbooks and materials that teach respect for local traditions.

**Provide accelerated and flexible learning** programs that enable out-of-school students to rejoin formal school programs.

**Prioritize girls' education** by encouraging schools and community leaders to recognize the value of educating girls and women, advocating for teachers' codes of conduct to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation, and helping teachers to support girls in the classroom.

**Secure inclusive education** through full participation and equal access for persons with disabilities, and ensuring that teachers have access to special education materials.

**Make schools safer** by facilitating safe travel to and from school, promoting safety at school, and engaging students in structured activities that also deliver important support and survival information.



Photo by John Fox

## Development Partners

World Learning partners with donors who support education, communities, and other international and local organizations to invest in sustainable systems, structures, and approaches that will last well beyond the lifetime of our projects.

**Key Donors** include United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) Office of Education and United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Bureau of International Labor Affairs.

## World Learning

1015 Fifteenth Street, NW, 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20005 Tel +202 408-5420 Fax +202 408-5397

Email [education@worldlearning.org](mailto:education@worldlearning.org)

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