



PROGRESS IN

# Education

**Middle school students performing better in math and science. More girls going to school. Teachers finding ways to connect better with students and peers—worldwide.**

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AED programs underway throughout the world exemplify our work towards achieving global goals of universal primary education and the elimination of gender disparities in education, while also improving teaching and learning in the U.S.

Across Africa, we are removing barriers that stand in the way of girls receiving an education. We are working with ministries of education throughout the Middle East, Africa and Latin America on education policy and systemic reform to improve learning and create child-centered classrooms. And we are helping teachers in developing countries share ideas through the Internet.

In the U.S., we are working to maintain leadership in the global economy by preparing at-risk preschoolers for success in school and focusing on science, technology and math at all levels. And in all cases we are engaging parents and other members of the community, as well as educators, in education reform.

Today, AED partners with government agencies, private corporations, foundations, other development organizations, and individual donors in improving education. Together, we share the recognition that quality education is essential for successful development and successful lives.



*Every day, nearly 3,000 American students drop out of high school.*

AED's U.S. high school reforms and youth development programs have increased the number of students planning for and pursuing post-secondary education.




*In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 40 million children—over 40% of all children in the region—are not in school.*

Primary school enrollment in Ethiopia has soared from 20% to 80% as a result of an 11-year education program directed by AED.

## UNITED STATES

### Middle schools get higher marks

This past year, AED's nationally recognized Middle Start middle-grades improvement program was adopted by schools in New York City and Washington, D.C. Middle Start was first proven in Michigan, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, where it established a strong track record of improving students' reading, mathematics, science, and social studies performance. Middle Start brings schools together in learning networks and customizes professional development to individual schools. Its approach is designed to deliver results through research-driven solutions, collaboration, continuous school improvement, and a deep understanding of the young adolescent learner.  [>>www.middlestart.org/](http://www.middlestart.org/)

**Funders:** Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (through DC Education Compact), KeySpan Foundation, Independence Community Foundation, New York Community Trust, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and school districts in Arkansas, Michigan, Mississippi, and New York



## QATAR

### Students see a new kind of teaching

AED is working inside the schools in Qatar to provide school leadership and management training and bring new curriculum standards and active learning methodologies to the classroom. Through this nationwide project, part of Qatar's Education for a New Era reform initiative, AED oversees diverse multinational teams of master educators who train teachers and create environments that promote student participation. The teams work daily in approximately six schools per year, including many girls' schools, creating measurably improved teacher and student performance and a springboard for Qatar's ongoing economic growth.

**Funder:** Supreme Education Council of Qatar



## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

### A nationwide program catapults schools forward

In one of the world's largest public-private partnership dedicated to education, AED is supporting Equatorial Guinea's Ministry of Education in modernizing the country's entire primary education system. AED will train all of the country's 2,400 primary school teachers, create 40 model schools, start a national reading program, and transform traditional classrooms into exciting, interactive learning environments through state-of-the-art instructional methods and materials. Among the project's ultimate goals: increase the number of students graduating from sixth grade, involve parents in schools, and equip children to participate in the nation's continued progress.

**Funders: Hess Corporation, Government of Equatorial Guinea**

UNITED STATES

## In after-school learning centers, Fun + math = learning

U.S. children grades 3 to 8 are getting excited about math—the result of a novel program that combines after-school learning centers with local museums.

Targeting underserved youngsters, After-School Math PLUS uses jump ropes to teach graphing, music to teach fractions, art to teach geometric patterns, and building models to teach scale. Each unit culminates in student-created exhibits, displayed at a nearby museum and applauded by family members.

The successfully piloted program is now underway in four new sites.

**Funder: National Science Foundation (pilot), Toyota USA Foundation**



*Globally, 150 million children will drop out before completing primary school.*

School completion rates exceed 70% in 170 Nicaraguan model schools involved in AED programs.



## UNITED STATES

### Migrant workers' children get a better start

Pre-school age children of migrant and seasonal farm workers face unique challenges to learning: poverty, constant relocation, and social isolation. Approximately 39,000 of these children are enrolled in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs. With AED's technical assistance, the centers are able to provide strong, comprehensive services to children and their parents. AED's assistance takes the form of on-site visits by our specialists and training materials specifically geared to Migrant and Seasonal programs, families and children, with a special emphasis on learning a second language.

**Funder: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

## AFRICA

### Girls receive a lifeline to education

In 14 West, Central, and East African countries, AED is helping thousands of impoverished girls overcome the significant financial, social, and gender barriers that stand between them and learning. A Presidential Initiative, the Ambassadors' Girls' Scholarship Program, engages communities to increase support for girls' education and combines annual renewable scholarships to cover school expenses, HIV/AIDS awareness activities, and the one-on-one support of a community mentor. Mentors serve a vital role, becoming a girl's advocate, life skills advisor, and confidante. Since 2005, the program has awarded more than 94,000 one-year scholarships.



>><http://www.agsp-aed.org>

**Funder: USAID**

## AFGHANISTAN

### Nationwide education program catapults schools forward

Afghanistan's decades of conflict have crippled its education infrastructure. To revive it, the AED Afghanistan Higher Education Program is focusing on teacher training at Afghan universities and institutes. AED's efforts in this most challenging of environments include developing teaching content for instructors and new standards for teacher education, as well as improving instructors' teaching practices, English and ICT proficiency, and ability to apply critical thinking. To sustain progress, AED also is building the skills and knowledge of the various institutions' education department leadership.

**Funder: USAID**