

# Today, AED is confronting immense needs ...

AED is working at the heart of a global movement to improve human and social development, and the needs are immense. Approximately 854 million of the developing world's adults are illiterate, and 115 million children are not in school. Widespread malnutrition contributes to millions of childhood deaths each year. More than a billion people live without access to safe drinking water.

In the U.S., problems related to poor health and education may differ from those of the developing world, but they are no less crucial to our society and people. Approximately 1 in 10 students drops out of high school each year, and 12th grade students' proficiency in reading has declined over the past decade.

And nearly 50 million U.S. adults are now obese, increasing their risks of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and disability.

Through service, research, and advocacy, AED is playing an important role in successfully addressing these problems.

## with dynamic approaches...

**MULTISECTORAL** AED has singular expertise in education reform, *and* behavior change for better health, *and* civil society. Our record of results is based in part on our ability to bring this multisectoral expertise to any single issue.

**SYSTEMIC** We focus on systemic change. AED regularly engages multiple levels of society, from national ministers and CEOs to parents and community leaders, in developing and implementing projects. In the process, we focus on building the skills and capacity of institutions and individuals.



Within systems, we have developed the means for effectively moving donor resources to distant communities—even down to individual students—so that funds are consistently well spent and progress is made. The result is solutions that are at scale from the start, inherently broad-based, and sustainable after a program’s initial investment ends.

**INNOVATIVE** The essence of the “AED brand” is innovative solutions to critical social problems. In fact, many of AED’s ideas have become

standard development practices. We have found ways to bring active learning techniques to resource-poor settings and developed effective methodologies for training a nation's worth of teachers.

We have created new ways to use retail distribution networks and microfinance systems to combat health threats such as malaria and water-borne illnesses. Likewise, by listening to mothers, AED was the first to show that illiterate mothers in developing countries could administer treatments to prevent diarrheal dehydration, a major cause of child mortality.

We have helped communities across the U.S. to reinvent their schools and devised ways to catalyze young people's involvement in improving their neighborhoods. And we have created a successful blueprint for getting



multiple stakeholders to endorse and adopt community-wide initiatives that preserve fragile environments and improve livelihoods.

**As development challenges evolve, AED's multisectoral capabilities, systems perspective, and original thinking enable us to respond with programs that are effective and bring lasting change.**

...to achieve progress and  
create **thriving societies.**