

# Post-Primary Education

## Skills for Success

FHI 360 strengthens education at the classroom, school and system levels while ensuring that youth receive holistic support across the learning continuum, beginning with the transition from primary to lower secondary and continuing through upper secondary and tertiary programs.



Youth have unique needs as they transition through life's developmental stages and prepare for higher education and employment. Across the world, countries have struggled to adequately address these needs, and as a result, young people often lack the skills, knowledge, and competencies necessary to succeed in the workforce and thrive in adulthood. FHI 360's post-primary education programs strengthen the capacity of education systems to provide quality education and help align policies to meet both student needs and labor market requirements. Our interventions are designed to build the critical cognitive, technical, and social-emotional skills that prepare adolescent and young adult students to become successful, productive adults.

## BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION BUILD LIFE-LONG SKILLS AND PROVIDE A BRIDGE TO THE WORKPLACE

To improve the quality and relevance of lower secondary education in **GUATEMALA**, FHI 360 supported 500 schools in five departments through the MCC-funded Secondary Education Quality Improvement Program. FHI 360 strengthened 1,800 teachers and pedagogical and school management coaches by helping them to build and reinforce subject matter knowledge and competencies in positive youth development and social and emotional learning. The project developed a certificate program for math teachers and for school advisors that will be sustained through a local university and the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC). The project also developed local learning communities and educational networks to support the transition; introduced a data-driven enrollment system that increased enrollment in lower secondary by 38 percentage points; and reduced schools' distance from students from ten to five kilometers to increase the likelihood that students would continue their education. The program also strengthened the institutional capacity of the MINEDUC in evidence-based decision-making and strategic planning and developed information systems and tools, such as a system for selecting and hiring teachers that the government plans to adopt as policy.

In **EL SALVADOR**, FHI 360 recently completed the MCC-funded Strengthening the National Education System Program to build the capacity of educators and the Ministry of Education in teacher professional development, pedagogical coaching, school management and governance, student government, learning assessment, evaluation, and curriculum development. The program introduced a new curriculum for secondary-level technical vocational training and social emotional development and electives in traditional academic secondary schools that enhance the school to work transition.

To enhance the capacity of youth-serving organizations in **IRAQ**, FHI 360 is leading a program for UNICEF Iraq under its Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) Initiative for Young People. FHI 360 has developed four modules that enhance youth life and social-

**About FHI 360:** FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing—creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

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emotional skills and an online training program for staff of youth serving organizations. The modules build youth skills in personal empowerment and goal setting, work readiness, civic engagement, and entrepreneurship. The project also developed a toolkit for youth-serving organizations to build their skills and knowledge in adolescent development, positive youth development, gender, creating safe and supportive environments, and other topics that are essential for organizations working with youth in Iraq.

## **TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION HELPS STUDENTS TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT**

The USAID-funded Advance Program is building the capacity of 12 technical tertiary institutions and enhancing employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth in **HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, JAMAICA**, and the **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**. Informed by initial labor market assessments and institutional landscaping analyses, Advance is strengthening degree selected programs in five key areas: curriculum and pedagogy, faculty and staff professional development, labor bridging and career services, recruitment and admissions, and scholarships for disadvantaged students. FHI 360 is also designing and implementing pre-service professional development programs for secondary school teachers on positive youth development, social and emotional learning, and career readiness.

FHI 360 supports higher education in **AFGHANISTAN** through USAID's AHEAD project. AHEAD improves the quality and relevance of tertiary education and strengthens linkages to public and private sector employers. FHI 360 partners Afghan higher education institutions (HEIs) with international lead universities across key growth sectors including agriculture, business, education and health. AHEAD's Higher Education Networks provide a mechanism for strengthening Afghan higher education institutions and promoting collaboration across the ecosystem of public and private HEIs. AHEAD also engages selected students in data collection, and students are mentored on basic M&E functions. Additionally, opening HEIs to vulnerable and differently abled students is part of the overall mandate of the program. This project builds on earlier work by FHI 360 that established career centers in 10 Afghan universities that offer job-readiness training and prepare students for internships and the successful transition to employment.

## **OUR HOLISTIC AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION**

- Pedagogy and teacher professional development that cultivate student-centered, participatory learning
- Relevant curriculum built around the cognitive, technical, and social-emotional skills that youth need to succeed
- A positive youth development approach that builds on students' strengths and promotes supportive relationships
- Committed partners from the public and private sectors to improve quality of training programs and ensure relevance and sustainability
- Student support, career, and employment resources that include academic and career counseling and internships to support students' transition to the workforce
- Safe and inclusive learning environments that promote a sense of belonging, encourages positive social interactions in the classroom and protect all students
- Research on topics directly related to post-primary education, including studies on barriers to transition to post-primary and post-secondary education.

For more information, please contact [GlobalEducation@fhi360.org](mailto:GlobalEducation@fhi360.org).