

Education in Conflict and Crisis

FHI 360 is an active participant in the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), the Education in Crisis and Conflict Network (ECCN) and the Basic Education Coalition's (BEC) crisis working group.



Jessica Scranton

To support and strengthen education systems in conflict-affected and fragile settings, FHI 360 uses a context-sensitive, strengths-based approach. Focusing on positive change, we examine education activities, systems and the socio-political context to identify what was working before the crisis, what works after the crisis and why. We then determine how those strengths can be used to address gaps and mitigate areas of vulnerability. Our approach leads to local ownership, lasting change, and resilient individuals and systems that are able to adapt and respond positively to adversity.

EQUITY

is at the core of our work in conflict-affected and fragile environments.

As co-lead of the Education Equity Research Initiative with Save the Children, FHI 360 is helping to develop and advance evidence for strengthening equity in and through education.

LEARN MORE

www.educationequity2030.org

APPLYING OUR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Fragile Environments

In the **DR Congo**, FHI 360 is providing out-of-school children with access to quality education. Through the USAID/DFID *Accelerating Equitable Access to School, Reading, Student Retention and Accountability (ACCELERE!)* project, FHI 360 helped launch the first national language program for reading in Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs). This included developing materials such as scripted facilitator guides, read-alouds and learner books for Grade 1-4 equivalents. To meet the needs of ALP learners, FHI 360 integrated life skills and psychosocial themes into the curriculum. In non-formal schools, ACCCELERE! is working with over 600 teachers and more than 25,000 students across nearly 300 centers.

Through the USAID-funded **Afghanistan University Support and Workforce Development Program (USWDP)**, FHI 360 is building the capacity of Afghanistan's Ministry of Higher Education to improve quality assurance, align academic programs with workforce needs, and produce graduates with the knowledge and skills to secure employment. The project is working with 11 public universities, including two institutions in particularly volatile provinces, and is collaborating with the country's Ministry of Higher Education and the private sector to develop new associate degrees that will lead to the creation of a community college system. USWDP is responding to the unique challenges students face as a result of insecurity in the region with strategies to improve safe access to programming, such as providing job readiness and soft skills training in socially acceptable and secure boundaries of universities.

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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The program is also addressing issues of gender-based violence and prejudice by supporting the implementation of the National Higher Education Gender Strategy, which is helping to ensure that university campuses in all parts of Afghanistan are safe environments for female faculty members and students.

In **El Salvador**, FHI 360 and FEDISAL, a local NGO, worked with a network of local civil society organizations to address barriers to education—including gang recruitment and violence—for children and youth in El Salvador. Funded by USAID, the *Education for Children and Youth Program (ECYP)* improved educational opportunities and reduced school dropout among students in grades 7-9 and out-of-school youth living in areas with high crime rates. Building on an existing system of school networks, the FHI 360 helped to create student-centered learning environments in 410 lower secondary schools in 18 high risk municipalities.

Chronic Crisis & Refugee Contexts

As a major partner on the USAID-funded *Room to Learn (RtL)* project in **South Sudan**, FHI 360 helped to expand safe education services, enhance education relevance and support education management. FHI 360 and project partners also provided literacy programming, including developing curriculum and teaching and learning materials. Language movement as a result of the displacement of millions during the war, coupled with a national language policy influx, complicated implementation of literacy activities. FHI 360 and partners effectively navigated this complex environment by taking a holistic perspective that accounted for instructional best practices, policy climate, teacher ability, sustainability and project goals.

Post-Conflict & Crisis Recovery

Through the USAID-funded **Liberia Teacher Training Program II (LTTP II)**, FHI 360 helped the Ministry of Education adapt to its country's dynamic post-conflict context. LTTP II helped to rebuild pre- and in-service teacher professional development systems to address the critical shortage of qualified teachers. LTTP II's teacher-training activities used a conflict-sensitive approach that emphasized peaceful, demilitarized education. The curriculum included multi-ethnic Liberian stories that highlighted similarities rather than differences. Because the war dramatically reduced the number of female teachers, LTTP II provided stipends and scholarships to women in graduate education programs.

CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Our education work in conflict, crisis and fragile environments leverages our expertise in many sectors of development and our long experience of successful programming in these contexts. By connecting people, ideas and resources from across FHI 360, we can respond to and meet diverse needs.

Global Education Expertise

- Early grade reading
- Education equity
- Education policy
- Education management information systems (EMIS)
- Human and institutional capacity strengthening
- Inclusive education
- Monitoring, evaluation and research
- Primary and post-primary education
- Teacher professional development

Related Expertise at FHI 360

- Civil society strengthening
- Gender equality
- Health and nutrition
- Information and communications technology (ICT)
- Peace building
- Social and behavior change communication
- Youth development
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Workforce development