WHY SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING?
Socio-emotional learning (SEL) is the process of acquiring and applying the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Children who participate in SEL programs do better in school, have greater physical and mental health, are more likely to have positive life outcomes.

FHI 360’S APPROACH TO SEL
FHI 360 integrates SEL into programs to support the holistic wellbeing of learners, teachers, and their communities. FHI 360’s approach recognizes that socio-emotional competencies vary across cultures and contexts and evolve as children grow older. FHI 360 has integrated SEL into literacy and numeracy materials, delivered SEL content through formal schools, accelerated learning, and remedial education programs, and supported caregivers to provide SEL to children through radio and SMS messaging. We support delivery SEL to learners by promoting teacher wellbeing and ensuring that learning environments are safe.

FHI 360 SEL PROGRAMS
In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, FHI 360 supports SEL, PSS and life skills activities to develop resilience and leadership among children and youth in the face of persistent conflict and crisis. Through USAID’s Elimu Ni jibu (Education is the Answer) project, FHI 360 implements tiered interventions addressing fluctuating crisis contexts that integrate SEL into formal and nonformal education activities and teacher training. In 2023, Elimu Ni jibu worked with community-based organizations to develop culturally relevant SEL handbooks that represent diverse populations.

In Rwanda, FHI 360 is leading a group of local and national stakeholders to develop a nationwide SEL program through USAID’s Tunoze Gusoma (Schools and Systems) activity. With support from FHI 360, the Rwandan Ministry of Education has created and adopted a national SEL framework linked to the Rwandan Competence-Based Curriculum. Tunoze Gusoma is now using the framework to guide the implementation of a nationwide SEL intervention integrated into pre-primary and lower primary level literacy instruction.

FHI 360 works side by side with ministries, communities, schools, teachers and families to support education systems that respond to the complex, dynamic and diverse needs of the people they serve through a locally owned and led approach.

Our programs:

- Use evidence-based approaches to develop and support formal and nonformal education in early childhood, primary and secondary education.
- Prioritize cross-cutting gender equity and social inclusion.
- Build capacity and resilience of communities and education systems.
- Provide quality contextualized teaching and learning materials.
- Ensure education quality through teacher training and continuous professional development.
- Respond to fluctuating emergencies, such as COVID-19, with flexible, tiered interventions.
Across Latin America and the Caribbean, FHI 360 supports school-based interventions supporting the SEL skills and well-being of students and teachers. Through USAID's multicountry Alcanza (Reach) program and its predecessor, Avanza (Advance), FHI 360 has designed modules to train pre-service teachers to support their own and their students' social and emotional well-being, contextualized for the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, where evaluations showed positive impacts on teacher SEL skills and attitudes. In Jamaica, FHI 360 supported university-wide PSS programming for students from disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

In El Salvador, FHI 360 is supporting the Ministry of Education to integrate SEL into teacher training alongside gender and disability-inclusive pedagogy through the USAID Educational Innovation Project. FHI 360 has also implemented SEL and well-being activities for teachers in Salvadoran schools affected by gang violence, developing tools to measure teacher well-being and the linkage between well-being and classroom climate through funding from the Millennium Challenge Corporation. In post-conflict southern Senegal, FHI 360 supported the integration of SEL throughout the education system, including SEL-informed classroom games and youth leadership clubs to promote awareness of SEL principles, gender inclusion and protection-related topics.

In Northeast Nigeria, FHI 360 implemented a range of contextualized SEL interventions to address the effects of toxic stress while building resilience for displaced and conflict-affected children and youth through the USAID-funded Addressing Education in Northeast Nigeria activity. The intervention included providing SEL lessons and activities for learners in schools and nonformal learning centers, building government capacity to incorporate SEL into national curricula, and offering activities to support the wellbeing of educators and caregivers. FHI 360 also led research on SEL, including a randomized controlled trial that found that integrating SEL into accelerated education classes had positive effects on literacy and math outcomes.

In Iraq, FHI 360 supported local, youth-serving organizations developing contextualized and conflict-sensitive tools and curriculum through SEL and life skills training under the UNICEF Life Skills and Citizenship Education Initiative.

**FHI 360 IS A GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADER IN SEL**

Member of/contributor to:

- Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) PSS-SEL collaborative
- How-to Note: Social Emotional Learning in USAID Basic Education Programs
- Landscape Review of Teacher Well-being in Low Resource, Crisis, and Conflict-affected Settings
- INEE/Harvard EASEL Lab PSS-SEL Toolbox anchor organization
- USAID Paper on Effective SEL/Soft Skills Interventions in Distance Learning

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a global organization that mobilizes research, resources and relationships so people everywhere have access to the opportunities they need to lead full and healthy lives. With collaborations in over 60 countries, we work directly with local leaders to advance social and economic equity, improve health and well-being, respond to humanitarian crises and strengthen community resilience. We share data-driven insights and scalable tools that expand access and equity so communities can effectively address complex challenges, respond to shocks and achieve thriving futures.