



EDUCATION



Overview

Almost two decades after the end of apartheid, the Government of South Africa continues to uphold the rights of all citizens and to invest heavily in the wellbeing of its people. South Africa plays a key economic and political role in Africa, but faces many challenges, including unemployment, HIV/AIDS, crime, and corruption. USAID/Southern Africa (USAID/SA) programs seek to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises, create employment, improve learning and job skills, improve the quality of basic education, combat gender-based violence, and promote HIV/AIDS care, prevention and treatment.

PORTFOLIO 2011-2015

- Projects support innovative, scalable South African solutions to education challenges
- Focus on improving primary grade reading outcomes by improving teacher effectiveness and strengthening classroom and school management
- Public-private partnerships worth a total of \$9.1 million

Basic Education

South Africa has succeeded in providing nearly universal access to education; however, the country still faces enormous challenges in improving the quality of education. Despite a significant investment in education, barely one in ten South African students qualify for university, and only 5% end up with a degree. Learners exiting the school system are not equipped with basic skills and core competencies necessary to succeed in the workplace, much less in a highly competitive global market.

The overall aim of the USAID/SA basic education program is to improve primary grade reading outcomes by building teacher effectiveness and strengthening classroom and school management. This is being accomplished through support to innovative, local interventions that have a demonstrated capacity for scale-up. The main USAID/SA program is the School Capacity and Innovation Program (SCIP), which also leverages significant private sector resources, amplifying the impact of USAID's investment in the South African education system. SCIP is co-funded by The ELMA Foundation and J.P. Morgan and designed in collaboration with the South African Department of Basic Education.

SCIP supports local South African models or interventions that work directly with teachers and school management teams in innovative ways in order to improve their practice as instructional leaders and managers. SCIP is aligned to the USAID Global Education Strategy (2011–2015) which supports interventions to improve learning outcomes with a focus on primary grade reading as a measure of performance. In addition to seeking initiatives that demonstrate innovation and impact, sustainability, and scalability are key components of the SCIP program.

The USAID/South Africa education portfolio also includes a project focused on youth leadership development.

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ACTIVITIES	PRIME/ SUBS	TIMEFRAME	TOTAL EST. COST	SUMMARY
Ukusiza	Mindset Network	2012-2015	\$1.5 million	The Ukusiza project will improve the quality and relevance of Teacher Professional Development (TPD) activities in South Africa through the development and widespread distribution of high-quality digital content. The project will develop and implement a TPD model focusing on primary school teachers teaching literacy and language.
kaMhinga Literacy Project	siyaJabula siyaKhula	2012-2015	\$1.5 million	The program goal is to demonstrate that the combination of teacher training and community-based teacher support can sustainably achieve primary grade reading levels at a 60% learner literacy level. This will be done through activities aimed at developing the capacity of teachers and learners.
Teacher Assessment Resources for Monitoring and Improving Instruction for Foundation Phase (TARMII-FP)	Human Science Research Council	2012-2015	\$1.5 million	TARMII-FP will provide teachers with a computer-based assessment tool that will help teachers to more effectively address individual student learning needs in literacy.
Bridges to the Future Initiative in South Africa (BFI-SA)	Molteno	2012-2014	\$300,000	The BFI-SA project will design and implement an innovative, technology-based tool for learners that will address the literacy deficit among primary grade learners at the Foundation Phase level.
Skillz for Youth	Grassroot Soccer	2012-2015	\$1.6 million	The Skillz for Youth program will provide comprehensive life skills, financial education and employability training to 500 young adults aged 18 to 30.