



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID Higher Education in Crisis and Conflict

About USAID

USAID is the United States' government agency that leads international development and humanitarian efforts to **save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance** and help people progress beyond assistance.

USAID has programming in 100+ countries to:

- Promote Global Health
- Support Global Stability
- Provide Humanitarian Assistance
- Catalyze Innovation and Partnership
- Empower Women and Girls



What We Mean by Education in Crisis and Conflict Settings



Can include:

**Education for
refugee learners**

**Education for
internally displaced
persons (IDPs)**

**Education under
conditions of armed
conflicts, insecurity,
and instability**

**Education for
reconstruction after
natural disasters,
global pandemics,
and catastrophes**

Why Higher Education in Crisis and Conflict?

- Higher education in crisis and conflict (HEiCC) is a priority area for USAID.
- An estimated 80 percent of countries where USAID provides assistance have been at risk of or experienced a security, political, economic, or humanitarian crisis in the past decade.
- Addresses two USAID Learning Agenda questions:

From the Higher Education Learning Agenda:

How can Higher Education (HE) systems and institutions become more strategic in planning, implementing, and monitoring core activities?

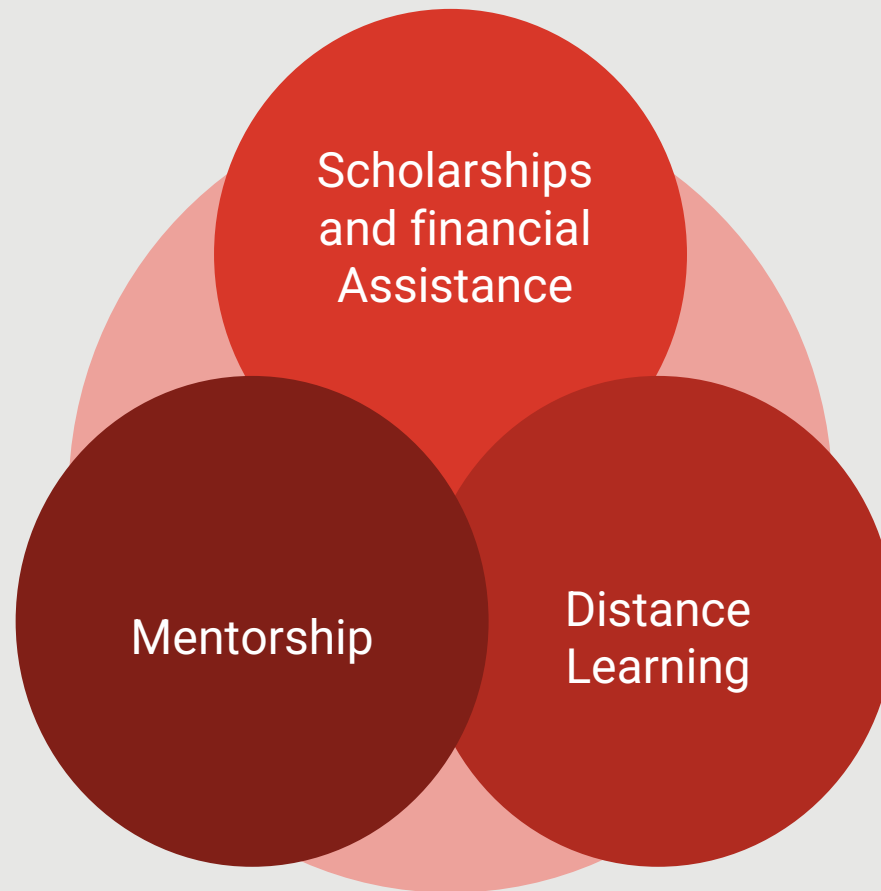
From the EiCC Learning Agenda:

How can USAID education programs contribute to building more resilient education institutions in crisis and conflict contexts?

Programming Consideration for HEICC

- Building on local assets, skills, relationships, and services to strengthen resilience to shocks and stresses from all types of crises and conflict
- Ensuring that decisions are made in partnership with affected populations. USAID prioritizes the key principle of inclusion, “Nothing without us” as outlined in the Agency’s new Disability Policy.
 - This implies that diverse voices should be central in the conversations on program planning and implementation.

Programming Approaches for HEICC



Scholarships and Financial Assistance

- A way to improve access to Higher Education for the most marginalized.
- Local or regional scholarships.
- USAID Scholarship Toolkit recommendations for inclusive programming:
 - Seeking diverse perspectives at the outset
 - Being inclusive in scholarship materials
 - Marketing and recruitment efforts
 - Providing financial and other support in the scholarship application process.

Distance Learning

- USAID's [Review of Evidence and Best Practice on Delivering Distance Learning in Emergencies](#)
 - radio/audio, video/television, mobile phone programming, and online learning
- Three considerations before start of distance learning for students in HEiCC
 - Evaluate the availability of technology infrastructure
 - Compatibility of content with the distance learning modality being used. Inclusivity should extend to learners with disabilities.
 - Well-being of HE educators and students
- USAID Strengthening Higher Education Access in Malawi Activity (SHEAMA)
 - SunSPOT (Solar Powered Offline Teaching)
 - allows students to wirelessly connect their smartphone, tablet or shared computer directly to a device at a centralized classroom.
 - use free apps such as Moodle or Kolibri, which are learning management systems that provide lesson content and allow educators to grade assignments and track student progress.

Mentorship

- Helps build extended support networks and promotes individual and community level resilience.
- Provides motivational support and guidance to fellow students
 - Skills and knowledge transfer
 - increasing opportunities for career growth
 - creates networks and bonds for learners
- The key considerations to a successful mentoring relationship, especially in HEiCC contexts
 - Ensuring realistic expectations and mutual respect and trust
 - A commitment to long-term partnership.

Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship Program in Burma (DISP)

- Example: USAID Burma - Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship Program (DISP).
- An example of local and regional scholarships.
- Supports current and future community leaders of Burma particularly those from vulnerable groups, to gain access to quality higher education learning opportunities by offering regional and local scholarships in Burma.
- Regional scholarships in countries with a USAID Mission presence.
- Engaging local CSOs with deep local reach.

Thank You

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