USAID PRIORITAS: Improving Access to Quality Basic Education

RTI is working with 89 districts across seven provinces to extend the capacity of district and provincial governments to plan, manage, and finance education services; to upgrade teacher capacity to implement active and contextual learning; and to encourage parental and community involvement, particularly in supporting children in the early grades. USAID PRIORITAS also helps prepare new teachers to enter the classroom by supporting Teacher Training Institutes (TTIs) with course development and lecturer capacity building.

Working with Government

With a focus on developing local capacity to improve teaching and learning, RTI is working with all levels of government to expand evidence-based decision making, communication, and coordination. At the central level, USAID PRIORITAS is supporting Indonesia’s Ministry of Education and Culture (MOEC) and Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA) in introducing a new 2013 curriculum and developing a reporting tool that increases transparency and accountability in funding. At the province and district levels, USAID PRIORITAS is supporting strategic planning by coordinating with stakeholders from local government offices and councils. In addition, RTI’s efforts aim to improve linkages among the schools, districts, provinces, TTIs, and Indonesia’s national government, as well as increase the involvement of Indonesia’s civil society in education governance.

USAID PRIORITAS focus areas:
• Improving pre- and in-service teacher education at TTIs through programs that emphasize improved practice;
• Making teaching and learning in primary and junior secondary schools more interesting, relevant, and effective, especially in reading, math, and science;
• Developing participatory and accountable school management that focuses on improving learning; and
• Improving education resource management in the provinces and districts, with a focus on teacher deployment and educational funding.

Supporting Teacher Training Institutes

USAID PRIORITAS is working with TTIs to improve their capacity to deliver pre- and in-service teacher education programs and support districts in improving education management and governance. USAID PRIORITAS is training TTI staff in teaching and learning methodology and in participative school management.

RTI and the USAID PRIORITAS partners have been working with 16 TTIs to improve the quality and relevance of pre-service training course content and the teaching practicum experience. After attending training, many TTI lecturers have adopted interactive and participative strategies in their classes. They also work alongside
experienced and successful teachers, who have themselves been trained to deliver in-service training to teachers. Thus, these lecturers come into direct contact with actively working teachers and the issues teachers face in the classroom. In addition, the project is developing improved teaching practicum programs in which TTI lecturers and teachers at host schools (where staff have received training) work in partnership to monitor and support trainee teachers. USAID PRIORITAS is also planning a program of Classroom Action Research in which TTI lecturers work together with experienced and successful teachers to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

Impact by the numbers
USAID PRIORITAS
- will work directly with over 1,000 primary and junior secondary schools and madrasah (Islamic religious schools), teaching 13,000 teachers and 180,000 students;
- has already trained more than 5,200 teachers and school principals from 595 partner schools in active and contextual teaching and learning;
- has trained more than 2,200 school supervisors, principals, teachers, and committee and community members in participative and accountable school management; and
- has trained over 1,000 lecturers from 48 TTIs in teaching, teaching and learning methodologies, and participative school management.

RTI in Indonesia: Building on a Strong Foundation
RTI has been supporting USAID’s education program in Indonesia since 2003 through two programs. The Managing Basic Education (MBE) program supported school and teacher improvement in 20 districts in two provinces from 2003 to 2007. The Decentralized Basic Education (DBE1 and DBE2) projects worked from 2005 to 2011 with over 50 districts in seven provinces to improve management and governance of education, particularly at the district and school levels, and to improve the quality of teaching and learning in basic education. The current USAID PRIORITAS project is continuing to work in most of these DBE districts and in 43 new districts to support further development and build on the success of the DBE programs.

More Information
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