

Macedonia – Primary Education Project (PEP)

In April 2007, a MoU was signed by USAID, the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), the Bureau for Development of Education (BDE) and the Primary Education Project (PEP) to increase student benefits from computers through introducing innovative uses of ICT. Pilot schools were selected and were provided with hardware and software related to enhancing teaching and learning in the subjects of biology, physics, chemistry, geography, natural sciences and the environment. As well as using open-ended digital content and software specifically designed for particular lessons, the focus was on using the environment as a source of data to be studied using the supplied peripherals. The aim was to motivate students to use critical thinking and enable project-based learning. Equipment involved included: EarthWalk mobile labs to store and charge laptop computers, electronic sensors to provide accurate data to make experiments more realistic; electronic microscopes to make the observation of micro-organisms more accessible to students; cameras to enable recording of field observations for more detailed study in the classroom and inclusion in reports. The equipment introduced students to computer-based data acquisition techniques and encouraged data analysis e.g. using spreadsheets. Today, the Government of Macedonia has deployed over 50,000 Intel-powered classmate pc netbooks for 1st-3rd grade children and over 20,000 netbooks for teachers.



“Students are very interested in doing work on the laptops, they work well together. By using the equipment they feel in trend with today’s technologies.”

- Fifth Grade Teacher

Jordan – Education Reform for the Knowledge Economy (ERfKE) Initiative

As part of ERfKE mandate, USAID in partnership with the Ministry of Education and private companies piloted different approaches to solving a variety of educational challenges. The approaches included providing students and teachers with access to effective ICT resources, and delivering effective professional development to teachers that enables successful integration of ICT into teaching and learning. Intel and EarthWalk partnered for the Computers-on-Wheels (COW) pilot that used EarthWalk mobile computer labs and wireless laptops with integrated Intel technology. These ICT resources were implemented into classrooms at four different girl and boy’s schools. Teachers at the schools were trained in project-based learning, using the COW carts to access the internet, making the best use of the computers, and using classroom management software. Since the introduction of the COWs, teachers from some of the pilot schools have reported an improvement in student performance and increased teachers’ effectiveness with integrating IT into teaching and learning. Currently, the success of this pilot has taken UNICEF to adopt the COW model and deliver 48 EarthWalk labs with 768 rugged notebooks as part of equipping primary schools in Jordan and Iraq.



“COW solution makes students more creative in the way they present their work and allows teachers to present in a range of stimulating formats.”

- Manal Abu Samen, IT Teacher

Senegal – Support for Middle Schools Project (PAEM)

Since 2003, the PAEM project has worked with the Ministry of Education’s Department of Middle and Secondary Education to implement many of the elements in its Ten Year Education and Training Plan (PDEF) that focus on improved access, quality and management of middle schools. However, over half of Senegal’s rural middle schools have no electricity limiting the access to ICT for education and training. The PAEM project established EarthWalk mobile computer labs and solar charging solutions at departmental education offices in the regions of Fatick, Kolda, Tambacounda, and Ziguinchor to reach and train over 4,000 students in a 4 months period on office applications and digital pedagogic resources. To date, over 1,000 students in summer camps trained in software and equipment use combined for rural community projects. In addition, overall middle school enrollment rates increased by 28% in USAID funded regions and from 34% to almost 41% amongst girls.



“We have been able to reach over 5,000 middle school students using the mobile lab approach, taking laptops and charged batteries to schools with no or unsure electricity.”

- Lorraine Denakpo, COP USAID/PAEM

Mozambique – Programa Para o Futuro (PPF)

PPF aims to provide a safe supportive environment where employability, technical and life skills, and, supplemental basic education are provided. PPF employs information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as EarthWalk’s mobile computer labs in a project-based learning approach as a means to accelerate learning, build self-confidence, learn to develop individual career plans, prepare high-quality CVs, practice interviewing/presentation skills, and enhance the employability of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in an economy witnessing strong growth in the ICT sector. In addition to these employability skills, youth also gain important life and social skills. They learn how to develop personal budgets and use saving mechanisms, improve their literacy skills and are given the opportunity to develop their individual voice and sense of agency. Critical to all this is a focus on learning about HIV/AIDS, how to avoid contracting this disease and how to live a positive life with the disease. Ultimately, the goal of this project is to create mid-term and long-term impacts where youth develop more positive attitudes towards reproductive health and gender issues, achieve personal and professional stability and satisfaction, become more engaged with their families and friends, and view themselves as agents of change within their communities and create and sustain professional careers.



“When I learned about PPF, I wanted to become a part of the program because I wanted to meet new people and make friends and learn new things. When I passed the first selection stage I became very nervous and when I learned that I was selected I became very happy.”

- PPF Youth

Malawi – Read Malawi Project

Since 2009, the University of Texas at San Antonio’s College of Education and Human Development (COEHD) and the Republic of Malawi Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) have collaborated in the Read Malawi Project to provide five million books for children in grades 1-3 in over 1,000 elementary schools. Additionally, COEHD faculty members offer training for teachers, principals and Malawian communities to support the educational improvement efforts of the MEST. More recently, the project has adopted the EarthWalk mobile computer labs with sidekick batteries to provide extended laptop power and improve teaching skills and the overall educational outcomes of students.



“There is scarcity in most schools in Malawi - no computers, not even electricity - so learning is difficult. This is my first time using computers in my education. I am excited.”

- Nicson Imani, Freshman Student Teacher

Kosovo – Basic Education Program (BEP) and FORECAST Project

USAID’s Basic Education Program (BEP), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and other donors, aims to improve the capacity of Kosovo’s schools to provide relevant skills for its students. Its overarching goal is to improve the Government of Kosovo’s institutional capacity in the education sector and improve the quality of primary education. When BEP is completed in 2015, it will have contributed to Kosovo’s entry into the European Union, achieve educational excellence through support for the educational reforms now underway, and help give youth the skills they need to succeed in a global economy.

USAID’s FORECAST Project includes four components: Human and Institutional Capacity Development, Participant Training, Technical Assistance, and Academic Study & Education. In this last component, FORECAST supports extracurricular computer and English language clubs in 14 communities.

Both BEP and FORECAST utilize EarthWalk’s mobile computer labs to improve learning outcomes.

