

# ACCESS TO EDUCATION



In order to advance the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goal of providing a quality education to all of the world's children, Winrock works to expand **Access to Education** by addressing issues such as inadequate income, negative societal attitudes, and insufficient student and school readiness.





**Access to Education** requires ongoing effort as well as the support and participation of multiple stakeholders, from individual families to schools to governments. Students must be allowed to attend school and be healthy enough to learn. Governments must provide schools, as well as train and pay teachers. We engage at multiple levels to strengthen policy and planning, build local capacity, and change the mindsets, behaviors and conditions that prevent children from receiving a quality education.

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## Methodology

Winrock takes a practical approach to the insidious and disruptive challenges that undermine education. Endemic poverty, violent conflict, discrimination, gender norms, cultural attitudes, and child labor and trafficking all conspire to keep children out of school. Mobilizing resources to lessen or eliminate these barriers is a top priority. For example, poor families often rely on their children for labor, and are often unable to provide them with good health and nutrition. Increasing family and community involvement in education depends on generating household income and savings, so that families can provide for their children and not be reliant on their earnings.

Winrock works with families to create a healthy and productive environment that supports education. We improve indoor air quality through renewable household energy and cleaner-burning fuels and stoves. Access to reliable energy ensures that children have light to study at home after dark. We also supply water for domestic needs, home gardens and livestock to improve nutrition. We work with buyers

in supply chains and support financial cooperatives to better position families to earn enough income so they can release children from work to attend school.

We engage parents in school governance through parent-teacher associations (PTAs). We raise awareness about the kind of supportive culture and opportunities young people, particularly women, need to thrive. When families and communities see tangible benefits from schools, they support them with additional resources and expect the quality of education to improve. Greater community support for education leads to higher levels of school attendance and performance. It also contributes to improved school standards and a stronger corps of teachers, administrators and civil servants.

**Access to Education** directly advances the UN's Sustainable Development Goal for quality education. It also supports other UN goals, including equality, economic growth, women's empowerment and sustainable communities. Improved access to education also aids efforts to eliminate child labor and trafficking.

Winrock seeks to involve all who can and do impact the issue of education. Our inclusive approach brings communities together, builds individual and organizational skills, leverages resources, cultivates a shared sense of possibility and direction, and achieves sustainable outcomes. It involves:

- Assessing and mapping needs;
- Developing national policy and planning frameworks;
- Preparing school development plans;
- Setting educational standards;
- Developing curriculum and materials;
- Training teachers;
- Strengthening parent-teacher associations (PTAs);
- Improving school infrastructure;
- Supporting better health and nutrition;
- Mentoring;
- Developing life skills; and
- Supporting growth in family incomes.

Winrock also provides accelerated learning programs, catch-up programs and other education initiatives for children, adolescents and adults who are unable to participate in formal schooling. We deliver training in literacy, household savings, business and life skills to empower women. All of these interventions strengthen families' ability to make better household decisions and achieve their goals.



# 🔍 CASE STUDIES

## Nepal

In **Nepal**, Winrock provided education and training to marginalized youth and connected them to income-generating opportunities. We trained more than 8,000 young people in off-farm vocational skills. All of them found jobs or were successfully self-employed within six months of graduation. In agriculture, Winrock trained more than 54,000 young people, 81 percent of whom were women, in high-value agriculture practices, and also linked them to markets. In addition, we prepared 300 lead farmers and agrovetts to better serve and train farmers. As a result, Winrock increased the income of program participants, on average, by \$412 per year.



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## Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Tanzania

Winrock has pioneered programs to sustainably improve rural household income and financial planning that supports education and family well-being. Results across **Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Tanzania** showed that 80 percent of female program participants began to save money and 78 percent increased household profits. Of the 760 women who participated in our programs, 96 percent used profits or savings to cover their children's education expenses. These programs work by improving women's business management, financial and literacy skills, and by providing access to resources that allow them to generate new sources of income.

## African Women Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment

Despite the central role women play in food production in Africa, many lack access to education and training. Winrock's **African Women Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment** program provided 570 women with scholarships for advanced study. The program equipped over 1,500 women with leadership skills and enabled more than 50,000 disadvantaged girls to pursue their education. The program also provided training to some 100,000 women farmers in new technologies. Many women from this program now hold senior positions within governmental agriculture ministries.

## South Sudan

Conflict too often interrupts education. Despite persistent violence and hyperinflation in **South Sudan**, Winrock reached over 300,000 students, 1,600 teachers, and 2,200 PTA members in almost 400 schools across six states over the course of three years. Our program emphasized early-grade literacy, gender equity and conflict mitigation. It used a community-based approach to reach out-of-school and marginalized children and youth. Winrock provided grants to PTAs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help support school communities.

## Rwanda

As part of a project in tea-growing areas of **Rwanda**, Winrock worked with multiple partners to eliminate exploitative child labor practices and enroll children in schools. To enhance school readiness, we improved school infrastructure, conducted teacher training, and established PTA roundtables and peer-to-peer mentoring. The project has enrolled 4,182 youth in formal school or vocational courses.

## Hivos Indonesia Kataka Solar School

Winrock works to ensure that schools are highly functional, attract committed students, and serve as a model for the future. As part of a broader effort to provide 100 percent renewable energy to the citizens of the Indonesian island of Sumba, we installed new solar photovoltaic panels at the **Hivos Indonesia Kataka Solar School**. Students and teachers now enjoy consistent light in their classrooms, a big boost to instruction and learning.



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