



Gender Integration: A Top Priority

Throughout its history, EDC has prioritized gender equity in its work. We recognize the myriad challenges women and girls experience—limited access to education, early and forced marriages, and gender-based violence (GBV). We recognize that inequitable gender and social norms place pressure on men and boys to join armed groups and engage in behaviors that harm themselves and others and that these norms also place pressure on both boys and girls to leave school.

Around the world, EDC engages educators; health practitioners; government, civic, and private sector leaders; and families and youth to transform harmful gender norms. Through our work, we seek to create more equitable, safe, and inclusive systems of education, employment, and health, and we tailor our projects to each country's context.

To effectively integrate gender across each project's lifecycle, **EDC has adopted six guiding principles**, which are informed by the Gender Practitioners Collaborative *Minimum Standards for Mainstreaming Gender Equality*:

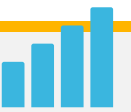
- 1 Do no harm
- 2 Strengthen organizational culture and capacity for gender equality
- 3 Dedicate budget
- 4 Conduct and utilize gender research
- 5 Reflect and act
- 6 Disseminate results

These principles hold us accountable, ensuring gender equity is an integral part of our work.



GENDER ANALYSIS

During project design and start-up, EDC conducts a gender analysis to identify barriers to key services, such as education, health, employment, and entrepreneurship. Based on the findings, we develop and integrate practical recommendations into our work and into our monitoring, evaluation, and learning plans.



RESULTS OF OUR WORK



EDC's work is guided by evidence, empathy, and experience. Our Gender Working Group provides technical support to international projects, working closely with in-country experts and partners to facilitate trainings, conduct research, and build capacity, thereby ensuring that gender equity is a crosscutting focus across activities.

ETHIOPIA: Through the USAID Reading for Ethiopia's Achievement Developed (READ II) activity, EDC supported the development of gender club guidelines. The project trained 6,682 school gender club coordinators and school administrators on gender and GBV prevention and response. Activity staff developed a facilitator's guide and five student books on gender, GBV, female leadership, and SRH for grades 5–8. Under READ II, EDC produced and broadcast a 13-episode radio drama in six regions to promote reflection, dialogue, and behavior change regarding gender and SRGBV.

SOUTH AFRICA: Through the USAID South Africa School-Based Sexuality & HIV Prevention Education activity, EDC developed scripted lessons for grades 4–12 addressing prevention and response to SRGBV and GBV and basic SRH content, reaching more than 960,000 learners and more than 8,700 teachers. Working with government institutions, NGOs, and schools, EDC also helped connect youth to youth-friendly health and psychosocial services.

HONDURAS: Through the USAID Honduras Reading Activity, EDC trained 11,537 teachers on gender and social inclusion and developed a module in the teacher's manual on gender and social inclusion. Additionally, EDC developed teaching and learning materials for students in grades 1–6, including scenarios and illustrations designed to promote gender transformative roles and inclusion of students with disabilities, as well as social and emotional learning skills.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: Through the USAID Lower Mekong Initiative Connecting the Mekong through Education and Training (USAID-LMI COMET) project, EDC promoted gender-balanced employment in key growth sectors in STEM+AT (science, technology, engineering, mathematics + accounting and tourism) in Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. This included work-based learning opportunities for young women to better position themselves for successful employment opportunities in male-dominated sectors. Additionally, Innovation Challenges provided young women with the opportunity to design technology-based solutions to address some of the region's most daunting challenges in agriculture, aquaculture, and fisheries.

Highlights of EDC's Gender Integration Work in Africa, Asia, and Latin America

Designed and delivered school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) prevention and GBV response activities



to students, parents, community members, and youth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Liberia, Mali, South Africa, and Uganda

With the South African government's Department of Basic Education, **developed a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum and promoted access** to and use of youth-centered sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services



Trained public and private sector partners to promote inclusive and equitable hiring, retention, and workplace policies and practices in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Honduras, Indonesia, and the Philippines



Developed teaching and learning materials that promote equitable gender roles and social inclusion in Ethiopia, Honduras, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, and the Philippines



Facilitated training and coaching for teachers in gender responsive pedagogy in Ethiopia, Honduras, Mali, and Rwanda



Supported orphans and vulnerable children in the DRC, Uganda, and Zambia



Supported more than **20,800 youth in starting their own businesses** in Mali and Rwanda, including **13,480 young women**



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