

Schools: Building & Rehabilitation

In the fight against poverty, supporting education is one of the smartest investments one can make, laying the foundation for long term development. Across the globe, Global Communities has helped build and rehabilitate schools in a variety of challenging environments like the West Bank, Haiti, and Kosovo. Working with communities looking to expand access to education, or those recovering from a recent disaster, we have taken the lessons learned from years of housing and shelter support and adapted them to ensure that teachers and students can have access to the high quality facilities they need to learn and thrive.



West Bank

In the West Bank, Global Communities is implementing the Local Government and Infrastructure (LGI) program, a \$100-million USAID-funded project to work with community leaders, municipal governments, and other community-based organizations to identify and implement infrastructure projects and local governance strategies to better the quality of life for residents. Infrastructure projects have the dual impact of creating employment and raising the standard of living in vulnerable area while also supporting community participation and government responsiveness.

As part of the program, Global Communities has worked to support a variety of schools and youth centers. Since the program began in 2010, 362 classrooms have been built or renovated, providing learning space for over 6,000 students, just under 2,400 of whom are girls. In addition, last year, 350 female students aged 14 to 16 participated in a two semester initiative titled “Breaking Gender Stereotypes: Promoting Leadership and Labor Opportunities among Young Women”, designed to encourage young women to become more active and take leadership positions in their communities.

In 2010, Global Communities, helped construct the first building with major green elements in the West Bank – the Safer Center – which provides children in the region a safe place to play. In the years since, we have included green

building elements in more projects, including other youth clubs and community centers. Utilizing native plants, taking into account proper orientation in relation to sunlight, and use of solar panels and LED lights have helped reduce the carbon footprints of all of these buildings. In addition to these green initiatives, Global Communities is scheduled to build construct the Aqqaba Girls’ School, the first “green” school in the West Bank, to be built in accordance with the Palestinian Green Building Guidelines, issued by Palestine Higher Green Building Council.



Kosovo

In Kosovo, Global Communities implemented two USAID programs, the Kosovo Activity to Support Schools Program (KASS) and the Small Infrastructure for Education in Kosovo (SIEK), both of which aimed to expand and improve the physical space for primary and secondary schools in the country. With many schools overenrolled and requiring multiple schools shifts, the program aimed to reduce the number of shifts and improve the quality of learning environments through energy efficient rehabilitations.

Under KASS, Global Communities helped construct 36 high quality, energy-efficient annex construction or rehabilitation projects. By the end of the program, the number of school shifts had been reduced by 19, over 400 classrooms

Schools: Building & Rehabilitation

had been built or rehabilitated, and over 38,000 students had benefited from the new construction. In addition to the construction of annexes and renovations to existing schools, under SIEK Global Communities constructed two new schools, including the Green School in Pristina. The Green School is the first in Kosovo to use technology such as geothermal heating and cooling, solar power, water recycling, a green roof and other energy efficient systems. This complicated project provided a working model which has helped shape future discussions on public green buildings in Kosovo. In total, 37,768 students benefitted from SIEK program activities.



Haiti

As part of the KATA program to help Haiti rebuild in the wake of the devastating earthquake, Global Communities helped construct more than 400 temporary classrooms so that students' lives could return to normal as quickly as possible. Subsequently, Global Communities improved 232 education institutions through renovations and corrective maintenance and repairs, benefiting over 51,000 students.



Lebanon

The Lebanon Assistance for Education Development, with support from USAID and the Caterpillar Foundation, helped improve the physical infrastructure of 67 schools to benefit over 23,000 students. In addition to physical infrastructure, Global Communities helped provide community members with a variety of other services, including raising awareness of health, nutrition, and social issues through 1,171 awareness sessions. Students were encouraged to actively engage with their communities, with over 3,000 participating in one of the 156 student clubs established, and over 50 community service projects were completed by students. Over 70 schools were provided with supplies to maintain these enhancements to classroom curriculum to ensure long term sustainability of the programs gains.



Indonesia

In Indonesia after the devastating 2005 tsunami, Global Communities (then CHF International) supported the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Aceh Province in Indonesia through the design and construction of the Aceh Politeknik Vocational Training Center. In collaboration with Chevron and USAID, CHF designed and constructed a three story, 20-classroom building to provide the education needed to meet the area's demands for more industrial employees. The center is a non-smoking facility, to provide not only a vocational education, but to promote personal health values. Completed and handed over in August 2008, the center took a year to design and build.

Global Communities is an international non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable changes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself. Please visit our website at www.globalcommunities.org for more information.