

The Mitchell Group, Inc. (TMG) believes strongly in the need for quality primary education for all children, and since 1986, we have worked hard to expand access to education in Africa. We have encouraged parents to be part of the decision-making processes, resolved questions of equity and access, decentralized management, strengthened administration, and developed programmatic and financial transparency, all essential, if less glamorous, steps to helping more children learn their three "r's."

Since 1986, The Mitchell Group has been committed to excellence and developing timely, low-cost, sustainable solutions to client needs. To date, TMG has implemented more than 75 contracts for diverse clients across the globe in areas such as education, health, private sector development, financial management, administrative support services, and information technology. Our staff's diverse range of experience and skills and their multi-lingual capabilities make our management approaches culturally relevant and realistic. We take pride in our reputation for efficiently managing development resources, and have made that our motto.

Assistance to Basic Education/Basic Education (ABE/BE): This IQC provides access to TMG technical assistance to USAID in areas of basic/primary education and training. For more information, contact Sally Patton, Project Director, sallyp@the-mitchellgroup.com or 202-745-1919.

GSA MOBIS Schedule: Various USG agencies can also access TMG services through this schedule. For more information, contact Jenkins Cooper, Director of Operations, jenkinsc@the-mitchellgroup.com or 202-745-1919, ext. 27.

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Basic Education and Training



Project Experience

Assistance to Basic Education/Basic Education (ABE/BE)

TMG has conducted a mid-term evaluation of the Education Quality Improvement Program's Leader With Associate awards program, which are a flexible mechanism for bringing new partners and approaches into education programs. We also conducted a final evaluation on the Managing Basic Education (MBE) Project in Indonesia, which found that MBE-assisted schools are better managed institutions, with active community participation, richer learning environments, and teachers with a wider variety of teaching approaches and materials, but that further improvements could yet be made. We are also part of a pilot project in Ghana that will strengthen the ability of private primary and secondary schools to access financial credit. Our role is to coordinate the various partners in the project, groom a local organization to take over when the pilot is complete, and document what does and does not work during the project.

Children's Learning and Equity Foundations Project (CLEF)

TMG helped support a complete overhaul of Benin's primary learning system to one stressing skills rather than memorization. As a partner in the Children's Learning and Equity Foundations Project, a seven-

year, \$15 million USAID effort, we held training workshops for teacher trainers and supervisors, curriculum developers, and education policy makers to enhance their skills and improve equity in the primary classroom for girls and other traditionally underserved students. We developed and implemented computer applications for statistical data analysis of schools at the central and decentralized levels and developed school mapping tools for GIS data collection. TMG also trained 15 Ministry of Education (MOE) staff members in the development of specialized computer applications and 35 staffers in data usage, enabling the MOE to better manage its statistical data and knowledge base. All told, approximately 21,500 teachers and 100 school inspectors were trained in the use of the new curricula—which TMG helped develop—and its teaching methodologies. Textbooks, workbooks, teacher guides, and pedagogical charts were developed, tested, and locally printed for Grades 1-4, including 400,000 books, enough for every first grade student.



USAID/Namibia, Basic Education Support

Under a \$1 million subcontract with the American Institute for Research, TMG provided short-term technical assistance in fields related to basic education for the USAID/Namibia Basic Education Support Project. We provided consultants to support preparation, delivery, and follow-up for workshops to develop instructional and continuous assessment materials for use in target schools. We trained members of the central training team, using problem-based approaches that focused on child-centered teaching of math and continuous assessment.

Haiti Education 2004 Project

In this project, TMG and its partner AED, instituted an integrated approach to education improvement with the school at its core. School director and teacher training took place primarily within clusters of schools; community development focused on creating links and joint activities between a school and the families whose children attend that school. The project helped communities and schools assess the quality of student learning, teacher practice, school environment, and nature of community participation. In addition, it provided incentives and means for schools to share experiences and learn from each other.