



MINISTÈRE
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ÉTRANGÈRES

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

2024 - 2028

France's international strategy on basic education for 2024-2028

Abstract

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Background and ambitions

France has made education a priority of its external action through its bilateral and multilateral commitments. As the third largest education aid donor, France promotes the leading part education plays in achieving the 2030 Agenda with a partnership-based approach.

France's international strategy on basic education for 2024-2028 seeks to contribute to inclusive and equitable quality education for all irrespective of the context. It aims at fostering dialogue between education sector stakeholders in support of Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Focused on a specific scope from early childhood education to secondary school, this new strategy aims to urgently address the unprecedented learning crisis, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking into account the direct impact of crises on education, strengthening the resilience of education stakeholders and systems will be a main focus in order to adapt to 21st century challenges, such as climate change and the uses of digital technology in education.

With an approach based on human rights and children's rights, the strategy reaffirms the leading role of young people as drivers of change, and the role of education to develop their potential and uphold their rights.

Building on Goal 3¹ of the Presidential Development Council meeting of 5th May 2023, it reiterates the crucial role of teachers and the importance of quality training to meet education needs over the long term.

The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs will take the lead in implementing France's 2024-2028 international strategy on basic education. A steering committee comprising of Team France representatives will be monitoring its commitments.

1. Goal 3: Invest in youth by supporting education and teacher training in developing countries.

Education challenges in figures

More than 2/3 of 10-year-olds

worldwide are unable to read and understand a simple text (World Bank, 2022).

250 million 6- to 18-year-olds

worldwide were still not attending school in 2023 (UNESCO, 2023).

48%

of the out-of-school population are girls and young women (UNESCO, 2023).

The French approach to education

France promotes the key role of education for individuals and societies:

- Education is the most efficient and profitable investment for sustainable and inclusive societies;
- Education is a lever of action to support the resilience of individuals and societies, reduce inequalities, fight discriminations and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Education is a global public good and a right to enforce in development and emergency contexts, in accordance with France's commitments to achieve and protect children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989.

France is promoting a vision for education based on:

- A multi-sectoral approach focused on children's well-being, the shaping of future citizens and young people's socio-economic empowerment;
- An approach geared to each stage in life (early childhood, childhood, adolescence, transition into the workplace), in line with efforts to support individuals throughout their education.

Guiding principles

A partnership-based approach

France promotes coordination and cooperation with all stakeholders within and outside the education sector to contribute to children's development. This approach will be applied accordingly at international, regional, national and local levels.

Alignment, complementarity and consistency

France will ensure that its action is aligned with the priorities identified by partner countries through dialogue and the sharing of expertise for long-term results. France will ensure that its multilateral and bilateral commitments are consistent and complementary. Through these interventions, leverage effects will be sought to raise additional finance.

Lastly, actions will be consistent and complementary with the priorities of several international sectoral strategies of France.

A human and children's rights based approach

In accordance with the principles of France's Human Rights and Development Strategy, its international action regarding education imposes the obligation to uphold, protect and implement human rights, particularly children's rights.

Five priorities

Priority 1

Contribute to inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-primary to secondary levels

France will use several levers for quality education, at the levels of central government and decentralized services:

1. Initial and lifelong training of teachers and educational supervisors;
2. Teaching resources and *curricula*;
3. Learning conditions ensuring the well-being of educational staff and children;
4. Support for bilingual and multilingual educational policies;
5. Education monitoring and evaluation systems.

Priority 2

Contribute to education access and keep children in school

With a specific focus on girls and adolescent girls and the most vulnerable and underserved children, France aims to:

- Support inclusive educational opportunities that are adapted to specific needs, particularly of girls and adolescent girls, and children with disabilities;
- Improve access to pre-school and secondary education;
- Prevent children from dropping out of the school system by supporting non-formal education and school counselling;
- Promote the inclusion of refugees, displaced people and repatriated people in national education systems.

Priority 3

Support the education of girls and adolescent girls and promote the inclusion of gender equality in and through education

Beyond support for girls and adolescent girls attending school, France promotes a transformative approach to education. It aims at fighting stereotypes and challenging gender norms and the related power imbalances. Consistent with the priorities of its feminist foreign policy, France will support feminist civil society organizations advocating for education and in particular in the following areas: the access of girls and young women to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) sectors; fight against gender-based violence in school; secured access to menstrual health care and products; teachers' leadership.

Priority 4

Support education in crisis and emergency situations and the resilience of education systems

In line with the commitments of its Humanitarian Strategy (2023-2027), **France promotes education as a crucial priority in emergency situations, helping to protect children and facilitating their access to basic services.** France will support learning continuity and build the capacity of education actors and systems to prevent and anticipate crises in order to mitigate their effects.

Priority 5

Improve the governance and financing of education systems.

At a partner's request, France will support:

- Public policies reinforcing teachers training and the quality and efficiency of human resources management;
- Planning and budgeting capacity building.

Four cross-cutting priorities

1. Training teachers and educational supervisors.
2. Stronger support for La Francophonie, consistent with the commitments of the 2018 French Language and Multilingualism Plan.
3. An integrated approach to gender equality.
4. Addressing digital and environmental challenges in and through education.

Commitments

France commits to:

- Mobilize bilateral, European and multilateral channels to work on the strategy's priorities;
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships for an effective response to educational needs;
- Engage in political advocacy for education at bilateral and multilateral level;
- Push for more education financing and the reform of the global education architecture.

France will support these priorities with:

- **A contribution of €350 million annually in support of education systems in French-speaking Africa**, in accordance with the commitments of the French Language and Multilingualism Plan;
- **A contribution to the multilateral fund Education Cannot Wait (ECW)** for the cycle under way to support education in crisis and emergency situations;
- The renewal, over the 2024-2026 period, of its support for **Gender at the Centre Initiative**, implemented by the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) and the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI);
- The maintaining of its position, over the 2024-2028 period, **among the leading providers of voluntary funding to UNESCO's education sector and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for the next cycle and actively contributing to the governance bodies** of these organizations;
- **French agencies also provide funds, particularly the Agence Française de Développement, which will earmark an average of €500 million annually to the education sector**, particularly through delegated funds from the GPE and the European Union.

PROJECT FOCUS

> The APPRENDRE programme (teaching practices and resource development)

Coordinated by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and financed by the Agence Française de Développement, the programme provides technical support for education ministries of 26 eligible Francophone countries to develop services, tools and expertise related to teaching, at the request of partner countries.

The programme has supported 900,000 teachers, trained 4,000 educational supervisors and created a partnership-based expertise platform to improve teaching practices (primary and secondary education).

> The Gender at the Centre Initiative (GCI)

Launched in 2019 under the French G7 Presidency, the Gender at the Centre Initiative supports the inclusion of gender in education policies and practices in sub-Saharan Africa. Implemented by IIEP-UNESCO and UNGEI, this multi-party partnership includes education ministries, civil society organizations, donor countries and the Global Partnership for Education. France will support the second phase of the Initiative over the 2024-2026 period.

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