



FACT Sheet:

Strengthening Teacher Education & Practice (STEP)

The Strengthening Teacher Education and Practice (STEP) activity is a partnership between USAID, Florida State University, the Ministry of Education, and Malawian Teacher Training Colleges.

Overarching objectives: (1) to strengthen primary teacher education preparation programs (pre-service); and (2) to operationalize a national continuing professional development (CPD) framework, including an established system for new teacher induction.

The STEP Activity will strengthen the higher education system, and specifically teacher training colleges, to train teachers in early grade instruction. STEP will provide pathways for continuing professional development for all of Malawi's primary teachers to excel. Pre-service teacher education will be aligned with current, evidence-based practices in primary schools and with in-service teacher education and classroom realities – particularly for teachers in rural areas.

The STEP activity will improve the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Teacher Training Colleges in preparing and developing educators for more effective classroom practice. Pre-service and in-service delivery of classroom instruction, especially in literacy and teaching English as a foreign language, will be strengthened. Teachers new to the field of education will be better equipped, and instructional delivery of practicing educators will be refined.

STEP activity interventions will lead to more efficient and effective institutional practice, which ultimately will translate into more effective classroom practice and improved student learning outcomes.

STEP will build on key sector initiatives and investments, such as the National Reading Program (NRP), National Reading Program Implementation and Expansion (NRPIE), and the Strengthening Higher Education Access in Malawi (SHEAMA) activities. STEP will leverage and amplify these investments by strengthening the teacher training college ecosystem.

Florida State University will provide technical leadership to the project and coordinate results across all partners. School-to-School International, The University of Malawi/Chancellor College, DAPP Malawi, CharChar Literacy and Olive Branch International are subcontractors.

The following institutions are considered collaborators: Emmanuel University, Nalikule College of Education, Catholic University, Montfort Special Needs Education College, and Mzuzu University.

Budget: \$15.6 million usd + \$1.56 million usd cost share

Life of Project: January 20, 2022 to January 19, 2027

Implementing Partner: Florida State University