**ABC+**

**Advancing Basic Education in the Philippines**

The USAID Advancing Basic Education (ABC+) Project helps to improve early reading, math, and social and emotional skills for early grade children (kindergarten to grade 3, or K–3) in the Philippines.

The project aims to benefit up to two million students in Regions V (Bicol) and VI (Western Visayas), and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). ABC+ partners with the Government of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) central, regional and division-level offices in these areas.

ABC+ focuses on improving children’s early literacy in their mother tongue and the transition of their reading ability to Filipino and English, as well as strengthening their foundational concepts and skills in math. It also helps improve instructional processes that foster children’s cognitive, social, and emotional development. ABC+ also works to build and strengthen system capacity and DepED to support, sustain and replicate improved early grade learning in all schools in the target regions.

The USAID ABC+ Project runs from June 2019 to June 2024 and is carried out through a consortium of five implementing partners: RTI International (prime partner); The Asia Foundation; SIL LEAD; Florida State University; and Brattle Publishing Group.

**ABC+ Interventions**

USAID seeks to support the Department of Education in implementing innovative approaches to ensure access to a quality education. The USAID ABC+ Project is pursuing this goal through three intermediate results:

**IR 1:** Improved early grade instruction and delivery systems

**IR 2:** Improved access to quality materials

**IR 3:** Improved education system capacity and commitment to manage and implement interventions supporting effective early grade instruction
3 ABC+ training programs were reviewed, certified/recognized by the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) and will allow teacher participants and trainers to earn professional development (PD) credits.

2 universities (Bicol University and West Visayas State University) developed materials for use in pre-service education to improve literacy and mother tongue curriculum.

32 Television-based Instruction (TVBs) and 32 Radio-based Instruction (RVIs) learning materials were produced by ABC+. These are being aired by partner radio and television stations in target regions and beyond and are also available on the ABC+ Learning Connect Facebook and YouTube channels.

Over 7 million early grade reading materials including books in various mother tongues have been printed and distributed to over 600,000 students, and 42,000 teachers from almost 7,000 schools so far. These materials include teacher guides and home learning guides. Over 7 million more materials in school year 2021-2022 are being distributed to learners in Regions V, VI and Maguindanao.

979 decodable and leveled readers in Hiligaynon, Central Bikol, Tagalog, and Sinugbuano Binisaya, Rinconada, Mlasbate, Kinaray-a, and Maguindanaon were developed/adapted/translated.

607 DepEd and community members were trained as writer, illustrators, editors, and evaluators of these materials. With DepEd Schools Divisions, editing guides as well as Scopes and Sequence were developed to guide them.

9,520 teachers and supervisors and school administrators trained on language learning and transitions. 9,914 teachers, supervisors, and school administrators trained on the use of supplemental reading materials being distributed by ABC+ for improving literacy in school and at home. 1,653 supervisors and school administrators and teachers were trained on instructional leadership.

To help stem the anticipated learning limitations that children experienced due to their prolonged absence from school brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the ABC+ Project supported DepEd’s Basic Education - Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) in school year 2020-2021, through a support package that focused on K-3 literacy. These efforts included the development of radio- and television-based instructional content, provision of early grade reading materials in Filipino and English for K–3 learners in pilot schools, and home learning guides to support their use.

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