EDC helps people affected by fragility learn, improve their livelihoods, and find stability.

- **Southern Sudan.** Nearly 100,000 children learn math and reading; their teachers receive training and support; youth and adults gain skills in English and civics; and 1.1 million listeners get news and information, all via radio. Systems were established quickly once conflict ended.

- **Haiti.** Youth already trained in basic education and work readiness skills mobilized to support stricken communities after the 2010 earthquake and cholera outbreak. They cleared rubble, built latrines, educated their peers on preventing disease, and opened child-friendly spaces.

- **Somalia.** Amid conflict and instability, Interactive Radio Instruction has helped over 300,000 children—many of them with no other access to education—learn literacy, math, and life skills. Some classes are held in camps for internally displaced persons.

- **Philippines.** In conflict-affected Mindanao, youth get back to school or work, teachers upgrade their skills, and communities organize to support their schools, all with help from an EDC program.

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**My Story: Najmo**

Turning the radio dial, Najmo heard the music that used to greet her each day at school. She called her parents and settled in for a lesson in reading, math, and life skills. Once among the fortunate few attending school in Somalia, Najmo was forced by fighting to follow her lessons at home. The Somali Interactive Radio Instruction Program (SIRIP) allowed her to do so.

“She has great enthusiasm for these radio programs and made us also love the program,” said Najmo’s mother.

Many others have fled not just their schools but their homes, with camps for internally displaced persons ringing the Mogadishu area. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development, SIRIP helped communities set up learning centers in the camps. One of the few constants in the lives of many of its learners, SIRIP broadcasts high quality, imaginative educational programs in South-Central Somalia, Somaliland and Puntland.

Teachers trained in interactive radio instruction (IRI) methodology are among the displaced, and they ensure that learning continues despite the unrest. “The SIRIP radio education program remains the only alternative for education for many internally displaced children,” says Feysal Osman, a Regional Coordinator for SIRIP.

SIRIP has reached over 300,000 Somali children and youth to date; data show that IRI listeners learn more than those who do not participate.
A member of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, EDC helps communities establish or re-establish education quickly and in ways that address the needs presented by fragility and conflict.

In collaboration with local partners, EDC experts integrate key skills and knowledge into curricula, including civic education, peace building, safety, vocational skills, and health skills. We create accelerated learning programs where large numbers of learners have been out of school, and we help youth find and prepare for livelihood opportunities. We develop delivery systems that are flexible and, in some cases, mobile, allowing for consistency in learning even where schools close and people are on the move.

**My Story: Jenna**

When recommendations rolled in for a 20-year-old woman as the best mason in town, leaders of Samaritan’s Purse were so skeptical they extended their search. The results? “Consistently, everyone said Jenna,” said Betsy Hall, Deputy Country Director of the relief organization that sought to build a compound in earthquake-stricken Grand Goave, Haiti.

The group hired soft-spoken Ladieuna “Jenna” Septembre for a one-month trial, which was soon extended. Jenna has overseen the masonry of a compound wall, a commercial kitchen, two bathrooms, and more. “We are keeping her because she can oversee any national workers that we have,” said Hall. “She is a great, great boss.”

Only a few years before, Jenna was a far cry from being anyone’s boss. Forced to drop out of school after just two years of primary education due to limited funds, she lacked the skills to earn a viable income.

In 2007, Jenna joined the Haitian Out-of-School Youth Livelihood Initiative (IDEJEN), a program funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented by Education Development Center, and her life began to change. “I wasn’t doing anything [before IDEJEN],” she said. “[With IDEJEN] I learned a lot of things: reading, writing, and a trade. I changed my behavior. I became a harder worker.”

Now Jenna is making a living and helping to rebuild her country. And though she is still soft-spoken, she has a newfound confidence. “I think I will go far,” she says.