RETURN TO LEARNING: Strengthening resilience and adaptive programming in response to COVID-19

Nina Weisenhorn
Senior Advisor
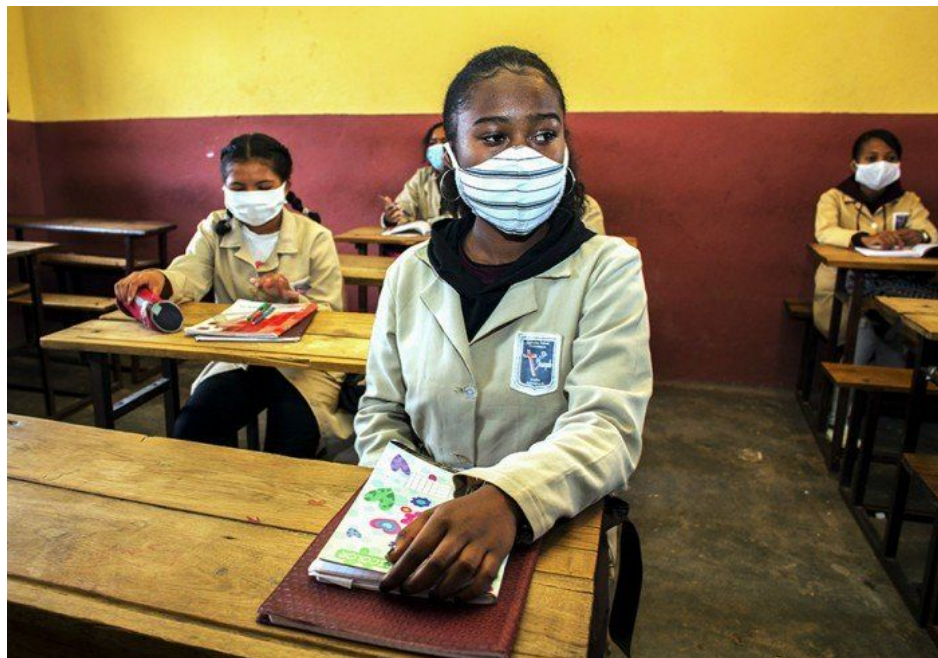USAID Center for Education
CIES 2021

About USAID

USAID leads USG international development and humanitarian efforts to **save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance** and help people progress beyond assistance.

USAID has programming in 100+ countries to:

- Promote Global Health
- Support Global Stability
- Provide Humanitarian Assistance
- Catalyze Innovation and Partnership
- Empower Women and Girls

USAID Education Policy (2018)

- Serves as the guiding policy document for _all_ of USAID's education-related investments and initiatives
- Promotes six Guiding Principles:

  – Prioritize **country-focus and ownership**

  – Focus and concentrate investments on **measurably and sustainably improving** learning and educational **outcomes**

  – **Strengthen systems** and develop **capacity in local institutions**

  – Work in **partnership** and **leverage resources**

  – Drive decision-making and investments **using evidence and data**
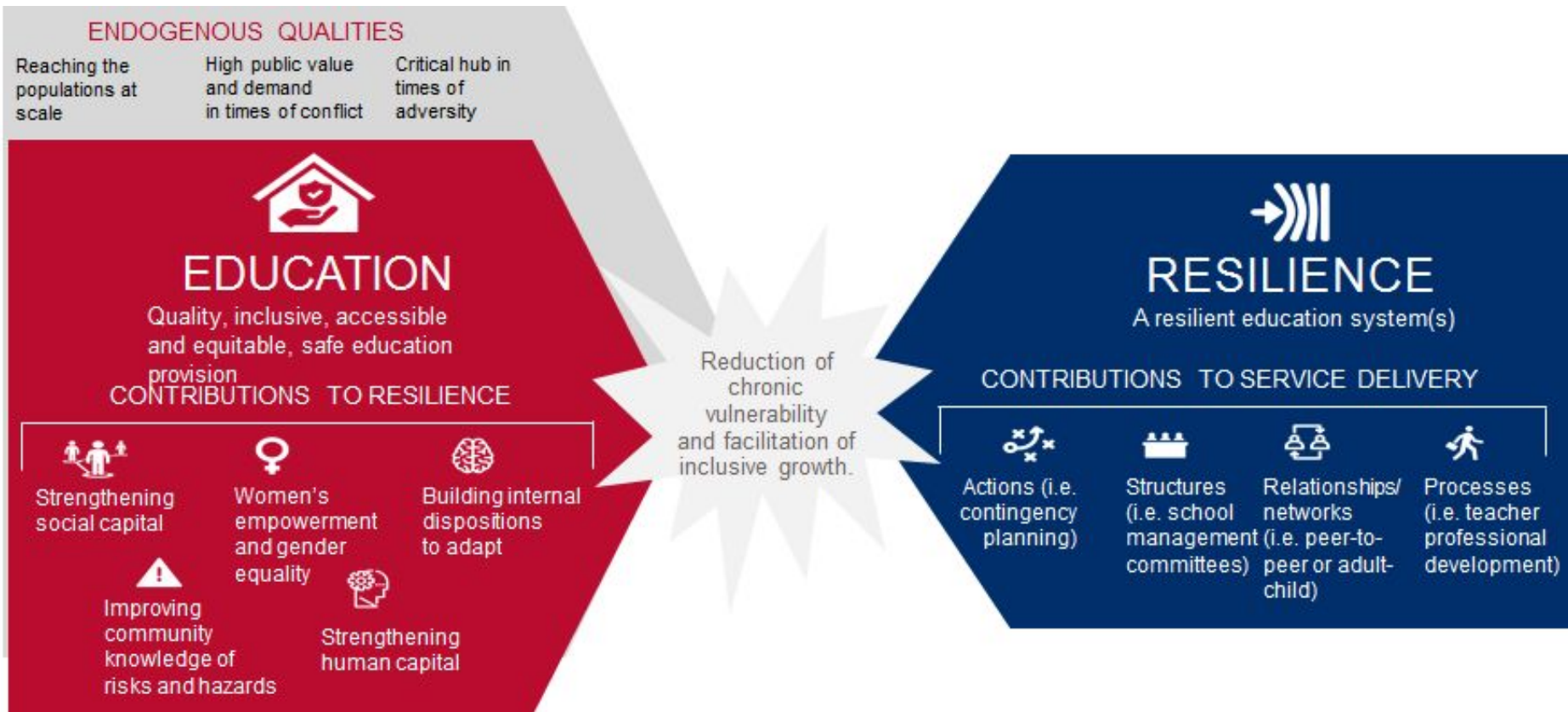
  – Promote **equity and inclusion**

USAID Education

- Increasing access to quality education for children and youth, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable.

- Ensuring children and youth gain literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills that are critical to future learning.

- Helping youth gain the skills they need to lead productive lives, gain employment, and positively contribute to society.

- Supporting higher education institutions to have the capacity to be central actors in development.
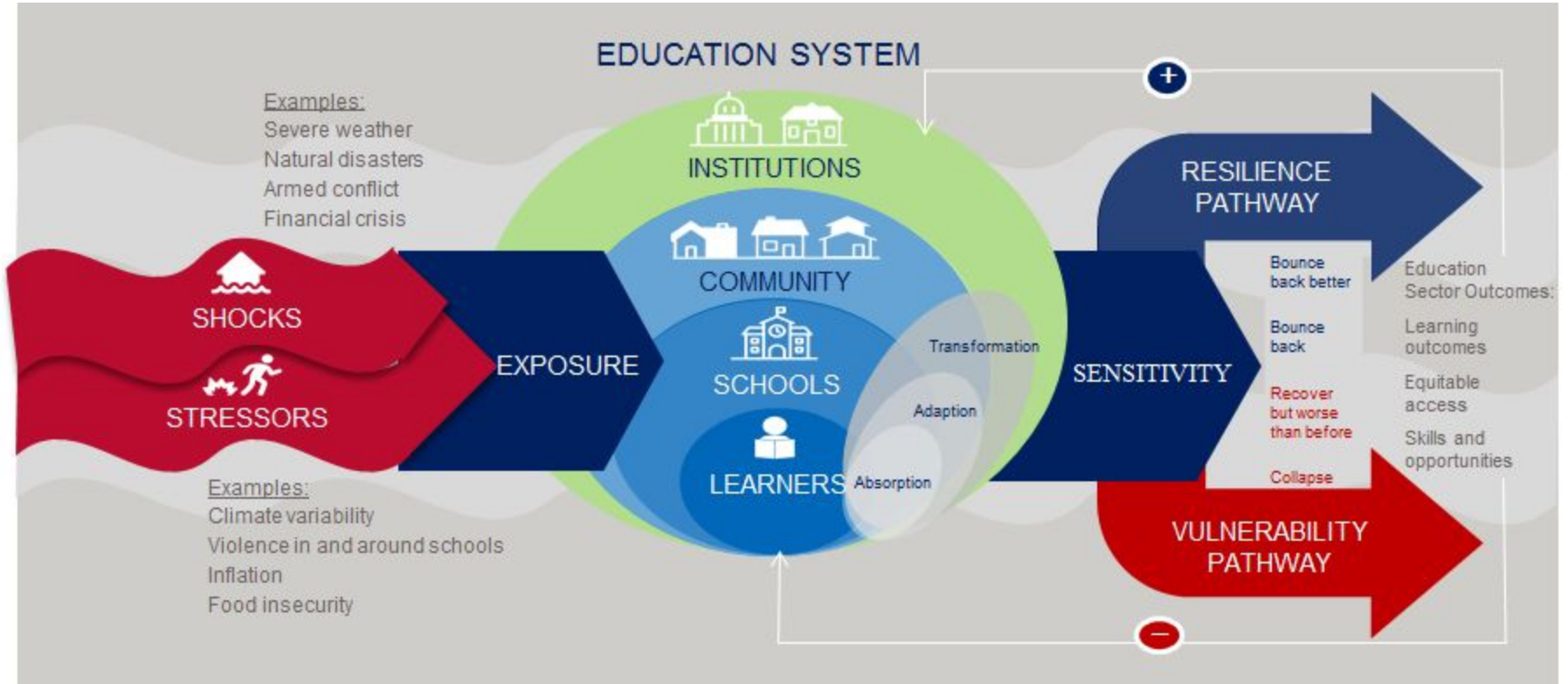
Despite the pandemic, USAID reached more than 24 million children at the primary and secondary level in 2020, providing millions of children with access to education.

Education & Resilience at USAID

ENDOGENOUS QUALITIES

Reaching the populations at scale

High public value and demand in times of conflict

Critical hub in times of adversity

EDUCATION

Quality, inclusive, accessible and equitable, safe education provision

CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESILIENCE

Strengthening social capital

Improving community knowledge of risks and hazards

Women's empowerment and gender equality

Strengthening human capital

Building internal dispositions to adapt

Reduction of chronic vulnerability and facilitation of inclusive growth.

RESILIENCE

A resilient education system(s)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SERVICE DELIVERY

Actions (i.e. contingency planning)

Structures (i.e. school management committees)

Relationships/ networks (i.e. peer-to-peer or adult-child)

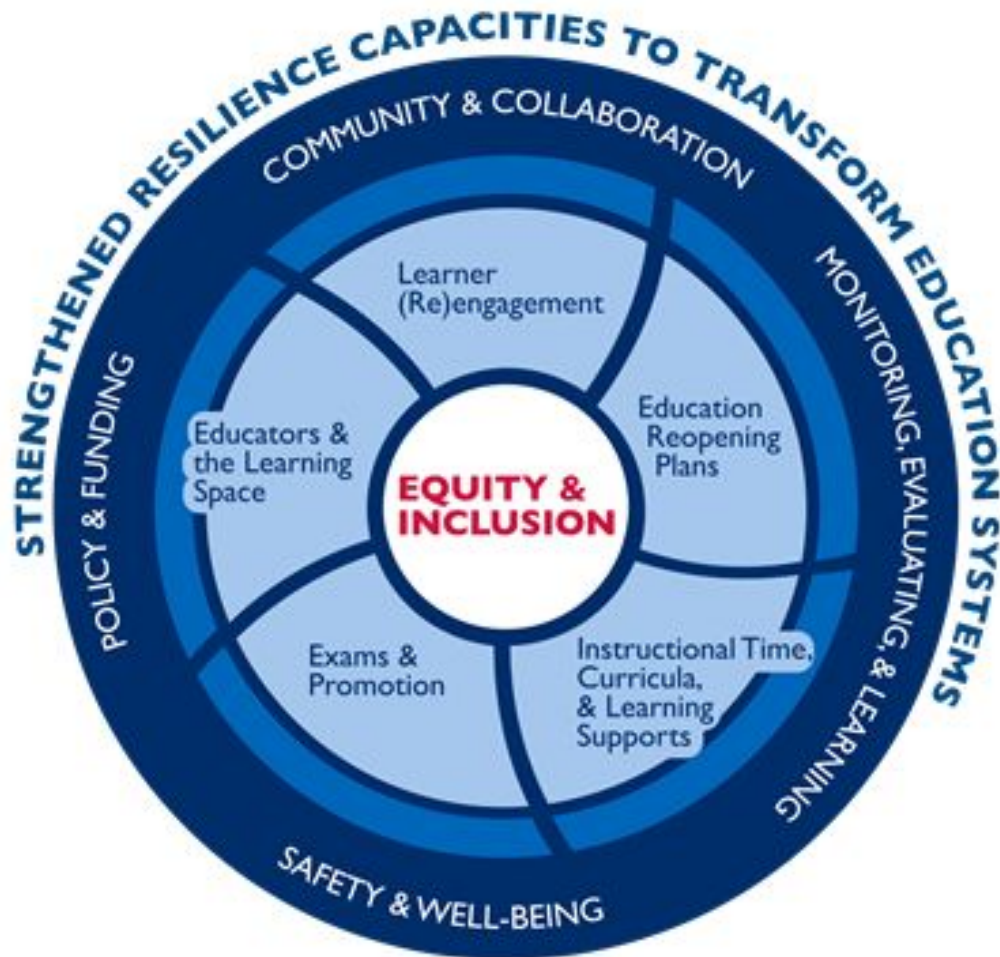Processes (i.e. teacher professional development)

Education & Resilience at USAID

USAID COVID-19 Response Goals

1. Ensure **safe return to learning**, especially for the most marginalized, and

2. **Build more resilient and equitable education systems** and societies with the capacity to better manage future shocks and prevent development backsliding.

USAID's Return to Learning Approach

Discussion