



OPPORTUNITY
International
CANADA



Education Program of Scale

Dominican Republic and Uganda

Fall 2025 Progress Report

Accelerating Educational Outcomes for Marginalized Learners in the Dominican Republic and Uganda

Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Thank You! Thanks to the generous support of the AD ASTRA Trust Group, OIC and Opportunity International's Global Education Finance (EduFinance) and Education Quality (EduQuality) program partners are educating children today to end extreme generational poverty tomorrow.

Through this initiative, the powerful forces of EduFinance and EduQuality are combining to increase the ability of affordable, non-state schools in the Dominican Republic and Uganda to tackle the global education crisis — one student, one school, and one community at a time.



PROJECT OVERVIEW: ACCELERATING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR 62,000 MARGINALIZED LEARNERS

Opportunity's Education Finance program objectives are clear: get more children into better schools. We break down two obstacles to education: access and quality.

Inclusive Access – AD ASTRA enables more ways for children from low-income communities to safely attend school. We increase education access by connecting affordable, non-state schools with financial institutions that provide school improvement loans for school facilities — more classrooms, school buses, computers — and school fee loans that allow parents to send all their children to school.

Quality – AD ASTRA is ensuring that students have a safe, child-centred learning environment using best teaching practices so learners can be successful. We improve quality through the implementation of School Leadership Development, Teacher Mentor Professional Development Training, and our Pathways to Excellence programs.



- **School Leadership Professional Development (SLPD)** training allows school leaders to improve their schools both as places of learning and as sustainable businesses.
- **Teacher Mentor Professional Development** training helps schools build their capacity to provide regular, evidence-based teacher training and coaching to all their educators using a mentorship model.
- **Pathways to Excellence** is a guide for school leaders to self-diagnose the quality of education in their schools using 18 measurable indicators to develop an action plan for tracked improvement.

PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVES: THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

Dominican Republic (DR) Objectives:

1. Improve access to education by engaging one new financial institution partner in the DR (1a) and providing EduFinance loans that will impact 27,500 learners (1b).
 - **1a is 100% complete!** Opportunity has successfully engaged CoopASPIRE formally to provide the ETAF required to design, implement, and launch EduFinance.
 - **1b is 24% complete.** CoopASPIRE currently has 26 schools with active EduFinance loans, impacting 6,500 students.

Exciting update: Through an EduFinance partnership with Oikocredit, CoopASPIRE has recently gained access to additional funding of more than USD \$1-million to expand its School Improvement Loan portfolio.

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DR Objectives:

2. Improve the quality of education through training and support of one new school cluster of up to 14 schools in the DR, improving educational outcomes for 3,500 learners.

- **100% complete!** 25 schools are participating in EduQuality, reaching about 6,250 learners — reflecting 178% of the goal.

Uganda Objectives:

3. Improve access to education by engaging one new financial institution partner in Uganda (1a) and providing EduFinance loans that will impact 27,500 learners (1b).

- **1a is 100% complete!** Opportunity has successfully engaged three new financial institution partners in Uganda, including EBBO SACCO Uganda, Hokofam Microfinance Uganda, and Liberation Community Finance.
- **1b is 0% complete.** Watch for updates in the Spring 2026 Progress Report. All three new partners are currently in various stages of receiving technical assistance in product design and implementation toward the launch of EduFinance loans.

4. Improve the quality of education through training and support of one new school cluster of up to 14 schools in Uganda, improving educational outcomes for 3,500 learners.

- **0% complete.** Watch for updates in the Spring 2026 Progress Report when financial institution partners begin making loans to schools and after schools join EduQuality.

ACTIVITIES TOWARD OBJECTIVES: JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Dominican Republic: EduQuality with CoopASPIRE

- **Conducted** five Teacher Mentor Professional Development (TMPD) sessions to improve the quality of education. The sessions focused on how to coach peers, apply evidence-based teaching methods, and foster a collaborative culture at their schools.
- **Assessed** and supported high-quality classroom instruction using structured observation templates, which are coaching tools that provide targeted feedback to teachers and school leaders. EduQuality delivered 163 Coaching Tools in the second quarter of 2025, up from 37 in the first quarter. EduQuality also provided tutorial videos, visual guides, and one-on-one follow-up sessions to address noted gaps.
- **Conducted** School Leader Professional Development (SLPD) workshops in alignment with the TMPD training to maximize the application and integration of new skills and processes. The sessions focused on the following:
 - **99% of school leaders** participated in the EduQuality self-assessments, showing strong engagement.
 - **92% of participating schools** submitted School Development Plans, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and gaps they can address in the upcoming school year.

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Dominican Republic: EduQuality with CoopASPIRE

- **Monitored Challenges:** The project is particularly focused on increasing teacher retention amid a national shortage of qualified teachers throughout the DR. EduQuality provides ongoing development opportunities and strong school leadership training — both critical to attracting and retaining high-quality teachers and ensuring sustainable program success.

Uganda: ETAF with Financial Institution Partners

- **Launched** three new financial institution partners (FIPs), which are in various phases of onboarding.
- **Conducted** Market Assessment: The EduFinance ETAF team is working with the new FIPs to assess their local school markets and help them design loan products best suited for their communities. ETAF completed the market assessments and product designs with all three new FIPs. Status includes:

- Liberation Community Finance is in the process of scheduling staff training.
- EBBO SACCO has now completed staff training.
- Hokofam will commence implementation in 2026.



- **Performed** capacity-building training for FIP staff on financial products under design and on developing credit assessment models for school improvement loans. EBBO SACCO trained 68 staff members, including senior, regional, and branch managers.

Spotlight: Ms. Aleyda Torres



Under the EduQuality program, senior school leaders are offered School Leader Professional Development (SLPD) training with a focus on instructional leadership and school management best practices. As an active participant in SLPD training, school owner Ms. Aleyda Torres has implemented several effective strategies for leadership, marketing, and professional development, contributing to her school's overall success.

Ms. Aleyda says:

"We feel motivated by the results obtained and eager to continue building an educational environment that promotes academic excellence and the values of environmental responsibility and collaborative work."

Thank you for helping us transform education in the Dominican Republic and Uganda, one school at a time!