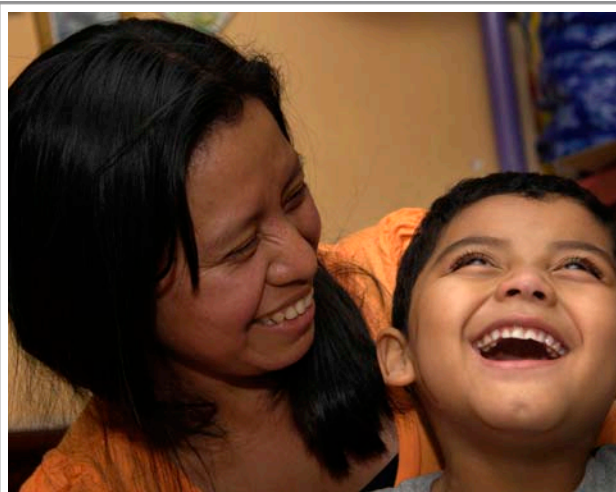


# Perkins International



## Our work around the world

Perkins International strives to advance the creation of inclusive communities where children who are blind or visually impaired with additional disabilities can reach their greatest potential.

In 60 plus countries around the world, Perkins supports disability rights advocacy, strengthens the skills of teachers, develops university courses, and empowers parents as community leaders.

With the help of Perkins, today, our partners provide services to nearly **12,000 children** every year. Perkins International is the global arm of

Perkins School for the Blind, a renowned center of excellence in the education of children with disabilities, founded in 1829.

Since its establishment in 1989, with support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Perkins International has partnered with local agencies worldwide to advance the social, education, economic and political rights of persons who are blind, deafblind or visually impaired.

Our efforts:

- Strengthen the capacity of schools to serve children

At least **5 millions children** around the world are blind.

Less than five percent of these children have the opportunity to attend school.

- Advance braille literacy among children and adults
- Improve national and local policies to address the needs of persons with disabilities.

To achieve these goals, Perkins collaborates with hundreds of schools, parent associations, universities, disabled people's organizations, and governments.

*Visit [Perkins.org/International](http://Perkins.org/International)*

# Lasting impact

Perkins' partnerships empower communities to improve education and disability policies and transform the lives of children and their families.



## Education for All

Perkins International believes that every child has the right and ability to grow and learn in a nurturing environment. To advance this goal, we partner with schools to provide quality educational services to children who are blind or visually impaired with multiple disabilities. Our programs build our partners' capacity to develop innovative and sustainable programs for their social, cultural and political contexts.

Perkins has prepared thousands of teachers to work with this marginalized yet eager to learn group of children. In partnership with families, they are at the forefront of ensuring children actively participate in their own lives and communities. Since 1989, an estimated **217,000** children, family members, teachers and professionals have benefited from our activities.



## Braille Literacy

For millions who are blind, braille is the equivalent of a sighted person's pen and paper. For students, braille is a precursor to learning spelling, spatial orientation, and is the basis of literacy--the key to employment. The Perkins Braille® accomplishes these tasks by giving students the power of braille at their fingertips.

In addition to Perkins' headquarters, we operate Braille assembly plants in India and South Africa. These agencies employ persons with disabilities and distribute Braille throughout their respective regions.

In nearly every country around the world, a student is doing their schoolwork on one of the **330,000 Braille** that Perkins has distributed to schools.



## Advocacy

In support of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Perkins supports local, regional and national advocacy efforts. We collaborate with stakeholders across civil society, including teachers, administrators, parents disabled people's organizations and government representatives, to build pioneering alliances and transform the landscape of national policies.

In more than 30 countries, our efforts have contributed to improved education and disability policies. These improvements span lower student-to-teacher ratios and standards for training special education teachers. The results impact all persons with disabilities--empowering the voice of marginalized groups and strengthening the fabric of civil society.

W. Aubrey Webson, Director, Perkins International  
[Aubrey.Webson@Perkins.org](mailto:Aubrey.Webson@Perkins.org)  
1.617.972.7534



Chris Constantian, Director, Int'l Resource Development  
[Chris.Constantian@Perkins.org](mailto:Chris.Constantian@Perkins.org)  
1.617.972.7834