About DELITES

Research on multilingual deaf education is limited in low- and middle-income countries. DELITES seeks to address this gap by examining the factors at the school and classroom levels that contribute to improved signed language and second-language literacy skills in deaf learners, among other outcomes.

Conducted in Malawi, the Philippines, and the Rwanda, DELITES aims to offer valuable insights about multilingual deaf education in low-resource settings.

FUNDER: USAID/Inclusive Development Hub

YEARS ACTIVE: 2022 - 2025

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

MALAWI: Malawi National Association of the Deaf (MANAD)

PHILIPPINES: Benilde-Center for Education Advancement of the Deaf (Benilde-CEAD)

RWANDA: Rwanda National Union of the Deaf (RNUD)

STUDY APPROACHES

ECOSYSTEM DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS

This process analyzes the current policy and political landscape of deaf education and the system-level factors that impact deaf students’ learning outcomes. Data sources include a robust literature review, interviews, and stakeholder convenings.

BRIGHT SPOT STUDY

This portion of the study examines what programmatic, pedagogical, and cultural-linguistic features and behaviors explain relatively higher and lower student outcomes in schools educating deaf students. Data sources include classroom observations, interviews and focus group discussions.

A deaf-centric partner model: DELITES centers deaf leaders at every level of the project. Leading scholars in multilingual deaf education are serving as co-PIs along with a team from the University of Notre Dame. Deaf organizations and deaf researchers serve as local partners in each country. A local Ecosystem Advisory Group will be comprised of at least 50% key local deaf community members and local deaf education experts.