



USAID | HONDURAS

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CETT Model Adopted Nationwide in Honduras

In April 2001, the Centers for Excellence in Teacher Training were a dream – an initiative announced by President George W. Bush at the Summit of the Americas. The idea was to help children across Latin America and the Caribbean improve their reading and writing skills. The reasoning behind the initiative is that children



School children waving flag during a general assembly.

who are strong readers are more likely to stay in school. Now, seven years later, CETT has trained almost 8,000 teachers and helped 257,000 children become better readers and writers in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

CETT's comprehensive teacher training model delivers a program that really makes a difference in how well children learn to read. The training includes new teaching techniques, in-classroom follow-up support, new materials to support the learning of both teachers and their students, monthly planning guidelines, and monthly standardized testing that measure how well children are learning and keeps the teachers in the right track.

The CETT program has two features that make it unusual and successful. One is the follow-up coaching, modeling, and feedback provided by master trainers who visit CETT teachers in their own classrooms. This classroom support is what ensures that teachers apply the new knowledge and skills to more effectively teach reading to their students.

The second important component is the use of performance monitoring and testing to make trainers, teachers and the program itself accountable for improving learning. Through the use of diagnostic tools, assessments, and tests developed by the program, CETT is able to demonstrate the impact of the program on student learning, and use this data to make teacher training even more effective.

The difference comes through clearly in teachers' stories about their experiences, especially with poor, disadvantaged, "hopeless" children. Over and over, teachers describe new successes in teaching formerly struggling students.

A forty-five year-old teacher in Honduras described his experience: "Because of the training I received with CETT, I have been able to help my flunking first graders pass to the second grade. Now they understand what they read."

To implement CETT, USAID has partnered with a consortium of six respected institutions in Central America and the Dominican Republic: Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Honduras; the Fundación Empresarial para el Desarrollo Educativo (FEPADE) in El Salvador; the Universidad del Valle in Guatemala; the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in the Dominican Republic; the Escuela Normal "Ricardo Morales Avilés" in Nicaragua; and the Instituto Latinoamericano de Comunicación Educativa (ILCE) in Mexico.

In Honduras, the year 2008 was extremely important for the CETT program since the Honduras Ministry of Education adopted its model. With the agreement in place, the Ministry of Education will be able to train teachers nationwide from first through third grade to use a more child-centered approach to reading and writing. This agreement marks an important step in accomplishing the Education for All (EFA) goal of "all children completing elementary school by the year 2015."

To commemorate this accomplishment, CETT closed out the school year with a celebration of reading. During the event, the book *"Let Me Tell You a Story...from Honduran Boys and Girls"* was unveiled. The book is the result of a full year's school work where children learned to write their own stories. The project which stressed reading and writing skills, was a tribute to the 54 child authors whose stories were selected. In addition to improving reading and writing skills, the CETT program in Honduras has also been crucial in providing school libraries. Through a partnership with Scholastic, Inc., in the United States, CETT has been able to distribute nearly 120,000 books among participating schools.

Agreements like the one signed by the Honduran Government and public-private partnerships like the one with Scholastic Inc., allow the project to achieve long-term sustainability. The bilateral program in Honduras has received 1.8 million dollars and is scheduled to end September 30, 2009.