



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

45th Anniversary



“The destiny of a country depends on the education of its people”



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Message from the United States Ambassador to Honduras, Charles A. Ford



In 1961, President John F. Kennedy created the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which in the year 2006, is celebrating 45 years of continual support to Honduras. USAID, as part of the mission of the United States Embassy, brings technical assistance to countries combating poverty, executing democratic reforms, and heading down the path of recovery after the impact of natural disasters.

During these 45 years, USAID has invested more than two billion dollars in Honduras, contributing to the reduction of poverty and creating opportunities for Hondurans through programs that focus on strengthened state of law, environment, health, agriculture, food security, municipal development, infrastructure, economic growth, education, and others.

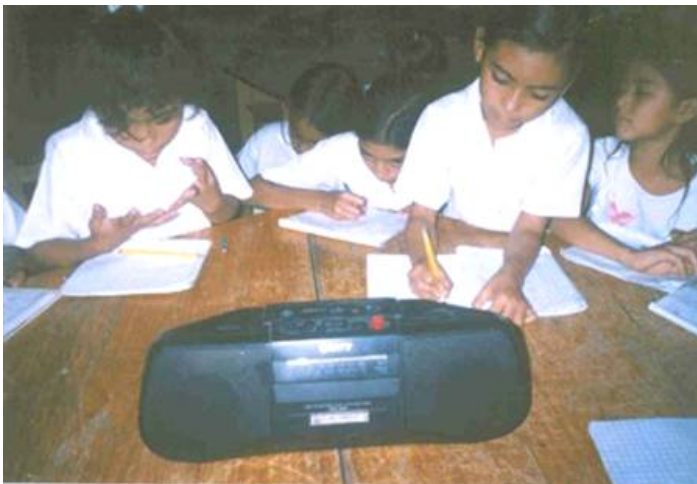
We firmly believe that education is the right of everyone, and a country's economic growth is intrinsically linked to the educational level of its people. For this reason, throughout the years USAID has collaborated with Honduras in building schools, printing textbooks, improving teaching methodologies of mathematics and Spanish, and helping establish the current system of preschool education. We will continue supporting the Government of Honduras in its efforts to succeed in its goal of *Education for All (EFA)*, which aims to have the entire Honduran population at least complete primary school by the year 2015.

In order to achieve this goal, USAID is currently supporting programs that provide primary education to youths and adults who are outside of the traditional education system. USAID has also contributed to establishing education standards and testing that will allow officials to determine the weaknesses in the education system and measure progress. Additionally, teacher training is being provided to improve academic achievement, offer a higher quality education, and reduce the number of students who are held back or drop out entirely.

As I have expressed on other occasions, Honduras and the United States share a common political goal of inclusion: the inclusion of each and every Honduran in the opportunities and benefits of democracy and economic development. In this brief summary, we recognize with great satisfaction some of the biggest successes achieved in education thanks to the collaborative efforts of USAID and the people and government of Honduras.



Since 1985, USAID has awarded more than 950 scholarships (through the program CASS) to Honduran youth from scarce resources to study in the United States. Upon their return to Honduras, these youth must put into practice what they have learned in their studies by working in some capacity that promotes the development of Honduras.



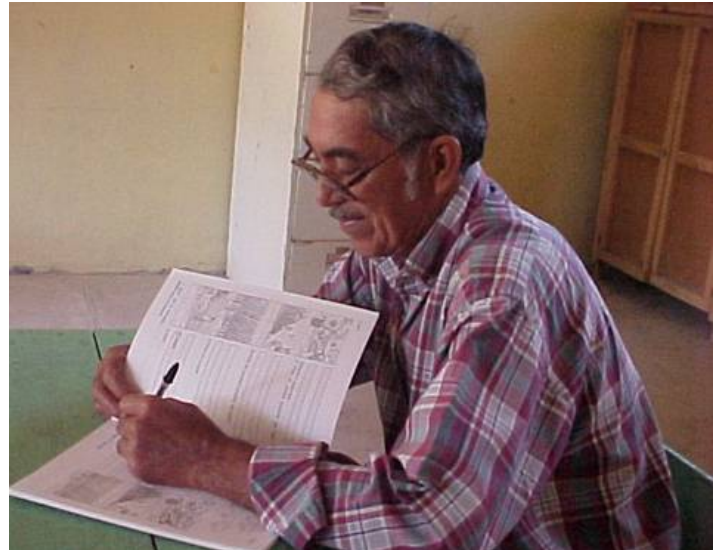
USAID helped the Ministry of Education design the program EDUCATODOS and has supported it for the last eleven years. This program utilizes interactive recorded audio lessons and volunteer tutors from the communities to provide basic and high school education to people outside of the formal education system or to those that have limited access to learning institutions.

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More than 500,000 youths and adults have completed their basic education through the EDUCATODOS program. Connected with a USAID effort to develop education standards and train teachers, EDUCATODOS is an important element of the Ministry of Education's plan, Education for All (EFA).

Through the program *Centers of Excellence for the Training of Teachers (CETT)*, USAID has supported the development of a module to improve the teaching of reading and writing. To improve these skills in the entire Latin American region, this program has been implemented in collaboration with the Francisco Morazan National University of Teaching in Honduras and other institutions in Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. One Honduran teacher commented: "I thought that I knew everything about teaching until the CETT program showed me that my students could learn even more by using other teaching techniques."



Under the pre-school interactive education project (PREPI), USAID designed and implemented a model for preschool education based on the unique design of our program, EDUCATODOS. The program was successfully implemented in 52 communities before being expanded through funding from the Ministry of Education and other donors to be able to reach 75% of preschool-aged children.



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Message of the USAID Director, Paul Tuebner



Since 1961, USAID has worked with the people and Government of Honduras, along with various institutions from the private sector, in the important theme of education. USAID recognizes the bond that links education with economic growth and social well-being, and has ensured that education be one of the pillars of Honduras' strategy for the country's development.

Beginning with our assistance in the early 1960s (when we built schools that provided Honduran children and youth, particularly in the rural areas, with the opportunity for education) to the 1970s (when through a regional project we printed textbooks and began our emphasis on quality and efficiency that persists today) to the 1980s (when we first became involved in vocational education) to our current programs (which are directed towards basic alternative education needs, teacher training, and the design and implementation of education standards), the Agency has been on the cutting edge of supplying access to quality education to children, youth, and adults.

USAID has always been at the forefront in supporting access to a quality education for children, teenagers, and adults in Honduras. We will continue with our commitment to establish the educational base for a better future with more opportunities for the boys and girls of Honduras.

The project *Improving Honduran Student Achievement* (MIDEH) is an important additional contribution to the Education for All (EFA) plan directed by the Ministry of Education. MIDEH works to develop standards at a global level in order to measure student learning. The Ministry, teachers, teacher associations, and the public have all participated in the development of these standards.



Since 1985, USAID has contributed roughly 89 million lempiras (\$4.5 million) to the Zamorano Endowment Fund for more than 531 scholarships to young Honduran men and women for outstanding achievement.



Before 1980, less than half of the school-aged Honduran population was finishing primary school. Today, 80% successfully complete it.



“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”