

»» Project information

Education – Honduras

Better schools make learning easier

Schools and other educational institutions in Honduras are poorly equipped, and teachers are often not sufficiently trained. This leads to low school enrolment rates, and the school registration rate falls significantly from seventh grade onwards. On behalf of the German government, KfW Development Bank is therefore supporting Honduras in the renovation and expansion of schools. New classrooms and playgrounds make attending school a more attractive option. KfW also promotes networking, especially among rural schools, in order to achieve better learning conditions.

Context

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Almost two-thirds of its population of more than nine million people live below the poverty line. Rural areas in particular are affected by extreme poverty and unemployment. As a result, schools and other education facilities are poorly equipped.

At the same time, it is also a very young country, with children and young people under the age of 15 making up one-third of the entire population. School is mandatory for children aged between 5 and 17 years. But few children attend preschools and higher classes in particular. The school registration rate falls significantly from seventh grade onwards. One reason for this is the lack of funds for schoolbooks and learning materials. Rural areas in particular also suffer from a lack of teachers. The level of training for teachers is not always sufficient either, and they have particularly little technical knowledge in preparatory vocational subjects, for example. The class sizes are often quite large, which can also have a detrimental impact on the learning out-

comes of individual pupils. Violent attacks can also occur in schools, which make pupils reluctant to come to class. This affects girls in particular.

Other factors that can have a detrimental impact on school attendance include migration, poverty and lack of prospects, particularly in higher classes. The government has done a great deal in recent years to reform the school system.

Project approach

KfW is supporting Honduras in its efforts to improve its education system on behalf of the German Federal Government.

Project title	Improving school infrastructure (PROMINE)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Honduras
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Education and the Honduran Social Investment Fund





Committed women of the community help to build the schools. Source: KfW Group/Jonas Wresch

The project to improve infrastructure in the education sector (Programa de Mejora de la Infraestructura Escolar / PROMINE) has been in progress since 2012; preparations for a fifth phase have since been made. KfW is supporting Honduras with a total of EUR 55 million in grants and budgetary loans, with EUR 30 million of this having already been implemented. This will enable existing schools to be renovated, expanded and provided with equipment.

KfW has supported Honduras in developing a master plan that covers all of the country's schools, their equipment and the condition of their buildings. The schools to be supported by the project are selected on the basis of this master plan.

Priority support is given to schools that have organised themselves into networks in order to make joint use of facilities, such as school kitchens or computer rooms. These networks consist of up to 10 schools, where at least one of the schools offers seventh to ninth grade classes to all pupils within its network. The aim here is to combat the fall in pupil numbers from seventh grade onwards. The more attractive the schools are, the more likely young people will attend lessons. KfW also supports the exchange of experiences between schools.

A municipal committee has been set up for each infrastructure project. This committee is responsible for the administration of funds as well as the construction and renovation of schools. Parents and pupils therefore have a vested interest in taking care of the buildings. Even now, after several years, the schools supported by KfW remain in good condition. The municipal committees make very economical use of the funds available and generate surpluses that they

themselves can manage, using them to purchase a refrigerator for the school kitchen, for example. School gardens have been created, allowing fruit and vegetables to be grown for school meals.

Impact

Honduras has adopted a new education strategy that aims to make further reforms by 2030. The KfW project has contributed to Honduras issuing a construction standard for schools. This standard makes provision for building architecture adapted in line with the climate zone. Different materials are used for the buildings in hot and humid regions of the country than those used in dry and cooler regions.

This has also helped to make the classrooms brighter and provide a better view of the schoolyards. Teachers have the schoolyards in their sight at all times, resulting in fewer instances of violence. The environmentally friendly design also helps to save energy. The first three phases of the project have provided support to around 300 schools in 89 networks, covering a total of approximately 30,000 pupils.



Contact

KfW Group
KfW Development Bank
Palmengartenstrasse 5–9
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Phone +49 69 7431 0

Urban and social development – Latin America/Caribbean
Katharina.hess@kfw.de

KfW Tegucigalpa Office
Jan.stilke@kfw.de