

Programme to support the decentralisation processes in the Honduran education sector (APRODE)

Partners

Honduran Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Honduran Ministry of Education in its central and decentralised structures.

Strategic partners are department and district school directions, the Honduran Association of Cities and Municipalities (AMHON), civil society organisations (*Transformemos Honduras*, *REDPAZ*, *EROC*) and parents' and students' councils.

Background

Despite of some progress made – which can be traced back in part to the previous programme PROEFA – the Honduran education is still facing significant challenges.

In many sectors defined targets of school enrolment rates and performance are not yet achieved. Only 81 % of the children finish 6th grade. Two thirds of the children do not obtain a primary school-degree after 9th grade.

Compared to the rest of the region, Honduras performs worse than El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama despite of higher education spendings. Reasons have to be seen in the lack of basic conditions for a fair and satisfactory educational offer. Models like school networks, school development plans and curricula, organisation of parents' councils and other participation fora have been tested but so far not applied nationally. Schools, especially in rural areas don't have access to improved methods and instruments at time.

The main problem is that educational management and administration at central and decentralised levels are not providing satisfying services for primary and pre-primary education.

The educational reform and decentralisation of the sector are enshrined in law, but they have been only partially implemented so far due to lack of competences and capacities for taking up additional or new tasks at the lower levels. The lack of transparency and a high risk of corruption are also reducing the effectiveness of educational services.

Project title	Programme to support the decentralisation processes in the Honduran Education sector
Comissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project región	Departments in the West of Honduras and La Paz as well as the central structures of the Ministry of Education
Lead executing agency	Secretaría de Estado de Educación, 3er piso, Comyaquela, Honduras T (+504) 2239-7834 F (+504) 2239-7834 I http://www.giz.de/de/weltweit/13828.html
Duration	01/2015 - 12/2017

Objective

As part of the implementation of the new Education Framework Law (*Ley Fundamental de Educación*, LFE), education management and administration at central and decentralised levels provide high-quality services for primary and pre-primary education.



School children and parents from the West of Honduras.

Our approach

Building on the results of the programme «Support to Basic Education in the context of EFA-FTI in Honduras, PROEFA », the module of technical cooperation is realised in the overall programme of Education in Honduras and focuses on the decentralisation process under the new Education Framework Law (LFE).

APRODE operates with a multi-level approach nationally and at the level of department and district school directions in 6 of 18 departments (La Paz, Ocotepeque, Intibucá, Lempira, Santa Bárbara, Copán).

Development workers provide support to selected NGOs of the education sector in topics like transparency, social audits and public relations. There is a close coordination with the programme of financial cooperation PROMINE (KfW) and the round table of donors (MERECE). The duration of the programme is three years (01/2015 – 12/2017) with a volume of eight million euros of German technical cooperation.

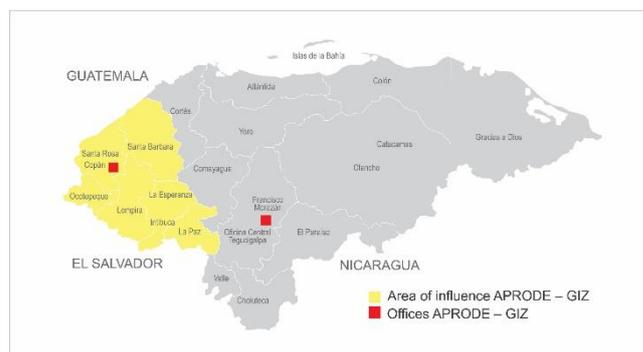
Four key areas of the educational reform are supported by the programme:

1. Advising the Ministry of Education at the national level in the fulfilment of its normative tasks in the process of decentralisation
2. Fostering capacities for the implementation of the decentralisation process in the school directions of the departments
3. Supporting school-networks in order to strengthen the participation of parents' representatives, students' councils and to establish an educational offer that covers pre-primary and extended primary education
4. Strengthening the involvement of local communities and their civil society organisations in the implementation of the educational reform at the municipal level

The current state of implementation

Since January 2015, APRODE is in the process of implementation. The planning process of the programme is steered by the Honduran Ministry of Education. It focusses on the realisation of the implementing regulations adopted in the frame of the Education Reform Act, the Education Plan 2015 - 2018 and the priorities for 2015 defined by the Minister of Education. The control structure is anchored within the ministry. The heads of department and the ministerial level are coordinating monthly processes to be implemented.

A central demand of the Ministry to the programme is to strengthen the human and organisational capacities in order to implement the decentralisation process at all administrative levels. Furthermore, the local participation structures should be integrated more in the implementation and reform measures should be made transparent and be accompanied by administrative control mechanisms. Among others, at the level of donor coordination working groups have been formed for the topics "school networks", "decentralisation" and "pre-primary education" to support the Ministry in the coordination and realisation of diverse contributions.



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