

PROJECT PROJOVEN, HONDURAS



Since 2013, the SDC has been involved in a vocational training project for young people growing up in areas of Honduras' main cities where there is a high rate of violence. Low threshold training opportunities help to facilitate the integration of youth into the labour market, providing an alternative to the deceptive lure of youth gangs and organised crime. Through this project, the SDC helps to prevent violence in a country that has the highest homicide rate in the world.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The aim of the project is to improve the existing opportunities for vocational training, both in quantity and quality. This is being done by supporting the national vocational training institute (Instituto Nacional de la formación profesional - INFOP), which comes under the Ministry of Labour. By means of a comprehensive training programme, young people learn general life skills in addition to technical know-how, as part of an effort to promote social cohesion and prevent violence.

In addition to the general training, two sectors receive special attention: building trades and tourism, in both of which there is a great demand for labour. Particular care is taken to ensure that the vocational training curriculum is oriented to the labour market. To achieve this, close cooperation with labour representatives is essential so as to adapt the training to demand in the labour market and make the appropriate placements.

The aim is to train an additional 12,200 Honduran youth by 2017, so that at least 50% of them are able to find employment within the next 12 months, enabling them to break out of the vicious circle of violence and poverty.

THE EXPERIENCE OF FERNANDO*, AGED 16, FROM SAN PEDRO SULA, HONDURAS

There are 10 in my family: five brothers and sisters, three nieces and nephews, my mother and father. My mother and one sister work as domestics, another sister works in a factory. My father does not work, and drinks a lot. There are many problems in our home and we often have nothing to eat.

I did not finish primary school. My mother took me out of school to allow my sister to attend for a few years. Since childhood, I have spent a lot of time in the street. This was a negative experience. My friends got into trouble. Some of them were killed as a result of gang rivalry. Many young people in this neighbourhood are armed. Even the bravest are afraid.

As soon as I heard about the training programme I enrolled because I wanted to get away from the street. The training available was either to become a motorbike mechanic or a hairdresser. I opted for the hairdresser course. Since entering the INFOP workshop I have no longer had to go hungry. I look for someone to lend me his hair clippers, and then people pay me [for my work]. My mother asks where I get the money. I tell her that I cut hair and she just laughs. I want to find work and show my family that I can earn a living honestly.

Last December I had the honour of working in the best hairdresser salon in my neighbourhood, and they paid me 420 Lempiras (20 Swiss francs). In the future I want to work in a hairdressing salon, to buy myself things, help my mother to finish building the house, and open my own salon. If I make my mind up to do it, I know I will succeed.

*name changed



THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

Topic: Vocational training

Country/region: Honduras

Partners: Swisscontact (coordination), Honduras vocational training institute (Instituto Nacional de la formación profesional – INFOP)

Project objectives:

- To update the existing training curriculum and adapt it to the market
- To strengthen the national vocational training system and improve the opportunities for marginalised youth
- To train an additional 12,000 youth, ensuring that at least 50% will find work within 12 months

Target groups: Youth of areas in the main cities

Cost: CHF 6,000,000

Duration: 01.09.2013-31.08.2017

Contact: dsf@eda.admin.ch



PUBLISHED BY

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC
Staff unit Regional Cooperation
3003 Bern, Switzerland
www.sdc.admin.ch

www.eda.admin.ch/democratie_sans_frontieres

Photos: SDC