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## **EQUIP2-MIDEH Project Quarterly Report #14**

*January – March 2008*



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With:

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## List of Acronyms

AED	Academy for Educational Development
AIR	American Institutes of Research
ANEDH	Asociación Nacional de Exbecarios para el Desarrollo de Honduras
CCEPREB	Centros Comunitarios de Educación Prebásica
COMCORDE	Comité de la Redes de Educación de Honduras
DCNB	Diseño Curricular Nacional Básico
DDE	Dirección Departmental de Educación
EFA-FTI	Education For All-Fast Track Initiative
EQUIP 2	Educational Quality Improvement Program 2
FEREMA	Fundación para la Educación Ricardo Ernesto Maduro Andreu
FONAC	Foro Nacional de Convergencia
INICE	Instituto de Investigación y Capacitación Educativa
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
POA	Plan Operativo Annual
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SE	Secretaría de Educación
UPEG	Unidad de Planeamiento y Evaluación de la Gestión
UTP	Unidad Técnico Pedagógica

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROJECT GOALS**

The EQUIP2 “Improving Student Achievement in Honduras” (MIDEH) Project is designed to work closely with the Secretaría of Educación (SE) to identify potential systemic changes which lead to improved student achievement throughout the country, specifically in standards, assessment, teacher training and civil society involvement. Officially commencing in October 2004 and closing in September 2009, MIDEH’s efforts have focused on supporting the SE in education initiatives; developing world-class education standards with an aligned assessment system; and strengthening educators’ knowledge of standards, testing, and curriculum and how to use them to improve learning outcomes. To accomplish these objectives, the MIDEH Project has been designed around the following four components: 1) Standards, Evaluation Criteria and Testing; 2) Decentralized Technical Assistance and Training; 3) Research on Alternative Education Systems for Grades 7-12; and, 4) Civil Society Participation in Education.

EQUIP2 MIDEH implementation partners (AED, ANEDH, and FEREMA) focus on the areas below:

- Decentralized training and technical assistance to support schools’ use of the SE’s DCNB and the DCNB support materials developed by the project, as a tool for achieving EFA-FTI goals through improved teaching and learning.
- Building capacity for information-based strategic planning at the departmental, district, and school levels, as a means to achieve EFA-FTI goals through improved achievement and reduced repetition, desertion, and failure.
- Creating a critical mass of civil society and local government support for the achievement of EFA-FTI and PRS goals.
- Increasing access to pre-school through support to Community Pre-school Education (CCEPREB) Centers.

During this quarter the EQUIP2 MIDEH Project hired an in-country technical director, Edwin Moya, to lead the Project’s work in decentralized training and technical assistance. The Project also finalized sub-agreements with three new local partners, selected through a competitive bidding process, who will be carrying out training and technical assistance in 5 departments. Agreements are also being negotiated and finalized with organizations that will carry out these activities in the remaining 7 departments that the Project supports in this component. These new partners will work closely with the SE departmental offices as well as other MIDEH partners.

The Project launched the media campaign “*La educación nos cambia la vida*”, which is designed to garner widespread support for education from civil society stakeholders. The campaign was well received by the public, and media organizations are estimated to have donated more than \$100,000 of airtime to the campaign.

## **TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

The technical activities carried out during this quarter are arranged by the results, components, and activities of the Project work plan described in the March 22, 2007 technical proposal for the extension year from March 2007-March 2008<sup>1</sup>. (Starting with the next quarter, activities will be organized by the results, components, and activities

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<sup>1</sup> The activities carried out under what was previously Component 1 (Standards, Evaluation Criteria, and Testing) are described in the EQUIP1/MIDEH quarterly report submitted by AIR.

described and approved in the Technical Proposal for the Project Extension through September 30, 2009).

## **Result 1. Achievement of EFA-FTI goals**

This quarter ANEDH's activities were focused mainly on supporting INICE in the start of the school year training, while the new implementation partners for the decentralized training and technical assistance component were selected and agreements finalized with them.

The Project supported start of the school year training and data collection activities, but in general activities in this area were reduced while the transition from the strategy of working through ANEDH to working through various NGOs took place.

### **Component 1, Establish a teacher learning network**

*Activity 1, Analyze the educational situation of each municipality based on educational statistics.* The Project worked with the UPEG to fund the Training Plan for SE personnel involved in data collection and processing for 2008 enrollment, and to execute the first training.

*Activity 2, Organize teacher learning networks/ Activity 3, Learning network activities in support of EFA goals.*

332 learning networks have been formed; no project-supported activities took place during this quarter, but some learning networks activities continued on their own.

*Activity 4, Creation of a culture for using the DCNB support materials as tools for learning.* EQUIP2 MIDEH supported INICE in its presentation of the Teacher Training Strategy for 2008.

### **Component 2, Decentralized training and support for the use of DCNB support materials and achievement of EFA goals**

*Activity 1, Training for teachers, school directors, and SE departmental and district personnel.* In the first quarter of 2008, EQUIP2 MIDEH trained 3936 municipal facilitators from PROHECO schools in the use of math and language materials.

*Activity 2, Increase parental participation.* No new activities this quarter.

*Activity 3, Validation of materials.* No new activities this quarter.

**Note:** The new implementation partners selected to date to carry out work in this component (CRS, CARE, and Fundación ANED) worked with the Project technical director to development and finalize work plans which support this component, and began work at the end of the quarter.

### **Component 3, Support the use of strategic planning based on educational statistics**

*Activity 1, Data collection and analysis.*

The Project supported UPEG in funding and implementing training for personnel responsible for collection of 2008 enrollment data.

*Activity 2, Development of information-based strategic plans.* EQUIP2 MIDEH strengthened the strategic planning capacity of technical DDE personnel through workshops to review and adjust the strategic plans for 16 departments. The Project also conducted training for

technical personnel from UPEG, PROEFA, and MIDEH-FEREMA. These activities lead to the development of 2008 workplans and integrated POAs. The Project also completed final revisions to 16 strategic plans and 16 operating plans.

**Component 4, Support increased access to pre-school**

*Activity 1, Support to CCEPREB Centers.* This quarter, EQUIP2 MIDEH distributed 3,840 kits of fungible supplies to as many CCEPREB centers in all 18 departments of the country. The Project also met for the first time this year with the 18 preschool departmental coordinators.

*Activity 2, Support to achievement of EFA goals for access to pre-school.* EQUIP2 MIDEH trained project personnel on the use of the CCEPREB database, and collected information from 300 CCEPREB centers in order to complete the database. The Project also finalized and submitted the CCEPREB impact evaluation.

**Result 2. Achievement of PRS Goals and Increased Competitiveness of the Emerging Workforce**

*Activities 1 & 2 (Training and technical assistance/Civil society activities)*

The Project purchased KeyTrain Spanish workbooks for Applied Math, Reading for Information, and Locating Information, as follow-up to the results of the WorkKeys tests applied last year. During the next quarter the Project will explore possibilities for implementing tests and materials in training centers such as CADERH and INFOP.

**Result 3. Education Reform**

*Activity 1, Build critical mass of support for EFA-FTI and PRS goals through targeted work with key stakeholder groups.* In the first quarter of 2008, EQUIP2 MIDEH implemented the campaign “La educación nos cambia la vida”, which was a resounding success. The campaign received media coverage from 6 TV channels and more than 10 radio stations. In conjunction with this campaign, EQUIP2 MIDEH designed and executed a plan to deliver incentives (including t-shirts, banners, calendars, and folders) to schools that achieved EFA goals in 2007.

**PLANNED GOALS/OBJECTIVES AND ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

The following table provides a summary of activities planned for the quarter, and their execution.

Programmed Activities	Actual Achievements	Issues Encountered / Reasons Why Any Goals Not Met	Solutions Proposed
Result 1: Achievement of EFA goals			
Component 1, Establish a teacher learning network			

<b>Programmed Activities</b>	<b>Actual Achievements</b>	<b>Issues Encountered / Reasons Why Any Goals Not Met</b>	<b>Solutions Proposed</b>
Activity 1, Analyze the educational situation of each municipality based on educational statistics	EQUIP2 MIDEH worked with the UPEG to plan and execute a workshop for Ministry personnel on collecting and processing enrollment data for 2008.		
Activity 2, Organize teacher learning networks	332 networks have been organized to date		
Activity 3, Teacher learning network activities in support of EFA goals	The project did not directly support activities this quarter but some networks are carrying out activities.	Degree of activity varies widely among networks.	New NGOs can help to support priority activities
Activity 4, Creation of a culture for using the DCNB support materials as tools for learning.	EQUIP2 MIDEH supported activities with departmental directors and technical staff regarding INICE's Teacher Training Strategy for 2008.		
<b>Component 2, Decentralized training and support for the use of DCNB support materials and achievement of EFA goals</b>			
Activity 1, Training for teachers, school directors, and SE departmental and district personnel	Trained PROHECO school facilitators, teachers, and departmental and district personnel in the use of DCNB materials.		

<b>Programmed Activities</b>	<b>Actual Achievements</b>	<b>Issues Encountered / Reasons Why Any Goals Not Met</b>	<b>Solutions Proposed</b>
Activity 2, Increase parental participation  Activity 2A Develop and implement IEC strategy	FEREMA media campaign was launched and the Project distributed t-shirts, folders, and banners to the DDEs for schools meeting EFA goals.		
Activity 3, Validation of materials	No activities in this area this quarter.		
<b>Component 3, Support the use of strategic planning based on educational statistics</b>			
Activity 1, Data collection and analysis	Provided support to UPEG in 2008 enrollment data collection		
Activity 2, Development of and follow-up to strategic plans	EQUIP2 MIDEH facilitated the revision and adjustment of 16 strategic plans and 16 annual operating plans	Comayagua and Francisco Morazán had delays for internal reasons	The workshops for these remaining two departments will be conducted during the first week of April.
<b>Component 4, Support increased access to pre-school</b>			

<b>Programmed Activities</b>	<b>Actual Achievements</b>	<b>Issues Encountered / Reasons Why Any Goals Not Met</b>	<b>Solutions Proposed</b>
Activity 1, Support to CCEPREBs			
Distribution of materials	EQUIP2 MIDEH delivered 3840 packets of materials to CCEPREBs and 3571 packets to the 18 DDEs. Francisco Morazán requested 269 packets for its district offices	The DDE asked for packets for each of its district offices but faced transportation and distribution challenges	The Project created a distribution plan and organized its execution
CCEPREB database	The Project established projections and trained technical personnel to collect and process data for the 2008 survey		
CCEPREB impact study	EQUIP2 MIDEH completed and submitted the impact study of CCEPREBs		
<b>Result 2: Achievement of PRS goals and increased competitiveness of the emerging workforce</b>			
Activity 1, Training and technical assistance	Purchase of KeyTrain Spanish workbooks for Applied Math, Reading for Information, and Locating Information.		
Activity 2, Civil society activities	EQUIP2 MIDEH launched the media campaign “ <i>La educación nos cambia la vida</i> ”		
<b>Result 3: Education reform</b>			
Activity 1, Build critical mass of support for EFA-FTI and PRS goals through targeted work with key stakeholder groups.			
Incentives for schools meeting their EFA goals	The Project distributed t-shirts, folders, and banners to the DDEs		
Media campaign	EQUIP2 MIDEH launched the media campaign “ <i>La educación nos cambia la vida</i> ”		

**SUMMARY DATA REGARDING NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES ASSISTED  
(JANUARY – MARCH 2008)**

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>MEN</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>TYPE OF ATTENDEE</b>
Training for PROHECO teachers in all 18 departments	2762	1174	3936	January February	PROHECO Teachers
Presentation of the teacher training strategy for 2008	27	21	48	February	UTP Coordinators, MIDEH Department Coordinators, INICE
Workshop with preschool coordinators	5	1	6	March	SE preschool technical staff
Workshop on processing initial enrollment data for 2008	30	25	55	March	Technical personnel from all 18 departmental offices

**LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A competitive bidding process resulted in several strong proposals from the NGO sector and the selection of NGOs with good technical capacity. The negotiation and finalization of budgets and agreements is a time consuming process that can create delays in implementation, even when begun well in advance.

A well designed public service media campaign can garner significant support for dissemination from the media, particularly when it is presented as an initiative specific to Honduras and supported by Honduran media and society.

**ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER**

In the upcoming quarter, EQUIP2 MIDEH will provide training and orientation to the technical and administrative staff of the newly contracted NGOs, who will then begin to implement work in each of the 12 departments. In May, the Project team will provide technical assistance for the strategic planning process at the district level.

With regard to preschool education, the Project will continue distributing materials and training SE facilitators and teachers. In civil society work, the Project will also develop and refine messages for the second phase of the media campaign, as well as support the establishment of municipal level inter-institutional coordination committees in half of all departments.