



educate.

Empowering children and youth in Honduras.





CONTENTS

- **About educate.**
- **Our Work**
 - Scholarship Programme
 - Community Libraries
 - COVID-19 Response
- **Local Leadership**
- **How we Measure Impact**
- **Our Impact So Far**
- **Our Story**
- **Plans for Growth**
- **Financials**
- **Our Team**
- **Videos**
- **Let's Talk!**



educate.

educate. is a grassroots non-profit organisation working to empower children and young people in Honduras through supporting community-driven initiatives focused on education. We envision a future where there are abundant opportunities for Honduran communities to come together, unimpeded, to learn, lead and grow.

We are based in the rural town of Trinidad, Honduras, in the country's coffee-growing department of Santa Barbara.



OUR WORK

1. Scholarship Programme:

As the most economically unequal country in Latin America, opportunities in Honduras for the majority of young people to attend higher education are practically non-existing. We believe that sponsoring high-potential students from low-resourced backgrounds to pursue higher education is key to ensuring inclusive and equitable opportunities to education and thus the long-term sustainable development communities need to thrive, while also reducing economic inequalities.

Our scholarship programme is set up through close partnerships with local public high schools and their teachers. These partnerships make it possible for us to find and select high-potential youth from the area to create opportunities for them to apply to our programme. We select future scholarship students based on their academic potential, personal motivation, desire to give back to their community and act as a role model for others, and of course financial need.

Through the programme, we support students financially by paying for study materials and tuition fees as well as through practical and socio-emotional support. Students have quarterly check-ins with our programme manager and local representative, and we also get to know their families. We make sure to provide personal support to help each student thrive. While studying, students also return to their former primary and secondary schools to give school talks about the opportunities that educate.'s scholarship programme provides, and they organize workshops for younger students across educate.'s network of school libraries.



"I think studying makes you a different person. You are taken into consideration by society and you develop as a person in the best way. If you study you can also help your family and you have so many more opportunities. By becoming an industrial engineer, I can go on to run a business, supervise people, or so many things! It's such an opportunity."

- Tania Caballero
educate. scholarship student.
studying Industrial Engineering

2. School-based community libraries

We work across a network of rural villages, where we support the creation of school-based community libraries that strengthen existing educational institutions. In an area where educational resources are extremely limited, libraries provide high quality literacy resources as well as a safe and creative learning space, and a centre for community engagement.

All our library projects are led by a local community project committee made up of teachers, parents and students. Committees lead the community in raising a portion of funds for the project, create their own project plan, and are responsible for ongoing project maintenance. This model of community-driven development means that the school and community take real ownership over leading the project, leading to maximum impact and sustainability. It also means that dependence is reduced as far as possible, instead supporting communities in creating projects themselves that outlast educate.'s involvement.

We also support youth leadership and community engagement through mentorship, workshops, school talks and other community events.

"I want to introduce my students to the world of literature, science, art and technology through reading."

- Lorena Jimenez

Teacher at an educate. library school



3. COVID-19 Response

The Covid-19 pandemic hit our communities hard. Many families in our community lost their whole household incomes due to lockdown measures, with no government safety net to provide support.

1. Food packages

Recognising food insecurity as an increasing problem in our communities, we started a food package programme to support vulnerable families, especially those with children. The food packages we provided included a variety of food items such as rice, beans and pasta, as well as basic hygiene items such as soap to encourage hand washing. Families reported that these were of significant support during the months of harsh lockdown in the country, where many were unable to work.

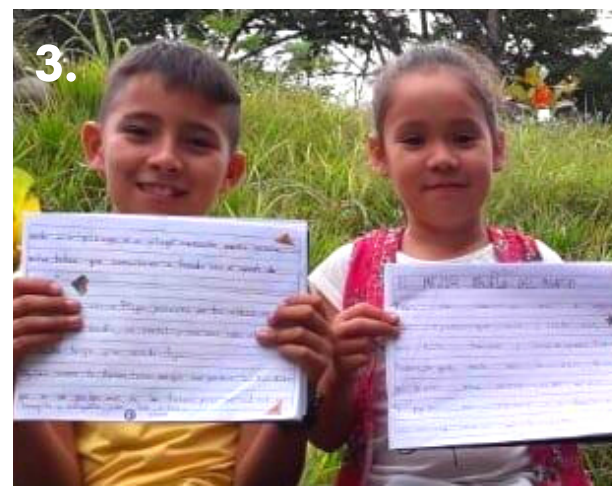
2. Library anniversary celebrations on Zoom

During COVID-19, we also hosted library anniversary celebrations on Zoom, where students prepared art exhibitions and story theatre in small groups.

3. educate.'s first book

During school closures, we also ran our first story writing competition to keep students actively learning and engaged. Children chose to write about all sorts of topics, including their communities, families, and the importance of protecting the environment. The top five stories were eventually selected for publication in a book, illustrated by the students themselves.

The book, ["To Read is to Dream: Short stories by young Honduran Authors"](#) is now available for purchase internationally, with 100% of the profits being directly reinvested into educate.'s work in Honduras.



LOCAL LEADERSHIP: THE CORE OF OUR PHILOSOPHY

We aim to break down the unequal power relations inherent to so much non-profit work by flipping the concept of “aid” on its head: instead of going to Honduras with programmes we want to implement, communities and organisations in Honduras reach out with their own ideas and act as the core leaders in driving projects to fruition.

We believe in the power and agency of local community members, and that these individuals know best how to implement impactful projects in their communities. For this reason, all our work is led by local leaders within their own communities across Honduras.

How does this work in practice?

Each project has its own local project committee made up of teachers and educational administrators, parents, students, and other local leaders and community members. This committee not only drives the planning and execution of each project, but also raises funds and maintains responsibility for the project once it is completed. That way, local ownership and responsibility is engrained within each project, and we ensure that we do not foster dependency on educate. Rather, we are a catalyst for long-term and truly sustainable change.

“The community here feels that they are part of something, that the library is theirs.”

- Walter Dubon
educate. project coordinator



HOW WE MEASURE IMPACT

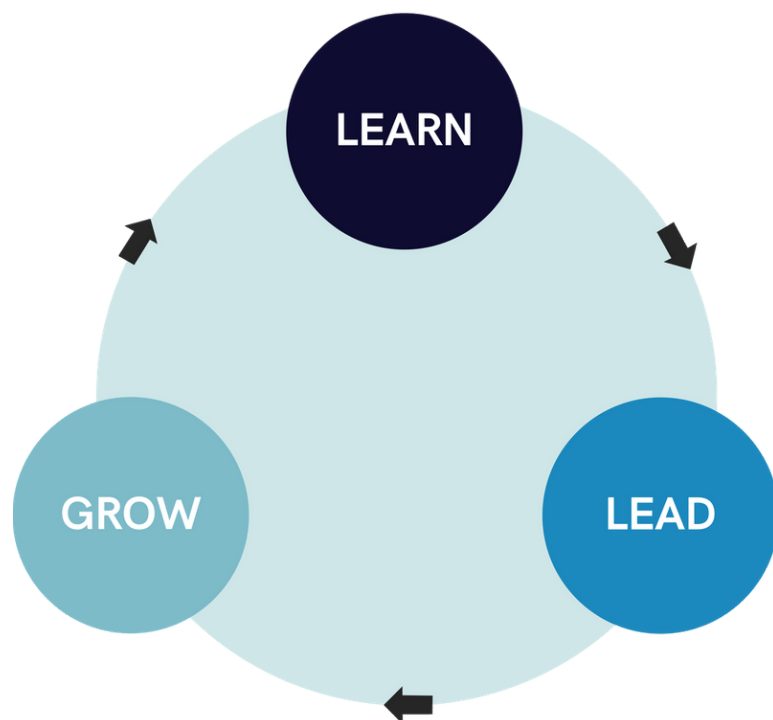
At educate. we believe that impact is a cycle. Our work aims to set in motion a cyclical process of impact based on three key themes: learning, leading and growing. We conduct ongoing impact assessments together with the students, parents and teachers in our communities to quantify the impact our work is having, whilst identifying strengths and weaknesses. Ultimately, we hope to create an ongoing data infrastructure that is integrated within our work, capturing the perceptions of communities so that our work can continue to be driven by genuine local needs while becoming increasingly efficient and targeted.

Our definition of impact, below, captures the core values of educate.'s vision and central mission.

LEARN: Developing personally; gaining knowledge, skills and confidence; encouraging action. *Are students learning?*

LEAD: Acting to inspire and empower others, enabling growth. *Are projects led and driven locally, and are students being encouraged to be leaders in their communities?*

GROW: Empowerment takes hold; educate.'s long-term and self-sustaining focus leads to ongoing and continuous growth of individuals and their communities. *What goes on to happen as a result of this project?*



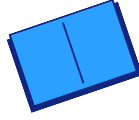
OUR IMPACT SO FAR

3 University Scholarships



We have taken on one student each year in our university scholarship programme, none of whom would be at university without this support. These young people are breaking barriers every day.

2,500 Books



We have provided 2,500 books as part of six school-based community library projects. Our books are all in Spanish and are age-appropriate and culturally relevant. We work with local teachers to choose our books.

2,000 Students



Our community projects have directly reached 2,000 children and youth, as well as their families and wider communities. These projects will also reach future generations of students who pass through these schools.



"It has cost me a lot to graduate from high school. When someone from educate. arrived at my school and said you had a scholarship to support young people who had the dream of continuing studying, I was so happy. I want to graduate from university and to be the first in my family to obtain a university degree."

-Javier Reyes

*educate. scholarship student,
studying Computer Science*

OUR STORY

In 2014-15, Antonia McGrath and Lisa van Holsteijn spent a year working in the Honduran public education sector: Antonia as a teacher and mentor in a children's home and Lisa as an English teacher at nine rural primary schools.

It was a year of learning, building relationships, and struggling to come to terms with the ways in which low-income youth were disproportionately affected by the country's debilitating poverty, overwhelming violence and systematic inequality.

Both went on to study in the Netherlands and a year later they returned to Honduras together and educate. began. We were officially registered as a Scottish Charity in March of 2017, and in 2021 also became registration in The Netherlands.

Today, our team numbers over 30 actively engaged volunteers across Honduras and The Netherlands.

Antonia

Lisa



PLANS FOR GROWTH

1. Grow our Scholarship Programme

Over the past four years we have built a structured and effective scholarship programme to support young people from marginalized communities in accessing and attending higher education.

Our goal is to grow this programme by 3 students in 2022 and 5 students per year each following year.

We are also exploring the possibilities of expanding the programme to other forms of tertiary education, including sustainable coffee cultivation, culinary arts, carpentry and shoemaking, and other technical vocations.

"These scholarships really help people who need assistance in order to be able to study, and who can't study because of their situation, whatever that is. It gives them the support they need so that they can move forwards in life."

- Stephanie Chavez

*educate. scholarship
student. studying medicine*



PLANS FOR GROWTH

2. Open a Youth Hub centre

We are working towards creating a youth center in Trinidad that will transform the learning opportunities available to youth in this municipality through educational scholarships, workshops and leadership trainings, as well as peer-to-peer mentorship. Through a partnership with the Municipality of Trinidad, we have identified the former municipal library as an ideal building to become this local Youth Centre. Located next to a football field and in the centre of the town, it is a perfect location to bring young people together.

Through this youth center, we will provide:

- University and other educational scholarships for excellent, high-potential students from low-income backgrounds.
- Tutoring for students who need more support at secondary school and university level.
- Workshops for youth on community development, entrepreneurship, global citizenship and leadership.
- A community library where everyone from the community can come to read, learn, study and do homework.
- Accessible computers and printers.
- A space for educate.'s headquarters for our volunteers to gather, have meetings, and store project materials



FINANCIALS

Annual Reports and Financial Audits

Our Annual Reports for each year, including financials, are publicly available on our website. In addition, we receive annual audits by an independent examiner, also available on our website.

You can view this information [here](#).

Scottish Charity Register

We have been registered with the Scottish Charity Register since 2017. We submit our Annual Reports, accounts and Independent Examiner Reports to the Scottish Charity Register each year.

You can view this information on the Scottish Charity Register website [here](#).

Dutch chamber of Commerce (KVK)

We have been registered with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (Kamer van Koophandel, KVK) since 2021. We will submit annual accounts and external audits to the KVK beginning in December 2021.

We work tirelessly to support communities in driving systemic change against all odds, and we pride ourselves on over 90% of our funding going directly towards projects, making every cent count.

OUR TEAM

Honduras Leadership Team: Walter Dubon (Project Coordinator), Edgardo Perez (Scholarship Programme Support), Edgardo Sagastume (Youth Hub project facilitator), Carlos Valdiviezo (Logistics).

Local Project Leaders: Nery Molina, Lorena Jimenez, José Luís Trochez, Zaida Bonilla, Magdaly Pérez, Carlos Manuel Urbina, María Jesús Hernandez.

Board of Directors: Antonia McGrath (Chair), Shobhendra Srivastava (Treasurer), Brin Andrews, Andrea Torrens.

Project Managers: Eana Cubacub (Finance), Claudia Huerta (Project Logistics and Reporting)

Impact Measurement Team: Chris Abbott (Team Leader), Fiona Moreno, Kyle Brinkman.

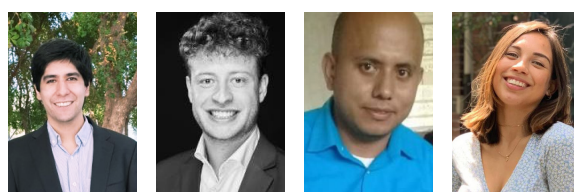
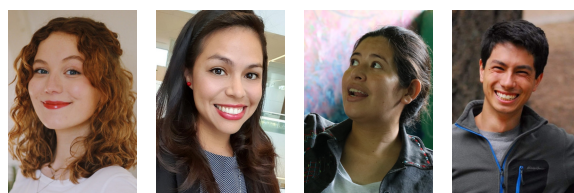
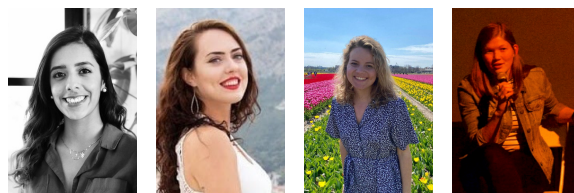
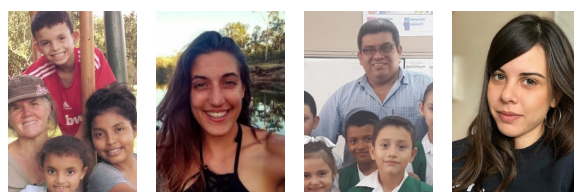
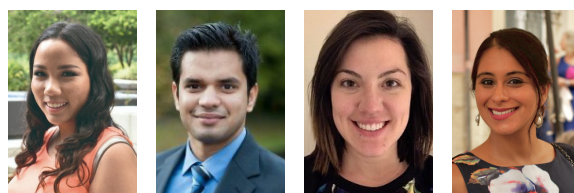
Grants Team: Andrea Torrens (Team Leader), Jackie van Arkel, Abby Roberts, Laura Pilz Gonzales, Maaïke van Woerden.

Corporate Partnerships Team: César Reyes (Team Leader), Lariza van der Poel Ventura, Michele Soana.

School Partnerships Team: Rachel Taylor (Team Leader), Michelle Ruiz.

Communications Team: Laura Willis (Team Leader), Florencia Moreno, Marion Banide, Vania Suazo, Mona Khatib.

Events Team: Marieke Knorz (Team Leader), Sarah Ristau, Veronica Quesnel.



Check out our videos:



The Las
Lagunas
community
library

Scholarship
student
Tania
Caballero



An interview
with
educate.e's
Director

Let's Talk!

We work together with foundations, businesses, donors and investors to make our work across Honduras possible. Our organisation is growing rapidly, and we would love to discuss how you can be a part of it.



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[@educate_ngo](https://twitter.com/educate_ngo)

[@educate.ngo](https://www.instagram.com/educate.ngo)



Scottish Charitable
Incorporated Organisation
No SC047277



Dutch KVK-registered
Foundation, Stichting Educate
International, No 81841582