

SUCCESS STORY

United States and Mexico Development Agencies reach six months of collaboration to generate economic opportunities and reduce irregular migration in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala

Farmer from El Salvador who has received technical assistance



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“This event allows us to reflect on the progress made since June and think about where we want to go in the coming year. It also represents the strong diplomatic relations that the U.S. and Mexico have maintained for 200 years.”

Mileydi Guilarte, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, USAID.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID); its missions in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala; and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), held a virtual Learning Event: Sembrando Oportunidades Work Plan, Six-Month Progress on December 8, 2022. The objective of this session was to share the main results of Sembrando Oportunidades, and to review its partners’ commitments agreed upon in June 2022 and then to determine next steps.

Both agencies’ teams in Honduras and El Salvador shared that during the first six months of implementation in El Salvador and Honduras, USAID began providing technical assistance to AMEXCID’s Jovenes Construyendo Futuro and Sembrando Vida beneficiaries; while work in Guatemala will begin in early 2023.

To detail these results in each country, in El Salvador, USAID engaged AMEXCID beneficiaries in workforce and agriculture development activities: 90 beneficiaries graduated from courses offered by the Scholarships for Educational Opportunities Activity, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), while other 161 beneficiaries will participate in 2023 technical training courses. Two-hundred agricultural AMEXCID beneficiaries have received technical assistance on innovative merchandising for their products and access to formal markets.

In Honduras, USAID assists 750 youth in the labor force; while in agriculture, progress has been made in defining the support to be provided in 2023. For instance, 125 participants from AMEXCID’s



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"In this Learning Event we want to recognize the joint effort of AMEXCID and USAID for the collaboration framework Sembrando Oportunidades, which is being implemented since June of this year -2022-, to contribute to social and economic development in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala."

Monica Perez, AMEXCID's General Director of Implementation of International Cooperation

Jovenes Construyendo Futuro are already taking part in USAID workforce development programs. Thirty-two participants have completed their courses and 14 have secured employment. In the agriculture component, USAID will reach 604 Sembrando Vida beneficiaries by providing technical assistance and tools to strengthen 16 biofertilizers and vermicomposting small plants, in 2023.

The session was led by Mileydi Guilarte, USAID's Deputy Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean and Monica Perez, AMEXCID's General Director of Implementation of International Cooperation; and Carlos Castillo, AMEXCID's General Director of Planning and Evaluation.

Other highlights of the learning event were a pause and reflect group dynamic in which the participants were able to evaluate the implementation of Sembrando Oportunidades and share their suggestions of improvements that can be made, and the presentation of the Alliance for Root Causes and Opportunities (ARCO) Activity proposals to increase the reach to new beneficiaries (subsistence producers) and the introduction of new approaches such as Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (gender, LGBTQI+, indigenous peoples, people with different abilities, and others) to reduce barriers (equity, access, rights, equality) that allow access to the opportunities related to market linkages, access to financing, skills development, education, or job opportunities. This also means considering the vulnerability of each of these group's experience.

Telling Our Story
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