

educate.



ANNUAL REPORT 2018





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educate. is a small non-profit organisation that works alongside communities in Honduras to create sustainable, community-driven impact for underprivileged youth. At our core is a scholarship programme which works in partnership with local public secondary schools in Honduras to provide opportunities for excellent students from low-income backgrounds to continue their education at the university level. In addition, we support community-driven projects that fall on a spectrum from literacy to health.

We believe in the power and agency of local Honduran youth and community members, and that these individuals know best how to implement impactful projects in their communities. We see this way of working not only as the best way to create impact that is sustainable, but as a way to actively work to break down the prevalence of Western ideals and the neo-colonial relationships on which the philanthropic sector is based.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Each time I have the opportunity to sit over coffee with one of our scholarship students, or to talk with the teachers at the schools where we have worked to start libraries this year, I am reminded that our small size as an organisation has no relation to the scale of our impact. Working to create opportunities to improve access to and quality of education does not create change overnight, but the depth of the impact that *educate.*'s work is having is evident.

2018 has been a year of challenges and growth. We took on our third university scholarship student, another bright, driven young scholar who is becoming the first in his family to continue his studies after high school. We opened three community-led libraries that are transforming learning environments at schools, and we worked to open a nutrition centre at a rural primary school, run by the students' parents. We have deepened our connections with communities and have continued to strive towards ethical, de-colonial non-profit work.

We are excited to share with you our successes from the past year.

Thank you to the *educate.* community across the world for your continued and unwavering support! We hope you continue on this journey with us in 2019.

ANTONIA MCGRATH

educate. Chair

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Our scholarship programme provides opportunities for excellent but underprivileged students in Honduras to continue their education to the university level. In Honduras, where **only 8% of students from public school continue to university** and where economic inequality remains the highest in Latin America, sponsoring high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds at university is a key way to create long-term sustainable change. With a university degree, the students we support gain not only an education that changes their life and the opportunities available to them, but also affects their families and communities, as well as changing cultural norms and expectations in Honduran society at large.

During their studies, scholarship recipients return to their old schools once a year to talk about the importance of education and the opportunities that education scholarships provide. By showing them as role models in their communities, other students can be inspired to continue their education.

This year we took on our third scholarship recipient, Javier Reyes, who is now studying Computer Engineering. Javier worked as a shoemaker from the ages of 12-18 and completed high school in an evening school in his village. He was the only person from his high school to continue on to university.

"It has cost me a lot to graduate from high school. When someone from education arrived at my institute 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





SCHOOL NUTRITION CENTRE

"Now children don't skip school because they know that their food is waiting for them. even when there isn't food at home, at school their lunch is waiting for them."

- CARLOS URBINA, DIRECTOR OF
MANOS QUE AYUDAN TALANGA

In partnership with the small Honduran organisation Manos Que Ayudan Talanga, we fund a school-based nutrition centre in the rural village of Los Pozos, Talanga. School attendance was unstable and there had been several cases of children fainting in class due to not having eaten, which prompted the teacher and parents to come up with the idea for a school food programme. The community came together to plant vegetables and came up with a voluntary cooking schedule, and a small kitchen was set up in the school building. The 36 children at the Los Pozos primary school now receive a balanced meal every day. With the support of this nutrition centre, **school attendance has been raised to 100%.**



LIBRARIES AND LITERACY

In 2018, we worked with three communities to start community-driven school libraries and began working with two further communities on libraries which are set to open in 2019. We believe libraries can fundamentally transform learning environments at schools, and our projects this year have demonstrated exactly that. Our libraries are driven and led by local communities and are stocked with culturally-relevant, Spanish-language books at appropriate reading levels for students. **All of our libraries are unique, so that each one fits the needs of each individual school.**

This year we started libraries at the Adrian Mejia primary school on the outskirts of the city of El Progreso in collaboration with the Honduran non-profit Chispa Project, the Guadalupe Ulloa primary school in the coffee-growing town of Trinidad, Santa Barbara where *educate.* board member Lisa van Holsteijn used to work, and at the Trinidad Kindergarten, also in Trinidad, Santa Barbara. We also donated books to an existing library at a high school in La Lima, Cortes.

"Through libraries we promote a habit of reading in children so as to create a better informed generation"

- DAVI FUENTES, GRADE 4 TEACHER AT ADRIAN MEJIA, EL PROGRESO.



A GLOBAL COMMUNITY



- 1) Students at the International School of Panama hosted a book drive at their school.
- 2) Influencers like Jabdiel Valladares in Honduras posted about our work.
- 3) A group of university students ran a mud run in Haarlem, The Netherlands.
- 4) Hondurans in Holland organised several 'Feista Latina' parties.
- 5) Board member Lisa van Holsteijn and her friend Yolanda ran a marathon in Scotland.
- 6) Irish poet Terry McDonagh hosted a poetry reading.
- 7) Volunteers in Amsterdam held flea market fundraisers.

AWARENESS: HONDURAS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND AID.

2018 was a tumultuous year for Honduras. In January, the country's president was fraudulently re-elected, and more recently multiple caravans of migrants have fled the country. Violence has remained at the forefront of everyday life and structural inequality and poverty persist. In light of these happenings, our work outside of Honduras has included several events focused on politics and human rights, most notably a film screening event in Amsterdam of the documentary *The American Fraud* – a film about Honduras' migration crisis produced by two of *educate.*'s directors.

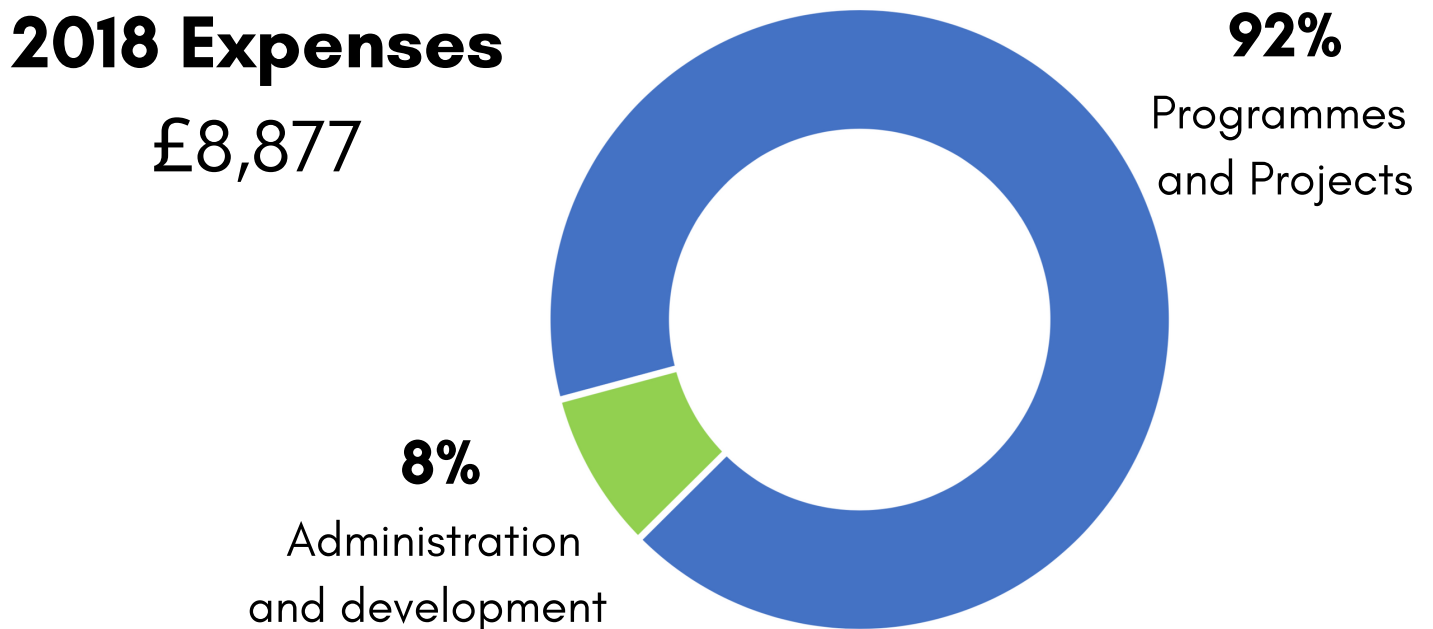
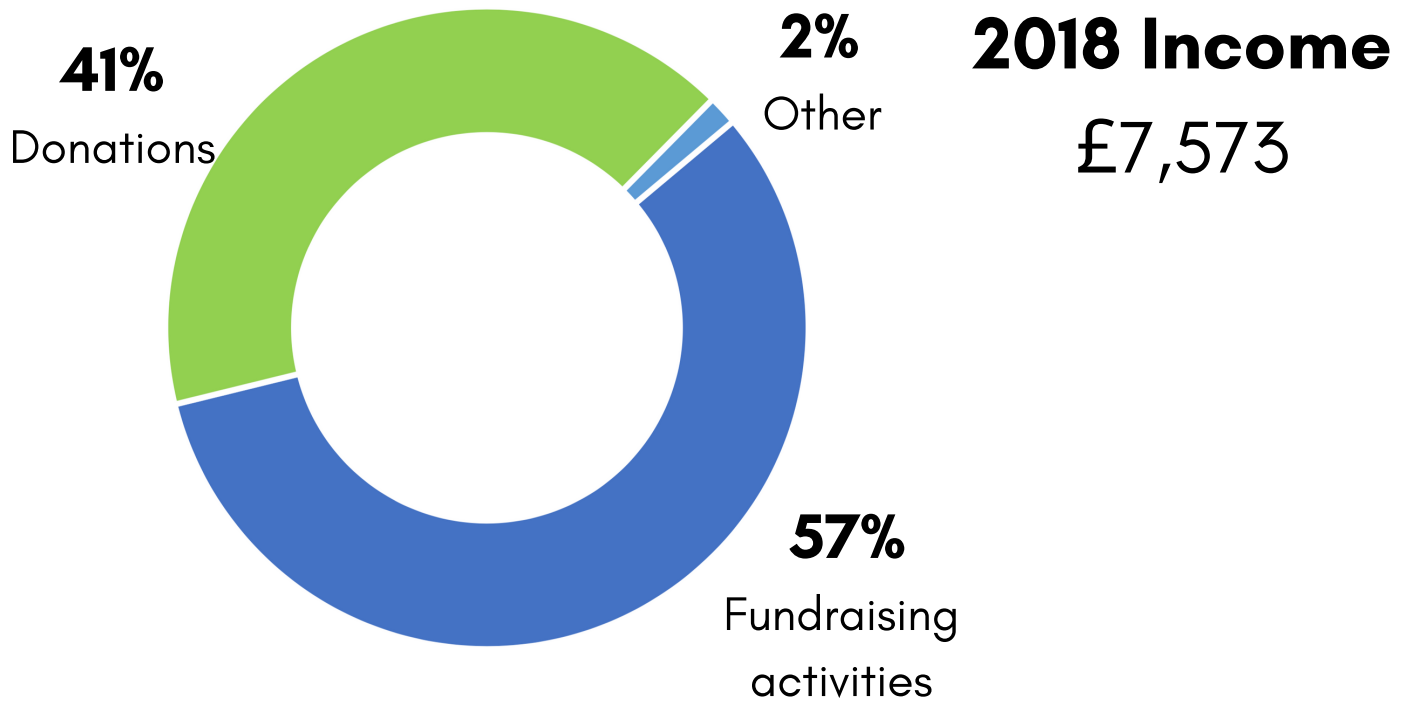
educate. has also been involved in panel discussions on the ethics of international aid and how this links with ideas surrounding decolonisation, and members of our team have led public discussions with Honduran human rights activists such as activist and poet Lety Elvir. Our blog has featured activists and educators writing about topics such as feminism and black and indigenous experiences in Honduras, and we have been featured twice in the

academic blog *The Shiloh Project* discussing how rape culture and religion relate to our work in Honduras.

We continue to strive to use our platform to make spaces for the discussion of important topics such as these.



FINANCIALS



Thank you to our generous community of donors across the world for your continued support! Together we make this work possible.

THE TEAM

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Antonia McGrath: Co-founder and Chair

Lisa van Holsteijn: Co-founder and Head of Fundraising

Marit Hoefsloot: Member Coordinator

Fionnuala Davidson: Business Partnerships Coordinator

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Programme Support in Trinidad

José Luis: Trinidad Library Project Leader

Maria Jesus Hernandez Txus: Animal Therapy Project Leader

Carlos Manuel Urbina and Estefany Munoz: Nutrition Centre
Project Leaders

José Jacinto Reyes: Cultural Adviser and Problem Solver

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Oscar Tambini

Saskia Guzman

TRUSTEES

Antonia McGrath

Jocelyn Vick-Maeer

Lisa van Holsteijn

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Organise an event: Wherever you are in the world, an event can raise money to go directly to *educate.*'s projects in Honduras.

Become a member: If you live in or around Amsterdam, becoming a member of *educate.* gives you the opportunity to work as part of a passionate team and get involved in a range of activities, from fundraising and event-planning to graphic design and video production.

Partner with your school: Service learning and awareness of global issues is an integral part of education in today's world. Our partnerships with schools allow students of all ages to work on real, impactful service projects through *educate.*

Partner with your business: Businesses large and small who want to give back in a way where they can see exactly where their money is going, can partner with *educate.* to sponsor specific projects and programmes in Honduras.

Donate: We rely heavily on private donations to do our work. Donate online at our website: www.educate-ngo.com.

If you would like to discuss ways in which you can support *educate.*, please send us an email at educate.ngo@gmail.com.





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