



educate.

Empowering children and youth in Honduras.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21





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***educate.* is a grassroots non-profit organisation that works to empower children and young people in Honduras through supporting community-driven initiatives focused on education.**

At our core is our 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 to the tertiary level. In addition, we work alongside resource-poor communities to support locally-led projects such as starting school-based community libraries that fundamentally transform learning environments for students in rural or otherwise marginalised areas.

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.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



This year has been a year of adaptation. While it has been filled with challenges (COVID-19, school and university closures and two major hurricanes, not to mention limited opportunities for fundraising), I have been so impressed by the energy and resilience of our team. We have used this year as an opportunity to strengthen relationships, build structures, and plan for the future.

Looking back to where we were a year ago, it is incredible to see how far we have come. Our team now numbers 30+ people across The Netherlands and Honduras, and we are working harder than ever towards ambitious goals for the future: growing our scholarship programme, supporting more communities in starting school-based community libraries, and opening a youth centre. We now have an impact assessment framework, a fundraising plan, and the knowledge and manpower to make these goals a reality.

Thank you for standing with us throughout the last year, we look forward to sharing our journey with you as we continue to grow.

ANTONIA MCGRATH

educate. Chair

2020-21 IN NUMBERS



3 university scholarship students supported through a year of university.

120 food packages delivered as part of our COVID-19 and hurricane support programme



Our first book-writing competition took place.

We grew and strengthened our teams in Amsterdam and Honduras.



UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS STUDY THROUGH A YEAR OF LOCKDOWN

Our scholarship programme provides opportunities for high-potential youth from underprivileged backgrounds in Honduras to continue their education beyond high school. In March of this year, schools and universities closed due to COVID-19. However, all three of our scholarship students have been able to continue their studies online with our support.

Stephanie Chevez is now in her fifth year of studying medicine, Tania Caballero who is now in her fourth year of Industrial Engineering, and Javier Reyes who has just started his third year of Computer Engineering.

Studying at home has not been without its challenges, as all three of our students come from low-income backgrounds. "With this situation, I am trying to do my best in all of my classes," says Javier, "and they all take a lot of dedication and time, some more than others. Classes are taught through the Zoom Platform, which is difficult but I try to learn as much as I can from each class." Despite the added challenges, our students have continued to succeed.

"Online classes are totally different from what I was used to. I had never received classes like this, so it has been a new experience from which I have learned a lot! Even so, I prefer face-to-face classes, I feel that I learn much more and in a better way by being in contact with our teachers, but due to the situation we are going through I think it is good that they give us the opportunity to continue studying and advancing."

STEPHANIE CHEVEZ





COVID-19 SUPPORT: FOOD PACKAGES

Recognising food insecurity as an increasing problem in our communities across Honduras due to the impacts of COVID-19, we started a food package programme to support vulnerable families, especially those with children. As an education-focused organization, we understand the need for adequate nutrition for children's development and learning, and the detrimental effects that a lack of proper nutrition can have.

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. In total, we delivered 120 food packages over the course of this year.



LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

August 14 marked the 1-year anniversary of the La Florida school library in Olancho, Honduras. The students from the school decided to organise an anniversary celebration, and invited educate. to join them via Zoom. It was the first time the students had attempted a Zoom call, and a phone top-up had been bought especially for this purpose. There was a palpable sense of pride and excitement that could be felt even through a screen.

Students had prepared decorations and pictures from some of their favourite stories – including the symbolic “Biblioburro” book about a man and two donkeys who carry books to villages around Colombia, just like the donkeys who carried the books up to this village’s school.

"As a teacher I am really proud of my students. Right now, they are all learning from home, but we can see that a lot of learning is still taking place. For them to put together this celenbration of the anniversary of our library is wonderful. They are learning so much from this project, and they will continue to do so."

**- NERY MOLINA,
LA FLORIDA SCHOOL
TEACHER**



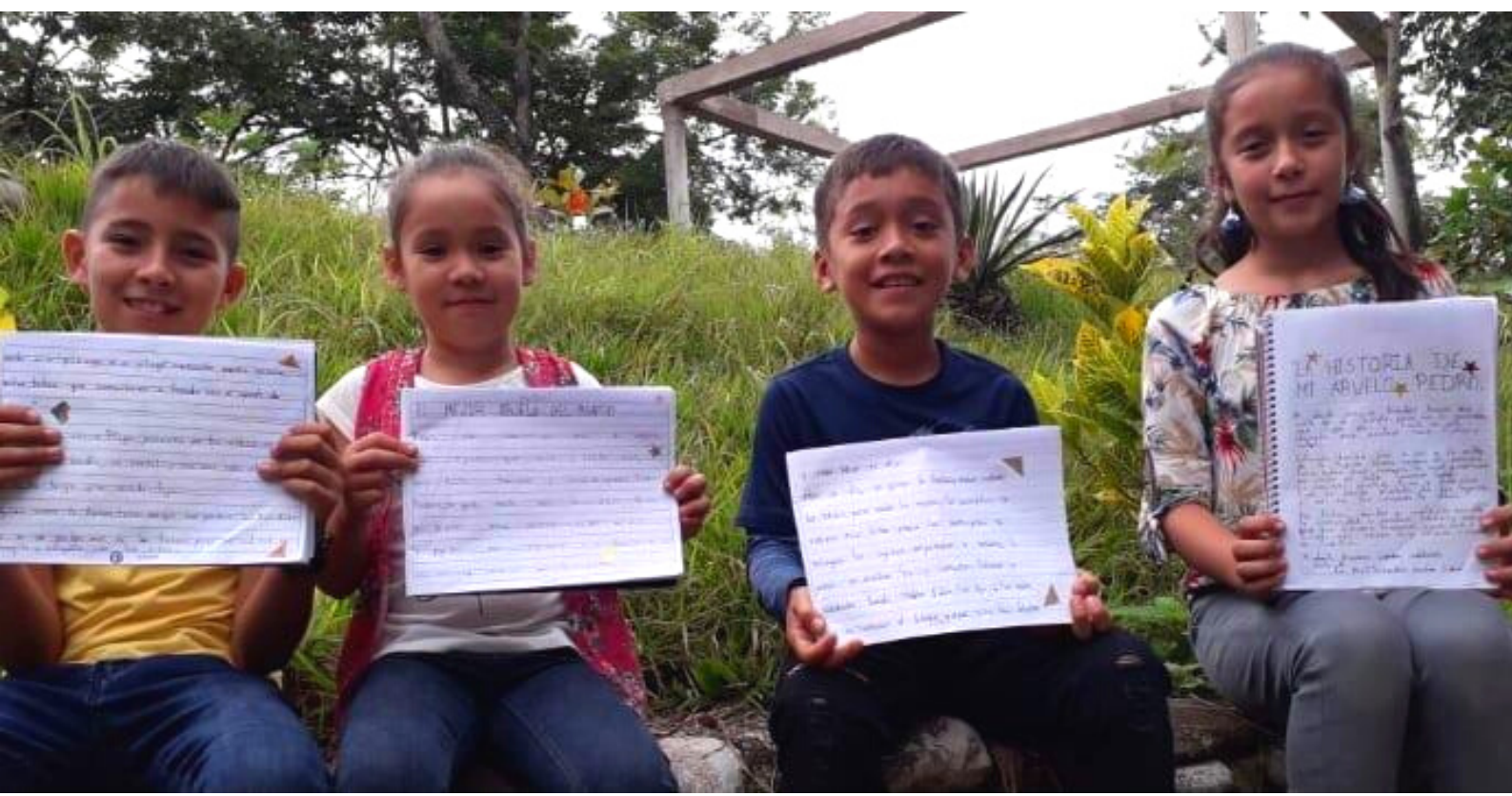
OUR FIRST BOOK WRITING COMPETITION

During school closures, we ran our first story writing competition, making sure students could stay actively learning and engaged even from home. In 2019, these students helped start up community libraries at their schools, together with their teachers and families, and with support from educate. For many of them and their peers, this was the first time they had access to children's literature.

This year, students from these library communities had the opportunity to write their own stories – real or fictional – and the top 5 were chosen for a book project. The stories children chose to write tell of the beautiful Honduran region, its communities, its nature, and the importance of protecting the environment.

Students also worked to illustrate the winning stories, and in 2021 the collection will be published in a bilingual children's book: "To Read is to Dream: Short stories by young Honduran Authors" ("Leer es Soñar: Cuentos cortos de jóvenes autoras y autores hondureños).

100% of the profits will be directly reinvested into educate.'s educational projects.



OUR DEFINITION OF IMPACT

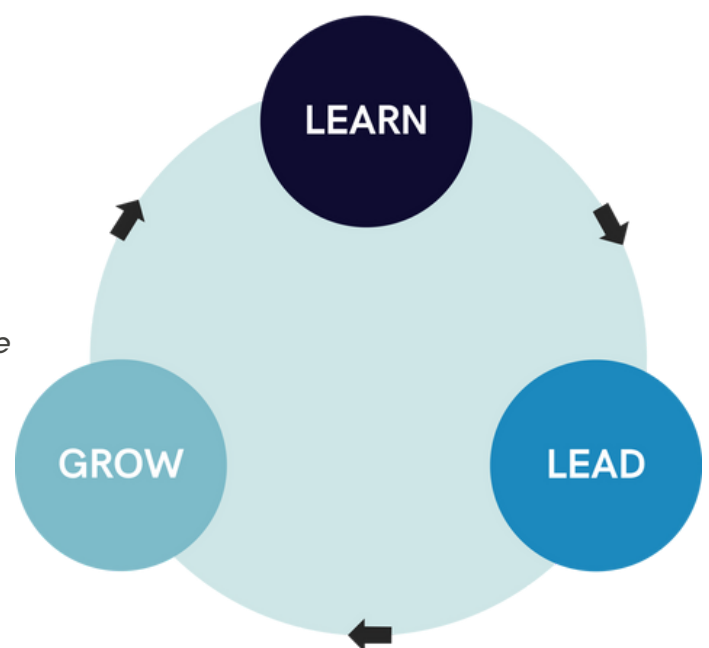
While schools were closed due to lockdown and our events-based fundraising was brought to a halt, this presented an opportunity for focusing on structural projects, such as developing our impact assessment framework.

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. In 2021, the community-based impact assessments we have been working on, centred around this model, will begin to take place on the ground.

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?*

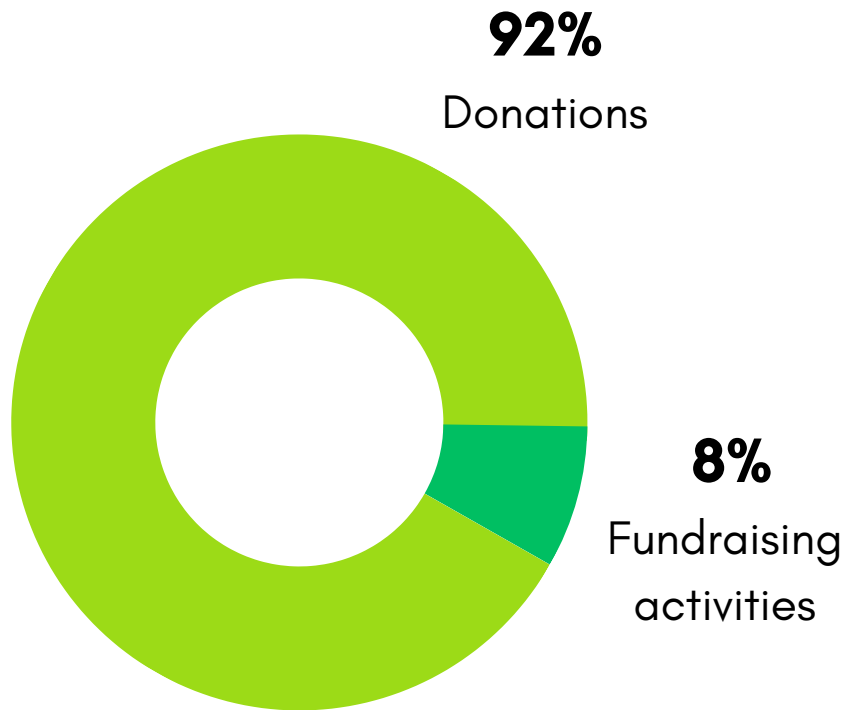
GROW: Empowerment takes hold; *educate.*'s long-term and self-sustaining focus leads to ongoing and continuous growth of individuals and their communities. *What goes on to happen as a result of this project?*



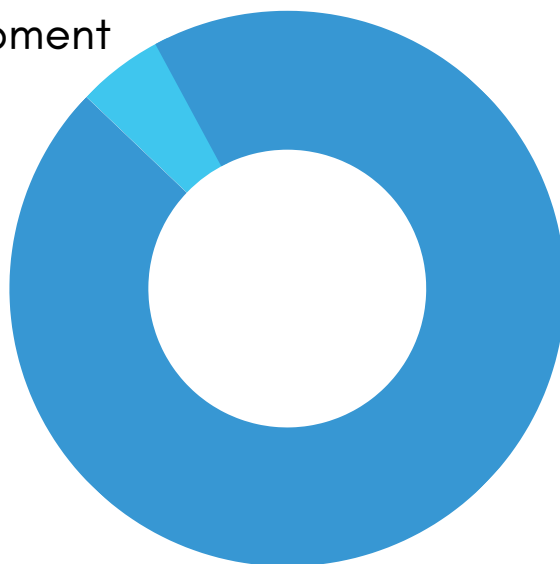
FINANCIALS

2020 Income

£5,551



5%
Administration
and development



2020 Expenses

£3,944

95%
Projects and
Programmes

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

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 Management Support: Eana Cubacub (Finance), Claudia Huerta (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, Maaike 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.



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 grant writing and media.

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 or company: 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 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 to educate.ngo@gmail.com.





educate.

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