



*United States Agency for International Development
San Salvador, El Salvador*

Information Sheet

TRANSLATED from Spanish to English

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USAID and Ministry of Education launch Strengthening Basic Education in Language program

The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and El Salvador Ministry of Education (MINED) launched a new education program today, “Strengthening Basic Education in Language,” as part of USAID’s focus on human investment and support to El Salvador’s *2021 National Education Plan*.

USAID/El Salvador Mission Director Mark Silverman said the four-year, \$16 million program is a way for USAID and MINED to work together “to improve access to and quality of basic education, specifically in reading and writing competencies in rural areas.”

In 2004, USAID financed the education study, “Basic Education in El Salvador: Consolidating the Foundations for Quality and Equal Opportunities.” The study identified high levels of grade repetition and learning problems in reading and writing among primary school students, especially the rural poor. These problems hinder the acquisition of basic skills to continue studying, learning and accessing other opportunities for development.

Responding to this situation, the new USAID-MINED education program will focus on 580 primary rural schools, located in Chalatenango, San Vicente, Sonsonate, Cuscatlan, Cabanas, Morazan and La Union, through activities that will strengthen teachers’ skills to facilitate language learning and civil competencies. At the national level, the program will focus on the increase, equitable distribution and efficiency of education investments.

The launching ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Education, Darlyn Meza; the Vice Minister of Education, Jose Luis Guzman; USAID’s Mission Director, Mark Silverman; the *Fundación Empresarial para el Desarrollo Educativo* (FEPADE) Board of Directors President, Ricardo Freund; the Academy for Educational Development Director, Kristin Brady; and Save the Children’s Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Annie Foster.