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AGENCIA MEXICANA DE COOPERACIÓN
INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO



SEMBRANDO OPORTUNIDADES

USAID is Partnering with the Government of Mexico to Address the Root Causes of Migration in Northern Central America

OVERVIEW

In December 2021, the United States and Mexico announced *Sembrando Oportunidades*, a new bilateral framework for development cooperation to address the root causes of migration from Central America. Under this framework, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AMEXCID) will coordinate development resources and expertise to support citizens of Northern Central America in building prosperous futures in their home communities.

This collaboration builds on a long history of partnership. Mexico and the United States share a 2,000 mile border, are economically interdependent, and confront joint development challenges. These enduring linkages make Mexico a unique partner in areas of mutual interests, such as addressing the root causes of irregular migration.

USAID and AMEXCID's *Sembrando Oportunidades* framework will bring to life the shared vision to address the root causes of irregular migration, as discussed by President López Obrador and President Biden during the North American Leaders' Summit. It also builds on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the U.S. and Mexican Governments on June 8, 2021, during the visit of Vice President

Harris to Mexico City. Further, it advances Pillar II of the bilateral High-Level Economic Dialogue related to the root causes of migration.

FRAMEWORK

Through *Sembrando Oportunidades*, USAID and AMEXCID will jointly address the root causes of irregular migration from Northern Central America by coordinating development activities that create economic and social opportunities for Hondurans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans. Under this framework, USAID and AMEXCID will collaborate on two of Mexico's flagship development projects in Honduras and El Salvador, and will explore areas of collaboration in Guatemala. The *Sembrando Vida* project offers small-holder farmers the opportunity to foster their own prosperity with agricultural inputs, a stipend, and technical assistance, while *Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro* provides youth with opportunities for job training, a stipend, and apprenticeships. By linking these efforts with related USAID activities, both agencies broaden the impact of our assistance to foster more inclusive and sustainable development in Northern Central America.

ACTIVITIES

Together, USAID and AMEXCID are collaborating on areas for partnership in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala under the *Sembrando Oportunidades* framework.

Several joint programs are already underway in Honduras and El Salvador, and USAID and AMEXCID will expand this partnership in Guatemala in the coming months. Examples of current work through *Sembrando Oportunidades* include:

- In Honduras, USAID's *Creando Mi Futuro Aquí* project will be integrating AMEXCID's beneficiaries into USAID-funded training and job placement services.
- Two of USAID's economic growth programs in Honduras (*Transforming Market Systems* and *Food Security, Agriculture, and Resilient Market Systems*) are preparing action plans to integrate farmers enrolled in Mexico's *Sembrando Vida* project.
- In El Salvador, USAID's *Becas para Oportunidades Educativas* program, with the International Organization for Migration, is providing scholarships for graduates from AMEXCID's youth workforce project *Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro*. USAID's Economic Competitiveness program in El Salvador will provide training and assistance to *Sembrando Vida* farmers to improve the quality and quantity of their harvest to meet buyers' standards and requirements.
- Later this year, USAID will launch the *Alliance for Root Causes and Opportunities* project to deepen USAID's strategic partnership with AMEXCID and provide sustainable economic opportunities for youth and farmers in Northern Central America, thereby addressing the root causes of irregular migration.