

USAID Report to Congress on the Central America Youth Empowerment Program
Report #3
(1/27/2023)

The Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act (SFOAA), 2022 (Div. K, P.L.117-103) directed that \$50 million should be made available for a program in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras which shall be referred to as the Central America Youth Empowerment Program (CAYEP). The goal of the CAYEP is to create measurable reductions in migration from targeted communities in such countries by recruiting young people to engage in COVID-19 response, hurricane preparedness and recovery, and other community projects, while having secondary impacts by channeling additional income into local economies and providing needed skills training for future employment in local businesses. Funds made available to support the CAYEP should be matched with contributions from private donors and local governments.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) submits this report pursuant to Section 7019(e) of the SFOAA which incorporates by reference the requirements of the FY 2022 Joint Explanatory Statement (JES). This report follows Report 2 completed in October 2022, and Report 1 in July 2022.

Since Vice President Harris [announced the Central American Service Corps](#) (CASC) at the Summit of the Americas, USAID has continued to make progress on the design and implementation of the overall initiative¹. The CASC initiative is funded through the CAYEP directive. With the FY 2022 CAYEP funding, programming under this initiative will offer youth in areas of high out-migration in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras opportunities to work in their own communities on local priorities such as educational support and tutoring, climate action, food security, green jobs, health education and services, violence prevention, and other civic-engagement activities.

Once fully designed and launched, CASC will help address the drivers of irregular migration among those most likely to migrate by engaging youth in service opportunities, mentorships and internships, providing a modest stipend, offering work and life skills acquisition, and enhancing young people's sense of rootedness and commitment to their communities.

Advances on CASC Program Design

Since completion of Report #2, which laid out a timeline for CASC program design, interagency coordination, and obligation of FY 2022 funds into new awards, significant progress has been achieved in planning for CASC programming that will meet the requirements of the CAYEP directive and lay the groundwork for the obligation of the \$50 million in anticipated FY 2022 funding into the appropriate Development Objective Grant Agreements (DOAGs) and CASC awards.

As projected in Report #2, USAID has identified the principal partners and awards in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras through which CASC programming will be implemented. The below

¹ As outlined in Report 1, this report differentiates between the CASC initiative (programs) and the CAYEP funding directive.

table lays out the expected allotment per mission and the initial estimates from each mission based on discussions with implementing partners (note: the estimates below are notional at this point, and official estimates will be provided through specific mechanism work plans and Monitoring & Evaluation plans closer to October 2023 once all relevant procurements are finalized).

Initial Estimates of USAID CASC / CAYEP Programming in Central America

| | FY 2022 USAID budget allotment | Estimated number of youth participants | Number of USAID Implementing Partners* |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Guatemala | \$14m | 25,000 | 1 |
| Honduras | \$14m | 7,000 | 4 |
| El Salvador | \$14m | 20,000 | 2 |
| USAID Central America Regional | \$8m | 5,000 | 1 |
| TOTAL | \$50m | 57,000 | 8 |

* Numbers are notional as some activities are still in the procurement/design phase.

Program designs:

Significant progress has been made since the first report in designing activities and awards to be made under this initiative. A total of eight implementing partners (and 9 mechanisms) have been identified for amendment and/or designated for procurement as part of the FY 2022 CAYEP funding directive. Further details about the specific details of each award will be provided in the next 90 day report, or when the procurement sensitive phase of each award/activity is completed (no later than September 30, 2023).

Interagency collaboration:

The CASC initiative has benefited from the support of key U.S. government entities with experience and partnerships in the region, including the U.S. Peace Corps and the Inter-American Foundation, as well as the Partnership for Central America (PCA). The Peace Corps, in particular, has expressed interest in working closely with program designs so that Peace Corps Volunteers in the respective countries are able to support and engage with CASC beneficiaries. USAID Missions in Central America are actively considering how appropriate coordination with these partners can be achieved. For example, the Mission in Guatemala has initiated an interagency coordinating committee that includes Peace Corps, Inter-American Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State Department, and will include others as relevant.

Private sector collaboration:

Quarterly meetings have been held with the PCA coordination leadership. Plans are underway for a presentation (tentatively summer 2023) to prior vetted PCA business leaders on the goals of CAYEP/CASC and how partnerships can be established. Ongoing (quarterly) discussions with the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and the Emerson Collective have also been maintained.