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CENTRAL AMERICA SERVICE CORPS HONDURAS FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

In order to curb youth migration, in March 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 established the Central America Youth Empowerment Program (CAYEP). Shortly following, Vice President Kamala Harris announced the Central America Service Corps (CASC), an interagency initiative that would be funded by CAYEP to help Central American youth find meaningful opportunities to invest in their communities and build their futures. This public, private, and philanthropic partnership provides young people in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras with paid community service opportunities, mentorship, and a path to future employment. By developing life and job skills and building confidence and a sense of belonging for youth, CASC fosters leadership and optimism among youth, that they can build prosperous futures in Central America.

CENTRAL AMERICA SERVICE CORPS IN HONDURAS

The USAID/Honduras CASC approach is grounded in decades of experience working with Honduran youth and local communities to ensure a positive transition to adulthood. Our approach emphasizes youth-led community service initiatives that lead to positive labor market outcomes for young people. Through five activities, USAID/Honduras will provide three to eight-month professional and community

development opportunities for 17,000 youth. As detailed below, youth will participate in service projects related to topics including environmental conservation, climate adaptation, education, and economic development, contributing to a more prosperous, democratic, and secure Honduras and investing in their futures.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- 7,100 youth will receive conservation training leading to professional internships, youth entrepreneurship opportunities, and the chance to conduct conservation research. An additional 400 youth will learn about the responsible management of forest resources, watersheds, and biodiversity to become changemakers in their own communities.
- 2,500 youth will work in their own communities to prevent school-based violence and promote social-emotional learning activities, provide reading and mathematics tutoring for struggling students, and carry out home visits to increase meaningful family engagement in schools.
- 8,000 youth will receive social entrepreneurship stipends to grow businesses and participate in workforce readiness training. Also, rural youth savings groups will help young people to develop new business and entrepreneurial skills, access e-commerce opportunities, and capitalize on the growing digital economy.
- 5,000 youth will participate in a career counseling program that supports high school graduates in finding further education or employment. The program will offer various training opportunities, including basic labor skills, social-emotional learning, and career planning. Participants will receive mentorship to develop community service projects and secure job placements.