We Identify, Develop, and Support Community Education Leaders in Rural Central America

About Us
ConnectED is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides local leaders in education (Fellows) with the skills, training, and resources they need to improve educational outcomes in their communities. Fellows are supported to engage their communities in tackling pressing educational challenges through projects that make quality, relevant education possible for the next generation.

Youth in Central America often lack access to basic educational facilities, quality instruction, and a relevant curriculum. While there has been significant progress toward widespread coverage for pre-primary through secondary education, there are still considerable challenges in improving the quality of education at all levels, resulting in high dropout and repetition rates. At the national level, reform and resources are needed to improve education, which can take years to manifest. However, there are steps that can be taken now at the community level to serve youth in Central America.

The Opportunity
The region benefits from a network of creative and resilient education leaders who live in the community, have the passion and desire to improve local education, but often need enhanced skills and resources. We believe these local leaders are best poised to create and implement projects that ensure youth have access to quality and relevant education.

Theory of Change

**IF**
Education leaders are empowered to effect change through capacity development, resource provision and support of locally-driven solutions

**THEN**
They can improve access, quality, and relevance of formal and non-formal education in their community

**WHICH WILL RESULT IN**
Improved learning outcomes and prospects for youth in select communities

**AND ULTIMATELY WILL**
Provide education leaders with the opportunity to build skills and gain relevant experience to improve their own livelihood.

“Being part of ConnectED has been a great experience, since I have been in contact with people who work with a lot of love and dedication for their communities, as well as with teachers who are passionate about their profession, all this has made me a better person and better professional.”

Silvia Carolina Bermúdez, Fellow
The ConnectED Model

A Catalyst for Educational Change

To improve access, quality, and relevance of education in rural communities, ConnectED selects local education visionaries, as Fellows, and supports them through training, access to technology, strategic partnerships, and capital, to become change agents. The Fellows engage their communities to design and implement projects that are locally relevant and that benefit education and economic outcomes, following this phased program approach:

The Process

1. Connect Identify Local Fellows
2. Build Capacity Develop Local Leadership
3. Listen Assess Community Needs
4. Plan Generate Project Designs
5. Implement Pilot Small-Scale Initiatives
6. Evaluate Evaluate and Scale Successful Initiatives

At the community level, Fellows develop the skills for lifelong leadership and the resources to improve the learning experiences of the next cohort of youth. The result is a virtuous cycle for human and community development.

Community-Driven Impact

Since 2013, ConnectED and affiliated local partners, have improved education for students in more than 30 rural communities and 20 schools. Some of the projects designed and implemented by ConnectED Fellows include:

- A new preschool that serves children from five communities.
- A nationally accredited Computer Literacy Certificate training for students and teachers from more than 10 communities.
- A professional development training program for teachers (in digital literacy, the use of open education resources, and classroom management) in 18 communities.
- Computer literacy labs in two schools that serve students from more than 10 communities.
- Digital reading libraries that provide students from 12 communities with technological, audio-visual and open education resources.
- A library that provides students from four communities with culturally relevant literacy resources in their local indigenous language.
- School lunch feeding programs that provide students from two communities with access to daily nutritious meals and health education.

Scaling ConnectED

Our vision for 2025 is to improve education outcomes for a minimum of 20,000 rural youth in more than 100 communities throughout the region by building the capacity of local education leaders. The program delivers impact through mentorship, direct training, partnerships, and the implementation of locally designed education projects that improve access, quality and relevance of education for youth. The ConnectED fellows model is scalable and replicable to other regions with other partners. More Fellows means a greater network of education changemakers at the community level and more collaboration at the regional level working together to deliver the promise of education.

After successfully implementing our model in Nicaragua and Guatemala, we are working to scale our program throughout Central America, with a focus on the Northern Triangle.

Partner With Us!

We aim to shift power into the hands of local educational leaders in Central America, so that they can be long-term drivers of sustainable catalytic change in their communities. We seek partnerships and collaborations with other like-minded private/public organizations that are interested in building local leadership and homegrown solutions.

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