

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 leaders in education working towards positive change to address educational barriers at the local community level. We believe these local leaders are best poised to create and implement projects that ensure that children and 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.

“I am excited to be part of this great network of Fellows who are channeling resources and opportunities for children and youth on education issues. Although our education system is struggling in Guatemala, initiatives and programs such as ConnectED, support us to transform education in our communities and our country.” - **Glendy Xulú**

The ConnectED Model

Turning Rural Educators into Catalysts for 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 contribute to improved educational outcomes, following this phased program approach:

The Process

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Connect
Identify Local Leaders



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Build Capacity
Develop Local Leadership



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Listen
Assess Community Needs



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Plan
Generate Project Designs




1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Implement
Pilot Small-Scale Initiatives




1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Evaluate
Evaluate & Scale Successful Initiatives



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Elevate
Support Needs Beyond Education



Community-Driven Impact

Since 2014, ConnectED has improved education for students in more than 130 rural communities in Guatemala and Nicaragua, benefiting over 9,000 students. Some of the projects designed and implemented by ConnectED Fellows include:

- New preschool and classroom construction.
- A professional development training program for teachers in digital literacy, use of open education resources, and classroom management.
- School feeding programs that provide students with access to daily nutritious meals and health education.
- Creation of safe spaces and recreational programs to develop targeted 21st-century skills for children and youth. Libraries that provide students with culturally relevant literacy resources in their local indigenous language.
- Technology learning centers that use computer literacy, audiovisuals, and open education resources.
- Vocational programs that incorporate gardening, baking, and arts into the curriculum.
- Reading Workshop equipped with technology to improve reading and writing skills.

Scaling ConnectED

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 Latin America.

