



Guatemalan Ministry of Education

The Guatemalan Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) serves 90,000 teachers and 3.5 million students from pre-primary through secondary school levels. Its project called “Schools of the Future” provides rural schools with the resources needed to bolster education.

OBJECTIVE

The goal of the Schools of the Future project is to strengthen the economic and social development of underserved communities in Guatemala through the introduction of computer and wireless technologies in schools.

In its first stage, the project focus is on upgrading a limited number of outlying schools as demonstration sites. These first locations will undergo a trio of concurrent enhancements including: infrastructure improvements, technology upgrades and a revamped teaching model. Student progress will be monitored. The goal is for these first schools to become models that can be replicated throughout Guatemala’s 17,000 schools — of which many are in rural areas — in the near future.

“Given our challenging topography and current communications infrastructure, a 3G wireless strategy is the most cost-effective way to bring connectivity to these rural schools — some of which are at altitudes beyond 11,000 feet,” explains Rodrigo Arias, IT advisor to the Minister of Education of Guatemala. “The up front costs of deploying copper or fiber are economically unfeasible and satellite links have recurring costs that are too expensive to sustain over the long term.”

SOLUTION DESCRIPTION

MINEDUC partnered with a number of organizations and selected 15 schools across various regions of Guatemala to be pioneer schools for the initiative. Each school is receiving 15 to 20 computers — one per student — plus network equipment from Fundación Sergio Paiz, a non-profit organization that promotes the use of technology and education as a means for sustainable development in the Central American region. EV-DO wireless connectivity is being donated by TELGUA, a subsidiary of América Movil, a leading wireless operator in Latin America.

Physical infrastructure improvements such as furniture and teaching equipment are being funded by USAID, an independent American agency responsible for economic and humanitarian assistance and dedicated to improving the quality of life of its neighbors in the hemisphere.



Ministerio de Educación Guatemala

ORGANIZATION

- The Guatemalan Ministry of Education serves 90,000 teachers and 3.5 million students from pre-primary through secondary school levels. Its project called “Schools of the Future” provides rural schools with the resources needed to bolster education.

OBJECTIVE

- Strengthen the economic and social development of underserved communities in Guatemala through the introduction of computer and wireless technologies in schools

SOLUTION

- TELGUA wireless connectivity (EV-DO)
- Fundación Sergio Paiz funded computer equipment
- USAID infrastructure improvements
- MINEDUC teacher training

RESULTS

- Completed infrastructure improvements on eight of the rural schools and are making progress towards the connectivity in all 15 of the phase one schools
- Will be enabling rural children to see and interact with the world outside their own communities
- Installed 3,000 refurbished school computers across the entire country
- In relation to the overarching Schools of the Future project, enrolled 475 schools with over 150,000 students, and completed more than 22,500 person/days of teacher training and more than 3,600 person/days of parent training

Finally, MINEDUC itself is providing teacher training to help pave the way for the technology to effectively flow from instructors to students. Over the next year and a half, the partners will continue working to meet their goal of implementing the project across a total of 20 pilot schools.

In a related effort to bolster the proliferation of technology among school faculty, MINEDUC is subsidizing 50,000 computers that will be owned by individual teachers — sponsoring 70% of computer and software costs — so that they can lead the way in bridging the digital divide.

The 3G link is allowing the implementation of other opportunities for students and families, according to Arias. “One-on-one collaborative

Given our challenging topography and current communications infrastructure, a 3G wireless strategy is the most cost-effective way to bring connectivity to these rural schools.

Rodrigo Arias, IT Advisor to the Minister of Education of Guatemala

learning initiatives, which thrive in the presence of real-time connectivity, are now a possibility for these schools and are being tested.”

RESULTS

Ongoing activities are in progress at all 15 of the rural schools in the first phase of the initiative. Infrastructure improvements have been made on eight schools and connectivity and equipment will soon follow.

“Parents, students and whole communities are very enthusiastic about the possibilities and improvements the wireless effort will be bringing them,” recounts Arias. “Most of the children have never even left their rural communities. This project will allow them to ‘visit’ and understand new countries and people, and allow them to share their culture and traditions with those outside Guatemala.”

With regard to the overarching Schools of the Future project, it has enrolled more than 475 schools with more than 150,000 students. Nearly 3,000 refurbished computers have been installed and instructors have completed more than 22,500 person/days of teacher training and more than 3,600 person/days of parent training.

The solid partner commitments that MINEDUC has garnered in the first phase is progress worth reporting. “The support we’ve received to date guarantees that the initiative will realize its initial goal — creating a benchmark for the value of technology in everyday education,” says Arias.



3G A-List Awards



Ministerio de Educación
Guatemala

The Guatemalan Ministry of Education is a 2007 winner of the 3G A-List Award in the Benefit to Society category.

The 3G A-List Awards recognize the leading builders of successful wireless data solutions based on 3G CDMA (CDMA2000 1X, UMTS/HSPA, and EV-DO) technology. **To learn more about the A-List, please visit www.3galist.com**

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

The A-List also recognizes supporting partners for their enabling role in assisting with these wireless data deployments.

TELGUA



que tienes más



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA