



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO EN DEMOCRACIA, PAZ Y SEGURIDAD (IUDPAS),
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTÓNOMA DE HONDURAS**

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Agency: Instituto Universitario en Democracia, Paz y Seguridad (IUDPAS), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras
Sector: Civil Society
Project Title: Coexistence in Schools: Towards a Peace Culture
Location: Central District (Tegucigalpa and Comayagüela), Honduras

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project seeks to develop and implement primary prevention programs in four schools in the Central District of Honduras to help strengthen students' skills in and knowledge of coexistence and conflict resolution. Since behaviors are learned and transferred during childhood and adolescence, schools represent an important locus of activity for transforming young people's attitudes, especially in countries that face chronic violence, such as Honduras.

The proposed intervention will develop and implement a training program for eighth graders in four schools with the goal of modifying practices that usually produce violent interactions. The trainings will promote social relationships based on respect, equality, equity and trust. The intervention will use a randomized controlled trial (RCT) methodology to identify the effects of the project on students' attitudes, involvement in disciplinary incidents, and involvement in violent acts within schools.

3. IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Instituto Universitario en *Democracia*, Paz y Seguridad, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras (IUDPAS) [University Institute on Democracy, Peace, and Security of the National Autonomous University of Honduras] will implement this project. IUDPAS has a long history of research and advocacy on issues of peace and security, which includes studies on violence within schools. Specifically, IUDPAS has a highly trained technical and management team with specialties in violence prevention, criminology with a medical forensic approach, citizen security, data quality, surveys, and a culture of peace, among other areas. The IUDPAS Violence Observatory is the only such institution in Latin America that collects data at the national level and is based in a university. In 2015, IUDPAS won the UNAH Scientific Research Award.



4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. PUBLIC POLICY PROBLEM

The problem of violence against Honduran children and adolescents represents a serious threat to citizen security and coexistence. According to data from the National Observatory on Violence of the IUDPAS, 1,859 homicides of minors took place between 2012 and 2015, with 85.2% of victims aged between 12 and 17 years. From 2010 to March 2016, there were 1,183 recorded student homicides, of which 624 were high school students. Insecurity also permeates interactions within the country's educational centers: a 2010 survey conducted by IUDPAS in two schools in the Central District revealed that 71% of students observed fights during the prior month. The problem of school violence poses a challenge not only to the physical integrity of the students, but also to effective learning, since anxiety caused by violent situations tends to negatively affect academic and emotional development.

Although the state of Honduras, in cooperation with civil society, has carried out interventions to prevent school violence, few interventions have been rigorously evaluated. To respond to this lack of evidence, this intervention will use a randomized control trial (RCT).

B. PUBLIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

To address the problems identified in the previous section, IUDPAS proposes an intervention with the following strategic objectives:

1. Lower rates of infractions and levels of violence within schools.
2. Increase the ability of students to use peaceful methods to solve problems, inside and outside of their schools

C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The program will be implemented and evaluated using a randomized controlled trial methodology (RCT). The intervention will be assigned randomly to sections of classes within the four educational centers that will participate in the project. The team will use a list of all eighth grade sections and select a random set to receive the intervention.

Activities associated with the program include:

1. **Content development:** the training modules will focus on issues of coexistence, a culture of peace, and conflict resolution.
2. **Training implementation:** the modules will be implemented in six sections in each of the four education centers that will participate in this project. Each module will have a duration of six hours, and each section in the treatment group will receive a total of five training modules.

D. EXPECTED RESULTS

The program evaluation plan will measure changes in student behavior and attitudes toward violence at two levels of analysis. The first will be at the student level, through a survey



administered in schools using experimental methods to obtain reliable answers to sensitive questions ("list experiments"). The second will be at the level of sections within educational centers, through administrative data, to identify differences between sections that will receive the treatment and those that will not receive it.

Student-level results:

1. Improve student coexistence.
2. Encourage the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the student environment.
3. Improve the perception of coexistence within schools.

Section-level results in education centers:

1. To reduce rates of infractions committed by students within the educational centers where the intervention was administered.
2. Reduce cases of violence among students within schools where the intervention was administered.

E. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

The project’s main challenge is the abridged implementation schedule for the intervention, due to the general elections in Honduras this November. This means that the student training would have to be implemented within five weeks (throughout September and the first week of October) and the endlin survey, to assess knowledge retention, could not be applied until February 2018. To mitigate this problem, the training will be administered by Young University Volunteers (*Jóvenes Universitarios Voluntarios*), who have already been trained in the relevant topics. In addition, IUDPAS relies a technical team with extensive surveying experience. Both capabilities will substantially streamline the implementation timeline.

F. PRELIMINARY TIMELINE

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Presentation of the project to the Secretary of State in the Office of Education					X	X	X	
Selection of schools					X	X	X	
Selection and contracting of trainers					X	X	X	
Development of training modules					X	X	X	
Baseline development					X	X	X	
Student training					X	X	X	
Monitoring and follow-up					X	X	X	
Evaluation					X	X	X	
Second session of the Academy for Security Analysis					X	X		
Preliminary analysis of data					X	X		
Note: X indicates months in which schools in Honduras are closed due to general elections and vacations.								



G. BUDGET

Item	Project costs		Cost sharing		Grand total
		JJ for IUDPAS	IUDPAS	Other	
<i>Personnel</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Travel</i>	\$	1,286	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,286
<i>Equipment</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Supplies</i>	\$	28,456	\$ 371	\$ -	\$ 28,827
<i>Contractual</i>	\$	25,259	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,259
<i>Other</i>	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Direct Charges	\$	55,000	\$ 371	\$ -	\$ 55,371
Indirect Charges	\$	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$	55,000	\$ 371	\$ -	\$ 55,371

