

## SUMMARY

Our vision is for every child to experience life in all its fullness, thriving at home, school, and in their community. As children grow, we want to see them empowered to give back to their families and communities. That’s why World Vision launched the Reaching Independence through Support and Empowerment (RISE) program in fiscal year 2024.

The lives of youth and adolescents in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador have been marked by poverty, violence, and a lack of opportunity. However, RISE is empowering these young people to overcome their challenges. Using the previous Youth Ready program as its basis, RISE aims to equip young people with the skills, training, and experience needed to thrive in life and work.

We have begun training facilitators in the Youth Ready component of RISE and building relationships to lay the foundation for integrating RISE’s new Teen Ready program into local schools

and organizations. One training participant shared, “I feel proud and grateful to be part of RISE. Working with talented young people fills me with joy and satisfaction.”

RISE staff also started supporting 178 youth who participated in Youth Ready under the previous program, connecting them to professional opportunities and academic services. So far, 71 youth have been placed in jobs, 60 have started businesses, and 47 are continuing their education.

In all three countries, we are developing key partnerships with local organizations, churches, schools, and businesses to strengthen the RISE program and ensure its sustainability in the future.

Because of your support, we can give every child what they deserve as they step into adulthood: the confidence to navigate life, the opportunity to flourish, and a chance to make a positive impact on their families and communities.



*“I did not know anything about RISE. I had heard that they gave courses and trainings, but I didn’t know how impactful it would be in my life. I now define myself as a persevering person, and just like all the young people who are being educated and who have dreams and goals, we will achieve them.”*

—Anderson Anael Segura Valladares, 27

## PROGRESS TO DATE (FY24)

**75,454** PEOPLE, INCLUDING 51,321 CHILDREN AND YOUTH have been empowered with education, life skills, job training, and meaningful employment since October 2022.



**2,089**

youth enrolled in RISE in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

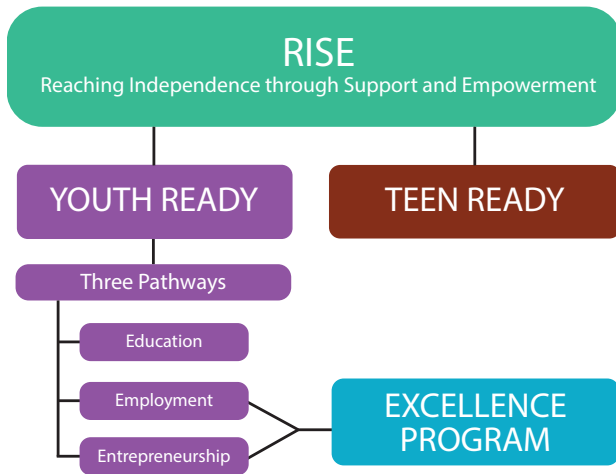


**178**

youth who participated in Youth Ready under the previous program are being supported in their education, employment, and entrepreneurship pathways. More than 70 participants were placed in jobs, 60 started their own business, and 47 are continuing their education.

## EXPANDING OUR REACH

With the launch of the RISE program, youth in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador are being empowered with work readiness, life skills, mentoring, school programs, education, job training, and meaningful employment. Interventions include Youth Ready and Teen Ready, and the Excellence Program, which is launching in 2025.



### Teen Ready

Developed by World Vision staff, Teen Ready aims to empower adolescents ages 12–17 to continue their education and develop the skills they need to succeed in their future. In FY24—through a joint, comprehensive effort of the entire RISE team—the innovative Teen Ready curriculum has been designed, approved, and validated. Over the past six months, the RISE staff have identified mentors and built relationships with schools, churches, and other organizations that will partner with World Vision to launch Teen Ready. Mentors and facilitators from our new partners will receive training in April and May and begin implementing the curriculum in May and June. By the end of Year 1, Teen Ready will reach 450 Honduran adolescents. In addition to completing the curriculum, RISE staff have written an initial draft of the Teen Ready incentive program designed to motivate, recognize, and encourage the commitment of the participating youth.

### Youth Ready

Through the RISE program, Youth Ready will continue to prepare young people with essential skills for workplace and personal success. To expand the impact and ensure the sustainability of the program, RISE staff have secured

partnerships with Pathway to the Future, FUNÁZUCAR, Children International, the mayor’s office of El Progreso, and the mayor’s office of Jutiapa, as well as five churches in the Central District of Honduras. Each partner has committed to starting Youth Ready this year. Nearly 40 facilitators (85% women) were trained in the Youth Ready methodology, exceeding our goal for Q3 by 162.5%. Each person trained was a graduate of Youth Ready, and 35 out of the 39 facilitators have already begun to train other young people.

World Vision dedicates itself to helping the most vulnerable, which is why the RISE staff focused on identifying overlooked youth in Honduras who would benefit the most from participating in Youth Ready: youth being released from prison, youth with disabilities, and youth discharged from the military. RISE staff have developed relationships with the Santa Lucía Penal Center (Municipality of Choluteca) and the Danlí Penal Center (Municipality of Danlí), where Youth Ready has already been presented to those about to be released.

Currently, 786 youth are being trained in Youth Ready and will graduate in May and June of this year. We have also continued to provide support and follow-up to youth who were trained in the previous program. The chart below shows the tracks the previous graduates have chosen.

Number of Youth in Chosen Track	
Chosen Track	Number of Youth
Employment	71
Entrepreneurship	60
Education	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>

### Establishing partnerships for longevity

We know that the success of RISE relies on a foundation of local partners. In Honduras alone, we already have 88 partners, including 71 companies that will create job and internship opportunities for Youth Ready participants. A key component of RISE is also establishing strong partnerships with local churches. So far, five churches have committed to partnering with RISE and provided space to hold the Youth Ready facilitator training.

## RISE REGIONAL EXPANSION

Youth in the Northern Triangle (Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador) struggle to find hope at home. Education and job opportunities are few, and the obstacles to accessing them can feel insurmountable. Poverty is rampant, and the allure of new opportunities elsewhere pushes many young people to migrate, leaving their families behind. For these youth, finding a hope-filled future at home can feel impossible. However, the youth in World Vision's Youth Ready program in Honduras rose above these obstacles, and we knew we needed to provide the same opportunity to youth throughout the region through the launch of RISE. Below is an overview of the progress of RISE in Guatemala and El Salvador in FY24:

**Guatemala:** RISE staff developed a communication and visibility strategy, reaching youth through printed materials, social media, the press, local radio, and TV appearances. We launched Youth Ready in February, with 738 Guatemalan youth enrolled. Despite delays from recent government changes in Guatemala, RISE trained staff from the Ministry of Social Well-Being as Youth Ready facilitators and plans to train 30 Neighborhood Managers from Guatemala City.

RISE is finalizing an agreement with the Ministry of Education for the Teen Ready program and has 10 professional entrepreneurs ready to mentor young entrepreneurs. We are also establishing agreements with the Municipality of Guatemala, allowing RISE access to various agencies and programs that work with youth.

**El Salvador:** RISE staff identified areas with high gang activity and launched Youth Ready in February, enrolling 565 youth. We formed alliances with the Committee to Support Inclusion, MINEDUCyT CODAI, Izalco Church, La Union Outreach Center, and MANORSAN, who will help implement the launch of Teen Ready in May.

Additionally, we partnered with TECOLOCO, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of La Libertad, the Lamarr Project of the European Union, Gerardo Barrios University, IOM, and Lutheran University to support employment and entrepreneurship initiatives. We are also collaborating with UNIVO and CDMYPE UNIVO to refer youth to RISE and aid aspiring entrepreneurs, and the National Industrial Technical Institute is offering training courses for RISE participants.



*Participants of the Youth Ready facilitators training in El Salvador smile with their certificates of completion.*

# STORIES OF HOPE

## VICTORIA'S STORY

Like many youth in Honduras, Victoria faces significant barriers—limited job opportunities, financial struggles, and the challenge of continuing her education. These hardships eroded her confidence in herself and her hope for her future. But RISE is already profoundly impacting Victoria's life, giving her a sense of belonging and the opportunity to support her family and community.

Victoria explained, "I used to be very reserved and shy, but now I let myself be helped. I have never been a person who has a lot of confidence or who can open up and share about the different situations that I have gone through. At RISE, I have learned to trust and believe in people. I discovered who I am. Before, I felt insecure, apart, and rejected, which made me become an impulsive person."

Victoria's family has faced severe economic crises, preventing her from continuing her education. "I do not want to waste time. I would like to find a job so I can support my parents. I am an only child, and it is very difficult to achieve or fulfill dreams because in our country, the limitations are very evident, and there are few opportunities," she shared.

Despite these challenges, RISE has given Victoria hope. "When I leave the project, I see myself leaving with a lot of knowledge in different areas. I want to learn every day from my mistakes, be aware of my actions, and never stay at the level I am. Every day, I tell young people to take the opportunities that are given to them, like the RISE project. I see myself as different: more empathetic, supportive, and ready to go to a job and help others, but also letting them help me."



*After joining RISE in her hometown within the Municipality of Jutiapa, Honduras, 20-year-old Victoria Samira Rodas Antúnez gained confidence in herself and others. "At RISE I have learned to trust and believe in people. I discovered who I am," she said.*

# STORIES OF HOPE (CONTINUED)

## ÁNGEL'S STORY

Ángel Ariel Lagos Salgado, a 19-year-old from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, was once a troubled youth with little control over his emotions. His life began to change when he joined RISE and began to study refrigeration at the Instituto San Juan Bosco.

"Before being part of the project and the institute, I was a young man with many problems. I had no self-control and was very problematic and impulsive," Ángel recalled. The challenges he faced at home and in his community seemed insurmountable, threatening his mental health and future prospects.

But RISE offered Ángel a comprehensive solution, addressing education, employment skills, mental health, and emotional stability. "As a result of receiving this life-skills training, I have learned to manage my emotions, to know myself, and to know that I am a young man with a bright future," Ángel said.

RISE's holistic approach ensures that young people like Ángel receive opportunities and thrive in them. The program fosters values, civic commitment, and essential skills to adapt to new environments.

"I now see myself as a professional person in the field of entrepreneurship, but at the same time as an emotionally stable person, someone who is sure of his own decisions," he said. He dreams of owning a refrigeration business, succeeding, and repaying his family for their sacrifices. Grateful for the second chance given by RISE, Ángel is determined to make the most of his training and to become an inspiration for others.



## PROJECT-TO-DATE SPENDING

Project spending from October 2023 through March 2024

Summary	Project-to-Date Spending	Project-to-Date Budget	Project-to-Date Spending Rate
Total WVUS Private Funding Spending	\$ 780,126	\$ 2,696,401	29%

## THANK YOU

May God richly bless you for investing in the future of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Your impact is already evident in the words of Ángel: "Thanks to God and this project, I have been given the opportunity to correct my mistakes and change my way of thinking. I will make the most of the time spent training me, demonstrating my desire to succeed. I will be an example for other young people, showing them they can achieve their dreams. Through World Vision and this project, I know we will accomplish great things."



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For more information visit:  
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World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.