

## SUMMARY

In FY24, World Vision launched RISE (Reaching Independence through Support and Empowerment) in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, equipping young people with skills, training, and experience to succeed in life and the workforce. In the first half of the year, staff built a strong foundation by cultivating relationships and partnerships with 237 local organizations, churches, schools, and businesses. By year's end, their efforts yielded tangible results: nearly 5,000 youth joined Teen Ready or Youth Ready programs, and close to 200 facilitators, mentors, and volunteers were trained, expanding outreach and improving implementation.

### Reaching the most vulnerable

World Vision's commitment to serving vulnerable populations is evident in the increasing participation of teens and youth with disabilities across all three countries. In Honduras, the Youth Ready program expanded to include 68 incarcerated youth, providing them

with support to reintegrate into their communities and contribute to their families and society.

### Prioritizing mental health

The Joven Salud (Youth Health) platform provided confidential mental health support to 230 Youth Ready participants. The platform addressed challenges like anxiety, depression, and isolation, creating a safe space for resilience and personal growth while enhancing participants' engagement in the program.

### Partnering with local churches

Church partnerships have been key to RISE's success. In Honduras, five local churches contributed to training programs by providing spiritual guidance and hosting motivational workshops. In El Salvador, churches joined a network of organizations to advocate for youth rights, promote environmental care, and expand RISE's reach across the country, fostering a brighter future for young people in the region.




*"I cannot help but feel a deep gratitude and emotion as I reflect on all that I learned. Youth Ready helped me reconnect with myself, to discover new facets, and to take my first steps in the working world, a challenge that many young people face with uncertainty. I invite all young people who, like me, dream of a better future, to be part of this wonderful initiative.... Because together, we can build a tomorrow full of hope and opportunities."*


—Jennifer Dalsy Hernández  
Padilla, 23, El Salvador,  
Youth Ready graduate

*(Read more success stories on pages 6 and 7)*

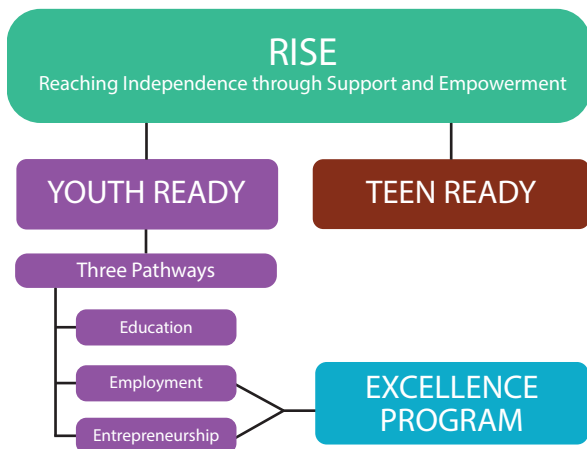
## PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

**94,892** PEOPLE, INCLUDING 55,285 CHILDREN AND YOUTH, have been empowered with education, life skills, job training, and meaningful employment since October 2022.

 **4,793** youth enrolled in RISE programs in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador in FY24.

 **629** Youth Ready graduates secured jobs, internships, or launched their own businesses in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador in FY24.

## RISE PROGRAM PROGRESS



### Teen Ready

Teen Ready is a locally-driven curriculum for adolescents aged 12–17, designed to motivate learning and equip teens with skills to thrive as adults. Developed by regional Youth Ready facilitators, the curriculum helps prevent dropouts and foster growth through art, sports, science, and technology. Teen Ready promotes positive identity, social integration, vocational discovery, and a sense of purpose. The four modules—Health and Wellbeing, Transcend and Transform, Entrepreneurial Culture, and Active Citizenship—instill values like peace, responsibility, diversity, and justice. Delivered in schools and youth organizations, the program receives coaching and mentoring support from World Vision for impactful implementation.

The Ministries of Education in Honduras and Guatemala have shown interest in adding Teen Ready to the national curriculum, aiming to expand its impact across both countries. We encourage you to join us as we pray for the ongoing discussions.

Teen Ready is already yielding promising outcomes. The World Vision team in Guatemala observed that Teen Ready could serve as a strong foundation for adolescents transitioning into Youth Ready, helping them build essential life skills and cultivate personal growth. They also highlighted potential benefits in linking the two programs, with Teen Ready providing the groundwork for Youth Ready's focus on livelihoods and further development. School principals echoed this perspective, emphasizing the value of offering a seamless progression

between the two programs to support ongoing engagement and development for teens.

### Youth Ready

Youth Ready equips youth ages 15 to 29 with essential skills for success in work and life. After completing the initial training, participants choose one of three pathways: education, entrepreneurship, or employment.

Youth Ready exceeded its target of 2,071 participants, reaching over 2,500—121% of its goal. The program equips young people with job readiness training and tailored support for life and workplace challenges. So far, 671 youth stayed in or returned to school, 253 secured jobs, 171 gained internships, and 318 launched businesses. Others remain on their pathways, actively receiving project support to achieve their goals.

In Honduras and Guatemala, Youth Ready participants demonstrated their commitment to community development through impactful projects. In Honduras, youth enacted 40 initiatives, focusing on fostering a culture of peace through educational talks on protection and anti-bullying, as well as organizing sports activities to create safe and inclusive spaces. A notable project raised awareness about inclusion and disability rights among local businesses. In Guatemala, participants designed and executed 22 community projects, including food delivery to 220 individuals experiencing homelessness and talks on children's rights for 90 children. Across both countries, youth demonstrated leadership, resourcefulness, and collaboration with partners to drive change.

### Upcoming plans

In FY25, World Vision will launch the Excellence Program in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador to provide advanced skills to 400 exceptional Youth Ready graduates. In Honduras, plans include expanding Teen Ready to more schools and launching a digital platform. In El Salvador, efforts will focus on building a teacher and volunteer network, strengthening support for sustainable businesses, and conducting a nationwide enrollment campaign along with training-of-trainer workshops for both Teen Ready and Youth Ready methodologies.

# GUATEMALA

## SUMMARY

In its first year, RISE exceeded expectations in Guatemala, with 945 youth (158% of target) from 19 schools joining Teen Ready and 790 (105% of target) participating in Youth Ready. Participants included 60 youth with disabilities and 110 from the Mayan ethnic group, reflecting our commitment to inclusion and support for marginalized communities.

### Key partnerships

RISE's success is due in part to the resilience of WV staff, who secured agreements in Guatemala with four key partners: the Municipality of Guatemala, TECOLOCO, IGER, and Fundación Azteca. Teacher training for Teen Ready is in progress, equipping 50 teachers in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to meet expected demand.

### Teen Ready

We successfully adapted the Teen Ready program in Guatemala by training facilitators to lead activities, overcoming initial challenges with the Ministry of Education agreement. Participants created personal development plans, tracked their progress in notebooks, and earned stamps redeemable for school supplies. Education boards are now committed to expanding the program

nationwide, with increasing interest from principals and teachers for the 2025 school year.

### Youth Ready

Our communication strategy at the start of FY24 drew over 900 youth to the Youth Ready program, with 790 completing the course and earning Ministry of Education-approved diplomas. Graduation ceremonies, attended by officials, educators, and families, celebrated their achievements.

Graduates pursued three pathways: entrepreneurship (198), employment (197), and education (395). Participants received tailored support, including financial education workshops, interview preparation, and job fairs for the employment pathway. Entrepreneurship participants joined the Elevate Forum to refine business ideas, with 106 competing in "The Great Pitch" for seed funding. Education pathway participants received cash advances for alternative education or technical classes and INTECAP support for skills assessments and course selection.

To date, 11 graduates have secured jobs, 34 are in internships, 106 have started businesses, and 343 have continued their education.



Nataly Johana Colop, 18, from Quetzaltenango, has overcome significant challenges to pursue her dreams. Despite financial struggles and no support from her parents, she worked to fund her studies and is set to graduate as a Certified Accountant with a focus on Computer Science. Nataly joined World Vision's Youth Ready program, where "the workshops were very informative, full of creativity and enthusiasm." She gained confidence and teamwork skills, saying, "They made me reflect on my way of acting and thinking." Her goals are clear: "To get a job, support my family, continue my studies at the university, and contribute to society through good deeds."

## PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

945 adolescents (ages 12-17) participated in Teen Ready



790 youth (ages 15-29) graduated from Youth Ready



# HONDURAS

## SUMMARY

In Honduras, RISE achieved significant milestones by piloting Teen Ready and expanding Youth Ready to include incarcerated youth nearing reintegration into their communities.

### Teen Ready

In FY24, 16 teachers trained in the Teen Ready methodology taught 533 students (including 26 youth with disabilities) aged 12-17 across 12 middle schools nationwide. The methodology is currently undergoing validation by the Honduran Ministry of Education, with ongoing discussions to incorporate it into the national curriculum. This move aims to broaden coverage and maximize impact.

### Youth Ready

A total of 1,098 youth completed the Youth Ready curriculum, including 44 with disabilities and 69 from diverse ethnic groups. Additionally, 68 incarcerated youth transformed their lives through a comprehensive approach offering positive opportunities and a vision for a future free from harmful influences. Each graduate pursued one of three pathways: entrepreneurship, employment, or education. In the employment pathway, 155 youth received job placement assistance, resulting in 136 internships

and 43 jobs. In the education pathway, 128 youth reentered formal and non-formal education systems through partnerships with schools, universities, and vocational training centers. Support included tuition, education kits, and scholarships, such as 35 full scholarships from CEUTEC University for technical programs, each valued at \$5,825.

In the entrepreneurship pathway, 158 youth launched ventures in commerce, production, and services. Through the Emprendemia Initiative, participants received training and support to create innovative projects that drive social and economic development in their communities, highlighting entrepreneurship as a catalyst for progress and community engagement.

### Key partnerships

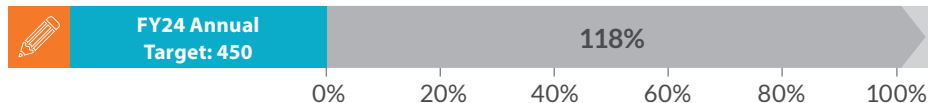
RISE has garnered the support of key partners in Honduras like Pathway to the Future, FUNÁZUCAR, Children International, and municipal governments in El Progreso, Jutiapa, and Danlí. These partners are committed to replicating the Youth Ready methodology, enhancing skills for youth aged 15-29, and further empowering them as agents of change in their families and communities.



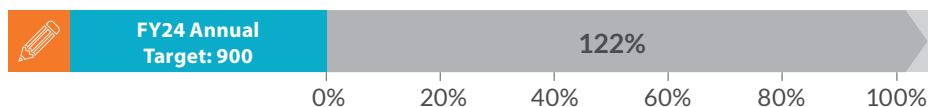
*Jennifer Jackeline Valle Espinal, from Danlí, lives with osteogenesis imperfecta, or “crystal bones,” and once struggled with fear and self-doubt. “Because of this disability, I’m afraid to be among many people,” she shared, adding that public speaking was her greatest challenge. After joining Youth Ready, Jennifer gained confidence and learned to interact with people of various abilities. “Youth Ready taught me how to communicate with others, something I didn’t know before.” Now, she dreams of entrepreneurship and inspiring others: “If I was able to do it with a disability, I know many others can, too. There is no obstacle we cannot overcome.”*

## PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

533 adolescents (ages 12-17) participated in Teen Ready



1,098 youth (ages 15-29) graduated from Youth Ready



# EL SALVADOR

## SUMMARY

Despite political challenges, extreme weather, and the need for specialized services, RISE in El Salvador has made significant progress in equipping youth with the skills and opportunities to build brighter futures. By implementing the Teen Ready and Youth Ready methodologies, RISE has enhanced social competencies, supported life planning, and forged key partnerships to ensure sustainable impact.

### Teen Ready

In El Salvador's pilot Teen Ready program, 831 youth across six schools participated in the western and eastern regions. The program helped participants improve social skills and develop visions for their personal growth and life plans.

### Youth Ready

Political elections initially posed challenges to enrolling participants in Youth Ready. Nevertheless, outreach efforts and local partnerships enabled 616 youth, including 21 individuals with disabilities, to complete the program. In the employment pathway, 206 participants pursued job opportunities, with 87 successfully securing positions in fields such as customer service and automotive

mechanics. Others continue to access training and placement opportunities through the RISE network. For those pursuing entrepreneurship, 148 youth received business training, and 54 launched ventures in industries such as food production and textiles, supported by seed capital. These participants also benefited from mentorship provided through the RISE Entrepreneurs Network. Among those in the education pathway, 262 youth resumed their studies with support from the Naranja Student Network, which connected them to scholarships, courses, and volunteer opportunities to foster academic and professional growth.

### Key partnerships

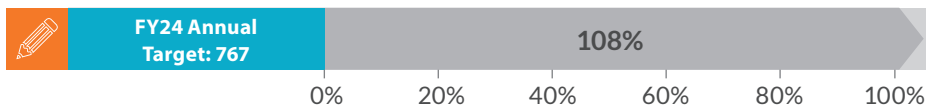
In FY24, RISE partnered with 60 organizations and established geographically organized networks of mentors and allies, including schools, NGOs, churches, and government entities. These partnerships, along with Youth Ready's success, have expanded World Vision's national presence, amplifying our reach and impact.



*Enmanuel Galileo Gómez Araujo, 23, from El Triunfo, Usulután, dreamed of opening Galileo's Bakery. His passion for baking began during a local workshop, where he discovered that "baking bread and pastries lets you put your creativity into practice. You do it with love and passion." Encouraged by family and friends, Enmanuel joined the RISE project, which gave him knowledge and seed capital to purchase an oven and start baking gourmet artisan bread. He now inspires young people, saying, "Your process will be the testimony that will affirm that for God nothing is impossible."*

## PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

831 adolescents (ages 12-17) participated in Teen Ready



616 youth (ages 15-29) graduated from Youth Ready



# STORIES OF HOPE

## WILLIAM'S STORY

William Samuel Álvarez Iscano, one of the 60 young people trained in RISE programs at the National Penitentiary in Danlí, Honduras, is transforming his life. William reflects on his journey: "I was a hard-working young man. I had friends and lived with my parents, but I was using drugs, alcohol, and even had legal weapons. That led me to make a mistake that changed my life."

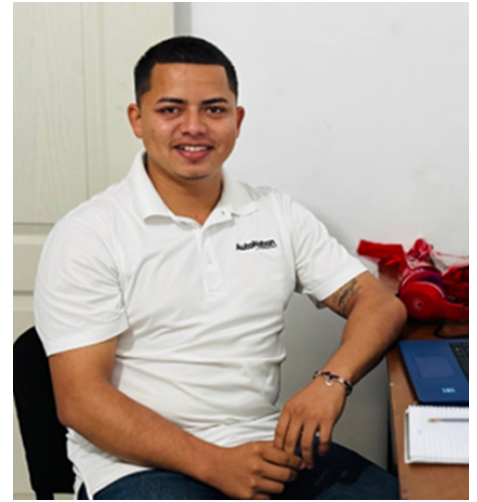
Now, after completing World Vision's Youth Ready program, William embraces a new mindset. "I told you about the William of the past; now I want you to meet the William of today, with a fresh mindset and ready to reintegrate into society after serving his sentence."

RISE helped him discover his potential and break down barriers. "These talks have helped us to identify ourselves, to discover who we are. Maybe we never thought about it because we were on drugs or on the streets. But when Youth Ready started, it was totally different, and my life changed."

For William, one significant moment came during his graduation. "Many of us hadn't had the opportunity to wear a gown, but that day we did. It fills me with happiness that my father was present at one of my achievements because, when I was at liberty (before being incarcerated), he couldn't be at any of them."

Today, William is studying electronic engineering at a private university, funding his education through handicrafts. "Imagine that you have the opportunity to do whatever you want. Even if you are locked up and think you can't do anything, I am studying and paying for my career. Imagine what you can do."

To others, William says, "Don't waste your life. Rejoice, seek God, and ask for help. No matter where you are, He will be with you."



*Before joining RISE, William was trapped in a cycle of drugs, alcohol, and poor choices. But after completing the program, he embraced a new mindset, studying electronic engineering and inspiring others with his story.*

*"Even if you are locked up and think you can't do anything, I am studying and paying for my career. Imagine what you can do," said William.*

# STORIES OF HOPE (CONTINUED)

## MAGALY'S STORY

At just 21 years old, Elida Magaly Pirir Ajin from Guatemala is chasing her entrepreneurial ambitions with unwavering determination. "I have found my passion for entrepreneurship, and I am on the way to turn my dreams into reality," she says. Magaly grew up in a close-knit family, supported by her parents despite economic challenges. "We have faced difficulties such as unstable income, limited job opportunities, and medical emergencies, but I have always counted on the strength of my family to overcome them," she shares. This resilience shaped her optimism and determination.

A dedicated student, Magaly excelled in school and is now studying criminology and criminalistics at a public university. Seeking opportunities for growth, she joined World Vision's Youth Ready program. "One day, I saw a publication about Youth Ready, which caught my attention. I decided to sign up, and from that moment on, my life changed," she says. The program helped Magaly discover her entrepreneurial potential, leading her to start Comedor y Refacciones KUXTAL (KUXTAL Diner and Snacks). "Through this project, I want to highlight Guatemalan traditions while offering meals and snacks to my community. My goal is not only to generate income but also to make a positive impact on my surroundings."

Winning seed capital in Youth Ready's Pitch Competition allowed Magaly to grow her business. Her inspiring story was even featured on local TV, where she encouraged others to pursue their dreams. Magaly now envisions opening multiple locations to showcase traditional Guatemalan cuisine. "World Vision marked a before and after in my life, giving me the tools to see beyond limitations and visualize a future full of possibilities and success," she says.



## PROGRAM-TO-DATE SPENDING

Program spending from October 2023 through September 2024

Summary	Program-to-Date Spending	Program-to-Date Budget	Program-to-Date Spending Rate
Total WWUS Private Funding Spending	\$ 2,513,809	\$ 2,696,401	93%

## THANK YOU

Thank you for investing in the lives of youth in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Partners like you are helping provide them with the confidence to navigate life, the opportunity to flourish, and a chance to make a positive impact on their families and communities. Join us in praying for the continued expansion of RISE across the region and the implementation of the Excellence Program that will allow exceptional Youth Ready graduates to take their work and skills to the next level. We know that, together with your help, these youth can overcome every challenge and pursue a future of hope at home.



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[worldvisionphilanthropy.org/education](http://worldvisionphilanthropy.org/education)



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