



## **EDUCATION** | Education Fund: RISE

### **Progress Report**

October 2024–March 2025

## SUMMARY

Across El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, a quiet transformation is unfolding. In classrooms, community centers, and small businesses, young people are rewriting their stories—thanks to World Vision’s RISE (Reaching Independence through Support and Empowerment) program. In the first half of fiscal year 2025, more than 5,700 youth gained life skills, job training, and access to education and employment through RISE’s Teen Ready and Youth Ready. With support from churches, schools, businesses, local governments, and nearly 400 trained mentors and facilitators, RISE is turning potential into purpose and creating lasting change.

### Youth earning, leading, giving back

So far in FY25, hundreds of youth secured jobs or launched businesses. In Honduras, graduates led health fairs and cleanup campaigns that improved public spaces and reduced illness. Others used seed capital to start food and retail businesses. In El Salvador, young mothers launched ventures in agriculture and food production. Youth employed in call centers and government agencies are supporting their families—some completing training on weekends with employer

support. Through RISE, youth are meeting urgent needs, contributing to the health and resilience of their communities, and improving their own economic outlook.

### Supporting the whole person

RISE nurtures spiritual and emotional well-being alongside economic opportunity. In El Salvador, 145 youth were referred to an online mental health platform, and Teen Ready participants explored emotional health and relationships. In Guatemala, a Women’s Day event addressed self-esteem and violence against women and girls. RISE also supported 57 youth with disabilities by adapting training and creating inclusive spaces. Churches and faith leaders—many trained as RISE facilitators—offer spiritual support and a trusted presence that helps youth grow in confidence and purpose.

### Building local ownership

RISE partners with local actors at every level. Ministries of education are integrating Teen Ready into schools. Churches, schools, and businesses train, mentor, and employ youth. This deep community investment makes the program effective and sustainable.



*“Before learning about the RISE Project, I felt small, with a limited mindset ... thanks to what I learned, my vision expanded enormously. ... Today, I feel very happy and grateful to God and to World Vision because, thanks to them, I am no longer just looking for a job, but now I am creating jobs. ... I always knew I was capable, but I never thought I would achieve it so young.”*

*—Jonathan, 22, Honduras,  
Youth Ready graduate*

## GLOBAL UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

# 121,613

**PEOPLE, INCLUDING 74,493 CHILDREN AND YOUTH** have been empowered with education, life skills, job training, and meaningful employment since October 2022.



## 3,866

adolescents aged 12–17 participated in Teen Ready in the first half of FY25 in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.



## 1,919

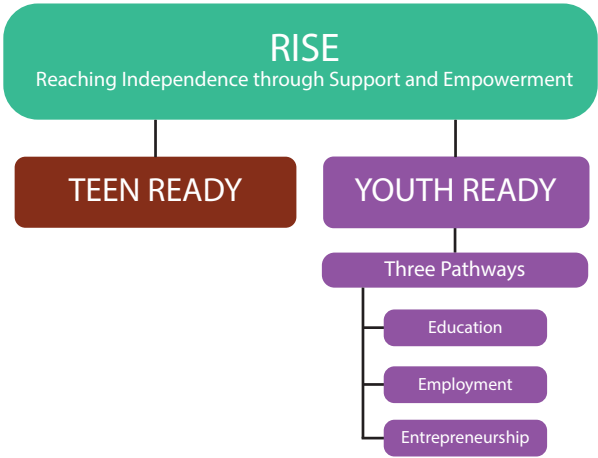
youth aged 15–29 graduated from Youth Ready in the first half of FY25 equipped with practical skills for life, work, and leadership.



## 913

Youth Ready graduates found jobs, participated in internships, started their own businesses, or continued their education in the first half of FY25.

RISE PROGRAM PROGRESS



Teen Ready: Developing resilience, identity, and civic responsibility in adolescents ages 12–17

In the first half of FY25, 3,866 adolescents in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras participated in Teen Ready. The program builds life skills that help youth stay in school and avoid risks like violence, gangs, and school dropout.

In El Salvador, 1,094 students developed personal growth plans, and the Teen Ready curriculum is now embedded in public schools. In Guatemala, 1,574 students participated through 11 schools, supported by 62 trained teachers and 134 facilitators. In Honduras, the Ministry of Education is scaling Teen Ready nationally through the Súper Pilas initiative, with a target of 10,000 students and 630 teachers.

With strong uptake in classrooms, local training networks, and national education systems, Teen Ready is gaining momentum as an innovative model for early intervention and adolescent development.

Youth Ready: Equipping young adults ages 15–29 with practical skills for life, work, and leadership

In the first half of FY25, 1,919 young people across El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras advanced through Youth Ready, gaining practical tools to pursue employment, education, or entrepreneurship.

Employment was the strongest outcome this period, as hundreds of participants secured jobs in sectors such as customer service, retail, logistics, and government—many through direct placement with employers.

Others are continuing technical training through national vocational institutes and employer-linked programs. At the same time, 194 youth launched small enterprises—124 in Honduras, 52 in El Salvador, and 18 in Guatemala. These businesses were supported by entrepreneurship coaching, seed capital, and partnerships with cooperatives, universities, and business incubators that provide hands-on training, mentoring, and market access. Education remained a key pathway for 218 youth, who graduated from technical or academic studies, supported with school supplies, scholarships, and flexible scheduling.

With help from Youth Ready, young adults are preparing to earn income, support their families, and strengthen their communities through leadership and meaningful participation in the economy.

Upcoming plans

In FY25, RISE will expand into high-vulnerability areas impacted by violence, displacement, and economic hardship. We will work with schools, churches, and local partners to reach youth most at risk of school dropout, migration, or recruitment into violence. Virtual sessions will support both youth and mentors with training in mental health, leadership, violence prevention, and the empowerment of young women and girls. To reduce participation barriers, World Vision will continue mobilizing practical resources like school kits, transportation support, and learning materials.

The focus remains clear: equipping vulnerable youth not only to persevere, but to thrive—and lead change in their families, schools, and communities.



# GUATEMALA

## SUMMARY

In the first half of FY25, RISE advanced in Guatemala, where only 1 in 10 youth entering the labor market finds a job. High dropout rates, limited training, and scarce opportunities—especially for girls and rural youth—widen the gap. RISE is closing it. So far, 1,574 adolescents have completed Teen Ready, and 115 youth have graduated from Youth Ready, with 967 more in training. The team is adapting in real time by adjusting timelines, expanding facilitator networks, and strengthening ties with schools, municipalities, and national youth agencies.

### Teen Ready

So far in FY25, Teen Ready has reached 1,574 adolescents across 11 public schools in Guatemala City, where 62 teachers led sessions on identity, emotional resilience, and life planning. To expand the program’s reach, World Vision trained 134 new facilitators who are now preparing to engage nearly 3,000 additional youth. Guatemala Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) departmental supervisors are now evaluating the program for national integration. The facilitator model, active in both schools and churches, is expanding reach and building local ownership.

### Youth Ready

Youth Ready participants are turning training into results. So far in FY25, 37 youth secured jobs through technical courses and job placement support or launched small businesses through tailored entrepreneurship training. Six returned to school with scholarships. Instructors trained in the Youth Ready methodology—including those from the Municipality of Guatemala’s technical-productive training program—are now delivering the curriculum.

### Key partnerships

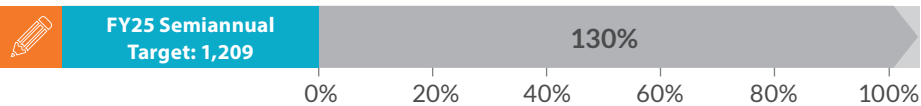
RISE deepened collaboration with technical institutes, municipal youth offices, and national agencies such as CONJUVE (National Youth Council) and SECCATID (Executive Secretariat for Drug and Addiction Prevention). In Quetzaltenango, youth joined advocacy roundtables with local officials. At the launch of TUChan, a national digital platform for youth employment and entrepreneurship, 160 stakeholders explored ways to partner. World Vision also launched its first Guatemala-based youth network, where 25 graduates now serve as advocates and peer mentors in high-need communities such as San Carlos Sija and Cabricán.



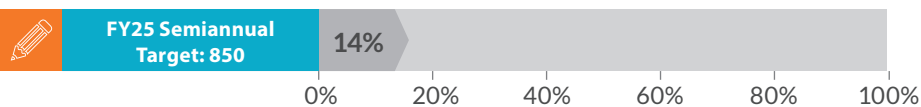
*Carolina faced deep personal loss after her father died and she lost her only source of income. “Before participating in the Youth Ready program, my life was meaningless and I was just surviving,” she said. When RISE arrived in her community in Guatemala, she took a chance. “For me, it was a small light in my tunnel of darkness.” Through Youth Ready, she found her voice and purpose: “All opinions were valid, and that encouraged me to participate more.” Carolina later became a facilitator, helping others grow. “Now I know what I am capable of achieving and that God’s purposes for each young person are special and different.”*

## PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

1,574 adolescents (ages 12–17) participated in Teen Ready



115 youth (ages 15–29) participated in Youth Ready



# HONDURAS

## SUMMARY

As economic instability and migration continue to displace opportunity, RISE is delivering targeted support to youth in Honduras' most high-risk communities. In the first half of FY25, nearly 2,200 youth participated in Teen Ready and Youth Ready. By integrating into national systems and aligning with employer needs, the program is building durable pathways to employment, entrepreneurship, and education, while adapting to insecurity, extortion risks, and limited access to safe training spaces.

### Teen Ready

Teen Ready expanded nationwide in FY25 through the Ministry of Education's Súper Pilas program, which aims to reach 10,000 students in 90 schools across 10 departments. In the first semester, 1,198 adolescents (539 girls, 659 boys) participated in life-skills training, reaching 92% of the target. World Vision trained 155 mentors through six TOM (Training of Mentors) workshops and is leading efforts to integrate Teen Ready into the public school system. RISE and SEDUC (Honduras' Ministry of Education) are advancing curriculum pilots and teacher certification together.

### Youth Ready

So far in FY25, 957 youth have graduated from Youth Ready. Of these, 410 either secured jobs, launched businesses, or returned to school. Another 519 remain in training. A total of 410 youth developed a business plan, with 43 receiving seed capital grants and many partnering with financial cooperatives and local governments. They also led 50 community improvement projects. Despite challenges like insecurity and extortion, RISE adapts by working with trusted institutions including INFOP (National Institute for Vocational Training), IHER (Honduran Institute for Radio Education), and the Red Cross.

### Key partnerships

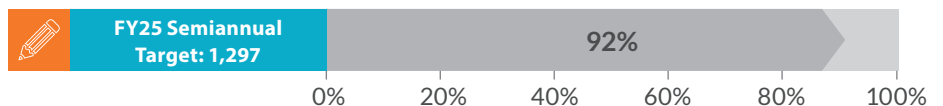
RISE deepened partnerships with INFOP, IHER, CEUTEC (a private technical university), and SEDUC, as well as local governments in Comayagua, Siguatepeque, and Danlí. Youth connected with employers like Fundación Terra, DIUNSA, and TIGO. Through collaboration with 89 companies via the Cortés Chamber of Commerce, RISE is aligning training with labor market needs—giving youth real alternatives to migrating and the opportunity to work and stay at home.



Professor Trinidad of José María Casco Basic Center in Tegucigalpa says Teen Ready has sparked a remarkable transformation in his students. “At first, they were shy, defiant and disruptive—damaging furniture and showing no respect for authority,” he recalled. “But thanks to Teen Ready, we now have bright, lively young people who are developing confidence, respect, and high expectations for their futures.” The program’s focus on life skills and entrepreneurship is helping these students envision new possibilities. “I’m very satisfied with what the youth have achieved, and I believe they will go on to make a positive mark on their communities and generations to come.”

## PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

1,198 adolescents (ages 12–17) participated in Teen Ready



957 youth (ages 15–29) participated in Youth Ready



# EL SALVADOR

## SUMMARY

In El Salvador, where minimum wages often fall short of household costs, RISE is helping youth turn potential into income. In the first half of FY25, participants didn't just train—they got hired in call centers and public institutions, launched businesses, and returned to school with scholarships. From young mothers to first-time workers, RISE youth are stabilizing families and strengthening local economies. With 69 job placements and 52 youth-led businesses already operating, the program shows young people are economic drivers, even in challenging conditions.

### Teen Ready

In the first half of FY25, Teen Ready reached 1,094 adolescents (657 girls, 437 boys) in 36 schools across central, western, and eastern El Salvador, exceeding its target by 35%. Teens created personal growth plans and led projects like anti-dengue campaigns and community children's events. The Cuscatlán Department of Education helped embed the curriculum into subjects such as civics and religion. Sessions on emotional health, anxiety, and relationships created trusted spaces, especially for 25 participants with disabilities.

### Youth Ready

In the first half of FY25, 847 youth (450 men, 397 women) participated in Youth Ready. Many secured jobs, often in mid-training, through partnerships with logistics firms, call centers, and public institutions. Others launched ventures in food, agriculture, and services, backed by seed capital and incubators such as UNIVO and FGK. In the education pathway, 114 returned or continued their studies, supported by school kits and scholarships in broadcasting, plastics manufacturing, and IT. Notably, 80% of new businesses were led by young women.

### Key partnerships

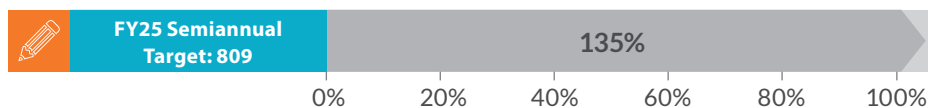
El Salvador's momentum is driven by partners delivering tangible results. Employers such as ONE DOLLAR hired youth through its "Employability Seedbed," while Tecoloco and E4CC equipped them with guidance on financial services, training in office automation, languages, and appropriate job interview skills. Universities including UCA, UPAN, and UGB opened doors to internships and higher education. A national training effort certified 91 trainers, extending RISE into schools, churches, and community spaces.



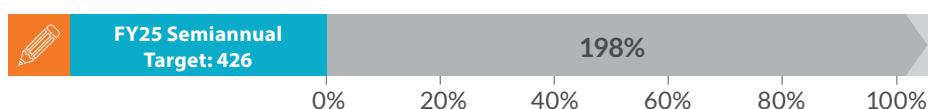
Daniel, a law student and entrepreneur from El Salvador, found new direction through Youth Ready. “By living the methodology, I have been able to overcome insecurities, face fears, and rediscover my true potential,” he said. The program helped him break through mental barriers and build confidence. “Being part of the RISE project is like starting a new chapter in my life.” Now a volunteer, Daniel gives back with gratitude. “Youth Ready provides you with tools for life,” he shared. With faith, effort and support, he’s pursuing his dreams: “Today, I look at the world with renewed eyes and am guided by a vision.”

## PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

1,094 adolescents (ages 12–17) participated in Teen Ready



847 youth (ages 15–29) participated in Youth Ready



# STORIES OF HOPE

## HEYDI'S STORY

Heydi, 26, from El Rodeo, Comayagua, Honduras, grew up in a household shaped by resilience. After her father abandoned the family when she was just 11, her mother became both provider and caregiver, working tirelessly as a domestic worker to support Heydi and her two brothers.

Despite graduating high school in 2021, Heydi's dreams of continuing her education were put on hold due to financial hardship. "At that time, I felt frustrated and unmotivated because I couldn't achieve my goals or dreams. I didn't feel useful or productive," she recalls.

Everything began to change when she heard about World Vision's RISE program. Initially skeptical, she joined at the encouragement of a friend. "When I started the training, I felt nervous, but little by little I lost my fear. I met many new people and learned important things." The program introduced her to practical skills like public speaking, teamwork, résumé writing, and interview preparation—tools that would soon open new doors.

Through RISE, Heydi secured an internship at a medical clinic. "It was a wonderful experience. I was happy because I was able to put what I had learned into practice and because they trusted me," she shared. The experience boosted her confidence and gave her a renewed sense of purpose: "Now I have clearer goals. I am very grateful to World Vision and the RISE program for the opportunity they gave me. They helped me grow as a person and believe in myself."

But Heydi's story didn't stop there. Fueled by her newfound confidence, she launched a weekend furniture rental business. Still seeking more stability, she asked herself, "What else can I do?" The answer came in the form of a second venture—raising laying hens. "I currently sell eggs and take care of my chickens with a lot of love and responsibility."

With support from seed capital, Heydi's poultry business took flight. "Thank you for believing in the dreams of young people in Honduras. I invite others to believe in themselves too, because this is real, it's not just a story. I am proof of that."

Every day, Heydi walks 20 to 30 minutes through the tropical heat to tend to her business. Her determination is unwavering: "Here I am, eager to continue growing. I know you believe in us, and I am deeply grateful for that." Her message is clear and powerful: "Honduras can move forward!"



*Before joining RISE, Heydi felt stuck—unable to pursue university due to financial hardship and burdened by household responsibilities. Through the RISE program, she gained confidence, practical skills, and a renewed sense of purpose. Today, she runs two small businesses and is pursuing her studies, all while inspiring others to believe in themselves.*

*"I invite others to believe in themselves too, because this is real, it's not just a story. I am proof of that," said Heydi.*



### IN CLOSING

Across El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, the first half of FY25 made one thing clear: RISE is working. Young people—many facing poverty, violence, or displacement—are gaining the skills, confidence, and support they need to move from uncertainty to opportunity. They are finding jobs, starting businesses, returning to school, and reshaping their futures—and those of their families and communities.

“There were many times when I was discouraged ... but I decided to believe in myself through the RISE project,” said Mery from El Progreso, Honduras. In Danlí, Honduras, JJ Events now hires Youth Ready graduates, noting, “They have very special values and characteristics not easily found elsewhere.” In El Salvador, Adela, 19, shared, “Youth Ready is my safe space.” A teacher added, “World Vision is a blessing—for us and for young people.” In Guatemala, Cristian said the program helped him “socialize more” and prepare for the future. Sofia, a young facilitator, added, “I have grown more and more because they believed in me.” As Estefany from Honduras put it: “By transforming ourselves, we will also change our environment.”

### PROGRAM-TO-DATE SPENDING

Program spending from October 2023 through March 2025

Summary	Project-to-Date Spending	Project-to-Date Budget	Project-to-Date Spending Rate
Total WVUS Private Funding Spending	\$ 3,925,675	\$ 6,521,081	60%

### THANK YOU

Thank you for investing in young people through RISE in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. With your support, youth are finding jobs, launching businesses, returning to school, and stepping into leadership—proving they don’t have to leave to build a future. They’re choosing hope at home.



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## RISE BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

These businesses provided jobs, internships, or both to RISE participants. (This list includes private sector partnerships, as well as other businesses that have provided jobs or internships without a formal partnership.)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Aceros de Guatemala                 | 40. Chafe & Gourmet                         | 78. FUNDESUR  |
| 2. ADISA                               | 41. CINEMARK                                | 79. Gasolineras UNO   |
| 3. Aire Frio                           | 42. Clarion Suites                          | 80. Golden Seven  |
| 4. Al Capone Cigars                    | 43. Claro                                   | 81. Gomez LEE Marketing   |
| 5. Aldo                                | 44. Clinica GAMECA                          | 82. Granjas Marinas   |
| 6. ALFI LATAM                          | 45. CMI                                     | 83. Grupo Agrisal   |
| 7. All Truck                           | 46. Comercializadora San Jose               | 84. Grupo Albamar   |
| 8. Almacen el Centro                   | 47. COMIXSEL Cooperativa de transporte      | 85. Grupo Alza  |
| 9. Almacenes el TITAN                  | 48. Complejo Tabora                         | 86. Grupo Comidas   |
| 10. Almacenes Xtra                     | 49. Conexión                                | 87. Grupo Construferro  |
| 11. Amepro                             | 50. Consisa                                 | 88. Grupo de empresas de Interaseo y Equipos Honduras, Interaseo Servicios Honduras y Sulambiente |
| 12. American Auto Parts                | 51. Corporación Multi Inversiones Alimentos | 89. Grupo Honores   |
| 13. Arca De Esperanza                  | 52. Credi Cobros                            | 90. Grupo Intur   |
| 14. Aristos                            | 53. Credimas                                | 91. Grupo Jaremar   |
| 15. Aspiraciones                       | 54. Crismar de Honduras                     | 92. Grupo Monge /Gallo Mas Gallo  |
| 16. Autorespuestos.hn                  | 55. Daglex Recursos Humanos                 | 93. Grupo Platino   |
| 17. Bac                                | 56. De Todo                                 | 94. Grupo Roble   |
| 18. Banco Agrícola                     | 57. Dimafer                                 | 95. Hanes Brands Inc  |
| 19. Banco Davivienda                   | 58. DINANT EXPORTS/ Corporacion DINANT      | 96. Hotel Holiday Inn   |
| 20. Banco de Alimentos de Honduras     | 59. Distribuidora Cabajal                   | 97. Imporrrt Frut   |
| 21. Banco Industrial                   | 60. Do It Learning Center                   | 98. Instituto Tecnológico Centroamericano   |
| 22. Becas Alcanza                      | 61. Don Valerio S.A. de C.V.                | 99. INVERPROVA  |
| 23. Bigos                              | 62. Electrodomesticos Popular               | 100. Inversiones Valcer   |
| 24. BIMBO                              | 63. Empacadora Litoral                      | 101. Jetsterio  |
| 25. Bra Guru                           | 64. Energia Potencia y Desarrollo           | 102. La Mundial   |
| 26. Cable Color                        | 65. ESCA                                    | 103. Laboratorios Pail  |
| 27. Cafe Limon                         | 66. Espresso Americano                      | 104. Lady Lee   |
| 28. Cafe de Tres                       | 67. Examesa/ Grupo IESA                     | 105. Larach & Cia   |
| 29. CAFETANO                           | 68. Excel Automotriz                        | 106. Larome   |
| 30. Camacho                            | 69. Fabrica de Plasticos los Laureles       | 107. Lido Pozuelo/Bimbo   |
| 31. CANELLA                            | 70. Fanasa                                  | 108. Logix  |
| 32. Capillas Señoriales                | 71. Farinter                                | 109. Mateo Motos  |
| 33. Carrion                            | 72. Farmacia Siman                          | 110. MC Farmaceutica  |
| 34. CARROUSEL                          | 73. Ferreteria Dimoro                       | 111. MCC  |
| 35. CCIT                               | 74. Ferreteria Germar                       | 112. Medi Procesos  |
| 36. Cell Phone                         | 75. Ferreteria Santa Fe                     | 113. Meet House   |
| 37. Centracom Asesores de campo TIGO   | 76. Ferromax                                | 114. Mega Famaco/Famaco   |
| 38. Centro de Formacion San Juan Bosco | 77. Fundación Azteca                        | 115. Megapaca   |
| 39. Cerveceria Hondureña               |   |   |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 116. Metro Café                                     | 147. Salon de belleza Queens                        |
| 117. Molino Harinero Sula                           | 148. Samboro  |
| 118. Multi Impresos                                 | 149. SAT de Honduras                                |
| 119. Nicolatis                                      | 150. Seho   |
| 120. OEI/ Organizaciones de Estados Iberoamericanas | 151. Sohe   |
| 121. OMEGA  | 152. Sol en Salsa                                   |
| 122. Ondusa   | 153. Stop Go  |
| 123. One Dollar                                     | 154. Subway   |
| 124. Operadora de Gasolinera de Honduras            | 155. Supermercado la Colonia                        |
| 125. OPL HONDURAS                                   | 156. Supermercado y Ferretería All Rashid           |
| 126. Optica Popular                                 | 157. SURAGRO  |
| 127. Paca Max                                       | 158. Taller mecanico Alvarado                       |
| 128. Pacasa   | 159. TECHLINE                                       |
| 129. Panda Express                                  | 160. Tecoloco                                       |
| 130. Papeleria San Diego                            | 161. Tecoloco El Salvador, S.A. de C.V.             |
| 131. PBS  | 162. Tienda Doors                                   |
| 132. Pinturas Americanas                            | 163. Tienda Exclusive                               |
| 133. Pollolandia                                    | 164. Tienda Luz                                     |
| 134. Por Salud                                      | 165. Tiendas Eliana                                 |
| 135. Projec Phone                                   | 166. Ucenm  |
| 136. PROMACO  | 167. Ultramotor                                     |
| 137. Promasa  | 168. Unicomer                                       |
| 138. Promo Stock                                    | 169. Uniformes de Guatemala                         |
| 139. Pronto   | 170. Universidad Gerardo Barrios Usulután - UGB     |
| 140. Puma El Dorado                                 | 171. Universidad Jose Cecilio del Valle/ UJCV       |
| 141. Químicas Dinant                                | 172. Universidad Panamericana de San Vicente - UPAN |
| 142. Recargas Virtuales                             | 173. Walmart  |
| 143. Reposteria Sandra                              | 174. Xelapan  |
| 144. Restaurante Bella Vista                        | 175. YOBEL  |
| 145. Restaurante San Martin                         |   |
| 146. Salon de Belleza Hefziba                       |   |