



EDUCATION | Education Fund: RISE

Progress Report

October 2025–March 2026

SUMMARY

So far in fiscal year 2026 (FY26), RISE* has reached 12,198 people across Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. One young man in Guatemala, now part of RISE, described poverty as a cage: Each time he found a way out, something else closed in. For many youth, that cage is built one barrier at a time. Survival comes before dreams. Work is informal and unstable. Migration can look like the only way out.

RISE partners with young people to help them overcome these obstacles. Young people identify their goals, build skills, and pursue the path that fits them best, whether that's continuing their education, finding a job, or starting a business.

Highlights from the first half of FY26

Through RISE, 8,365 young people participated in Teen Ready and 3,833 in Youth Ready—more than 12,000 participants in total. That participation is translating into results:

- Youth Ready graduates led nine community projects that reached more than 2,500 people
- Public schools are embracing Teen Ready; in Honduras and El Salvador, participation has

already reached more than twice its target.

- Nearly 3 in 4 Youth Ready graduates found work, started businesses, began internships, or returned to school.

Belief and a way forward

After Moisés lost his mother, the 18-year-old from Guatemala City felt uncertain about his future. He wanted his first job but didn't know where to turn. RISE helped Moisés identify his strengths, write his résumé, and prepare for interviews. When RISE shared a job opening at a local cooperative, he applied, started as an intern, and earned a full-time position.

In the cover photo, his grandfather straightens his collar before work. "I went from being a young man full of fear and insecurity," Moisés says, "to someone who now believes in himself and in what he can achieve."

Thank you for equipping young people with tools and training that build confidence, restore dignity, and help them overcome barriers.

**Reaching Independence through Support and Empowerment*



"At Youth Ready, I learned to understand my business—and to understand myself."

María grew up keeping bees with her father in San Juan Ostuncalco, Guatemala. But without the right equipment, they depended on borrowing an extractor to process their honey. Once shy and unsure of herself, she found her footing through RISE's Youth Ready program, where she learned to run a real business and gained the confidence to speak up. With seed capital, she bought her own equipment and launched Colmena de Oro—"Golden Beehive." "I no longer had to borrow," she says. "Now I produce, package, and sell my own honey."

GLOBAL UPDATE ON EDUCATION PROJECTS & PROGRESS ON CORE RISE ACTIVITIES

337,037

PEOPLE, INCLUDING 132,366 CHILDREN AND YOUTH have been empowered with education, life skills, job training, and meaningful employment since October 2022.



8,365

adolescents ages 12 to 17 participated in Teen Ready in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in the first half of FY26.



3,833

youth ages 15 to 29 graduated from Youth Ready so far in FY26, equipped with practical skills for life, work, and leadership.



2,405

Youth Ready graduates found jobs, participated in internships, started their own businesses, or continued their education in the first half of FY26.

RISE PROGRAM PROGRESS

Youth Ready

In Youth Ready, participants ages 15 to 29 choose one of three pathways: employment, entrepreneurship, or education. World Vision then helps them take practical steps toward that goal—preparing for interviews, strengthening a business idea, or continuing school.

In the first half of the year, more than 3,800 young people graduated from Youth Ready across Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

Youth Ready looks after the whole person. Alongside practical skills, young people access counseling and sessions on managing stress, emotions, and self-esteem—building resilience to keep going when things get hard.

Teen Ready

Teen Ready reaches adolescents ages 12 to 17 and helps them build the confidence and life skills to stay in school, steer clear of violence, and make their own decisions about the future. Across 51 schools, more than 330 teachers and mentors now implement Teen Ready. They help 8,300 teenagers build personal growth plans—naming their goals and mapping the steps to reach them.

Youth leadership and community impact

RISE encourages young people to give back to their communities as a way to grow in confidence and

leadership. Participants have organized community projects ranging from murals and toy drives to hospital volunteering and tutoring younger students. In El Salvador, 20 graduates formed a youth-led entrepreneurs association—the first of its kind in the program. In Guatemala, a youth network now serves on a local municipal youth board focused on issues affecting young people. Some graduates have even returned as volunteers and staff members, helping guide the next group of participants.

Upcoming plans

In the second half of FY26, RISE will focus on school-based Teen Ready, job connections, and entrepreneurship support. It will also grow youth networks that help graduates stay connected and lead. Country plans include:

- El Salvador: Host a national Youth Ready summit to strengthen youth networks and help graduates share ideas.
- Honduras: Work with education officials to bring Teen Ready into more public schools and expand employer and micro-franchise support.
- Guatemala: Train mentor teachers, expand technical courses, and connect youth to employers and universities so more can move from the classroom into jobs and entrepreneurship.

STORY OF IMPACT: STEP BY STEP, WILBERT BUILDS HIS FUTURE



Wilbert, 21, lives in the Berlín neighborhood of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He was 8 or 9 when he started working alongside his grandfather on construction jobs, learning the mason's trade while trying to stay in school. "Working as a child wasn't a choice; it was a necessity," he says. "But it taught me responsibility, hard work, and never to give up." Wilbert also breathes with the help of a tracheostomy tube, which doctors say may be permanent. It doesn't stop him—he keeps studying, working, and moving toward his goals.

Like many young people balancing work and school, Wilbert reached a point where his education looked like it would end at seventh grade. That changed when he joined Youth Ready. He returned to his studies on a full scholarship from RISE—now two years running—and today he's in ninth grade, still working beside his grandfather, who at 80 teaches him the value of honest effort. "No matter how difficult the path may seem, there is always an opportunity to succeed," he says.

HONDURAS

SUMMARY

For many young people in Honduras, gangs and limited job opportunities can make migration feel like the only path forward. RISE responds with practical training and partnerships built to support youth across the region. Since October 2023, RISE has reached more than 18,000 teens and young adults.

Youth Ready

In the first half of FY26, 1,087 young people graduated from Youth Ready. Among graduates from this and earlier cohorts:

- 423 found jobs
- 241 launched businesses
- 128 continued or returned to school

Youth Ready has now reached a total of 231 young people in correctional facilities. In the first half of FY26 alone, 45 completed the program at Choluteca Penitentiary—earning certificates as well as the skills and confidence to return home and make a fresh start.

RISE also connects graduates to established brands for entrepreneurship. Through the Master Chicken franchise, 14 young people opened chicken shops of their own—with training and financing to

run them. Among them is Gladys in Tegucigalpa. “With effort, discipline, and determination, anything is possible,” she says.

Teen Ready

Teen Ready has now reached 13,505 adolescents since May 2024—more than twice its goal—with 1,171 completing the program so far this year. That total includes more than 500 adolescents with disabilities.

World Vision and the Ministry of Education have formed a joint team to bring Teen Ready into public schools nationwide, with plans to keep it running through 2030—making it part of how Honduras prepares its young people for life after school.

Partnership for lasting impact

Across Honduras, 22 churches have opened their doors to RISE, offering young people a place to find their footing. In Berlín, a Tegucigalpa neighborhood many once avoided, Pastor Andrés Avelino Rodríguez has watched six groups finish Youth Ready—and seen young people once considered at risk become mentors and leaders, role models for the kids coming up behind them. “When you invest in young people, you transform an entire community,” he says.

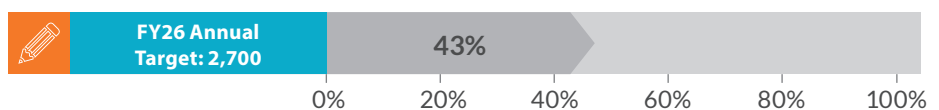


“The RISE program didn’t just give me tools; it gave me back my dignity, my hope, and the desire to live a different life.”

Cristian, 27, from El Paraíso, Honduras, grew up surrounded by gangs and violence, and lost his way after his father’s death. He first heard about RISE while serving time at the Danlí Correctional Facility, where Youth Ready taught him skills, values, and to believe in himself again. Today he runs his own mobile car-wash business, supports his two children, and dreams of growing it into a full car wash.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

1,171 adolescents (ages 12 to 17) completed Teen Ready in the first half of FY26



1,087 youth (ages 15 to 29) completed Youth Ready in the first half of FY26



EL SALVADOR

SUMMARY

In El Salvador, young people face steep barriers from the start—few stable jobs, limited opportunity, and, for many young women, violence at home. In the first half of FY26, RISE reached 8,217 adolescents and young adults, already surpassing the targets set for the year.

Youth Ready

So far in FY26, 1,896 young people have graduated from Youth Ready, surpassing this year’s goal of 1,000. Most chose employment, and 420 have now been placed in jobs through AI-supported tools and employer connections. At Habitat for Humanity, human resources coordinator Diego Ayala says RISE graduates “integrate quickly and effectively,” and recommends other employers hire them.

Beyond employment, 736 youth launched businesses and 57 stayed in or returned to school. In Ahuachapán, 20 young university entrepreneurs—80% women—launched AJESA. As El Salvador’s first officially registered Youth Ready network, it can legally sign agreements, apply for funding, and keep running long after the program ends.

Teen Ready

Teen Ready reached 6,321 adolescents, bringing the total to 10,535 since May 2024—nearly two and a half times its goal. The program now runs across 83 schools, with 39 new schools and 71 mentors added in the last six months.

Through Teen Ready, students learn that their voices matter. Allison, 15, was once too shy to speak in class. “Today I can say that I’m a different person—I participate more now, I express myself more freely,” she says.

Turning opportunity into momentum

Three out of four entrepreneurs RISE has supported are women. That includes single mothers who once had no way to attend training. RISE provides childcare and flexible schedules, so that mothers can participate and build a future alongside their children.

Ana Gabriela brought her daughter along to Youth Ready training and started a small egg farm. When harsh weather forced her to sell her flock, she rebuilt from scratch with RISE support—and later represented El Salvador at a regional competition. “Dreams aren’t canceled—they’re just transformed ...” says Ana Gabriela.



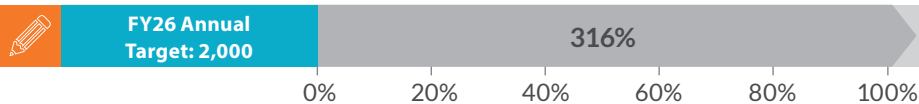
“I used to think I wasn’t smart or capable enough. Today I can participate, express myself, and even lead.”

Rosemary, 20, grew up in Ciudad Arce, El Salvador, in a family with limited resources, unsure she would ever afford college. Shy and reserved, she often doubted herself.

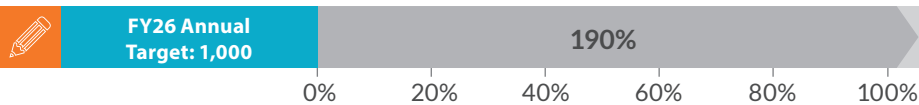
Through RISE’s Youth Ready program and a university scholarship offered with World Vision, she found more than academic support. Through mentoring and teamwork, she gained the confidence to use her voice. Today she is a thriving university student, presenting and leading among her peers, pursuing the degree she once thought was out of reach.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

6,321 adolescents (ages 12 to 17) completed Teen Ready in the first half of FY26



1,896 youth (ages 15 to 29) completed Youth Ready in the first half of FY26



GUATEMALA

SUMMARY

In Guatemala, RISE adapts to help overcome barriers to participation: caregiver responsibilities, disability, distance, and urgent income needs.

In the first half of FY26, that approach helped 1,723 adolescents find work, stay in school, and start new businesses. New training is also being developed for deaf and blind students.

Youth Ready

So far in FY26, 850 young people graduated from Youth Ready and:

- 179 found jobs
- 24 began internships
- 236 are now building businesses of their own—many led by indigenous women

Others continued their education, with 625 enrolled to date.

RISE expanded access through flexible formats for those with limited time, mobility challenges, or caregiving responsibilities. Interpreters helped Maya women participate confidently, and 67 young people with disabilities trained alongside their peers.

Through WhatsApp groups, webinars, and workshops, RISE helped young people name their emotions, talk

through bullying and family struggles, and build their self-esteem.

Teen Ready

In the last six months, 873 adolescents completed Teen Ready across 12 schools, guided by 147 newly trained mentors. Isabel is a mentor who teaches at a school in Guatemala City, where she's watched shy students find their footing—learning to speak up, manage their emotions, and lead. "We have seen a significant change in the teenagers," she says. RISE and the Ministry of Education signed a new agreement to bring Teen Ready to 3,000 more adolescents across the country, bringing the FY26 goal within reach.

Youth voices and visibility

Young people in Guatemala are not only building their own futures, they are reshaping how others see them. A media tour with 16 outlets and a weekly Channel 27 segment gave RISE participants a platform to share their stories, promote their businesses, and be recognized as leaders. That visibility matters in communities where youth are often overlooked. By telling their own stories, they are becoming examples for others still trying to believe a different future is possible.

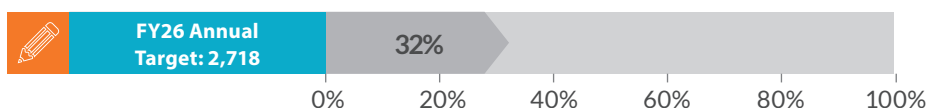


"With each session, I felt something changing inside me."

Before Teen Ready, 17-year-old Ángel carried worries he did not know how to share. He struggled to manage his emotions, make decisions, and think clearly about his future. At the Municipal Workshop School, where he studies construction, Teen Ready gave him a safe space to reflect on his life, build confidence, and connect what he was learning to his own experiences. As Ángel gains practical skills for future work, he is also learning to express himself, make thoughtful decisions, and move forward with greater confidence.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

873 adolescents (ages 12 to 17) completed Teen Ready in the first half of FY26



850 youth (ages 15 to 29) completed Youth Ready in the first half of FY26



STORIES OF HOPE

ANA'S STORY

Ana, 24, lives in Piedra Ancha, a rural community in Danlí, Honduras. As a girl, she loved school and was certain she would one day become a professional. Then, at 13, everything changed: She was diagnosed with cataracts and, soon after, lost her sight completely.

For a long time, it felt like the end. Ana was told she could no longer study, and the future she had imagined seemed to vanish. She withdrew to her room, slept through the days, and stopped going out. "Why go on," she remembers asking, "if I can no longer do what I dreamed of?"

The turn came through another person with a visual impairment, who told her about a rehabilitation program. Ana decided to try it—one of the best decisions of her life. There she learned Braille, and with every letter she read, something returned. "I was regaining more than knowledge," she says. "I was regaining hope."

It was her Braille teacher who pointed her toward Youth Ready, with words Ana has never forgotten: "Everything you've learned—it's time to put it into practice." She took the step, and in the program she found something she had never considered: entrepreneurship. Step by step, Youth Ready showed her how to turn an idea into a real business—pricing, finding customers, managing the money—and adapted each session so that her blindness was never a barrier to taking part. She learned, she trained, and slowly she began to believe in her abilities again.

By the end of the program, Ana had built a business plan. Months later came news she could hardly believe—she had been selected for seed funding. "I kept checking my phone, thinking it was a mistake," she says. When the money was finally in her hands, she cried with joy.

Her first attempt, selling clothes, proved hard to manage, so Ana reinvented her idea and started a home-based business selling dairy products and meat. Today that business is her livelihood and, in her words, "a source of dignity." Life brought another gift, too: her son, now 3 months old and her greatest motivation. "Now I'm not just fighting for myself," she says, "but for my family."

What once felt like an ending became a beginning. To those who believe no opportunity will come, Ana says simply: Seek it out, and don't give up. And to those who make programs like RISE possible, she offers this: "When you offer an opportunity, especially to people with disabilities, you don't just change a life ... you restore hope."



STORIES OF HOPE

MARIO'S STORY

Mario, 18, lives in the village of San Francisco in San Pedro Yepocapa, Guatemala. A World Vision sponsored child since he was 5, he grew up the third of seven children in a humble home: his father a bricklayer, his mother taking in laundry. Mario was painfully shy—the kind of boy who stayed in the corner and rarely spoke.

During his teenage years, after the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, he fell into a deep depression. For a long time, he hid it, carrying the weight alone. When his mother finally saw how much he was struggling, she reached out to a World Vision staff member. Months of counseling followed—and proved key to his recovery.



What he did next changed not only his life but his community's. Out of his own experience came an idea: a space for other young people facing similar struggles. That became a youth network. Mario and a handful of volunteers started small, then grew to 40 or 50 young people, making videos on issues like child labor and cyberbullying. "We felt that this was our place," he says, "a safe space where we could share, learn, and support one another."

When their community was shaken by a wave of loss among its young people, Mario's network organized a walk—"You Are Not Alone"—that drew up to 200 participants, a message of support and hope.

Then Youth Ready arrived, and gave his momentum a direction. Through it, Mario built the practical skills that open doors—preparing for job interviews, writing professional emails, carrying himself with confidence in a workplace—and received the educational support that covered his tuition and kept him in school. He graduated with a diploma in tourism, trained in hotel management and as a professional chef.

But the part of his story Mario tells most proudly is what he became. He knows what it meant to have people stay with him at his lowest, and he offers other young people the same. "I am no longer just someone who receives training," he says. "Now I am the one providing it." Today he serves as a young Agent of Change for RISE, walking alongside other young people as they discover their own potential—just as someone once did for him.



Teen Ready and Youth Ready participants race toward the finish line in Ahuachapán, El Salvador, during an International Women's Day event to raise awareness about violence against women and the importance of preventing teenage pregnancy.

IN CLOSING

The young people of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala are not short on ambition—they want to move forward. But too often they are forced to make decisions out of urgency rather than hope, choosing survival over the futures they imagine for themselves. Potential alone isn't enough: They also need opportunity, and someone who believes in them. Your partnership has told a generation of young people that they matter. Scripture urges us not to let anyone look down on the young (1 Timothy 4:12)—and you have answered that call, reminding young people across Central America that they are seen, valued, and capable of shaping their own futures, right where they are. Thank you.

PROGRAM-TO-DATE SPENDING

Program spending from October 2023 through March 2026

Summary	Project-to-Date Spending	Project-to-Date Budget	Project-to-Date Spending Rate
Total WVUS Private Funding Spending	\$ 9,169,814	\$ 10,751,371	85%



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75 YEARS OF
BELIEF



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.

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