



# Parents and Teachers Joining Forces for Children in Social Spaces (PUENTES)

## Background

Honduras is one of the most violent countries in the world, with 60 homicides per 100,000 people in 2015<sup>1</sup> — an average of 14 murders a month<sup>2</sup>. Gangs, which have grown increasingly involved in drug trafficking, have become the main factor behind the recent rise in violence in Honduras. There has been a notable increase in child and youth recruitment to these gangs, and violent deaths of children accounted for 11% of all violent deaths in 2015<sup>3</sup>. Child abuse — particularly sexual, psychological and physical — is an acute problem, especially for street children and youth. This violence has affected all areas of society and prevented children from accessing quality education.

To address this issue, ChildFund is implementing PUENTES, whose Spanish name translates to “Parents and Teachers Joining Forces for Children in Social Spaces,” in three large cities that have shown evidence of high rates of crime and violence: Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba.

The overarching goal of this project is to pilot and test a school-based violence prevention methodology in high risk urban areas that was originally designed for high risk rural areas. If the pilot and adoption of this methodology in urban contexts is successful, there is potential for scale up in other high risk urban areas in Honduras.

Upon completion of this project, ChildFund aims to achieve:

- Increase in the perception of security reported by students, teachers and parents
- Reduction in aggression reported by students, teachers and parents
- Increase in the percentage of students in grades 4, 5, and 6 that advance to the next grade the

## THE PROJECT

**Project Name:** PUENTES

**Project Country:** Honduras

**Timeframe:** September 2015 – February 2017

**Budget:** \$750,000

**Funder:** USAID

**3,780**

Parents trained in violence mitigation approaches for their children.

**506**

Teachers better prepared to promote peaceful learning environments.

**36**

Schools in high-risk urban communities targeted

<sup>1</sup> Acumulado de Tasas de Homicidios Por 100,000 Habitantes. (2016, May 30). Retrieved June 14, 2016, from [https://www.sepol.hn/artisistem/images/sepol-images/files/PDF/Acumulado de Tasas a 12 Meses a Mayo 2016.pdf](https://www.sepol.hn/artisistem/images/sepol-images/files/PDF/Acumulado%20de%20Tasas%20a%2012%20Meses%20a%20Mayo%202016.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Situación Comparativa de Casos de Homicidios a Nivel Nacional. Retrieved June 14, 2016, from [https://www.sepol.hn/artisistem/images/sepol-images/files/PDF/Estadistica%20Diaria%20Junio%202016.xlsx\(4\).pdf](https://www.sepol.hn/artisistem/images/sepol-images/files/PDF/Estadistica%20Diaria%20Junio%202016.xlsx(4).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Observatorio De La Violencia: Mortalidad Y Otros. Publication. Instituto Universitario En Democracia, Paz Y Seguridad, 25 Feb. 2016. Web. 14 June 2016. <<http://www.iudpas.org/pdf/Boletines/Nacional/NEd40EneDic2015.pdf>>.



## TARGET RESULTS

- Improved parenting skills and practices that reduce youths' high-risk behaviors leading to violence in the school or family environment.
- Increased skill building for teachers that promotes resilient, peaceful and democratic school environments through the development of students' social and life skills.
- Strengthened relationships between schools and parents, with improved abilities to identify and deal with risk factors that can lead to violence in the school and family environments.
- Reliable data from this pilot program to support recommendations for scaling up implementation of school-based violence prevention programs in urban public schools.

following academic year

### The Approach

PUENTES is a pilot program using the school-based violence prevention methodology Miles de Manos (Mdm), developed in rural areas by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and Honduras' Ministry of Education (MOE), to reduce violence at the school level in high-risk urban communities of Honduras. The curriculum and pedagogical strategies are oriented toward the reduction of violent behavior, with a focus on the adults who interact with children, to improve the overall environment at home and at school.

In addition to the Mdm methodology, ChildFund has integrated components of the El Centro de Prevención de la Violencia (CEPREV) methodology to address gender dynamics that contribute to violence. The methodology includes three specific components:

Component 1: Family intervention with parents. This component aims to enhance parenting skills of mothers and fathers equipping them with knowledge to reduce high risk behaviors that contribute to violence at home and in school.

Component 2: School intervention with teachers. This component will include targeted interventions at the school level including school staff as well as directors to develop, monitor and encourage social and interpersonal skills development in the students.

Component 3: Integrated component with teachers and families. This component is the Puente (Bridge) that unites the teachers and

parents to end violence at home and in schools by strengthening their ability to collaborate and communicate to promote the well-being of their children and have a common understanding of their expectations for the behaviors exhibited by the children.

ChildFund is a child-focused international development organization that works with children living in extreme poverty, reaching 19.7 million children and family members in 30 countries. With primary funding from sponsors, and support from government, corporate and individual donors, we work long-term in communities to help them transform themselves into places where children have what they need to live at their potential throughout their lives: access to health care, nutrition, learning opportunities, safety and caregivers equipped to ensure all these elements are in place. Our approach is grounded in the idea that if any of these pieces is missing, especially early in a child's life, his or her development is at risk.

*The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government*