



Honduras

Project Snapshot

Name: School Gardens for Healthy Nutrition

Location: 40 Rural Communities

Duration: 24 Months

Amount Requested: \$80,000 (\$40k per year)

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Project Summary

The goal of the *School Gardens for Healthy Nutrition* project in Honduras is to **create learning spaces (gardens) at schools to improve agriculture and nutritional food knowledge, and promote healthy living and conservation and preservation of natural resources such as soil and water**. Production and preparation of nutritious food and vegetables in schools involves comprehensive learning by which children and teachers will use their knowledge to become “multiplying agents” that will contribute to improving food and nutritional security in their homes and in their communities.

With support from MD19 Lions, CARE will implement the project in **40 communities in five municipalities in southern Honduras**: Pespire, San Jose, San Isidro, San Antonio de Flores and Lepaterique. In this part of the country, known as the “dry corridor,” we find the most acute levels of poverty and malnutrition – **91.7 percent of the population live in extreme poverty and 58 percent of children under age 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition**, in part from recurrent droughts and lack of knowledge about a proper diet, conservation agriculture techniques and preservation of the environment. CARE will **directly reach 1,600 students and 40 teachers** in these target communities. The project will have two phases and each will be 12 months, starting in 2019 and finishing in 2021. The proposed MD19 Lions-funded project will complement the ongoing work of a larger program in the region known as PROSASUR, where CARE works as part of the Alliance for the Dry Corridor to improve food and nutrition security for vulnerable households.

CARE will conduct four main activities when establishing the school gardens:

1. **Community organization** involves mobilizing parents, teachers and students, and establishing roles and responsibilities for each for the essential development of skills and sustainability of the gardens.
2. **Education** will be conducted by which CARE will coordinate with teachers, parents and students to develop a curricular plan, according to the needs of each school and by applying an agricultural field school “learning by doing” approach.
3. **Improving production** by developing action plans at each school for the production of vegetables to improve the availability of nutritious food in a sustainable way, using an environmental protection approach.
4. **Improving nutrition** by developing a food and nutrition education plan, aimed at teaching, intensifying or improving knowledge about adequate and varied food, with a focus on reducing cases of malnutrition.

Expected outcomes after 24 months include:

- Promoted the agro-ecological production of vegetables in rural schools and households.
 - ✓ Forty school gardens established with vegetables and fruit trees, with active participation from students, teachers and families.
 - ✓ Forty school gardens established where conservation and soil management practices have been carried out.
 - ✓ Twenty irrigation systems installed and operational, supplying water to the school gardens.