

## PERU: INNOVATIONS IN DECENTRALIZATION AND ACTIVE SCHOOLS (APRENDES)

In 2005, the Government of Peru will initiate nation-wide decentralization of its education system. Many communities, however, are not prepared to provide quality educational programs: inactive in their local schools, they are ill-equipped to run them effectively. USAID/Peru's basic education program ApreNDes, administered through a cooperative agreement with the AED Center for Civil Society and Governance, fosters local management of education by promoting active participation in policy development and implementation.

In association with the Ministry of Education (MED) and the newly formed National Council on Education (Consejo Nacional de Educación – CNE), regional and municipal governments, and members of civil society, ApreNDes strengthens institutions and programs, promotes democratic behavior, improves processes, and enables school directors, teachers, student councils, parents, and other key players to create quality schools in rural areas. The Project centers on improving basic education programs and equipping children to contribute to the democratic, social, and economic development of their communities.

- In partnership with local NGOs, ApreNDes developed guides for 2nd and 3rd grades; these guides are currently under review and will be published soon.

- ApreNDes trained teachers in new pedagogy and hosted a community day, celebrating the teachers' work and the students' new skills. At the event, many parents were struck by the ease and confidence which the students demonstrated.
- ApreNDes conducted math and reading achievement tests in the 1st, 3rd, and 6th grades; a preliminary report of these results was delivered to USAID in December 2004.
- With technical assistance from ESAN, ApreNDes continues to support the development of *Dirección Regional de Educación (DRE)*'s *Plan Educativo Regional (PER)* in San Martín.
- With PREAL, ApreNDes assisted *Directores Regionales de Educación* throughout the country to attend a Standards and Evaluation Seminar, designed to strengthen regional capacity to assume more educational challenges.

ApreNDes is a \$10,642,097 project that runs from June 7, 2003 to September 30, 2007.

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