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# PRESS RELEASE

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## WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

**SAN SALVADOR**— The U.S. Embassy, through the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Strengthening of Basic Education Program and in conjunction with the Ministry of Education (MINED), inaugurated today a workshop entitled, "Definition of Frontiers and Limits in Education."

The workshop objective is to expose participants to a proposal for a financing sources registry for education, which is internationally known as National Education Accounts (NEA), in order to enrich and complement the registry. The workshop included two presentations on investing in public education and the importance of the accounts.

USAID Human Investment Office Director David Losk said this educational tool has only been developed in Morocco, Turkey and the Philippines.

"It is pleasing to know that El Salvador is the first Latin American country to implement this kind of tool that guides the ministries on the importance of informing the use and the sources of education financing while influencing educational policy through information analysis and utilization," said Dr. Losk.

Workshop participants, among them 90 representatives from the national educational sector, highlighted the importance of spreading the concept of frontiers and limits in education as well as particular areas that require debate and clarification. Moreover, it was noted that several public organizations invest in education as an added value.

According to data provided by the 2002-2005 Multipurpose Household Survey, Salvadoran families are investing more and more on education and on taking their children to public schools. Therefore, household spending and MINED spending are complimentary. MINED manages most of its resources for teachers' salaries and infrastructure while households invest their resources in snacks, school supplies, shoes, school complementary fees and enrollment. This confirms the experiences from other countries where household contribution is as important as government investment.

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