

There are already blended classes in the municipalities of Honduras

Although the Ministry of Education says that it is going to experiment with the blended system, EL HERALDO found that teachers from the interior of the country fight alone the battle of going to the classrooms to teach classes



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TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS.- Eduardo Josué arrived at the gate of his school wearing his school uniform: navy blue pants, white cubayera and black shoes.

While the authorities of the **Ministry of Education** and the teachers' leaders face in wide debates over the **return to blended classes** , thousands of children arrive normally at their educational centers.

In the urban areas of the country it is strange these days to see uniformed schoolchildren, much less go to an educational center where they are teaching due to the **covid-19** pandemic , but in the interior of the country it is the opposite.

Like all his colleagues, **Eduardo Josué** He placed the backpack in a row, which indicated the order of arrival to enter to receive classes in a blended way.

The **EL HERALDO Investigative Unit** verified that the blended system is not new in many of the 154 municipalities that were prioritized from the beginning by the National Risk Management System (**Sinager**) and the Ministry of Education.

In the community of Tablones, Alubarén, Francisco Morazán, teachers have fought with the help of parents an extensive battle, fulfilling the commitment to teach and protect their students.

Eduardo Josué is restless, classes start at 9:00 in the morning, but he arrived at 8:00 and while he waits for the moment to enter the classroom, he annoys his classmates.

Not everyone wears a mask while waiting for the teachers, but they do wear them, many are worn out by repeated use.



In Alubarén, Francisco Morazán, students have been attending school in a blended way since classes began. Photo: Jhony Magallanes / El Heraldo

Impeccable with her clothes and with her books under her arm, surrounded by several students, the director of the José Trinidad Reyes educational center in Alubarén, **Marcelina Flores** , walked down the street avoiding stones and greeting the parents who brought their children.

Upon seeing her, all the students made a linear line, put on their masks correctly and entered the classroom to receive their classes.

"We have not stopped giving classes this year, here there is no access to technology and the children were not learning," the committed teacher **told** the **EL HERALDO Investigative Unit** team .

He affirmed that the decision to teach was not an imposition, the parents made the request to them since February, because it is the only way to help the students.

Over time they have adapted to the new conditions, serving nine grades per day from Monday to Wednesday, with short hours, from 9:00 in the morning to 12:00 noon.

He assured that since they began teaching they have implemented biosafety measures such as the use of masks, gel and alcohol, but at the expense of the parents and the teachers themselves.

There is no support from the **Ministry of Education** to supply them with inputs.

Commitment

A few kilometers from Alubarén is the municipality of Curarén, where teachers have not stopped teaching classes and attend their students by different groups and schedules.

A bucket with clean water and a container with soap are part of the biosecurity measures applied by teacher **Ana Mejía**.

It has 19 students, on Monday it serves eight and Tuesday at 11 to avoid the crowds and thus makes them understand the issues because there is no access to technology in the area.

With the parents and the mayor's office, two months ago they decided to open because the children were not learning anything and the parents promised to send them with the mask.

In schools where there are many students, teachers have created their own blended attendance schemes, the grades are divided by day and by hour, avoiding more than a dozen students in the classroom.



In some areas of Las Lajas, Comayagua, teachers have not left their students alone. Photo: Jhony Magallanes / El Heraldo

The **Investigative Unit of EL HERALDO** made an extensive tour of many of the municipalities prioritized by Sinager and found in most that the educational centers are operating without major incidents.

In these municipalities there is no **Sinager**, the authorities work with the recommendations of local doctors, based on what they say in the triage, and since many of these have closed, they operate with data from health centers.

In San Miguelito, Francisco Morazán, some centers are attending in a blended way, but they are getting ready to return next August 26.

Geedy Oliva, Municipal Director of Education of this municipality, explained that since last March the parents signed an act in which they undertake to protect their children and send them to classes.

The problem in this area is the lack of electricity and internet access, so the parents asked to return to the classrooms.

Some teachers like **Delmi Izaguirre do** their best in their work, and the children whose parents do not send them to the educational center or who are special cases, the teacher takes care of them at home.

Under these same conditions, work is carried out in La Libertad, Francisco Morazán, and San Francisco de Coray, Valle, in southern Honduras.

In El Paraíso there are eight municipalities that are within the blended reopening plan for educational centers.

In Jacaleapa, they informed **EL HERALDO** that the teaching centers have been closed, but they are only waiting for the order of the authorities to begin with the reopening.

While in San Lucas the teachers are concerned because some centers do not meet the conditions for the reopening of the classrooms.



The students have spent months in classes in various municipalities of the country. Photo: Jhony Magallanes / El Heraldo

There is also no commitment from the municipal authorities to help them with biosafety supplies and the **Ministry of Education** has not brought them anything, since at this time they should have solved their main problems.

Yauyupe, which is in the same line, analyzes which centers could return to the blended system, because many centers do not have the basics, but many are already ready to obey the mandate of the educational authorities.

At 2:00 in the afternoon, in the postponed community of Naviyupe, San Lucas, El Paraíso, teacher **Luvis Lobohe** taught his classes. 90 percent of the students did not have a mask because the parents do not have the resources to buy them. "When I can, I bring and give them, but since they must be changing it, they wear out quickly, here they have left us alone, with what little we have we serve the boys," said the mentor.

She teaches at the Álvaro Contreras basic center, at the moment she does it every 15 days because resources are scarce and she does not want to expose her students. "To achieve a permanent blended learning system, we need support from the authorities, parents are willing to send their children, but we must be responsible and protect the students," he demanded.

With great emotion the director of the mixed rural school La Democracia de Valle Nuevo, Las Lajas, Comayagua, attended to his students and at the same time, in the next classroom, another teacher did the same.

"We attend them blended, giving them classes with parental authorization and we leave homework for them, we review them and explain what they do not understand," he said.

In this municipality, most of the public educational centers are teaching classes, the **Investigative Unit of EL HERALDO** verified it, but they are alone - as in the whole country - and many of them without the support of the central government or municipal authorities.



Some teachers welcome their students at home. Photo: Jhony Magallanes / El Heraldo