



YOUNG HEROES IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused Honduras to experience a rapid spread of the disease at the community, regional, and national levels. In addition, in November 2020, Honduras was struck by two hurricanes, Eta and Iota, that left massive damage in northern Honduras. These situations, which have generated a social and economic crisis in Honduras, have caused 60% of the Empleando Futuros youth beneficiaries to lose their jobs.

Despite these difficult circumstances, Empleando Futuros has continued to support the development of resilient and dedicated youth who are committed to working hard for the betterment of themselves, their families, their communities, and their country. One of these dedicated young individuals is Pablo Oviedo. Pablo graduated from Empleando Futuros with training to become a cashier and currently works at Import Fruit, where he is in charge of taking inventory and stocking products in La Colonia Supermarkets.

In addition, for over six months Pablo volunteered as a packer with the “Doing Good, Does You Good” program at the Food Bank of Honduras, which serves over 20,000 people. In his role, Pablo performed various tasks such as sorting foods and personal care supplies, classifying inventory, and packing products. Pablo’s efforts in this program helped to distribute food and supplies to the most vulnerable people in the country.



Pablo Oviedo, beneficiary of the Project Empleando Futuros

"USAID has helped me in many circumstances. My coach always talks to me to find out if I am unemployed or employed and they have helped me to learn how work in a team and express myself with people in a work environment."

During Hurricanes Eta and Iota, Pablo dedicated his time and energy to serving those most affected by the hurricanes. Pablo has become a hero in his community by being of service to others in times of crisis.



Joseline Moreno giving nursing assistance during COVID-19 pandemic

Joseline Moreno is another project beneficiary who is committed to helping others in difficult situations. Joseline is a COPECO Nursing Assistant who works at the COVID-19 clinic at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH). In this position, Joseline assists the medical and nursing staff to provide care to patients with COVID-19. Joseline changes the patients’ oxygen tanks and always makes herself available to tend to the patients’ needs.

"I thank USAID for the biosafety courses they taught me which I consider to be very important during the pandemic, especially in my case where I am working directly with patients with COVID-19".

Pablo and Joseline have demonstrated acts of heroism in their efforts to help those affected by COVID-19 and Hurricanes Eta and Iota. They have done this through the support of Empleando Futuros coaches who support and monitor youth employment and guide young people in strengthening their employability skills. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project’s coaches have developed a series of activities for youth beneficiaries to build their resilience and motivate them to continue to stay committed to their goals to support themselves and their families despite the adversity that they face.