

Aula abiertas sin fronteras (Open Classrooms without Borders)

In a partnership between Colombia's Ministry of Education, GEB and TGI, we succeeded in getting rural children in 6 schools to receive quality pedagogy with interactive tools in 2019 as part of the Energy for Learning program.

Strengthening local economies with creativity, knowledge and social innovation is part of the program's scope.



Jesús Alberto Cuadiyó, in ninth grade, sinks his face into a mask that only leaves part of his hair visible. At the age of 14, he has never left his birthplace, the municipality of Hatonuevo (La Guajira), but with this technology he is transported from the classroom to the ledge of a tall building in Bogotá.

He takes a few steps and then stops with a sense of vertigo as the world bursts open under his feet. Five seconds later, his next stop is one of the Pyramids in Egypt, and when he turns his head to one side he feels like he is almost bumping into a group of tourists. He is not dreaming or hallucinating; this magic is possible thanks to virtual reality headsets.

Still overwhelmed, but excited, he narrates his sensations: "This classroom is teaching me a lot of things, like information technology, art, and to be more creative with the subjects." Now, attending school at the Institución Etnoeducativa Rural Guamachito is a trip to a world without borders. And not only through this experience, but also through a full range of options, including interactive desktops and tablets, to video beams and integrated sound systems. The classroom has an energy system that feeds



The Interactive Solar Education project assists in the educational development of children in Hatonuevo (La Guajira)

2,234

students are using the six interactive classrooms that opened in 2019. The goal is to reach 3,800 students in 11 Colombian departments by 2020.

off of solar panels, which gives it 24-hour energy independence and autonomy to take advantage of the content.

This school is one of six built in 2019 in the development of the Energy for Learning program, which was born as part of GEB's portfolio of shared value initiatives, in partnership with the Ministry of National Education and TGI. The other interactive classrooms are located at the schools Silvestre Francisco Dangond Daza (Villanueva, La Guajira), Rodolfo Castro Castro (two campuses in Valledupar, named Juan de Atuesta and Santa Rosa), Benito Ramos (El Paso, Cesar) and Alto Cauca (Marsella, Risaralda).

Argelia Ipwana, who teaches Art and Culture teacher in Wayunaiki (the Wayuu language) in Guamachito, made the following assessment: "With these information technology rooms, we have an ideal tool available for the students. In my area I will use videos to show the origin of the Wayuu, stories and legends, and educational topics that are so necessary. I am grateful those who support our indigenous communities".

The Interactive Solar Education project, with which we hope to reach educational centers in 11 departments in Colombia by 2020, recognizes education as a trigger for individual, family and collective development (combating poverty and inequality). So it favors social inclusion of the communities of the GEB and TGI, companies that with their cultural attribute of Social Awareness, promote the progress of the communities with their projects.