

2022 Report Context

The year was filled with many great advancements. It was the first year since the pandemic that schools taught in-person. Returning to schools allowed for many of our programs to also return to normalcy. There was also a new political party elected for presidency. Many of our connections with the Ministry of Education had to be reestablished to ensure continued collaborations. We are grateful for a very successful year thanks to our team's efforts.

Kolibri

Checking-in with all schools to resume Kolibri use was crucial. We found cases where equipment sat unused for almost 2 years. Many teachers forgot their passwords, moved to a different school, or the enrollment of students changed. Our team conducted municipal visits to troubleshoot. Teachers also shared that during remote learning a handful of students dropped out, discouraged in keeping up with weekly mobile data costs to complete or send homework. This encouraged teachers to see the importance of Kolibri and its use in the classroom. We expanded Kolibri to a few schools in La Frontera, [you can read one border school's story here.](#)

Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) grant

Equipment received content updates, repairs and extraction of usage data in early 2022. A handful of schools despite receiving equipment in June, only reported 2 months of usage, for varying reasons. The pilot findings only confirmed our own observations over the years, that more time is needed to support proper school implementations of Kolibri.

Our team worked quickly, in collaboration with a new Departmental Director, to return equipment and avoid schools from losing Kolibri use momentum. Teachers were excited to continue learning and their hard work paid off. They were now able to “send” lessons to student tablets and “receive” their at-home progress without internet. Furthermore, our collaboration with municipal mayors and our STAR teachers increased sustainability in pilot schools, see below. [Read our blog about Kolibri school success stories here.](#)

STAR Teachers

In December 2021 we celebrated the addition of three more STAR teachers. And in 2022 we saw their great work back in the classroom. Additionally, we had veteran STAR teacher, professor Marbyn, alongside a new Kolibri leader, professor Gustavo, give a refresher training to a handful of teachers from the IADB pilot schools. Who better to do it, but teachers who have gone through the Kolibri learning process. Our STAR teachers truly are an asset to our program.



Professor Gustavo (left) and Professor Marbyn (right)

Community Agreements

With in-person support limited for our Northern Intibuca schools we wanted to set them up for success. We met with every mayor from the 17 Intibuca municipalities to present a letter of understanding. Mayors committed to designating a staff member to be trained in Kolibri and serve as IT support for schools in their towns, thereby creating accessible and sustainable help. Additionally, mayors were asked to purchase presentation equipment for schools without one, or assist in securing funds for one. With success, all mayors signed! Intibuca's mayor even surprised us by purchasing 9 TVs for his Kolibri schools. A promising start to our community partnerships and future projects to come. [Read more about Intibuca's mayoral commitment.](#)

Reading Competition

Our program has slowly grown, thanks to our team member, Nely Vasquez, whose passion for reading fueled a desire to share it with others. Thanks to the Elejandria library on Kolibri and in collaboration with the departmental director, we involved all 17 municipalities spanning 101 schools. On competition day, students presented captivating oral book summaries. Then judges chose two winners per municipality and crowned the top three readers for Intibuca. There was so much excitement and energy that day! Teachers witnessed live use of Kolibri and the departmental director committed to holding a competition every year. We are truly amazed at all the readers in our region and literacy's positive effects. [Read our full competition blog post here.](#)



All 17- first place municipal winners, with judges, StS staff, departmental director (red dress) and staff

STEM Regional Center

Our STEM Regional Center continues to be the hub for many of our community initiatives. Countless training sessions took place there this year, from Kolibri, to robotics, to internships and even classes from the colegio. The space has been very beneficial to our programs.

VEX Robotics

This year our VEX students and mentors completed an online training on STEM education, equipping themselves with more knowledge. Now in their second year, our students assisted in training 3 more municipal teams for program expansion. With this we are laying the groundwork for a competition next year.

LEGO Robotics

Our regional competition returns! However, teams found equipment missing or broken, post-pandemic lockdown. We replaced what we could and after receiving a LEGO donation from U.S. donor Sally and her students, we distributed needed pieces to teams. The competition was held at the San Antonio high school. Students worked hard to fundraise for the event with help from the frontera mayor association, AMFI, who also donated mentor t-shirts. Six town teams overcame many obstacles to participate, thus all teams received prizes and awards. Next year's host was chosen at random, Camasca! Shoulder to Shoulder announced its donation of the LEGO competition to AMFI for future coordination, moving towards a sustainable model. A lot of exciting news in one day. [Read our LEGO regional competition blog here.](#)



*Bilingual School Team Competing,
Departmental Director (red dress) onlooking*

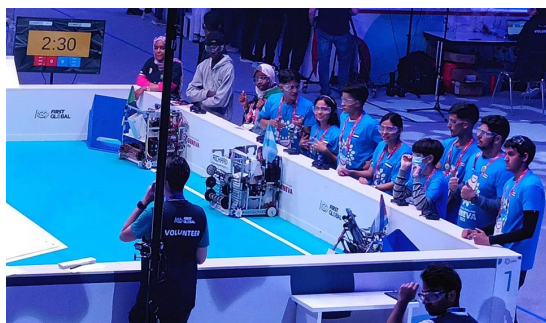


*Shoulder to Shoulder & AMFI signing over
donation of LEGO competition*

FIRST Global Robotics

Our team prepared this year for the FIRST Global competition taking place in Geneva, Switzerland. U.S. robotics mentor, professor Alan, returned to train another cohort of students representing three municipalities. Five students were selected to travel based on their hard work, professionalism and abilities. Our students were exposed to networking opportunities and interactions with students from around the world. In the end, our team faced great challenges, with robot "Richard" which affected their score. Nonetheless, our team returned home safely with many stories to tell.

With this, Shoulder to Shoulder's FIRST Global chapter closes. We will cherish the wonderful memories and the positive impact on youth's lives through our six years participating. Students have grown with the program as continued mentors and we are excited for their bright futures ahead. [Read our FIRST Global competition blog here.](#)



Team Honduras getting ready to compete



Team Members, mentors and Government Officials