

Teaching Health Assistants

To Salud Para la Vida (Health for Life Team): Some background for teaching the health assistants (promotoros):

- There are 60+ health assistants who serve in communities throughout Honduras.
- Most of the participants are women but there are a few men.
- The education training usually is done over a week-end because many promotoros work during the week.
- Some participants may bring their children with them.
- Some of the participants have health care experience – working in a clinic or taking health classes.
- In Honduras, education is mandatory only to the 5th grade. Some participants cannot read or write. However, all ladies are attentive, thoughtful, intelligent and contribute during the lessons.
- The health assistants come from a variety of faith backgrounds—not all are Lutheran.
- Sometimes you may see competition among the health assistant communities. One community may be more advanced in implementing programs to improve health. The Teaching Team should be sensitive to these differences when sharing information, making sure all participants feel valued.
- The promotoros learn best through interactive activities, e.g. hands-on, roleplaying, games, crafts. Lecturing should be avoided.