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## MEMORANDUM

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DATE: 5/14/2010  
ESVED-222

SUBJECT: Final Impact Evaluation Design for the Scholarship Activity

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### Executive Summary

This memorandum presents the final impact evaluation design for FOMILENIO's scholarship activity.<sup>1</sup> The goal of the scholarship activity is to increase enrollment, persistence, and completion of secondary and postsecondary education, and ultimately to improve labor market outcomes of youth living in the Northern Zone. The final evaluation design agreed upon Mathematica, MCC, FOMILENIO, and MINED is **random assignment of eligible applicants to receive scholarships (intervention group) or not receive scholarships (control group)**. This method assigns scholarships in a fair and efficient way, as well as serves MCC's goal of conducting a rigorous impact evaluation. The randomization of scholarships occurred on Friday December 11, 2009. Because it was important to honor the distribution of scholarships that FOMILENIO and MINED allocated to each school and educational program, random assignment was done only within schools and programs in which the demand for scholarships exceeded available scholarships. A total of 636 students were randomly assigned to receive scholarships (intervention group), and 449 students were randomly assigned to no scholarship (control group). After adjustments made by Mathematica in January 2010 in response to potential contamination and eligibility issues, the final sample size for the study was 751 students: 515 students randomly assigned to receive scholarships (intervention group), and 236 students assigned to no scholarship (control group).

### A. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTION

The scholarship activity is aimed at young people in El Salvador's Northern Zone who need financial assistance to pursue their middle school studies. The goal of the scholarship activity is to increase enrollment, persistence, and completion of secondary and postsecondary education,