

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



Working together to support food security and strengthen community resilience

“El Niño” Response in the Dry Corridor of Central America

From 2016 to 2018, funded by the European Union (EU) with a contribution of Euro 10 million, the World Food Programme (WFP) supported over 32,200 vulnerable people most affected by El Niño in the Dry Corridor of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to adapt to the impact of drought and improve livelihoods of the families and communities through assets creation and income generation activities.

In Nicaragua, the EU and WFP supported farmer cooperatives and over 200,000 school children from the national school meals programme.

In order to build community resilience the EU and WFP strengthened livelihoods by creating and rehabilitating productive assets, intensifying production at the household level,

diversifying income sources, increasing human capital, and providing safety nets for its beneficiaries in the four countries. The project also strengthened national and regional institutional capacities to enhance community resilience and reduce disaster risk.

Main project contributions

Preliminary findings from an independent project evaluation highlight:

- Positive impact on beneficiaries' food security;
- The participatory nature of the project, aligned with government priorities;
- Quality community assets and strengthened community organisations;
- Solid gender focus.



January 2019

"The project has produced tangible results in terms of resilience infrastructure, productive assets and capacities - both at the community level and at the territorial level."

- Final decentralized evaluation of the project.

"... our nutrition has improved. We have access to fruits and vegetables we did not eat before because they were very expensive or we could not find them in the community."

- Dora Esperanza Ramos, project participant, El Jute, Guatemala.

RESULTS

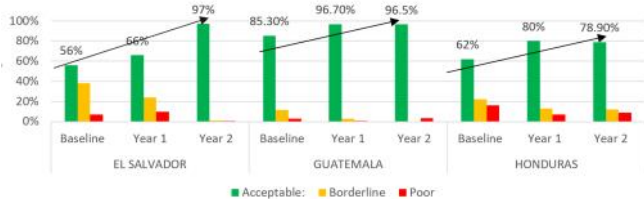
Improved access to livelihood assets has contributed to enhanced resilience and reduced risks from disasters and shocks.

The project had overall a positive impact on household food security and their resilience to shocks despite the recrudescence of the drought in July /August 2018.

Food Consumption Score

The improvement in the Food Consumption Score means that **households increased the frequency and diversity of food consumption** and, thanks to cash-based transfers could access better diets.

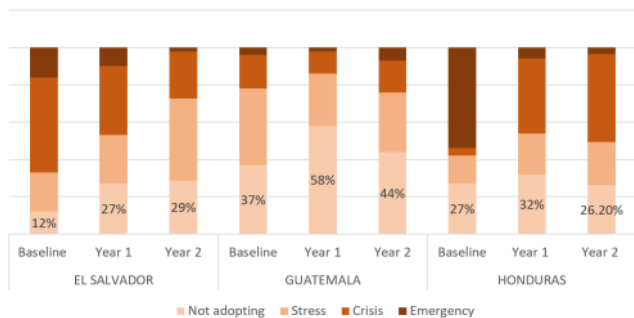
Food Consumption Score: stable at year 2 despite the drought that has affected the Dry Corridor



Livelihood Coping Strategies

Livelihood coping strategies are classified according to their level of severity into stress, crisis and emergency strategies. The **proportion of project beneficiaries adopting emergency coping strategies has significantly reduced** in El Salvador and Honduras.

Livelihood Coping Strategies



In addition, as a result of the project, more than 70% of **targeted communities and institutions strengthened their capacity to manage risks related to climate shocks.**

In Nicaragua, the school feeding programme provided meals to over 200,000 children in the lean season. At the same time, the project promoted commercial linkages to formal markets for smallholder farmers, including



through WFP purchase. **The proportion of food purchased from smallholder farmer's organizations went from 65% to 84%** during the course of the project.

The **participation of women was key to strengthen communities' resilience.** Women had a high participation and decision-making power in asset creation activities, management of natural resources, community organization and rural entrepreneurship.

Comparing the results from the Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) in the Dry Corridor with the food security situation of the beneficiaries at the end of the project in September 2018, showed that **despite the drought of 2018 in the Dry Corridor, the participants are in a better off situation compared to the general population in rural areas** because of their diversified income sources, capacities and cash transfers received.

Comparison of Food Security (CARI)
EFSA | Pro-ACT

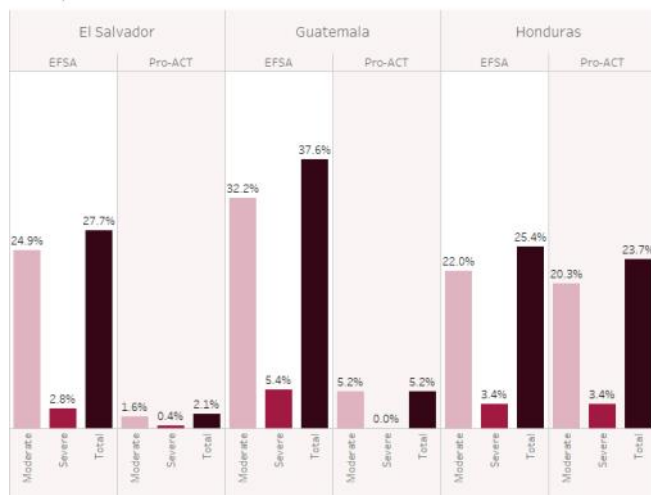


Photo page 1: WFP/Rocío Franco | Photo page 2: WFP/Irina Ruano

"Our life is better now, you can tell from the happiness on our faces,"

- says Raquel Martínez in front of the poultry barn her community manages in El Santuario, in the Choluteca department of Honduras.

"The best part is how we have worked together to achieve what we now have and to continue moving forward,"

- adds Raquel. She is one of the 20 women who take turns in looking after the community's 100 hens.

LIFE STORIES: FROM THE COMMUNITY HENHOUSE TO THE LOCAL STORE

Locally-produced eggs help communities fight poverty and the effects of climate change.

The poultry barn is part of a wider sustainable development project, alongside a community garden, agroforestry plots, water harvesting systems and a rural bank. In total, 81 people are involved in the project, including local activities coordinator Don Concepción, community leader Danilo, María Elena and Pablo from the rural bank, Raquel from the poultry barn and many more.

On average, the hens lay 85 eggs a day. Project members keep some for eating and sell the rest to a nearby shop. Each egg sells for 2.50 lempiras (\$0.10) and the earnings go to the rural bank.

"Our life is better now, you can tell from the happiness on our faces"

Pablo Carranza, treasurer of the rural bank, mentions that they also sell four trays a week to other communities. "The eggs sell really well. They are good and people love them," he says. The goal is to expand the poultry barn and sell to even more communities.



Raquel notes that the hens she had at home were not well fed and only laid eggs once in a while. Now people in the community eat better because they can take eggs from the barn in case they do not have enough at home.

Eating habits have also changed, explains Raquel. "When we go to the market, we can buy meat, sausages and other things to go with them: plantain, potatoes and vegetables. We don't eat what we used to anymore."

Many residents of El Santuario have family gardens where they plant cassava, sweet potato, cucumber, tomatoes and chilies. Since they no longer need to buy as much in the market anymore, they have more money to spend on other important expenses.



Families see the community activities are having a positive impact on their economies and helping them better respond to climate change, says local coordinator Concepción Martínez.

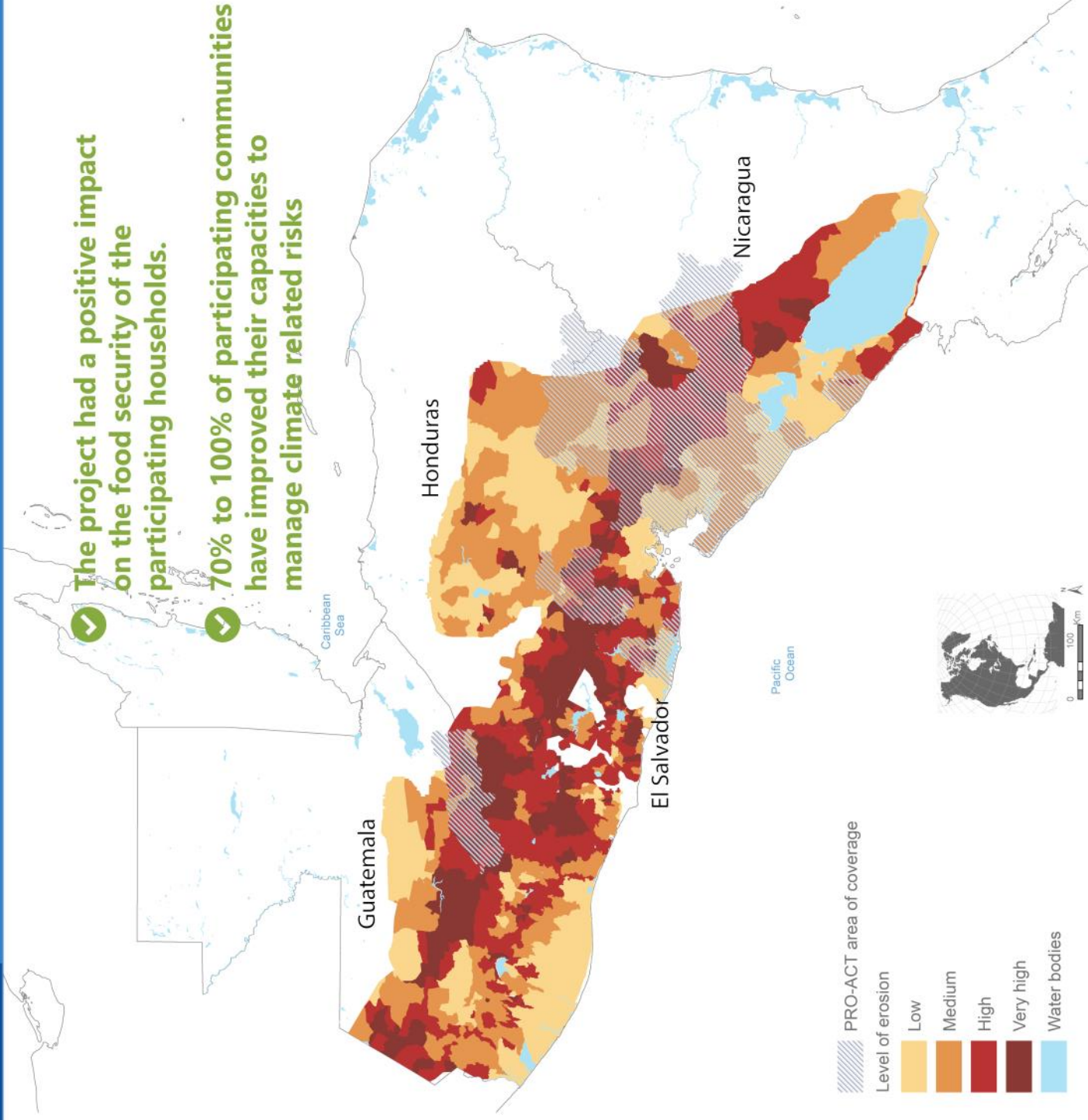
"They are very united, there is solidarity among them and they like to work"

Gustavo Tábora, field monitor of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Choluteca, lists the values that guide this community in its fight against poverty. "They are very united, there is solidarity among them and they like to work". "They do it with enthusiasm," says Gustavo, "because they were the ones who created the projects and these are now bearing fruit—food and earnings."

The European Union and WFP worked to build the resilience and secure the livelihoods of 900 Honduran families in the Dry Corridor.



Photos page 3: WFP/Rocío Franco



Percentage of food insecure households as a result of the 2018 drought



PRO-ACT intervention



32,200 people assisted through Food Assistance for Assets among all countries



200,683 school children assisted in Nicaragua during the lean season



2,790 water harvesting systems constructed both at household and community level



2,713 irrigation systems installed both at household and community level



1,321 ha of degraded or marginal land reforested including with fruit trees



177 nurseries created (vegetable, agroforestry and seedlings)