



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Honduras Country Brief April 2020



Operational Context

Honduras has a population of 9 million, the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2018 was USD 4,542. It has one of the unequal distributions of income and resources in the world. More than half of the population lives below the poverty line and is exposed to violence and crime. The country is characterized by inequitable access to land, insufficient food production, high unemployment and exposure to natural disasters. Food insecurity and malnutrition among the most vulnerable populations have worsened because of droughts in the southern and western regions of the country, known as the Dry Corridor.

WFP's primary objectives in Honduras are to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition and increase human development by improving the health, nutrition and education levels of children and other vulnerable groups through a gender and protection focus. The WFP Country Strategic Plan proposes a significant shift in WFP's support to the Government to attain Zero Hunger by 2030.



Population: 9.012 million

2018 Human Development Index: 133 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 23% of children aged 6-59 months

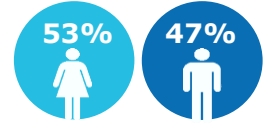
In numbers

390.36 mt of food assistance distributed

N/A cash-based transfers made

USD 183 m total requirements

50,732 people assisted



Operational Updates

- WFP CO under SO4 Activity 5 Assistance on Emergencies prepared its Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan, aiming to improve food security indicators, primarily those linked to food consumption, dietary diversity, and food-related coping strategies. The plan includes a capacity-building process for the beneficiary households in personal sanitation and nutritional messages. According to the VAM analysis developed for the drought emergency and COVID-19, the intervention has been planned in 2 areas: in the rural area assisting 10,782 households (including 320 households of the Chorti and Lenca indigenous population); and, in the urban and peri-urban area assisting 17,520 households (including 700 traditional/subsistence fishing households in Port Lempira, and Amapala).
- WFP CO under SO3 Activity 4 Resilience prepared its Resilience Program Reactivation Plan to improve the resilience capacity of the population, communities, and the Government in nutritional food security through preparedness, response, and recovery actions from the effects of climate change and considering the current Covid-19 emergency. This plan contemplates the current implementation measures taken due to the crisis, and the challenge to assist the vulnerable population that depends on productive activities and daily income to support their basic needs, especially food.
- WFP CO considered new alternatives to the different food response modalities (in-kind, CBT), identified new strategic partners for the use of innovative mechanisms using technology platforms (TENGO from Ficohsa Group) and established a wide network in local markets to use a transfer model with eVoucher, that allows to deliver faster assistance to the beneficiaries and stimulate the local market and economy.

Contact info: hilda.alvarado@wfp.org
Country Director: Judith Thimke
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/honduras

Honduras Strategic Plan (2018-2021)		
Total Requirement (USD 116.1 m)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
183 m	71 m	91.1 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 1: Preschool and primary school-aged children across the country have access to safe and nutritious food year-round by 2021 <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
Activities:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide daily nutritious school meals, sourced from smallholder farmers to preschool and primary school-aged children, complemented with health, hygiene and nutrition activities, gender-transformative education and school gardens. Provide capacity strengthening to local authorities, school staff, parents and smallholder farmers, including technical assistance and training in the management of the school meals programme. 		
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: The most nutritionally vulnerable groups in targeted areas have reduced levels of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies by 2021. <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
Activities:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide capacity strengthening to health institutions at all levels and fortified nutritious foods in targeted areas to girls, pregnant women and lactating women and girls, and children under 2. 		
Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes		
Strategic Outcome 3: Rural agricultural labourers and smallholder farmers in targeted areas, especially in indigenous communities, are more resilient to shocks and stressors, contributing to their food and nutrition security throughout the year. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
Activities:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide food assistance for assets to food-insecure households to support the creation and rehabilitation of livelihood assets complemented by capacity strengthening for decentralized government authorities in the management of resilience building and climate change adaptation programmes. 		
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 4: Targeted households affected by rapid- and slow-onset disasters have access to food year-round. <i>Focus area: Crisis Response</i>		
Activities:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complement government transfers to the most vulnerable households affected by disasters to facilitate relief and early recovery while supporting strengthened institutional emergency response capacities. 		
Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities		
Strategic Outcome 5: Government authorities and partner organizations at the national and subnational levels, complemented by strategic alliances, have strengthened capacity to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 2, by 2021. <i>Focus area: Resilience Building</i>		
Activities:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance and capacity strengthening in emergency preparedness and response, including linkages to social protection, to institutions at the national and subnational level. Support an advocacy platform and communicate strategically about the 2030 Agenda, with an emphasis on SDG 2, to the general public, the private sector and partners. 		

Programme, teachers and local school authorities in rural areas have started to distribute food rations to the families of the school children. The school directors ordered the start of food distributions in schools, according to the health security protocols.

- The CO continues holding weekly meetings with the Heads of Field Offices to have first-hand information on the situation and challenges in each region of the country. The field staff is holding meetings on targeting protocols with local authorities, implementing partners, and other community representatives, and proceeding in the final stage of the collection of data to identify the most vulnerable households.

Monitoring

- WFP Honduras, through the mVam methodology, presented the results of the SAN Bulletin in food security and the economic situation at the household and market level. The study was carried out with support from cooperating partners, with primary data (both quantitative and qualitative) collection through a phone survey methodology, with a sample of 6,183 households in the country's 18 provinces. The study showed that all economic income-generating activities have been affected nationwide due to the measures implemented to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The economic activities most affected are trade, services, informal employment with daily payment, tourism, and traditional/subsistence fishing having an impact of a reduction of 51 percent in employment. The lack of food availability and access has led to a severe economic vulnerability in 40 percent of the households interviewed, prioritizing more than 75 percent of their expenditures on food purchase and reducing the investment in other basic needs.

Challenges

- WFP Honduras has taken action to prepare for a coronavirus outbreak in the country, declared by WHO as a Global Pandemic Outbreak. The CO is actively involved in the National Risk Management System (SINAGER). Currently, Honduras faces a weak and limited public health system.
- The high level of insecurity, migration, local displacement, and the challenging socio-economic situation requires a strong partnership with national, UN and other actors to support development efforts and particularly progress towards SDG 2.
- WFP Honduras continues to mobilize resources locally and internationally.