



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Honduras Country Brief May 2020



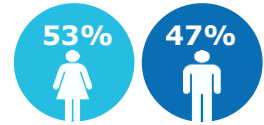
In Numbers

201 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 95 k cash-based transfers made

USD 188.2 m total requirements

33,242 people assisted



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**

Operational Updates

- Under SO4/ACT5 Assistance on Emergencies, WFP started the assistance to the most vulnerable households in La Mosquitia, La Ceiba, Santa Rosa de Copan, and Comayagua. The intervention will assist 1, 310 households with Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) modality through the financial services BanRural. This is the first step to assist 30,000 families around the country through different modalities. The assistance aims to improve the food security indicators, primarily those linked to food consumption, dietary diversity, and food-related coping strategies.
- The UNCT presented the Humanitarian Response Plan for the COVID-19 emergency to the Government authorities. The event had the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Commission on Contingencies (COPECO, for its Spanish acronym), the G-16, NGOs, and donor community. Each cluster leader presented their response plan and financial requirements. WFP, which co-leads with FAO, presented the Food Security and Nutrition response plan actions aim to support the most vulnerable households.
- For the School Feeding, WFP worked within a framework for reopening schools with the Group of External Cooperation in Education (MERECE, for its Spanish acronym). A guideline for the Safe Return to Class Strategy was developed; the main objective of the strategy is for children to achieve relevant learning during the emergency. A private sector school feeding response plan was as well developed for the health emergency.

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Honduras Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (USD 116.1 m)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
188.2 m	72.1m	84.2 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**Focus area:** Root Causes**Activities:**

- 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.**Focus area:** Root Causes**Activities:**

- 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.**Focus area:** Resilience Building**Activities:**

- 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.**Focus area:** Crisis Response**Activities:**

- 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.**Focus area:** Resilience Building**Activities:**

- 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.

- For the fifth consecutive year, WFP Honduras received a contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a strategic partner of WFP in the global fight against hunger. WFP under SO1/ACT1 School Feeding received a contribution of 463 metric tons of dates for the National School Feeding Programme. The dates donation will be distributed among an estimated 345,000 school children for a 25-day ration period, which will help increase the nutritional value to complement the food ration meals.
- WFP Honduras is reaching out to establish new partnerships and strengthen ongoing ones, with a broad range of actors including the IMF, World Bank, IADB, ILO, IOM, and UNICEF, mainly to help the Government in their shock responsive social protection capacity. WFP ensures that the already vulnerable, rural households affected by the prolonged drought, and now by the economic impacts of COVID-19 are included in the current food assistance efforts. WFP, through new targeting, is ensuring the assistance to the vulnerable food-insecure households in urban and peri-urban areas affected by the current emergency.
- WFP and ILO are working together to design and implement a livelihood microeconomic study, which should result in a decision-making tool to identify the most vulnerable, excluded from social protection systems. The livelihood microeconomic study seeks to contribute to the construction of public policies with a social protection approach.

Challenges

- The CO is actively involved in the National Risk Management System (SINAGER, for its Spanish acronym). Currently, Honduras faces a weak and limited public health system. The economic impacts of the COVID-19 will have significant consequences even after the crisis, affecting socio-economic recovery.
- 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.