



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Honduras

Country Brief

March 2022



©WFP Photo / Participants of the International Women's Day workshop in San Antonio del Norte, La Paz.

Operational Context

Honduras has a population of almost 10 million, with a gross domestic product per capita of USD 2,574.9 (2019). It has one of the most 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 have worsened because of droughts in the southern and western regions of the country, known as the Dry Corridor and in the rest of the country because of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the hurricanes Eta and Iota.

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.

WFP has been present in Honduras since 1970.



Population: **9.9 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **132 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

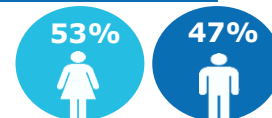
In Numbers

43 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1.1 million cash-based transfers

USD 24.8 million six-months (April 2022 – September 2022) net funding requirements, representing 21% of total

125,276 people assisted
in MARCH 2022



Operational Updates

- WFP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) joined forces to train 50 women from Lenca communities in the department of La Paz as part of the actions carried out for International Women's Day. During the workshop, participants learned and reaffirmed their knowledge of gender and sexual and reproductive health issues. They were also trained on nutrition and how to avoid anaemia, especially during pregnancy and breastfeeding.
- The first round of private sector funded School Feeding assistance was distributed to 7,557 preschool children to cover 60 days of classes in the departments of Francisco Morazán, Olancho, El Paraíso, Valle, Choluteca, Comayagua, Cortés, Copán, Yoro, Atlántida and Islas de la Bahía, distributing 43 mt of food.
- Also, 214 health personnel were trained in basic nutrition concepts, the importance of healthy and nutritious diets in the 1,000-day window, proper use of specialized nutritious foods, nutritional surveillance, anthropometric measurements and nutritional status analysis, as part of the Vulnerable Groups Programme.
- The Resilience Programme continued with food assistance through cash-based transfers to 7,886 households in the departments of Santa Bárbara, Yoro, Cortés. The intervention has a component of food assistance to support asset creation and a strong capacity strengthening process.
- WFP's Emergency Response Programme provided assistance to 6,986 households affected by drought in the Dry Corridor. WFP also use commodity vouchers.
- WFP supported the development of the Cash Working Group's Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) for the target population of humanitarian aid, specifically for those affected by the Eta and Iota storm crisis, COVID-19 and the drought crisis in the Dry Corridor.

Contact info: Janeth Rodríguez (janeth.rodriguez@wfp.org)

Country Director: Stephanie Hochstetter

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/honduras

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
265.1 million	137.6 million	24.8 million

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.

Monitoring

- In March, WFP completed the Market Functionality Index (MFI) study analysis. The study was discussed with Supply Chain, VAM, Honduras country office and the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Based on the results, WFP decided to continue with a commodity voucher modality for the pilot conditional food assistance programme that will begin deliveries in April. One of the challenges faced has been identifying eligible beneficiaries (pregnant women, infants, children between 6-23 months). It is reported that the numbers have been reduced due to migration in La Paz. WFP is working closely with the Ministry of Health to identify vulnerable groups.

Challenges

- For the following months, the annual lean season is expected to start two months earlier than usual, due to crop losses in the Primera and Postrera. As a result, these households will rely on purchasing as a primary source of food earlier, at a time when food and fuel prices are high, as inflation is expected to remain high, putting household's dependent on markets for their food needs at risk. In addition to this, crop losses and decreases in cultivated areas have caused an earlier depletion of reserves, increasing the number of food-insecure people in the months of seasonal hunger. High commodity costs also affect people's purchases, i.e., people will have to rationalize their purchases with the amount of money they have available, decreasing the number of products they can access. This directly affects WFP's interventions by raising operating costs.
- The high level of insecurity, migration, local displacement and the challenging socio-economic situation requires a strong partnership with national stakeholders, United Nations agencies and other actors to support.

Donors

Canada, European Union, Honduras, Japan, United States of America, Switzerland, and private donors.