



Honduras Humanitarian Needs and Food Insecurity

Honduras is a country vulnerable to various natural hazards. Storms have become increasingly frequent in the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season alone was the most active in history and the fifth consecutive to exceed average activity. Thirty named tropical storms were recorded, of which 13 became hurricanes, of these 2 directly affected Honduras (Eta and Iota) generating adverse impacts and evidencing the conditions of vulnerability. In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of natural, social, political, and economic phenomena that have highlighted the humanitarian needs of the population. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated in April 2020 that slightly more than 2.7 million people were affected and of these at least 1.3 million people with immediate humanitarian needs where the main affectations were associated with endemic poverty, recurrent disasters and climatic shocks, and endemic chronic violence that is difficult to control.

Faced with this complex scenario of humanitarian needs, CARE, ASONOG, ADEPES, CASM, OCDIH are analyzing humanitarian needs in relation to food insecurity in especially high-risk populations as well as the identification of solutions from the local perspective to the multidimensional problem that is leading to a deterioration in the quality of life of the most vulnerable populations and deprivation of basic rights.

Key Findings:

- The multiple events triggered **severe economic impacts for people, with many fewer resources available.**, 51% were in severe economic vulnerability and 28% reported difficulties in accessing food.
- **52% of women are being mostly affected in aspects of food security** linked to economic vulnerability and decrease in food intake.
- **Only 25% of women report owning land/housing**, which highlights the need to promote a gender focus in access to and ownership of property.
- There is a **trend in the migratory movement** outside the borders of Honduras, where 87.5% is international (75% to the United States); however, 12% seek opportunities internally.
- 36% of the **population dedicated to subsistence agriculture is afraid and uncertain about the irregularity of rainfall for planting**, and therefore decided not to plant. Failing to plant has severe consequences for food availability not just this year, but also in the coming years.

- 63.1% of the participating population is assuming **survival strategies**, mainly **eating cheaper food and in smaller proportions**.
- The **loss of subsistence crops** in the post-rainy season of 2020, more than 58% of the population reported losses, and in the first season in 2021 more than 27% of the population reported losses.
- In the **emotional component**, 65.7% were worried, 24.7% reported feeling demotivated and 20.8% expressed sadness. **Only 17.6% of the households reported optimism and motivation**.
- **70% of the population said that they have received humanitarian assistance**, which is evidence of the efforts and support from different agencies, especially at the local level, with the municipal mayor's office being the main source of support, followed by NGOs. It should be noted that **government social support programs are not reflected in the support provided to the population**.

Recommendations:

- Design programs and projects that contribute to **improve food education processes** so the population can adapt their habits based on the availability of food.
- Continue **improving the processes related to the promotion of behavioral change and improvement of hygiene habits**, where basic infrastructure improvement conditions are promoted **with a differentiated approach for women**.
- Establish mechanisms to **identify and monitor trends in human mobility** related to **migration** (internal or external) to recognize trends and develop actions aimed at protecting the most vulnerable people.
- **Agricultural programs and projects should be designed according to the geographic/cultural context** where the greatest number of needs exist and articulated to improve the technical conditions and skills of farmers to increase yields of subsistence crops, but also to diversify their income, considering climatic variations.
- Develop programs and projects that promote an approach related to **personal and family resilience**.
- Continue to manage programs and projects oriented to cover humanitarian needs, but it is necessary to **promote a transition towards the recovery of their livelihoods in such a way that assistance is directly linked to actions oriented to lasting solutions**.
- Manage the design of projects based on the **identification of local solutions where local actors can participate jointly**, articulating efforts and resources for a common purpose.
- Conduct in-depth studies on the **effectiveness of social protection programs to address humanitarian needs in relation to food insecurity**.
- **These crises have had a disproportionate impact on women that increases structural gender inequalities**. It has also shown the **overrepresentation of female headship in single-parent households**. Therefore, it is recommended to **further studies on the implications for food security in comparison with other households**.

This brief summarizes the RGA <https://www.careevaluations.org/evaluation/analisis-de-contexto-sobre-necesidades-humanitarias-bajo-escenario-de-inseguridad-alimentaria-honduras-america-central/>, written by CARE Honduras, June 2021.