



WFP Honduras Country Brief June 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

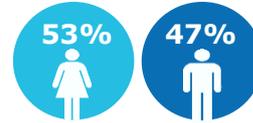
In Numbers

2,108.90 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 2 m cash-based transfers made

USD 188 m total requirements

520,187 people assisted



Operational Update

- The U.S. Agency for International Development (acronym USAID) announced a donation of USD 4 million for food assistance through WFP, to the households most affected by the COVID-19 emergency. WFP under SO4/ACT5 Assistance on Emergencies will implement the assistance to 14,000 households that have exhausted their food reserves in vulnerable communities in the Dry Corridor. The assistance will be developed through a cash-based transfer modality to support and help restore food security following Biosecurity measures. As well, WFP received the Germany Funds donation for EUR 800,000 that will support the humanitarian intervention to 3,200 households suffering from food insecurity. The assistance will be complementary to the efforts made by the Government of Honduras and will focus mainly on urban and peri-urban areas, where the situation of the lockdown has impacted the job opportunities and food access to the most vulnerable households.
- WFP under SO4/ACT5 Assistance on Emergencies has almost completed the first cycle of the assistance to the most vulnerable households, through three assistance modalities that are Cash-Based Transfers (CBT), in-kind baskets, and e-cards of a supermarket service provider. To date, the assistance to beneficiaries has been implemented for Cash-Based Transfers a 100 percent, for in-kind baskets 100 percent and the e-cards an 88.55 percent. The first cycle of assistance will have assisted more than 29,000 vulnerable households in rural, peri-urban and urban areas, including a particular focus on Chorti, Lenca, and Misquito indigenous population, to improve food security in the current COVID-19 crisis.
- The CO under SO 3 SO3/ACT 4 Resilience Programme started the assistance with an in-kind food basket to 1,789 households, representing 58 percent of the total number of beneficiaries. The assistance started in 16 municipalities of the provinces of Choluteca, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazán,

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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 m	73.5 m	48.3 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.

and La Paz following Biosecurity measures. The programme is supporting primary production to ensure the food crops of the first cycle. Also, actions such as good agricultural practices, land-water management, conservation, construction of water crops, irrigation systems, training, and the establishment of agroforestry nurseries, among others.

- WFP under SO2/ACT3 Vulnerable Groups distributed complementary fortified food (Super Cereal Plus) to more than 120 health centres in 34 municipalities of the Dry Corridor. The assistance has benefited 7,877 households. WFP and the Ministry of Health (acronym in Spanish SESAL) prepared the third distribution for July. CO started discussions with the SESAL for the renewal of the agreement for 2022-2026 and is evaluating the possibility of expanding the programme. As a first step, CO has begun to assess the impacts of the Food Security and Nutrition intervention of the beneficiary children in the first cycle of life of 1,000 days for the targeted municipalities.
- WFP under SO1/ ACT 1 School Feeding assisted the second school food distribution of the National School Feeding Programme (acronym in Spanish PNAE). The distribution will be for 53 days in 129 municipalities prioritized by their vulnerability, in the provinces of Atlántida, Colón, Comayagua, Francisco Morazán, Copán, Gracias a Dios, Bay Islands, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Olancho, Santa Barbara, and Yoro. The GoH under the Strategy for the Attention to Indigenous and Afro-Honduran People (acronym in Spanish PIAH) is currently benefiting 365,529 schoolchildren. WFP coordinates the logistics support mechanisms in delivery, organizing the reception, and the food distribution following the Biosecurity measures.

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 economic impacts of the COVID-19 will have long consequences even after the crisis, affecting socio-economic recovery.
- The high level of insecurity, migration, local displacement, and the challenging socio-economic situation require 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.