

CONTEXT

- Honduras is vulnerable to multiple and recurrent climate-related hazards, including droughts, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and storms. These hazards—which continue to intensify due to climate change—frequently damage crops and infrastructure, as well as undermine livelihoods. Populations in the country’s Dry Corridor, which covers much of southern and western Honduras, have faced increasing food insecurity in recent years, due in part to repeated droughts that have reduced agricultural production and incomes, the lingering socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as rising inflation.



- Hurricanes Eta and Iota—which made landfall in November 2020—resulted in 99 deaths, prompted the evacuation of more than 1 million people, and severely damaged agricultural lands, according to the Government of Honduras (GoH) and the World Bank. In total, the storms adversely affected more than 4.5 million people.
- In September 2022, the GoH declared a state of emergency following heavy flooding that caused severe damage or destruction to agricultural lands, houses, and infrastructure and adversely affected more than 84,000 people in the areas surrounding the Uluá and Chamelecón rivers. The floods and related landslides resulted in at least 16 deaths and exacerbated existing food, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs across seven affected departments in Honduras, the UN reports.
- As of February 2023, the UN estimated that approximately 3.2 million people required humanitarian assistance—particularly food, protection, health, and WASH services—across Honduras. Between March and August, up to 1 million individuals will likely experience Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity nationwide, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).¹

ASSISTANCE

- Throughout Fiscal Years (FYs) 2022 and 2023, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) continued to support humanitarian partners to provide emergency food assistance across Honduras. Through the delivery of cash transfers for food, USAID/BHA partners are reducing food consumption gaps to prevent and address acute food insecurity among vulnerable households, particularly during the country’s April-to-August lean

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

season, when food is scarcest. USAID/BHA partners are also providing agricultural support to smallholder farmers to ensure appropriate and timely inputs for planting and growing seasons to improve food security. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners are training smallholder farmers to implement climate-resilient farming practices, such as drip irrigation and soil management, to increase crop production and better protect against future shocks.



USAID/BHA partner the Adventist and Development Relief Agency (ADRA) distributes food in Honduras in June. Photo Credit: U.S. ADRA

- In response to flooding and subsequent landslides in September 2022, USAID/BHA partner World Vision distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to temporarily displaced households in Atlántida, Cortes, and Yoro departments, enabling an estimated 2,780 individuals to purchase food and other essential goods.
- USAID/BHA partners are helping vulnerable households restore livelihoods, increase financial resilience, and mitigate the impact of future shocks. This assistance includes the creation of community savings and loans groups, the provision of financial literacy courses, and the resumption and expansion of income-generating activities.
- USAID/BHA partners work with local organizations to mitigate and respond to protection concerns in Honduras, particularly child protection risks and the needs of individuals affected by gender-based violence (GBV). As part of its integrated approach to protection programming, USAID/BHA partners are delivering case management and psychosocial support services for vulnerable individuals—particularly children, LGBTQI+ populations, women, and other at-risk demographics. Implementing partners also provide multi-purpose cash assistance to help affected individuals meet their basic needs and start or restore livelihood activities to increase financial independence.
- USAID/BHA also supports early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) activities in Honduras that enhance long-term resilience and response capacity of communities against natural disasters. USAID/BHA partners help vulnerable households restore livelihoods, increase financial resilience, and mitigate the impact of future shocks in Cortes, Francisco Morazán, and Yoro departments. This assistance includes establishing early warning and response systems, providing local governments with technical assistance to improve operational capacity, and strengthening affected populations’ post-disaster coping and recovery strategies. In both Cortes and Yoro, USAID/BHA partners seek to improve the development of informal urban settlements in communities by enhancing key socioeconomic systems—including strengthening housing and WASH infrastructure—increasing community coordination and preparing local actors to respond to disasters.

USAID/BHA Funding in Honduras ²			
	Emergency	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$37,689,132	\$1,500,000	\$39,189,132
FY 2023	\$17,500,000	—	\$17,500,000

² Year of funding indicates the date of obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 15, 2023. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.