



HONDURAS

Climate change and food insecurity are severely impacting rural livelihoods in Honduras and increasing rates of migration out of the country. Weather extremes are now a regular occurrence in the country, as droughts dry up rural farmer livelihoods, hurting an agricultural sector that employs 30 percent of the total labor force. The frequency of climate-related humanitarian crises has escalated with recent hurricanes like Eta and Iota devastating homes, crops and infrastructure. As the second poorest country in Central America, Honduras is experiencing soaring levels of out-migration and urbanization, factors that increase poverty and threaten a vulnerable agricultural sector. Lutheran World Relief is committed to building hope for the next generation and supporting Hondurans to achieve a stable and dignified life within their own country.

Lutheran World Relief has worked in Honduras since the early 1990s, focusing on food security, coffee value chain development, crop diversification, gender integration, youth and humanitarian assistance. Building lasting partnerships with local non-governmental organizations, government officials, farmer cooperatives and other value chain actors, we contribute to an inclusive and sustainable agricultural economy and improve smallholder farmer livelihoods by diversifying agricultural production and income, improving on-farm processing and storage, strengthening local food markets, and training youth with the skills they need to launch

small businesses or find employment. Lutheran World Relief helps rural communities strengthen their resilience against the increasingly severe effects of climate change, water scarcity and unfavorable market systems.

OUR GLOBAL APPROACHES

Rural Economies and Agricultural Livelihoods

Lutheran World Relief works with smallholder farmers to increase their food security and their participation in and income from agricultural value chains, including cocoa and coffee. We train farmers in climate smart agricultural practices, post-harvest processing and storage as well as in other value-adding skills. We strengthen the capacity of cooperatives and unions that serve these farmers through training in governance and financial management, facilitating joint negotiation of credit and other services and boosting collective marketing and sales.

Climate Resilience

Lutheran World Relief works with rural communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate on their agriculture-based livelihoods. We emphasize environmental rehabilitation through the implementation of soil and water conservation works and watershed management on community land, as well as tree seedling production for community-led reforestation.

Humanitarian Assistance

Lutheran World Relief meets the immediate needs of households, IDPs and refugees, affected by conflict, natural disasters, and food and water crises through food, material resource, and cash assistance as well as shelter and WASH support. As immediate needs are met, we seamlessly transition to providing the knowledge and resources they need to start, diversify and strengthen livelihoods and reduce their vulnerabilities in the future.



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In concert with Corus International

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Project Highlights

Youth in Agri-business: Ensuring the Employment of Tomorrow

Lutheran World Relief is working in rural Honduras to address gaps in youth employment opportunities in the coffee sector through strengthening youth's transferable skills as technical advisers, rural promoters and coffee quality experts according to market demand; creating new job opportunities for trained youth; and facilitating opportunities for youth entrepreneurs to realize their potential through new agri-business ventures.

Strengthening Youth Capacities in Entrepreneurship and Coffee in Honduras

Lutheran World Relief and local partner El Instituto Hondureño del Café (IHCAFE) help youth find employment or become small business entrepreneurs in the coffee sector, building their skills in coffee production and post-harvest handling practices. Youth are learning about improved cultivation techniques and how to use technology, such as IHCAFE's digital coffee app CafeMovil, which provides instant access to an online toolbox of coffee cultivation manuals that supplies in-depth responses to coffee cultivation questions.

Gender in Agriculture: From Policy to Practice

As part of the USAID-led Feed the Future initiative, Lutheran World Relief adopted an innovative program strategy to influence municipal regulations, institutional policies and social norms in Western Honduras to reduce gender-based gaps in access to resources for productive enterprises. In addition to influencing policy and empowering women and women's groups, Lutheran World Relief used an innovative masculinities methodology to promote changes in men's attitudes towards women's political and economic participation. By creating a more inclusive local agricultural economy, these activities strengthened local governments, established effective community councils, increased female leadership and channeled national investments to the region into infrastructure and socio-economic programs.

Food Security through Small-scale Agriculture

In the department of Francisco Morazán, Lutheran World Relief worked to establish sustainable community agricultural production in an area unable to produce sufficient food to meet household requirements. Activities included: sustainable water management; distribution and training with improved seeds in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture; and establishment of demonstration plots using tunnel greenhouses and organic fertilizers. Lutheran World Relief helped establish committees for the long-term management of natural resources and exchange of information.

Maximizing Opportunities in Cacao and Coffee in the Americas (MOCCA)

MOCCA is a multi-country initiative led by Technoserve and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that helps Latin American farmers overcome the barriers to effectively rehabilitate and renovate their coffee and cocoa plants – increasing their productivity while improving their marketing capacity, incomes and livelihoods. Lutheran World Relief leads MOCCA's cacao programming in the 5-year, \$10.5 million project.

Supporting Urgent Needs of Hondurans

Amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, Hurricanes Eta and Iota destroyed the homes and livelihoods of countless Honduran families. Lutheran World Relief provided emergency shelter, food and WASH assistance as well as psychosocial support to allow families to start rebuilding their lives. LWR also focused on hygiene responses to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 immediately after the storms.

With the involvement of women- and youth-led networks, Lutheran World Relief also improved community resilience through organizational strengthening in disaster risk management in the drought-stricken department of Lempira.

The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, an ensemble of global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to Lutheran World Relief, the Corus family of organizations includes global public health agency IMA World Health, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing group Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

We operate as permanent partners, integrating expertise, disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

With the support of our family's diverse set of partners and funding – from multi- and bilateral institutions and foundations to the private sector and individuals – we invest in solutions that are innovative, scalable, holistic and move the needle towards transformational change.

