



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

HONDURAS

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) has been working in Honduras since the early 1990s and has maintained a permanent presence in the country since 2011. Working in partnership with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ecumenical alliances, farmers' organizations and other cocoa and coffee value chain actors, LWR currently engages with agricultural communities primarily in northern and western regions of the country to establish agricultural systems that increase incomes and food security for smallholder farmers. LWR assists farmers in these communities to respond to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, insufficient water sources, limited technical resources for agricultural production, and weak organizational systems. LWR's focus on agriculture value chains is complemented by efforts to help farmers diversify agro-forestry production, improve farm processing, upgrade farm storage practices, and strengthen local food markets.

Additionally, LWR works with emergency response agencies and coordination networks to plan for and respond to natural disasters and other emergencies both on a local and a national scale.

GENDER IN AGRICULTURE: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

Together with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), LWR in Honduras has adopted an innovative program strategy to increase food security in agricultural communities by influencing 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 policy change and empowerment of women and women's groups, LWR also uses an innovative masculinities methodology in this program to promote changes in male attitudes towards equitable political and economic participation by women.

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Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and people experiencing poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America, both in times of emergencies and for the long term. LWR builds and maximizes community assets to develop strong local economies and resilient communities, toward our mission of an end to poverty, injustice and human suffering.

By creating a more inclusive local agricultural economy these activities strengthen local governments, establish effective community councils, increase female leadership, and channel national investments to the region into infrastructure and socio-economic programs.

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS: COCOA

LWR is supporting Honduras' efforts to generate growth in the export of high-quality cocoa. In Honduras, small cocoa farm enterprises struggle to enter high-value export value chains due to limited market information and knowledge which leads to poor tree care, poor pre- and post-processing handling, and ultimately limits production quantity and quality.

LWR and the World Environment Center, with financing from the US Department of State, are implementing a regional program in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua to strengthen smallholder cocoa enterprises. In Honduras this program will benefit thousands of farmers by providing mobile-based and online access to LWR's Cocoa Toolkit, a resource providing a wide range of production, processing and marketing information for small-scale cocoa farmers. Additionally, this project will provide the opportunity for farmers, producer organizations, and service enterprises in the cocoa value chain to participate in national and regional dialogues related to the cocoa sector.



AGRICULTURE: FOOD SECURITY

LWR is also working in Honduras to improve food security through small-scale agriculture. In Francisco Morazán, LWR is working to establish sustainable community agricultural production in an area unable to produce sufficient food to meet household requirements. Efforts to improve production include: 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. LWR is helping establish committees for the long-term management of natural resources and interchange of information.

Additionally, food security projects in the municipalities of Copán Ruinas, Santa Rita and Cabañas Copán — three of the poorest municipalities in Honduras with malnutrition levels of over 50 percent — will benefit Chortí Maya Indigenous groups and ensure community members are equipped with improved production practices in family vegetable gardens and in the post- and pre-harvest processing of coffee for cash sale. Participating families will benefit directly from increased food production on their farms, increased profits from surpluses, reduction in post-harvest grain loss, and a diversified sustainable diet. Improvement in coffee handling and processing results in a higher-quality product and increased household income from sales which can then be used to meet food security deficits during severe droughts.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS: CASH TRANSFERS

Several years of severe periods of drought have caused a food crisis in the south of the Department of Lempira where there is a lack of access to basic food groups and very low economic capabilities to purchase nutritious foods.

During periods of annual crisis, LWR provides immediate humanitarian relief to families to increase food availability and consumption through the distribution of cash and vouchers. As LWR stimulates the micro-economy of the area during intense dry periods, LWR is distributing assistance through a case-by-case basis while ensuring the sustainability of the community's economic system.