

Honduras: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



Mother as Health Voluntary in a Integrated Children Care in the Community Strategy meeting, San Antonio Community, Santa Cruz Esperanza Intibucá © PROSADE Lempa CARE Honduras

What are the bold actions being taken by the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Honduras?

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, with a third of the population living on less than a dollar a day. Recurrent natural disasters and a susceptibility to the effects of climate change contribute to food and income insecurity.

Through holistic interventions that combine social, economic and environmental dimensions, efforts are underway in the country to improve food security, health and nutrition, and to provide for employment opportunities for many families, with a particular focus on women. The "Promotion of Food Security and Social Inclusion in

the Lempa Region of Honduras" (PROSADE) promotes sustainable development in southern Honduras—a region heavily affected by severe droughts. The project is run by CARE Honduras (NGO) under the auspices of the "A Better Life Programme" of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS). In an effort to "leave no one behind, it has had a positive impact on men, women, children, youth and indigenous people who struggle with poverty, exclusion, vulnerability and social risks.

Through capacity-building workshops and financial credit

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Almost all the beneficiaries are women... I have already realized the new knowledge that participants have gained through the field schools, and this strengthens the workforce of the family.

Now women of Compante contribute to the household economy by farming vegetables and fruits ... also promote solidarity within the community

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Esperanza Lopez Cartajena
Mayor of one municipality in Lempa Region,
coordinated in the field school of PROSADE in the community of Compante



Beneficiaries at a capacity building workshop in Calusica, Concepcion, Intibuca © PROSADE Lempa CARE Honduras



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mechanisms, such as Credito Solidario and rural credit unions, people in the region learn how to apply sustainable farming techniques and increase yields. Now they are able to produce crops all year round for family consumption regardless of dry seasons and sell exceeding crops to generate more income.

Women's self-esteem is strengthened and they are taught to improve their families' nutrition and health. Mothers are taught to raise their children with love and positive reinforcement through a sister project led by the First Lady of Honduras in collaboration with UNICEF. WFP and FAO are supporting PROSADE with complimentary interventions, while UNDP is currently working with SEDIS to build another project to tackle child malnutrition in the region.

Why do the above actions matter to people in Honduras?

PROSADE's multidimensional poverty approach interventions serve more than 31,000 people in the 23 border municipalities of Intibucá and Lempira (almost 15 per cent of the total population of these municipalities). These municipalities are part of the "dry corridor", a region heavily affected by droughts and

Sistema de Cosecha de Agua Lluvia



Rainwater harvesting system © PROSADE Lempa CARE Honduras

abnormal weather conditions that pose an existential threat to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

67 per cent of the project's participants are women who are particularly vulnerable. This is also reflected in the average Gender Development Index (GDI) which stands at 0.821 for this region (compared to a national GDI of 0.313). 23 per cent of women in western Honduras are illiterate, and of those with access to education in rural areas, less than 50 per cent have primary school education. In the region, 48 per cent of children under 5 present signs of chronic malnutrition and 59 per cent of all families are

considered multidimensional poor compared to a national average of 27 per cent.

What SDGs have been particularly advanced?

The project mainly focuses on Goal 1 on poverty (Target 1.2), Goal 2 on hunger (2.1, 2.2, 2.3), Goal 3 on health (3.2), Goal 5 on gender equality (5.5), Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation (6.4), Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth (8.4), and Goal 13 on climate action (13.1, 13.3).



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