



World Vision



ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT

HONDURAS »

SEMIANNUAL REPORT: October 2019 through March 2020

Prepared July 2020

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN HONDURAS

PROGRAM UPDATE

76,244 PEOPLE* provided with access to economic empowerment activities since the beginning of the project.

3,440 farmers using improved agricultural technology

Life-of-program target: 10,000

34%

6,671 people accessing financial services

Life-of-program target: 14,000

48%

9,676 people provided with increased access to markets

Life-of-program target: 14,000

69%

*FY20 data reflected in this report is for the first quarter only. Government restrictions due to COVID-19 prevented World Vision from collecting data at the close of the second quarter. The FY20 year-end report will reflect full annual data.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Thank you for joining World Vision in ministry to help families in Honduras. Your support of THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) provides services such as improved technology, and specialized technical assistance to help smallholder farmers to improve their incomes and support their families.

Already, in the first half of fiscal year 2020, 457 smallholder producer groups have received support services through THRIVE. Of those, 395 groups reported having initial income of \$ 2.1 million, and 62 producer groups shared they had no prior income. After participating in THRIVE, participants reported their gross income had increased by an impressive

213% to \$6.6 million. They improved agricultural practices and use of technology (such as irrigation systems); gained access to financial services through savings groups and small loans from VisionFund; and accessed greater markets by joining producer groups that allowed them to earn better prices for their products by selling to commercial buyers in bulk.

By the close of the reporting period (March 2020), COVID-19 and related government-imposed closures and restrictions to combat the spread of the deadly disease, began to impact operations. Thankfully, THRIVE-trained farmers have learned financial management and to establish emergency savings to withstand a crisis.



Edward Herrera, 8, dreams of becoming a coffee engineer and owning his own coffee factory, just like his aunt Marisol and uncle Genri Ramirez. Marisol and Genri participated in the World Vision THRIVE program and now operate a successful coffee plant in San Marcos area program, Honduras.

GOAL AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Six-year program goal through fiscal year 2022:

14,000 FAMILIES empowered to sustainably provide for 40,000 children by improving their resilience and increasing their incomes.

Expected outcomes:

Families generate sustainable and diversified increase in their incomes

Smallholder farmers and their families are transformed from dependency to empowerment and collaboration

Households and communities practice sustainable on- and off-farm natural resource management

Children live in families whose livelihoods are resilient to stress and emergencies.

COVID-19 and Economic Empowerment

The COVID-19 crisis is impacting every country where World Vision operates, including Honduras. Since the beginning of the outbreak, World Vision has leveraged our 70-year history of emergency response to help children and families across the globe. In Honduras, economic empowerment activities such as providing access to loan capital for Savings for Transformation groups and business owners through tailored microfinance products, are crucial to helping children and their families not only survive this pandemic, but emerge resilient, with durable hope for the future.

While disruptions and necessary restrictions related to the spread of COVID-19 will delay aspects of our program, we remain committed to working at the household and community levels to help build sustainable livelihoods and resilience to shocks and stresses. Thank you for partnering with World Vision. We are truly grateful for your choice to stand with us as we face this unprecedented challenge.

HONDURAS

World Vision Economic Empowerment program locations:



COPÁN DEPARTMENT

COQUIN
JIGUA COPÁN
LA UNION
NUEVA ARCADIA
SAN PEDRO COPAN

INTIBUCÁ DEPARTMENT

DOLORES
INTIBUCÁ
JESUS DE OTORO

LEMPIRA DEPARTMENT

BELEN
COLOLACA
GRACIAS
GUARITA
LA CAMPA

LA PAZ DEPARTMENT

MARCALA

EL PARÁISO DEPARTMENT

DANLI
JACALEAPA
MOROCELI
TEUPASENTI
SAN MATIAS
YUSCARAN

OCOTEPEQUE DEPARTMENT

LA LABOR
MERCEDES
SAN MARCOS
SENSENTI
SINUAPA

SANTA BÁRBARA DEPARTMENT

NUEVA FRONTIERA

SEMIANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Sustained and Diversified Incomes

- 5,210 producer and savings group members started Entrelazos training. The training guides participants through multiple phases to establish building blocks for successful businesses:
Phase I: Complete Empowered Worldview (EWW) training
Phase II: Establish savings groups for cash availability for future planting seasons
Phase III: Learn natural resource management and obtain loans from VisionFund* for initial business expansion
Phase IV: Learn disaster risk management and improved agricultural technology
Phase V: Develop producer groups, complete agricultural and advocacy training, and increase access to markets

- 1,367 smallholder producers (34% women) learned to improve agricultural practices through technical assistance provided by the THRIVE program.

A total of 576 coffee producers received specialized technical assistance on topics such as agroecological analysis of farms, humidity control, monitoring of coffee drying, and maturation of special coffees.

Another 610 horticultural producers were equipped with technical skills to improve agricultural practices such as developing seeding plans, managing pests and diseases, maintenance of drip irrigation systems, preparation of substrates for vegetable seedlings, and harvest and post-harvest technologies.

- 349 producers participated in eight coffee competitions sponsored by the THRIVE program, Honduran Coffee Institute, and municipal governments. The competitions encourage high-quality coffee production and help link small coffee producers to national and international buyers. Buyers from the Tashiro Coffee Company of Japan attended the competition and selected nine coffees to purchase.
- As a result of THRIVE, producer and savings groups reported a \$4.5 million increase in income (from \$2.1 million to \$6.7 million), and \$71,036 increase in savings. With increased income and savings, families have needed resources to provide for their basic needs, especially in this time of crisis.

*VisionFund is World Vision's microfinance network.

EXPLORING SOLUTIONS

THRIVE program staff members trained on the market systems approach for future programming. The approach calls for improved coordination of market actors like agricultural input suppliers, extension services, and produce buyers. EcoVentures International led the workshop.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

The parents of 405 sponsored children (55% girls) received support through agricultural interventions, building resilient and sustained livelihoods.

PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

We collaborated with municipal governments, technical Institutes, and agroforestry cooperatives to develop forest fire prevention campaigns to protect trees and promote reforestation. The trees help recharge underground water tables drawn upon for irrigation.



SEMIANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Empowerment and Collaboration

- 2,945 producer and savings group members (49% women) completed life improvement plans using the Empowered Worldview approach. Prior to completing plans, members were trained on gaining a biblically empowered worldview, learning they are each created in the image of God, are accountable for their actions, and are to seek God's calling and pursuit to change the world around them.
- 47 leaders (36% women) of faith-based organizations became trainers of trainers in EWW as THRIVE expands into more World Vision program areas.

Natural Resource Management

- 1,484 community leaders (32% women) serving on 456 water boards received training to care for and co-manage micro-watersheds that supply water for both consumption and irrigation.
- 17,640 trees were planted in micro-watershed recharge areas. This reforestation process ensures natural resources are sustained.
- 70 producers (17% women) learned to operate climate-smart farms using strategies such as pest-tolerant coffee varieties, gypsum and lime to improve soil structure, and microbial products for pest control and yield enhancement of crops.

Resilient Livelihoods

- 457 groups that reported having \$2,099 in emergency savings at the start of the fiscal year increased their emergency savings to \$13,122 by the end of the reporting period. More specifically, in the Lenca area program (AP), 146 groups who reported having no emergency savings previously, saved \$5,010 by the close of the reporting period.

The THRIVE program teaches leaders of producer and savings groups about the importance of emergency savings to support the most vulnerable in their communities during crisis, helping to ensure sustained communities and economies.

Paving the Way for Future Leaders, Stronger Communities

During the first half of FY20, 30 young people (43% women) from youth networks in three APs were selected and trained in EWW and Citizen Voice and Action. Each participant created an outreach plan to be implemented within their respective networks—participants like Leyner Hernandez from San Antonio de Copan.

"[In] Empowered Worldview [training], we were challenged that as a network we could propose projects to our community," said Leyner. "The words of [the instructors] were the trigger to take the initiative to do something positive for our community."

Leyner and his peers decided to plant a garden at their local school to provide fresh food to support a community restaurant. Thankfully, the THRIVE Project was able to support the project. "I was very excited because our plan had been granted," said Leyner. "We are already working . . . are recognized at the municipal level . . . [and] nearby networks offered us their support for the reforestation of our community. That is a small experience that gave a great start to the network of young visionaries. And we are going for more!"

A LOOK AHEAD

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the THRIVE program is adapting activities to help smallholder farmers respond to increased food demands of the general population. A rapid needs assessment revealed a need for enhanced capacity of productive infrastructure (irrigation systems), and ensuring organization and technological knowledge for quality agricultural production.

The program plans to offer a bonus

to producer groups serving the most vulnerable families. These producer groups will receive improved seeds and fertilizers to ensure availability of food for vulnerable families. The THRIVE Project will also collaborate with local partners to serve as volunteer leads of producer groups. They will closely monitor group progress, and regularly update THRIVE staff. These leaders also will serve as trainers to smallholder farmers needing to learn improved agricultural practices.

When needed, agricultural input suppliers will provide training and technical assistance to producers.

Lastly, to reduce the migration of young people due to lack of job opportunities, the project is working to establish farmer-field schools to improve income-generating opportunities in partnership with market actors, suppliers of inputs, and produce buyers, as part of our market systems approach.



THRIVE staff provides specialized technical assistance to Faustino Ventura (pictured left in tan shirt), a producer participating in the Planting Hope Project. Faustino lives in the Rio Chiquito community in Ocotepeque in Honduras.

PLANTING HOPE, YIELDING STRONGER FAMILIES



In 2019, World Vision and Walmart joined in a one-year partnership to deliver the Planting Hope Project to smallholder farmers participating in Honduras THRIVE. The project's goal was to help smallholder farmers (producers) increase their productive yields, consistently produce and deliver higher quality products, and substantially increase their incomes. In so doing, producers and their families might hope for a successful, resilient future.

Ten producer groups from El Paraíso, Ocotepeque, and Intibucá participated in the project, growing and supplying a variety of vegetables to the Walmart Hortifruit Agroindustrial division. Producers cultivated products such as broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, jilote, onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes, potatoes, and watermelon.

To support participating producer groups, the project made possible the installation of irrigation systems, construction of mega- and macro-tunnels to protect the cultivation process of products, and ferro cement tanks to store water. Producer groups also received technical assistance from THRIVE staff to strengthen agricultural technical competencies and ensure compliance with Walmart's quality standards. Lastly, they gained access to markets through Walmart's Hortifruit Agroindustrial division.

As the project comes to an end in FY20, the 10 participating producer groups have reported:

- 217% increase in revenues since the start of the project, with reported gross revenue of \$1.7 million.
- Delivered more than 257,963 bulk products (87,770 products alone were added this reporting period), which is a 226% increase in offerings from the project's inception.
- Contributed \$50,976 for the expansion of coverage, crop protection, and improved access to water. One producer provided financing for a refrigerated truck to transport products to Walmart's Hortifruit Agroindustrial division.

Walmart's Hortifruit Agroindustrial division purchased and distributed the fresh fruits, vegetables, grains, and eggs to 110 stores nationwide, including Despensa Familiar, Maxi Despensa, Supermercados Paiz, and Walmart.

In total, 171 families benefited from this project and have sustained livelihoods to support their households, especially their children (231 girls and boys).

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

—Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Program-to-date spending expressed as a percentage of project-to-date funding (October 2015 to March 2020)

\$8,589,164 spent on economic empowerment activities, including microloans



PROGRAM SPENDING

Activity Description	Program-to-Date Spending	Program-to-Date Funding Released	Program-to-Date Spending Rate
Vulnerable rural families generate sustainable and diversified increase in their income, especially women and youth	\$ 4,506,117	\$ 6,226,053	72%
Communities, farms, and watersheds are managed in sustainable and resilient ways before climate variability	1,244,140	1,454,361	86%
Livelihoods of vulnerable rural families are resilient to risks and disasters	343,810	710,469	48%
Smallholder farmers and rural families are transformed from a culture of dependency to a culture of empowerment and collaboration	347,805	325,660	107%
Management and Fundraising	2,147,291	2,905,515	74%
Total	\$ 8,589,164	\$ 11,622,059	74%



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we serve alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

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