



# HOPE AT HOME: HONDURAS

Building Resilience and Cultivating Hope

*As of December 2021*

**World Vision** 

# HOPE AT HOME: HONDURAS

Grinding poverty. Lack of clean water. Incessant natural disasters and climate shocks. Gang violence. Lack of job opportunities. Not surprisingly, more than 700,000 Honduran people fled their homes and headed for the United States over the last few years in hopes of building a better life.

World Vision is working hand-in-hand with communities and more than 1,000 churches in Honduras in both rural and urban areas. Together with our partners, we are tackling the root causes of forced migration and enabling hope at home.



## FACTS ABOUT HONDURAS

- *Almost half the population lives below the international poverty line.<sup>6</sup>*
- *1.2 million people lack access to clean drinking water.*
- *Farmers have faced 5 years of drought followed by back-to-back catastrophic hurricanes in 2020.*
- *Gang violence is rampant in urban areas, and the country has the 5th highest homicide rate in the world.<sup>7</sup>*

## THE PERFECT STORM

In recent years, forced migration from Central America has become a crisis that needs to be urgently addressed. Vulnerable families in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador are now pressed far beyond their limits as the perfect storm of crises continues to rage.

Families in rural communities face a different set of issues than those in urban hubs. But in both settings, a powerful convergence of challenges has resulted in a critical situation, and the additional negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it devastating.

Families who were already vulnerable have become desperate. In fiscal year 2021, over 300,000 Hondurans were apprehended at the US-Mexico border—almost half of them were traveling with family members.<sup>1</sup>

## WORLD VISION'S RESPONSE

Our multi-faceted approach is customized for the context. In rural communities, we focus on clean water and economic empowerment—equipping families with the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty. In urban hubs, where gang violence and violence in the home persist, we prioritize youth and young adults. Through protection, education, and skill-building programs, young people are equipped emotionally and practically to be safer and find quality jobs in their communities.

With more than 400 local staff in all 18 departments (states) of the country and partnerships with more than 1,000 churches, we are driving positive change at scale—and we will continue to do so with your help.



In 2017, Joanna and her boys had to walk to a dirty water source every day—knowing it could make them sick.

Thanks to funding from major donors, two years later a water system was built, providing clean water throughout Joanna’s community.



## RURAL COMMUNITIES

The majority of Hondurans living below the international poverty line of \$5.50 per day are in rural areas—and more than two in five rural families live in extreme poverty (less than \$1.90 per day) and often don’t know where their next meal will come from. Rural farmers in Honduras are especially vulnerable to the increasing number of natural disasters and climate shocks. And the vast majority of people who lack clean water are also in rural areas.



### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Without clean water nearby, people are forced to spend their time walking for water, limiting their time to work or go to school. They’re unable to properly irrigate their crops. And when the water they collect is dirty, it can make them sick.

As the largest non-governmental provider of clean water in the developing world, World Vision has already reached nearly 200,000 Hondurans with access to clean water close to home, in schools, and in health facilities.

#### Finishing the Job

Our bold yet achievable plan calls for **reaching everyone, everywhere we work in the entire country**—that’s 650,000 people—with clean water by 2027.

See our water work in action in [this video](#).

## RURAL PROGRAMMING IN 12 HONDURAN STATES

Our rural work is focused in some of the most vulnerable communities in Honduras, ensuring families have the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

### WATER

- Atlántida
- Choluteca
- Copán
- El Paraíso
- Francisco Morazán
- Intibucá
- La Paz
- Lempira
- Ocotepeque
- Olancho
- Santa Bárbara
- Yoro



### ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Copán
- Francisco Morazán
- Intibucá



At the age of 18, Jose Luis left his family farm to seek better financial opportunities. But his bus was stopped in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Jose Luis participated in the THRIVE program, and today, with a family and farm of his own, he employs 11 people full time.

Speaking of his own son, he says, “I believe that because he has a better source of income now, my son won’t leave.”



## Economic Empowerment (THRIVE)

When poverty feels inescapable, it’s tough for families to envision a hopeful future. They need real opportunities to grow their incomes.

The THRIVE program (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) helps rural families take that next step. THRIVE trains farmers and small business owners to use the resources they already have, or could easily gain access to, to go from barely surviving to thriving.

The foundation of THRIVE is our biblically based **Empowered Worldview** training. This powerful curriculum builds confidence, shifts mindsets, and promotes a biblically based view of identity and accountability. When participants embrace the idea that we are created in the image of God and accountable to love, respect, and care for ourselves and those around us, they are more able and willing to engage in the opportunities around them.

From this foundation, THRIVE participants go through three educational pillars:

- **Pillar 1: End-to-end business systems of farming**  
Helps farmers embrace savings groups, new agricultural techniques, income diversification, and improved access to markets and finance.
- **Pillar 2: Natural resource management systems of farming**  
Enables communities to be active stewards of natural resources like soil, water, and forests.
- **Pillar 3: Situational awareness**  
Prepares families to cope with shocks, disasters, increasingly variable weather patterns, and market changes.

So far, more than 17,000 Honduran farmers have participated in THRIVE training—translating to over 59,000 people better equipped to face the challenges of an unpredictable climate.

See our THRIVE work in action in [this video](#).



Rony Núñez grew up in the notorious Mololoa neighborhood in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He joined a gang at 13. “I had a life that I am not at all proud of,” he says.

Through Youth Ready, Rony found a different life. He’s now doing his internship at the public hospital in Tegucigalpa. “Today, I can say I was young, I was a bad person, but God has given me more time, and now I consider myself a kinder person, calmer, better educated than I was a long time ago.”

**“If I had stayed in the [gang], I think the only two ways out for me would be prison or death. I wouldn’t be telling the story right now.”**

[See Rony's story in this video.](#)

## URBAN COMMUNITIES

Violence is one of the main drivers of migration from Honduras. Cities like Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula are some of the most dangerous in the world. And home isn’t always a safe haven—widespread domestic violence often pushes youth to find their identity in gangs, where the heartbreaking cycle of violence will continue.

Those who want to break the cycle struggle to find opportunity. Unemployment and underemployment in Honduras are rampant. From 2019 to 2020, the unemployment rate nearly doubled, and over two-thirds of the population is underemployed.<sup>2</sup> For youth, the challenges are even greater—more than one out of every four young people ages 15 to 24 are not going to school or working.<sup>3</sup>

### Youth Ready

In Honduras, almost half the population is under age 20.<sup>4</sup> What these youth decide to do with their lives will influence the future of the entire country. They need *real* opportunities. With Youth Ready, youth ages 15 to 25 take a two-stage journey to plan not only the kind of career they want to have, but the kind of life they want to lead.

First, youth join an encouraging peer group to learn basic job readiness and life skills as well as develop a detailed plan to pursue one of three options: **education, entrepreneurship, or employment.** Next, they make that plan a reality with the support of a community mentor and role model. Along the way youth learn the value of equality, tolerance, and how to manage conflict without violence. By combining practical skills with supportive guidance, youth are better able to resist gangs and pursue the future they want for themselves.

To date, more than 1,600 youth are involved in Youth Ready in Honduras, and we expect 5,000 will participate by 2023.

This program has been so successful it’s been adopted across Central and South America, with 21,005 youth taking charge of their futures in seven countries.



### Child Protection and Christian Discipleship

Because of the powerful influence of gangs, many urban areas are off-limits to outside organizations—*unless* they work with the local church. Because of our faith, the church is our oldest and closest partner. Together with the church, we reach areas other organizations can’t, addressing violence from within its deepest strongholds. From there, we work to tackle the violence that happens both inside and outside the home.



“Because of World Vision, this is a better community for children. ... There’s more caring.”

—Roger, a father in the Raising Children with Tenderness course in the El Pelon community (not pictured).

## Working against violence in the home

Protecting children starts in the home. In partnership with churches, we’re addressing family violence through:

- **Raising Children with Tenderness:** Parents and caregivers learn to nurture their children and help them grow into healthy adults.
- **Celebrating Families:** Parents learn how their own upbringing influences their parenting and how to break cycles of violent discipline for good.
- **Channels of Hope:** This interactive training brings together faith leaders and the community, teaching them about the impact of domestic violence on the community and what the Bible has to say about caring for the vulnerable.

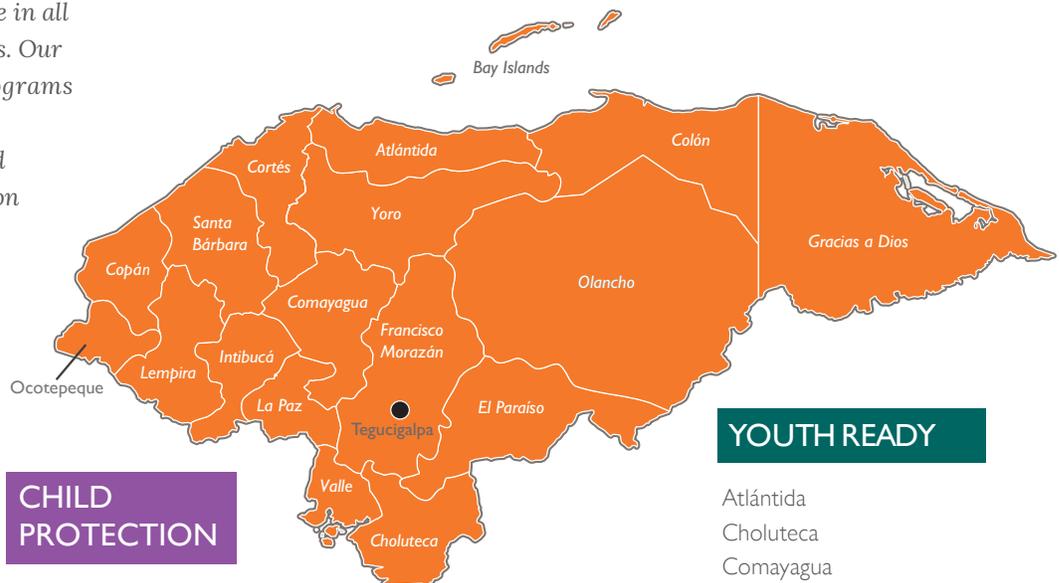
## Working against violence in the community

The church has powerful influence in Honduras. At least 85% of Hondurans identify as Christian,<sup>5</sup> but local churches often don’t have the resources to take action against violence. But with our support, the church can spark cultural shifts through:

- **Citizen Voice and Action:** These community groups advocate to the government for stronger protection for children and pursue justice for those who put children in danger.
- **Peace Clubs:** Not only do these youth-led clubs learn to recognize and report different forms of violence, they learn to speak up for themselves, advocate, and seek justice for themselves and others.
- **Child Protection Committees:** These committees, comprised of community leaders, work to guarantee that children’s rights are protected and help those in need find legal support.

## URBAN PROGRAMMING IN ALL 18 HONDURAN STATES

World Vision has a presence in all 18 departments of Honduras. Our Christian Discipleship programs operate in all departments, and our education and child protection programs focus on urban centers.



**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

All 18 departments

**CHILD PROTECTION**

Cortés  
Francisco Morazán  
Yoro

**YOUTH READY**

Atlántida  
Choluteca  
Comayagua  
Francisco Morazán  
Yoro

## WHY WORLD VISION?

World Vision began working in Honduras in 1974 in response to Hurricane Fifi. Since then, we've expanded our work to empower Hondurans to prepare for whatever storms life brings. Most of our staff in Honduras are local, which means they understand the culture and speak the local languages.

Our denomination-wide partnerships with churches help us scale our work and build trust in the communities where we work.

Our greatest qualification for this work lies in our faith in Jesus Christ, whose love and compassion for the families of Honduras fuel our mission.

It's painful to see so many forced to give up on their home. That's why we are working to address the root causes of forced migration *all together*, because everyone deserves to have hope at home.



## IN THE WORDS OF OUR PARTNERS



“What I really like about World Vision, and why we’ve gotten so involved, is their holistic approach. This model helps people develop physically, emotionally, and spiritually. World Vision launches an effort and lets the community drive it forward as their own.”

—Cody Nath, President and CEO of Refined Technologies, Inc.



“I have had the opportunity over the past couple of years to learn more and more about the work being done by World Vision in Honduras. I have been inspired. The foundation is the provision of clean water. World Vision will provide clean water to hundreds of thousands of people in Honduras who do not have it, and who will soon have it. This work will truly change lives—for the better.”

—John Pepper, former CEO and Chair of P&G (Procter & Gamble)

*“In this place, we have everything we need for a good life.”*

*—Alejandro, THRIVE farmer in Honduras*



## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

There was a time when Alejandro (above in purple and on cover) felt forced to migrate. “I didn’t know how to improve my life. But I knew that if I left, I’d not only lose my land, I’d lose my family,” he says.

When he joined World Vision’s THRIVE program, his prospects changed. He’s now producing 100 sacks of coffee per acre where the average is 30, and he can provide for his children’s nutrition and education. He says, “In this place, we have everything we need for a good life.”

Hondurans like Alejandro don’t want to leave their families. They want to find everything they need for a good life at home: things like clean water, the chance to provide for their families, and a safe haven.

It is possible—we’ve partnered with over 450,000 people in Honduras to gain access to these basic opportunities, and the hope that comes along with them.

**With your help, we will build resilience and cultivate hope for more than 2 million people in Honduras.**

Thank you for considering this powerful Kingdom work.



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## ENDNOTES

- 1 U.S. Customs and Border Protection - <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>
- 2 Congressional Research Service, 2021 - <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11795>
- 3 World Bank - <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.NEET.ZS?locations=HN>
- 4 Congressional Research Service, 2021 - <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11795>
- 5 U.S. Department of State - <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/honduras/>
- 6 World Bank - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/honduras/overview#1>
- 7 World Bank - [https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.IHR.PSRC.P5?most\\_recent\\_value\\_desc=true](https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/VC.IHR.PSRC.P5?most_recent_value_desc=true)