

SEMIANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

October 2020 – March 2021 | Hope for Honduras

SUMMARY

In Honduras, sometimes hope feels so scarce that people will leave their families to find it. Since 2018, over 700,000 Hondurans have left home and headed for the U.S. (Migration Policy Institute 2021). Because along with food, water, and shelter, hope is a human need.

Poverty and violence contribute to this desperation. Honduras has the fifth highest homicide rate in the world, and almost half the population lives on less than \$5.50 per day (World Bank 2021). Child labor is common as poverty pushes children to go to work and leave their education behind.

Now, Hondurans are facing not only the ongoing economic impacts of COVID-19, but also of hurricanes Eta and Iota that hit the coast in November 2020, just two weeks apart. These disasters threaten

to push families further toward hopelessness.

But that’s not the whole story in Honduras. The country has a rich faith culture, a growing population, and great potential for increased prosperity. Families are willing to work hard to create a better future, and World Vision is proud to partner with them. Our holistic, multi-faceted strategy includes clean water, economic empowerment, child protection, education and employment for youth, and Christian discipleship.

These programs focus on different aspects of vulnerability, but interweave to help both urban and rural families lift themselves out of poverty and secure a more hope-filled future.

There is hope in Honduras. Thank you for being part of it.





“On behalf of the entire community, we thank God for the support we received from World Vision Honduras, thank the donors, for being very generous people who, without personally knowing us, provided their support.”

—Vilma Bautista,
El Rodeo, Honduras

COUNTRY UPDATE & PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

458,198 **PEOPLE*** empowered with access to essential services since October 2015, including 35,289 people during fiscal year 2021 (October 2020–March 2021).

 **19,838** gained access to clean drinking water since October 2020, including 13,137 people who were served previously, but who lost access to sustainable clean water due to the 2020 hurricanes.

 **17,020** farmers have begun their journey to sustainably provide for 59,224 household members (including 37,050 children) by improving household resilience and increasing incomes since October 2016.

 **46,180** people directly benefited from Christian discipleship programs, including training for leaders, children’s programs, and Christian formation for parents and caregivers since October 2016.

**Because of World Vision’s deep investment in communities, some of the people reflected in these numbers have accessed multiple services. For example, a church leader may have participated in children’s ministry training and also live in a community that received access to clean water.*

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

SUMMARY

With clean water comes hope for healthier children, better nutrition, and more time to enjoy the gifts God has given us. Your generosity, in partnership with communities in Honduras, equipped World Vision to share that hope with thousands of people through the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) project.

Relationships were key in the first half of FY21: New partnerships with Water Mission International and USAID accelerated our response to needs created by hurricanes Eta and Iota. Established relationships, like those with local government and the Rotary Club of Santa Rosa, helped us reach more people than we could have alone.

Faith leaders were vital partners too; we equipped 97 leaders to share with their congregations how clean water and hygiene connects to the values of protecting the vulnerable, faithful stewardship, and equality.

Equality was also promoted through increased focus on our gender equality

and social inclusion initiative, which teaches the importance of including women in decision making. Now, women are taking leadership roles in WASH committees and in plumber trainings. With everyone invested in WASH, interventions are better adopted and longer-lasting.

We have laid a strong foundation for more work to come in the next six months. Here's what we're celebrating so far from FY21:

- 33 water systems were built or rehabilitated, supplying 100% of the people in their communities.
- 7 healthcare facilities benefited from new handwashing stations, including mobile stations as part of the COVID-19 emergency response.
- 142,070 hygiene kits were distributed to help prevent the spread of disease after hurricanes Eta and Iota.
- 11,643 hurricane-affected people were provided with emergency water.



“The children of the communities supported by World Vision in Honduras reflect their joy every time they open the water tap.”

—José Soriano
Leader of San Marcos area program, Honduras
(not pictured)

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

OUTCOME	PEOPLE REACHED IN FY21	PERCENT OF SEMIANNUAL TARGET
Access to Clean Water	19,838*	171%
Access to Household Sanitation	3,849	58%
Access to Handwashing Facilities	12,310	115%

*This number includes 13,137 people who were served previously, but who lost access to sustainable clean water due to Hurricanes Eta and Iota and whose systems were rehabilitated.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

SUMMARY

In November 2020, hurricanes Eta and Iota swept across northern Honduras. More than 2 million people, with lives already shattered by the effects of COVID-19, faced massive destruction to homes, infrastructure, crops, and livelihoods. Thankfully, smallholder farmers (producers) participating in World Vision's THRIVE (Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) project were prepared, executing a plan to reduce disaster risks and reactivate agricultural activity to help rebuild communities.

In the first half of fiscal year 2021, the THRIVE project also made possible:

- 32 grain banks located in key areas in the towns of San Marcos and Florida. The banks were established in collaboration with the World Vision Honduras MANA Project and will help to ensure food security in hurricane-affected communities.
- An increase in social funds of 43% compared with the previous

six-month period. Farmers participated in Savings for Transformation where they saved money and contributed to loan and social funds, which help families in time of need.

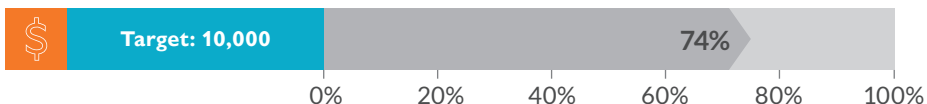
- Training of 367 producer groups in Citizen Voice and Action (CVA). Participants then advocated for the provision of 12 latrines and six homes for vulnerable families. CVA promotes engagement between communities and governments to improve social services.
- Training for farmers to care for the environment and sustainably manage natural resources, resulting in 6,655 acres of land farmed with soil and water conservation techniques (a 146% increase from FY20) and nurture of 400,000 forest trees.
- Access to formal markets for 2,758 farmers, generating \$9,426,306 in income (mostly from coffee sales).



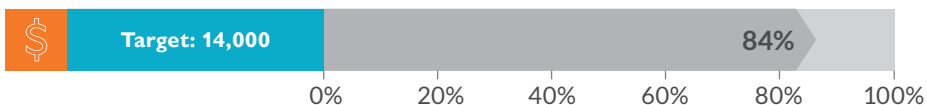
In the El Pacayal community in Honduras, children can enjoy school because their parents' farms help pay for their education. Through THRIVE, smallholder farmers access resources and learn new skills to produce high-yield crops (like the carrots above), which in turn supply local markets and provide increased income for producers.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES (LIFE OF PROGRAM: FY17-FY23)

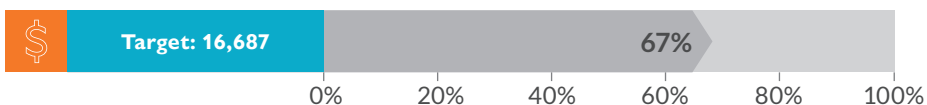
7,449 farmers using improved tools and practices



11,701 savings group members



11,209 acres farmed with soil and water conservation techniques



CHILD PROTECTION

SUMMARY

High levels of violence and poverty in Honduras put children at risk of abuse or exploitation. Because of COVID-19 and the 2020 hurricanes, this risk has increased, and World Vision’s Child Protection project faced an especially difficult situation in the first half of FY21.

But God was not in quarantine, and donors, churches, and Honduran communities kept working together to protect children and spread hope. We held violence prevention trainings in churches being used as shelters and focused on how to prevent violence in emergencies. Other activities were adapted to meet safety guidelines or moved online. We’re celebrating that:

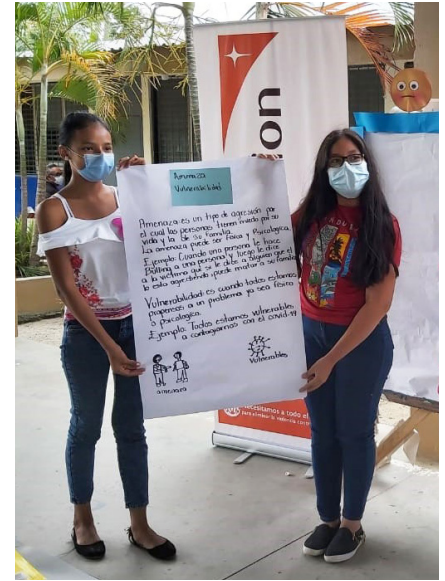
- 6 children’s rights councils (183 youth) were reactivated. They presented a statement titled, “Current Situation of the Rights of the Child in Honduras” to government authorities via Facebook Live.
- 15 Paths of Peace clubs were formed, involving 460 new children and youth (97% of annual

target). The goal of the clubs is to reduce physical, sexual, psychological and community violence and empower members to become agents of change.

- 13 new churches partnered with us to put on the Parenting with Tenderness training for 229 parents and caregivers (183 women, 46 men), including some who were currently involved in gangs. Through this training, 8 children were connected to needed support services.
- 5 new child well-being and protection committees (93 members) were formed and are working to guarantee rights, protection, and legal support for children as well as advocate directly for their well-being.

Finally, World Vision in Honduras funded a study to understand how local churches get involved in social issues. The study will help us partner with churches more effectively.

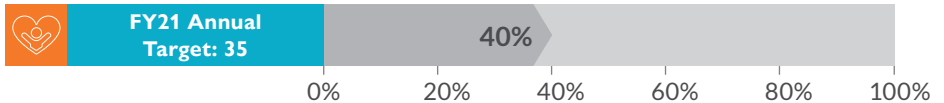
Thank you for supporting the amazing children and youth of Honduras.



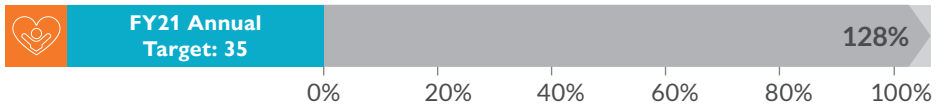
Youth in a Children’s Musical Club give a presentation explaining threatening behavior and vulnerability to their peers.

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES (FY21)

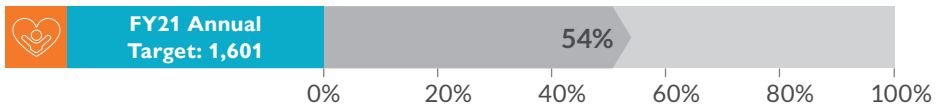
14 trainings conducted by local committees on relevant laws and policies on child protection



45 local violence prevention plans created or improved



868 children with parents who have completed at least one Parenting with Tenderness training



YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY

Honduran youth in urban areas face different challenges than those in rural areas. One of their greatest challenges is finding work. In Honduras, 42% of the population is under 20 (Congressional Research Service 2021), and they face tough competition for jobs. Unemployment in the country has nearly doubled from 5.6% in 2019 to 9.4% in 2020 (World Bank 2021).

Many youth do not have the resources to finish their secondary education, making it harder to find a job. Those who do complete school may not be familiar with the basic skills necessary to secure employment.

That's where the Youth Workforce Development project comes in. The project, currently in its second phase (FY20-FY23), equips youth with necessary skills through a curriculum called Youth Ready (YR). Once enrolled in YR, participants move through four modules: Identity, Preparation for Employment, Preparation for Entrepreneurship, and Preparation for Responsible Citizenship.

Thus equipped, participants move on to create a livelihood plan in which they pursue entrepreneurship, seek employment, or continue their education. Whichever path they choose, they will be supported by YR mentors, resources, and key partnerships.

Here's what the program is celebrating from the first half of FY21:


- 594 young people completed all four YR training modules, and 346 of those have completed their livelihood plan. Of those, 145 chose to pursue entrepreneurship, 25 chose education, and 176 chose to seek employment.
- 29 companies have partnered with us to provide employment for YR participants, and 8 more are providing internships.
- 21 churches have partnered with us to support youth (6 more than in FY20).
- 71 total participants are continuing their education with YR support.



"My excitement was so great. ... I thanked God and World Vision for giving me all the support to get a job. ... I am totally grateful to World Vision and grateful to the donor family for believing in us."


*—Yenis Gabriela,
Choluteca, Honduras.*

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES (FY20-FY23)

 **1,639** young people have been involved with the Youth Ready program since the start of Phase 2 in FY20.

 **64** young people have secured internships to help them gain real work experience since FY20.

 **63** young people have found employment with help from Youth Ready since FY20.

 **68** volunteer mentors are working with YR to provide personalized encouragement to participants. These mentors are professionals and community and church leaders.

CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

SUMMARY

Nothing is more powerful than God’s love. The message that God cares for us—and wants us to care for others—can transform violence into tenderness, despair into hope, and splintered families into loving units. In Honduras, our Christian Discipleship (CD) program is igniting these changes by shaping children’s ministries, equipping parents, and training Christian leaders through the biblical message of God’s love.

CD staff demonstrated that love when they mobilized partner churches to respond to the hurricanes with emergency food, leveraging established church relationships and delaying planned programming to quickly meet an immediate need.

But our ministry to children, parents, and churches went forward too: We partnered with the Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa to train 135 young people in Pathways of Peace, equipping them to counsel other youth and promote a culture of peace over violence. For younger kids, we partnered with the

Catholic Church of Choluteca to host afternoon children’s ministries for a total of 1,980 children, achieving 89% of our goal for the period while following COVID safety restrictions.

Eighteen teachers went through the Balm of Tenderness program, learning how to teach with greater tenderness and why it matters to children’s development. Trained teachers reported changing their behavior at school *and* home and experiencing a greater level of empathy for others.

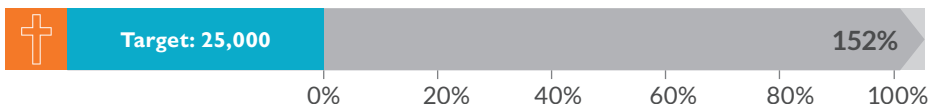
Finally, we reached 6,495 sponsored children with programs to help them know God and learn Christian values. One of those programs was KIDStory, which teaches interactive Bible stories to help kids understand what God’s Word means for their lives. And the impact goes beyond children when they go home and share their excitement—and the Bibles they received—with their families. Thank you for partnering with us to show children in Honduras how much they are loved.



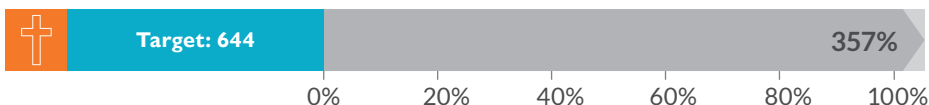
Selvin, 7, and his brother Alex, 2, at a World Vision Parenting with Tenderness training session at their church in the El Pelon community, Honduras. Their father Roger (not pictured) says, “Because of World Vision, this is a better community for children. It’s safer, and there are better community ties between the church, families, and the child protection committee. There’s more caring.”

PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES (LIFE OF PROGRAM: FY17-FY21)

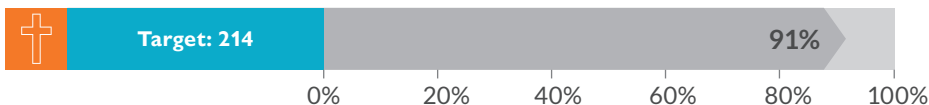
37,895 children/youth participated in discipleship activities



2,302 pastors/church leaders trained in theology and children’s ministry



195 churches engaged in discipleship of children and youth



KEY LEARNINGS

Forced migration continues to fracture Honduran families and put people in danger. Our goal is for vulnerable communities to have options, and hope, where they live. To this end, World Vision has designed the Hope at Home: Building Resilience in Central America framework, which aims to address the root causes of forced migration by building resilience in individuals, families, and society as a whole. It fortifies existing strengths and resources to help people in Central America adapt and transform their responses to economic and social shocks, empowering them to recover.

All sectors of World Vision in Honduras are currently implementing this framework and will continue to study and address the root causes of forced migration. Though our approach has become more strategic as forced migration becomes a greater threat to child well-being in Honduras, the programs described in this report have already laid years of groundwork to address the vulnerability, lack of opportunity, and hopelessness that drive it. We will continue this work thanks to your faithful support.

THANK YOU

This work is happening because you believe that there is hope for Honduras. Your support is a blessing and encouragement to communities working to improve their lives, and we gratefully join our voices with theirs to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Sponsored child Eric, 11, shows off his muscles to his brother Junror (in brown) and a neighbor friend in Yamaranguila area program, Honduras.



“Since World Vision and USAID projects came to the community, many of us no longer [are leaving],” Marvin, 39, says. Before he got involved with World Vision, Marvin and his oldest son were planning on migrating. “I was thinking about the trip [to the U.S.], the money I had to pay, and that I had to leave my family,” he says. But shortly before Marvin was set to leave, he got invited to a THRIVE meeting. He learned new farming techniques, and his son, Brayan, learned motorcycle repair skills through World Vision. Brayan now wants to open a repair shop with his uncle.

“Now we are happy, we have new hope in the community, and we trust God that we will do better,” Marvin says.

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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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