



OVERVIEW OF

Honduras

Overview of Honduras



Languages

Spanish (official), Amerindian dialects

Infant mortality rate: total: 21 deaths/ 1,000 live births. Honduras ranks 91.

Children under the age of 5 years underweight: 9.0% (2011)

Human Development Index (HDI) for 2012: 0.632 (ranked 120 out of 187, indicating medium human development).

Brief History of ChildFund in Honduras

ChildFund came to Honduras: 1982

Number of Departments: 5

Number of enrolled children FY13: 29,233

Number of participants FY13: 216,252

ChildFund has been in Honduras for 31 years, helping children in need. Between 1987 and 1992, the Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Guide Mothers (Early Stimulation) program were successfully implemented, enabling ChildFund to be positioned as a leader organization. In 1995, the first steps towards grants were taken with Government funds to equip schools with desks. In 1998 Honduras was affected by Hurricane Mitch, replacing ChildFund plans with emergency and reconstruction during the following five years.

The areas of intervention for the sponsorship program have been focused on the Departments of Santa Bárbara and Francisco Morazán, complemented with funds from international aid agencies, government, and other external sources, adding interventions in more areas. Approximately 40 Grants with an investment of nearly \$10 million have been implemented in child development programs to date.

Brief Program Overview

As one of the focus countries for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Niche Core Program, ChildFund Honduras is developing the strategic framework to strengthen interventions for infants.

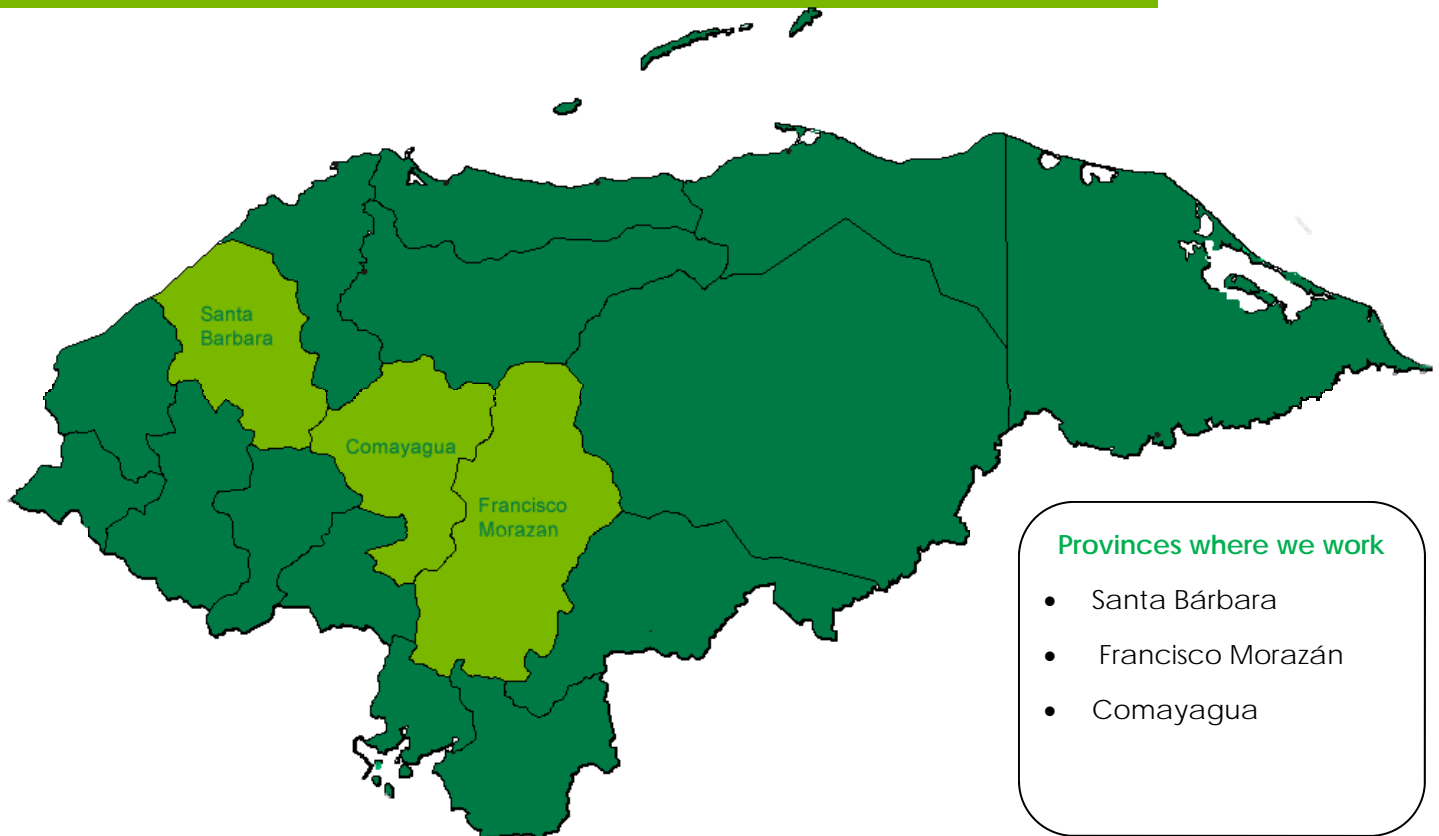
The sponsorship program and grants integrate to develop interventions in ECD, Maternal-Infant Health, Community Health Units (UCOs), Nutrition, Early Stimulation, Guide Mothers, Pre-Basic, Basic and Secondary Education, Child Friendly Schools, Social and Financial Education, Leadership Skills for Youth, Vocational training, Safe Water, Food Security and Disaster Risk Reduction.

ChildFund Honduras is currently working with seven local partner organizations supporting children, their families and communities,



through the development of area strategic plans (ASPs), with community participation, including local governments. ChildFund works closely with local partners to ensure transparency and accountability. Governance is also being strengthened to facilitate local partner's empowerment and ensure sustainability.

Where We Work



2013 Program Achievements

Infants. The malnutrition rate among 2,183 children under two years of age decreased from 11% to 9% during the last year as a result of the Integrated Attention to Children strategy that ChildFund Honduras implements in 125 communities. This decrease was achieved through the provision of micronutrients and counseling in the area of breastfeeding, infant feeding, care of children under two, and the prevention of prevalent diseases.



ChildFund Honduras, through its local partners and the USAID funded Child Survival grant supported 46 Community Health Units (UCOS). A survey was done to understand the population being benefited by the UCOS. The results showed that the UCOS cover a total of 87 communities where 19,051 people live, of which a total of 2,907 are children under five years old. During the fiscal year, 30% of the children under five years old were taken to the UCOS when they presented health problems thus decreasing the level of expense at the state level and the family expenditure in health services.

Within the Early Childhood Development area, the child development evaluation has been applied to 7,099 children which represents 83% of the 8,532 children being benefited under the program. The results show that 40.1% of the children show advanced development, 54.5% children show expected development, 4.9% show development at risk, and 0.5% show high risk development. A total of 257 children with special needs were identified, which is equivalent to 3% of the population under 6 years being benefited.



In the context of the transition process of the 2012 school year, 2,159 children participated. When the close-out process was finalized during the month of April, of a total of 2,122 children, 98% were assisting and had adequately adapted to the first grade of basic education. The remaining 37 children had not continued school due to reasons associated to moving to another community, safety reason or financial issues.

Children. In joint efforts by local partners and the USAID funded Teacher Citizen Participation Project, 29,003 children from 1st to 6th grade in 993 schools were supported to increase learning opportunities. The Child Friendly school methodology is being implemented in 220 of these schools.

A total of 52 teachers were trained in the Spanish Communication Approach and 52 teachers in Math Problem Resolutions. 47 School Directors were trained through Director Committees, 110 teachers and mobilizers were also trained in the Friendly Schools model and an additional 31 teachers in the Aflatoun Financial Program. It is worth noting that the Aflatoun methodology is being implemented in 64 schools. Finally, 29 child tutors were also supported.

With support from ChildFund Honduras, seven Local Partners provided educational material and funds to improve the infrastructure to 344 Basic Education Centers, and 39 additional centers that teach grades 1st to 9th. Currently there are 1,247 parents participating in specific actions that support their children in school and a total of 144 parent organizations are developing work plans that include different actions in their particular Education Centers.



2013 Program Achievements (continued)

Youth. A total of 7,948 youth continued in alternative and formal education programs through the scholarship program. Moreover, 812 youth were supported in developing occupational skills. Seven new basic and middle education centers are now participating in the Aflateen social and financial education program, both in the formal and alternative modalities, with 181 youth participating.

In order to strengthen sexual reproductive health knowledge, 533 youth participated in training to prevent teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. Likewise, 631 youth were trained in children's rights, citizen participation and project profile elaboration to strengthen youth leadership for the generational relay in the community.

It is worth highlighting that 2,138 youth are actively participating and contributing to the Local Partner Organizations.

Civil Society. ChildFund is well positioned in Honduras as a child development organization and leading NGO participating in networks and advocacy, especially in ECD, maternal and infant health and educational programs. Through its strategic alliances, ChildFund has played an important role in the approval of public policies to improve quality of life for children. Some recent highlights are the new Education Law and Early Childhood Policy approved this year.



Challenges

Honduras is the second poorest nation in Central America. High unemployment and economic disparity have triggered rapid rising crime rates, causing instability in the country. Organized crime and gangs carry out criminal activities such as assaults, murders, kidnapping, drug trafficking and other aggravated assaults in the major cities.

The educational system is exclusive, has insufficient coverage, and operates mainly with one-teacher schools which provide less than 80% of the required class hours. Health services management is deficient, characterized by low capacity of response in care-giving health units, low productivity of the health network and scarce availability of critical inputs and medications.

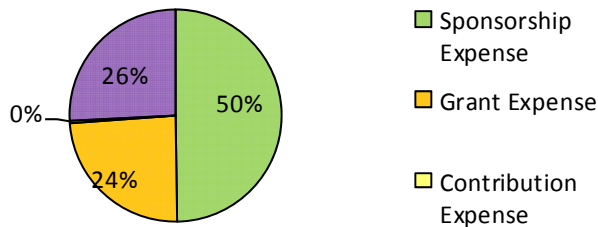
This scenario has resulted in a massive migration of working age population to other countries and to national urban areas, a phenomenon which has affected environmental conditions, and has also resulted in people leaving the rural areas and the disintegration of rural families.

At the same time, the near constant threats of natural disasters such as hurricanes, storms, floods, landslides and droughts make life hard for Hondurans. These situations become worse due to global warming, which increases the already high level of vulnerability, particularly in poorer populations which are located in higher risk areas. The country's geographic terrain and inequities makes it difficult to build roads. The lack of proper roads is one of the country's main challenges in providing access to basic quality services and promoting economic, socio-political, cultural and educational unity.

Financial Report

Honduras Total FY13

Expenses:
\$8,974,723



Honduras FY13

Category	Amount	Percentage
Sponsorship Expense	4,466,585	50%
Grant Expense	2,161,055	24%
Contribution Expense	33,905	0%
Operating Expense	2,313,178	26%
Total Expense	8,974,723	100%

Why Sponsorship Is Important

Saira is a 14 year old girl from Santa Barbara that is currently in the 9th Grade. She is deciding whether to become a Lawyer or an Engineer but she knows she has to study hard to get there. She is a good student and her favorite classes are English and Computer Science. However, Saira has not always been a good student. She tells us *"I didn't want to continue studying but thanks to my sponsor's advice I changed."* Her attitude has changed a lot, she is now an active youth in her community and motivated to study. Saira says *"My sponsor has helped me with intellectual and moral support. I value our constant communication and hope that we continue being friends for a long time."*



She is the middle child in a family with 5 children. She has two sisters and two brothers ranging from 4 to 17 years old. Her father Rene is 48 and works in the field to sustain his family, while mother Maria, 34 years old, is a volunteer Guide Mother. For Saira, her sponsor is also part of her family *"even if she is not here with us, she lives with us spiritually because she is always in our prayers."*



Jose Luis considers the experience with his sponsor very nice. He feels happy when he receives a letter and gets inspired when he answers.

"Communication with my sponsor has helped me a lot because she shares with me things about her family and how they live so I can learn their customs" says Jose Luis.

He is an 13 years old 8th grader that likes to play soccer and watch TV during his free time. He participates in different activities with the local youth and also helps families in need to plant gardens. However, he has not always been this active. *"I used to be a shy boy that wouldn't stand up in class to present, but now I like to share what I learn with my classmates"* says Jose Luis. *"My life has had many changes since the first moment that my*

sponsor considered me part of her family, as we consider her part of ours" says Jose Luis. His father is a farmer and his mother weaves artisan hats. He has two sisters and one brother.