



UNDP Honduras

Support to the National Response and Recovery to Contain the Impact of COVID-19



1- Government Response

The first case of COVID-19 in Honduras was officially confirmed on March 11th, so a travel ban was in place, restricting all national and international flights as well as ground transportation.

On March 13th, the order was issued to close schools, meetings of more than 50 people were banned. As of March 16th, a mandatory curfew was established as of today.

As of June 22nd, the country has reported 12,306¹ confirmed and 358² deaths.

The Government has established a plan to reduce the negative impact of the pandemic on the Honduran population. A council of economic advisers has proposed several measures to cushion the negative impact on aggregate macroeconomic performance, ensure basic needs by providing food to the most vulnerable families, and reduce corporate tax burdens to prevent mass layoffs for the duration of the pandemic.

As a way of shoveling the food problems of the most depressed population in quarantine, the Government of Honduras established the Honduras Solidarity Program, in order to provide basic food to some 800,000 families nationwide

Also, the self-employment workers support program was created on April 22nd, aimed at providing a contribution in kind (medicines, food and biosafety supplies). This program is in the process of being implemented.

By the beginning of April, two bonds were approved to support the agribusiness productive sector: "productive solidarity" and "coffee grower". To date, more than 77,000 small producers have received support.

To support the transportation sector, as part of the Honduras Solidarity Program in coordination with the National Service for Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses (SENPRENDE), the Armed Forces, and the Honduran Institute of Land Transportation (IHTT), more than 80,000 solidarity bags for members of various associations of taxi drivers and public transport drivers affected by the restriction measures.

According to the Country Office analysis, around 80% of the employed population in the country are self-employed or work in small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), contributing with around 15% of the private sector's GDP but around 70% of the employed population lack any type of social support or employment benefits.

During the second week of May, the start of a pilot process for companies to reopen on a phased approach was authorized, companies are supposed to carry their work activities under biosafety protocols, endorsed by the Secretary of Labor and Social Security.

Starting in June, Honduras has begun a process of gradual opening of the productive and economic sector that was restricted during the pandemic, at the same time maintaining the population's circulation restrictions.

The public health system continues to operate with deprivations, while the positive cases of COVID-19 continue to increase, which means an additional challenge for the country conducting an economic opening amid a limited availability of spaces for emergency care.

2- UNDP Support to Prepare, Respond and Recover

Strengthening Health Systems

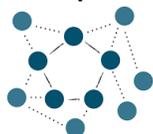


- Enhance a health system support Programme in response to the COVID-19 Emergency. Key partners: Ministry of Finance, Interamerican Development Bank, World Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE). Government contribution/under negotiation.
- Support for the continuity of Human National Commissioner (CONADEH) services on Solidarity Welfare Municipalities Programme. Conflict prevention project.

¹ PAHO, [Cumulative COVID-19 cases reported by countries and territories in the Americas](#)

² PAHO, [Cumulative COVID-19 cases reported by countries and territories in the Americas](#)

Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response



- Expansion and strengthening of the database of the national social protection programs to incorporate vulnerable population affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Key partner: National Center for Social Sector Information (CENISS), Ministry of Agriculture, National Service for Entrepreneurship and Small Business (SENPRENDE). Rapid Response Facility.
- Awareness campaign on how to address issues related to emergency and prevention of violence against women and girls. Key partner: National Women Institute and Security Secretary. PBF Funding – Prevention.
- Support to National distribution of food using the logistic of existing projects. Government contribution/BCIE.
- Technical support and facilitation video conferencing to National Congress for work continuity remotely.
- Support on the design of the Honduras Transfer Programme to the emergency. Key partners: Ministry of Finance, Interamerican Development Bank, World Bank and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE). Government contribution/under negotiation.

Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery



- Policy paper on how to increase the coverage of cash/in-kind transfers under the pre-existing social programs including the most vulnerable in the informal sector of the economy affected by COVID-19 (e.g. self-employed or people living on daily wages). Key partner: National Center for Social Sector Information (CENISS), Ministry of Agriculture, National Service for Entrepreneurship and Small Business (SENPRENDE)
- [The economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and policy recommendations for Honduras](#) has been published. UNDP LAC C19 PDS No. 4. Andres Ham; Escuela de Gobierno Alberto Lleras Camargo, Universidad de los Andes. March 2020
- UNDP, in close collaboration with the Resident Coordinator office, is leading the COVID19 impact analysis and policy respond.

3- UNDP’s support to the UN Country Team

UNDP will implement COVID19 respond under its leading role as co-leader of the early recovery cluster of the Honduras Humanitarian Network platform led with the Presidency Secretariat and UNDP. This cluster has recently been requested to be installed by the Humanitarian Coordinator, the Resident Coordinator. UNDP aims to coordinate and lead an effective, multi stakeholder (academia, private sector, civil society) and inclusive response within this cluster.

4- Resources – COVID19 Response

Areas of Response	Reprogramming (Existing Projects) USD	New Resources (USD)
Strengthening Health Systems	17,000	20,000,000
Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response	129,214	20,130,000
Socio-Economic Impact and Recovery		125,000
Sub Total	146,214	40,255,000
Total	40,401,214	

UNDP support to health system has been mainly funded by reprogramming of Peace Building Funds (USD 17,000) and discussions for Government contribution is under negotiation (USD 20M).

Support to Inclusive and Multi-Sectoral Crisis Management and Response interventions is funded with UNDP Rapid Response Facility (USD 130,000), Spotlight project (USD 10,000), UNDP funds (USD 7,000) and discussions for Government contribution is under negotiation (USD 20M).

Socio-economic impact and recovery are funded by UNDP Rapid Response Facility (USD 90,000,000) and UNDP funds (USD 35,000).