



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

# DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for  
International  
Development

Washington D.C.  
20523

## HONDURAS - Floods

Date: October 20, 1981 (FY 82)

Location: Western areas of Honduras

No. Dead: None reported

No. Affected: Not reported

Damage: Considerable damage to the transportation sector and potential damage to the agricultural sector

### The Disaster

Heavy rains in western Honduras resulted in damage to the transportation system. A 250 foot long bridge spanning the Hiquito River, 15 km southwest of Santa Rosa de Copan, was destroyed on October 12, 1981. The loss of the bridge, the only national route to the Department of Ocotepeque and to large areas in the Departments of Lempira and Copan, virtually isolated these sections of the country from the rest of Honduras. Crops could not be transported to market nor could essential goods and services be delivered to the isolated areas.

### Action Taken by the Government of Honduras (GOH)

Lack of grain storage facilities in the isolated area made imperative the immediate restoration of access. The Ministry of Transportation proposed that a temporary bridge be constructed across the Hiquito River; it was estimated that construction would take 30 days. Some materials would come from supplies that the GOH had on hand and others from surplus property of certain A.I.D.-funded projects. However, because these materials would not be sufficient to complete the job and no funds were immediately available to purchase the additional materials, the GOH turned to the United States for assistance.

HONDURAS - Floods

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

In response to a request for financial assistance from the GOH, the U.S. Ambassador made available \$25,000 from the International Disaster Account. These funds were used to procure the necessary materials, equipment, and labor needed to complete construction of the bridge, thereby assuring continued access to the isolated area.

TOTAL            \$25,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

None reported.