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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

HONDURAS

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

On June 28, 2009, the Honduran military ousted President Manuel Zelaya Rosales and expelled him from the country. The United States Government (USG) and the international community immediately condemned the action as a coup d'état, and swiftly suspended non-humanitarian assistance to the Government of Honduras (GOH). After June 28, the USG called repeatedly on all parties in Honduras to respect constitutional order and rule of law, and to resolve the political dispute peacefully through dialogue. The USG has begun a large-scale effort to reexamine and revamp the content and delivery of assistance to Honduras. The focus of this endeavor is on strengthening democratic institutions, rule of law, and citizen participation in local and national government; broadening participation of traditionally marginalized groups in all programs; and reinforcing civilian control of the military. Increases in employment and in productive and social investment will also be necessary to spur economic growth, advance social justice, improve education and health, and engage the poorest and most marginalized members of Honduran society in the country's development.

In addition to resolving the aforementioned political crisis, Honduras continues to face many serious challenges. Honduras is the second poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, with 48 percent of its people living on 2 dollars a day. About 40 percent of Hondurans are unemployed or underemployed. Fertility, maternal and infant mortality, and malnutrition rates remain high, especially in rural areas. Specific high-risk groups are disproportionately affected by HIV, with group prevalence rates exceeding 4 percent. Fewer than 25 percent of Honduran young people complete high school, and more than 60 percent of Hondurans experience high or very high food security vulnerability. Honduras is also second in Latin America for vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change risks. The country's natural resources are threatened by illegal logging and environmentally unsustainable policies. Violence is growing as organized crime, gangs, political assassinations, and trafficking in drugs, arms, and people contribute to one of the world's highest murder rates.

Despite these challenges, in FY 2009, the USG achieved notable results in the foreign assistance objectives of Governing Justly and Democratically, Investing in People, Economic Growth, and

Peace and Security. As enumerated below, programs improved the socioeconomic development of the country by strengthening local governance and citizen participation, enhancing health and basic education services, promoting economic stability and growth, increasing sustainable natural resources management, and helping the GOH to address gang violence and drug trafficking.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

In FY 2009, the USG helped the GOH better address the threats posed by gang violence, organized crime, and the smuggling of arms, drugs, and people. In addition, the USG assisted the GOH to better plan for and respond to natural disasters.

In FY 2009, USG assistance achieved the following results:

- Under the Merida Initiative in Central America (called the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) as of FY 2010), implemented a two-country, multi-agency approach to combating international crime, including the creation of a bilateral United States-Honduras Task force.
- Consistent with CARSI, the USG supported Honduran Government anti-gang initiatives, including the National Automated Case Management Information System and Central Intelligence Center
- Provided technical assistance to the GOH, and linked U.S. prison training academies with the Honduran national system of 24 detention facilities
- Assisted the GOH in implementing better prison management procedures, such as visitor and contraband control
- Assisted the GOH in seizing 4,957 kilograms of cocaine, 1,137 kilograms of marijuana, and 2.7 million pseudoephedrine pills. Some 475 persons were arrested for drug-related offenses, and \$672,000 in cash and \$168,000 in assets were seized
- Assisted the GOH in significantly decreasing the availability of pseudoephedrine and other precursor chemicals through a prohibition on legal pharmaceuticals and chemicals used in the production of illegal drugs
- Improved Honduran Armed Forces counter-drug-trafficking operations, specifically on the north coast

Governing Justly and Democratically

In response to the break in the constitutional order caused by the June 28th coup d'état, the USG focuses on strengthening democratic institutions, rule of law, and citizen participation in local and national government; broadening participation of traditionally marginalized groups in all programs; and reinforcing support for democracy and civilian rule.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) also continues efforts to address challenges related to allegations of administrative mismanagement and fraud, which have persisted despite improvements to the electoral system since the first democratic election in 1981. In recent international surveys, Honduras has received one of the highest levels of perceived corruption and

one of the lowest levels of trust in public institutions in the hemisphere. Accordingly, the program builds on successes in promoting the decentralization of authority and resources to the local level and encouraging policy and legal reforms that make local elected officials more accountable to their constituents. USAID additionally sustains results that support civil society partnerships and increase citizen participation in election monitoring.

In FY 2009, USG assistance achieved the following results:

Related to Good Governance and Anticorruption:

- Twenty-two local governments implemented the Transparency Index, a measure of a municipality's compliance with the law in different management areas. The Index facilitated increases in legal compliance from 55 percent to 63 percent for large municipalities, and from 50 percent to 61 percent for small municipalities.
- The program strengthened the Honduran Municipal Association's ability to promote legal reforms that make municipalities more autonomous. A key result was Congressional approval of Municipal Law reforms that will increase national government transfers to local governments from 5 percent to 11.5 percent over 5 years.
- Civil society training on oversight of municipal resources increased citizen participation, transparency, and citizen confidence in local government
- Technical assistance and training in finance, administration, audit, and accountability procedures helped municipalities utilize poverty reduction resources more efficiently and become more accountable to citizens.
- Small grants for local governance activities funded 70 community projects in 23 municipalities, including infrastructure, training, technical assistance, and equipment supply activities

Related to Civil Society and Elections:

- The program supported a federation of more than 70 local organizations to ensure a transparent selection process for Supreme Court justices, the Attorney General, and the Deputy Attorney General. Advocacy for new bylaws, public hearings, and a merit-based selection system resulted in the first-ever public selection process.
- Technical assistance to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal improved electoral administration, poll worker performance, and the preliminary vote count system. This multi-donor collaboration upgraded acquisition procedures, warehousing, distribution logistics, and vote count processes necessary for free and fair elections.
- Election monitoring by independent Honduran civic organizations enabled the Electoral Tribunal to release official results and announce the winning candidates for the presidential primaries within four hours of the polls closing. This significantly reduced the potential for vote manipulation.

Investing in People

In health, USAID FY 2009 activities focused on improving and decentralizing maternal and child health services, improving HIV/AIDS prevention and care, ensuring availability of family planning services, and improving food security for the poor. The education program emphasized the

provision of learning opportunities for out-of-school youth and adults, and education quality improvement in the formal education system through the Education for All-Fast Track Initiative to meet Millennium Development Goals of universal access to preschool and 100 percent primary school completion by the year 2015.

In FY 2009, USG assistance achieved the following results:

Related to Health:

- USG-supported hospitals and maternal and child health clinics provided 31,613 newborns with essential care, an increase of 2,363 from the previous year. The number of deliveries with a skilled birth attendant and the number of women in USG-assisted programs receiving the appropriate oxytocin dose during the third stage of labor also increased, to 32,487 deliveries and 31,633 women, respectively.
- Condom use within targeted at-risk groups rose from 32 percent in 2004 to 98 percent in 2009 within the adult Garífuna population – an Afro-Caribbean people with an HIV prevalence rate of 4.5 percent – and from 79 percent to 86 percent within the overall population of people living with HIV/AIDS. The program reached 201,645 people (81,648 women, 119,997 men) with comprehensive prevention messages, beyond just “abstinence and/or being faithful.”
- Almost 10,000 most-at-risk individuals (6,712 women, 3,248 men) utilized voluntary counseling and testing services, exceeding the target by 46 percent. The percentage of men who have sex with men that received counseling and testing services increased from 68 percent in 2004 to 98 percent in 2009. In the population of female sex workers, HIV testing increased from 53 percent in 2004 to 99 percent in 2009.
- Funding supported the development and launching of a radio-based HIV prevention campaign directed at youth ages 12-24 in the Garífuna community. This locally produced radio-drama reached 47,133 beneficiaries (19,596 men, 27,537 women), surpassing the project’s target by 22 percent. Over 80 percent of the target audience reported accurate recall of the HIV prevention messages presented in the radio-drama.
- Support to the Ministry of Health facilitated the implementation of the National Family Planning Strategy in 94 percent of the 1,439 public sector facilities. Training was conducted for 1,742 providers on family planning norms and procedures, exceeding the target by 15 percent.
- Chronic malnutrition for children between 6 and 23 months decreased from 36.5 percent in 2005 to 26.7 percent in 2009 in the beneficiary populations. These maternal and child health activities were complemented by water and sanitation provided to 3,953 households, benefitting over 23,700 people (12,087 men and 11,613 women).

Related to Education:

- Assistance to the Ministry of Education helped define and implement academic standards in math and Spanish for grades 1 to 12, develop monthly student progress assessments, and apply year-end standardized tests. Annual average scores increased for grades 3 and 6 from 48 percent to 58 percent in Spanish, and from 47 percent to 53 percent in mathematics. Girls’ performance was slightly better than boys’ in both subjects.

- The Ministry of Education doubled the number of schools under the USAID Centers for Excellence in Teacher Training model from 90 to 180 (10 per department), and the Ministry of Education now finances all implementation costs.
- A detailed mid-term assessment of the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative was conducted and a subsequent agreement was signed by the Ministry of Education and participating donors to ensure 200 class days per year, strengthen decentralization, implement multi-year funding, and improve citizen oversight and support for education.
- Targeted community-supported preschools enrolled approximately 68,000 children
- An alternative education program used community volunteer facilitators and recorded lessons to provide basic education to low-income families.

Economic Growth

USAID Food For Peace Title II and rural economic diversification programs helped small- and medium-scale farmers diversify production into high-value crops and value-added food products. Farmers learned the skills necessary to negotiate and build relationships with banks, brokers, processors, and exporters. Activities also supported implementation of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement. USAID additionally promoted sustainable natural resource management through the adoption of integrated practices in biodiversity conservation, ecotourism promotion, market-based conservation, micro-watershed management, and disaster preparedness.

In FY 2009, USG assistance achieved the following results:

Related to Agriculture and the Environment:

- The program helped nearly 16,000 vulnerable households increase incomes and food security, with the average number of months of food availability for participating households increasing from 7.5 months in 2005 to 10 months in 2009. Over 10,000 small farmers improved agricultural practices, diversified crops, improved post-harvest crop management and marketing, established microenterprises, and built irrigation systems and conservation infrastructure.
- Efforts assisted over 4,000 farmers to grow two or more new non-traditional crops (e.g., broccoli, green peppers, onions). The program helped more than 8,000 women increase their incomes through fish farming and beekeeping, and it initiated over a thousand projects that increased poultry, pork, and fruit production on small farms.
- Thousands of farmers were trained on new technologies and agricultural practices, including drip irrigation systems and silos, watershed management, reforestation, water quality control, and community environmental education. Additionally, 96 watersheds were protected, and 3,209 hectares of land were reforested.
- Management training for agricultural input banks and microcredit unions improved credit service provision, benefiting 978 producer organizations, water boards, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations.
- Activities improved biodiversity conservation and management by strengthening non-governmental organizations that are responsible for managing key protected areas on

Honduras' north coast. Assistance to the government and business community on tourism sector development advanced protected areas' conservation objectives and funding needs.

- Efforts promoted the installation of environmental interpretation materials in visitor centers and trails in key protected areas, while updating the norms and regulations for wildlife and protected-areas management. These measures increased knowledge and awareness of the importance of biodiversity.

Related to Trade and Investment:

- The program trained economic and business professionals on a global database for analyzing trade and investment flows to identify potential market and investment opportunities. Public and private policy forums presented analysis of the country's economic and energy situation, and possible policy options.