

FOOD AND  
NUTRITION  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE

**Food Security Update for  
the USAID Mission in  
Honduras**

Patricia Bonnard  
Sandra Remancus

May 2002

**Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project (FANTA)**

Academy for Educational Development 1825 Connecticut Ave., NW Washington, DC 20009-5721  
Tel: 202-884-8000 Fax: 202-884-8432 E-mail: [fanta@aed.org](mailto:fanta@aed.org) Website: [www.fantaproject.org](http://www.fantaproject.org)



This report was made possible through the support provided to the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) Project by USAID/Tegucigalpa and the Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition of the Bureau for Global Health at the U.S. Agency for International Development, under terms of Cooperative Agreement No. HRN-A-00-98-00046-00 awarded to the Academy for Educational Development (AED). The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

May 2002

**Recommended citation:**

Bonnard, Patricia and Sandra Remancus. 2002. Food Security Update for the USAID Mission in Honduras. Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project, Academy for Educational Development, Washington, D.C.

**Copies of the report can be obtained from:**

Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project  
Academy for Educational Development  
1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20009-5721  
Tel: 202-884-8000  
Fax: 202-884-8432  
Email: fanta@aed.org  
Website: www.fantaproject.org

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Acronyms .....	iii
	Executive Summary .....	v
1.	Objective of Report .....	1
2.	Defining Food Security .....	1
3.	Food Security and Title II .....	2
4.	Food Security and USAID/Honduras .....	2
5.	Summary of the Current Food Security Strategy (1996-2002) .....	3
6.	Geography of Food Insecurity in Honduras .....	4
6.1	Food Insecurity by Region and Department .....	5
7.	Factors Contributing to Food Insecurity .....	9
7.1	Climate .....	9
7.2	Rural Poverty .....	11
	7.2.1 Food Availability and Low Agricultural Productivity .....	11
	7.2.2 Food Access and Limited Income-Earning Opportunities .....	12
	7.2.3 Health and Nutrition .....	14
	7.2.4 HIV/AIDS .....	16
8.	Suitable Food Security Interventions for Title II Programs .....	16
8.1	Geographic Coverage .....	16
8.2	Programming Options .....	18
	8.2.1 Increasing Agricultural Productivity .....	18
	8.2.2 Increasing Access to Markets .....	19
	8.2.3 Improving Access to Health and Nutrition Services .....	20
	8.2.4 Targeting of All Children Under Two for Family Food Rations .	20
	8.2.5 Growth Monitoring and Promotion .....	21
	8.2.6 Women’s Health and Nutrition .....	21
	8.2.7 Use of the Hearth Nutrition Model .....	22
	8.2.8 HIV/AIDS .....	22
	8.2.9 Food Security Monitoring .....	22
8.3	Using Food as Food (Direct Distribution) .....	23
	8.3.1 Rural Roads .....	24
	8.3.2 Watershed Management and Increased Agricultural Productivity	24
	8.3.3 Safety Nets .....	25
	8.3.4 Protecting Natural Resources and Reserves .....	25
	8.3.5 Health and Nutrition Programs .....	25
8.4	Constraints to Using Title II Food Aid in Honduras .....	26
	8.4.1 Food Aid Policy .....	26
	8.4.2 Market Capacity .....	26
	8.4.3 Perceptions .....	27
9.	Collaboration and Resource Integration .....	27
9.1	Integration with USAID/Honduras Strategic Plan .....	27
9.2	Honduran Poverty Reduction Strategy .....	29
10.	Recommendations for Further Study/Action .....	30
10.1	Key Recommendations .....	30
	10.1.1 Objective Bellmon Analysis .....	30
	10.1.2 Detailed Study on the Use of Food Aid in Honduras .....	30
	10.1.3 Integrate Mission Program and Food Security .....	31
10.2	Additional Recommendations .....	31
	10.2.1 Qualitative Research to Strengthen Behavioral Change Strategies	31
	10.2.2 Designing a Food Security Monitoring System .....	31

<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	33
-------------------------	----

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1:	Poverty Indices for Honduras .....	5
Table 2:	Malnutrition and Fertility Rate by Region .....	6
Table 3:	Human Poverty Indices by Department .....	7
Table 4:	Production of Basic Crops 1988/89 – 1998/99 .....	10
Table 5:	Rice and Sorghum Producing Areas .....	12
Table 6:	Anemia Rates in Children and Women by Health Region .....	15

## ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Name/Meaning
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIN	Atención Integral a la Niñez (Integrated Care of the Children)
AMHON	Asociación de Municipios de Honduras (Honduran Association of Municipalities)
ASHONPLAFA	Asociación Hondureña de Planificación de la Familia (Honduran Family Planning Association)
CB	Capacity building
CODECO	Community Development Councils
CODEM	Municipal Development Councils
COHASA II	Food Security Program, GTZ
Consejeros	Health volunteers, CARE
COPECO	Comité Permanente de Contingencias (Permanent Committee on Emergency Preparedness)
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CS	Cooperating Sponsor, USAID
CSR4	Cooperating Sponsor Results Review and Resource Request, Title II, USAID
CYP	Couple-years of protection
DA	Development Assistance
DAP	Development Activity Proposal
DPT	Diphtheria, Polio and Tetanus
ENESF	Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar (National Survey of Epidemiology and Family Health)
EU	European Union
EXTENSA	Food Security Extension, CARE
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization, UN
FEMYNAS	Nutrition Education Specialists
FFP	Food for Peace
FFW	Food for Work
FHIA	Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation
FHIS	Honduras Fund for Social Improvement
FHIS	Honduran Social Investment Fund
FUNDEMUN	Municipal Development Foundation
FY	Fiscal Year
GOH	Government of Honduras
GTZ	German Development Agency
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HOGASA	Community-Based Health Services, CARE
HQ	Headquarters
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
INCAFE	Instituto Hondureño del Café (Honduran Coffee Institute)
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
IR	Intermediate Result, USAID
KAP	Knowledge and Practices
LDC	Least Developed Country

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Name/Meaning</b>
LIFDC	Low-income food-deficit countries
LOA	Life of Activity
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MA	Mapping Assessment
MCH	Maternal Child Health
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOH	Ministry of Health
MT	Metric Ton
NARC	National Agriculture Research Center
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OMNI	Opportunities for Micronutrient Interventions Project
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PADF	Pan-American Development Foundation
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PHN	Population, Health and Nutrition, USAID
PL	Public Law
PLWA	People living with AIDS
PODER	Rural Opportunities for Employment and Development, CARE
PRAF	Family Assistance Program
PRODIM	Program for Development of Women and Children
PROSOC	Program for Rural Development in the Southern and Western Regions
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PVC	Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation, USAID
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
R4	Results Review and Resource Request, USAID
RDS	Red Desarrollo Sostenible (Rural Development Network)
RESAL	Red Europea de Seguridad Alimentaria (EU Food Security Network)
SAG	Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería (Ministry of Agriculture)
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SERNA	Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales (Ministry of Natural Resources)
SETCO	Secretaría Técnica y Cooperación Internacional (Ministry of Technical and International Cooperation)
SO	Strategic Objective, USAID
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TA	Technical Assistance
TFR	Total fertility rate
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
USAID	US Agency for International Development
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
VOCA	Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme, UN
WV	World Vision

## Executive Summary

In order to help guide USAID/Honduras in its food aid program development and resource allocation, and to give the Mission and USAID/W an updated analysis of the food situation, the Mission commissioned a Food Security Strategy Update. Based on a review of literature and key informant interviews, this strategy update will discuss the nature and scope of food insecurity in Honduras, identify major constraints to improving food security, and suggest broad policy and program responses for the Title II food aid program. The update is expected to help USAID/Honduras identify Title II program priorities for the Mission.

The review of literature and interviews with key informants suggests that there is room for expansion of the Title II program. Other regions and departments, in addition to those where Title II is currently working, have widespread food insecurity as measured by high levels of malnutrition, irregular food availability and poor income-earning opportunities. An expansion of the program would most likely require opening the door to other PVOs and ensuring that adequate Title II and other resources (Development Assistance, 202(e), etc) are available. The types of interventions currently being implemented with Title II resources are applicable to many other municipalities in Honduras. Details on tonnage, commodity type and locations would follow a more intense study of food needs and possible constraints to program implementation. Expansion of the program should consider the local market capacity to absorb food resources, potential disincentives to local producers, possible disruption of existing non-food or non-incentive based development projects and the management capacity of the Mission.

Nationally in Honduras, infant mortality rates are around 34/1,000 live births, maternal mortality rates are 108/100,000 live births, the prevalence of stunting is 32.9% (ENESF, 2001). The incidence of poverty declined from 74.8 percent in 1991 to 65.9 percent in 1999 and extreme poverty in urban areas declined from 46.7 percent to 36.5 percent over the same period, but rural areas did not experience the same improvement. Rural poverty dropped just five percentage points to 7.46 percent while extreme poverty remained virtually unchanged at 60.9 percent (World Bank, 2001). Geographic priorities were identified through a review of regional poverty, food insecurity and nutrition indicators and literature as well as numerous interviews with key informants. The west should continue to be a region of priority for the Title II program (Title II is presently working in the Departments of La Paz, Intibucá and Lempira).<sup>1</sup> Although improving, the human poverty index for the Departments of Intibucá and Lempira continue to exceed the national average, with more than three-quarters of their municipalities having indices above the national average of .575. This is the area with the highest levels of malnutrition, as measured by childhood stunting – approximately 48 percent (ENESF, 2001). Two possible directions of expansion are: 1) the south and central south regions, and 2) parts of the Departments of Santa Barbara and Copán.

---

<sup>1</sup> CARE is the only Title II Cooperating Sponsor working in Honduras at this time. CARE began providing emergency relief to Honduras in 1955 in response to a hurricane that damaged much of the Sula Valley. CARE managed school feeding programs in a large part of Honduras including the west. CARE's Title II community health and agriculture programs were developed under the previous DAP (FY1996 – FY2000).

Important considerations in the selection of appropriate interventions for all Title II programs is the nature of food insecurity, constraints and opportunities on the ground, capacity of the particular PVO and USAID priorities identified in the 1995 Food Aid and Food Security Policy paper and subsequent Food for Peace (FFP) guidance. FFP continues to favor interventions that address malnutrition and agricultural productivity. Current Title II activities are appropriate for addressing key food security constraints. One significant modification would be to place greater emphasis on food access and refine and strengthen the interventions that address food access.

In recent years, the focus of most development organizations in Honduras has been on the consequences of natural disasters – beginning in October 1998 with Hurricane Mitch, followed by floods resulting from tropical storm Michele and then multiple consecutive droughts. But despite the sometimes dramatic swings in food insecurity following natural disasters, food insecurity in Honduras is primarily a problem of poverty (access) and poverty is widespread, although more prevalent in rural areas than in urban centers. A major contributing factor to rural poverty is low agricultural productivity and highly degrading cultural practices (eg, slash and burn). But, alternatives to farming in rural areas are few and not very lucrative. In addition, the stalled national economy, national budget crisis and insufficient urban planning translate into dwindling employment opportunities and growing environmental, health and criminal problems<sup>2</sup> in urban centers. While in the medium to long term many poor Honduran smallholders need to find supplemental or alternative means of employment and income generation; in the short term, they need assistance in the form of innovations that increase the productivity and profitability of their extremely constrained resources base.

Both the literature and key informants tend to agree that avoiding burning, contour planting, live barriers, minimum tillage and incorporation of organic matter (including maize stubble) are practices that farmers are more likely to adopt. Structures such as stone terraces are less appealing. Title II Food for Work (FFW) rural roads rehabilitation in Honduras has proven effective in increasing community access to health services, development assistance and to markets. To better address food access, the Title II program will need to place more emphasis on market opportunities and demand preferences. This will require additional technical capacity, particularly in marketing, from either DA-funded programs or other qualified organizations.

Honduras has a long history of community-based delivery of health and nutrition services, now supported by the Ministry of Health (MOH) through the Integrated Care of the Child (AIN) program. This offers a proven approach for Title II programs to adopt to reach households in rural areas with behavioral change strategies, preventative services and referrals for curative care. There have been improvements in several health and nutrition indicators in Honduras over the past decade – infant mortality has gone from 45/1,000 births in 1986/90 to 34 in 1996/2000, the prevalence of stunting dropped from 43.8% in 1987 to 32.9% in 2001 and the fertility rate has gone from 5.2 in 1991/92 to 4.4 in 2001. However, high malnutrition, childhood anemia and fertility rates still characterize parts of the country, especially the west. Targeting of all children under age

---

<sup>2</sup> Crime is a growing problem in rural areas as well.

two, the use of growth monitoring and promotion, and attention to women's nutrition and access to modern contraceptives are all areas that need to be emphasized.

The magnitude of the HIV/AIDS problem in Title II priority areas is not known, but it is generally considered to be less serious than in other parts of Honduras. Still, the prevalence of significant risk factors throughout most of Honduras, including an extremely mobile population that links areas of higher prevalence with areas of lower prevalence, suggests the need for greater emphasis on prevention. Therefore, current and future Title II PVOs should consider incorporating HIV/AIDS prevention activities into their food-security programs.

All of the recommended program interventions listed above could utilize some portion of the Title II commodity allocations in the form of food; however, it has been shown that food aid is most effective and results are more sustainable when used in conjunction with complementary inputs to programs (eg training, etc), which requires significant cash resources. Therefore, expanded or strengthened food aid activities will undoubtedly require some complementary cash resources which implies that: a) USAID/Honduras and FFP are willing to monetize more commodities in Honduras, b) Development Assistance funds will be allocated to Title II activities, or c) PVOs need to identify other complementary cash resources such as private funds or other foundation grants, or alternative donor funds.

There was much discussion and diverse views on the capacity of Honduras markets to absorb more food aid commodities (e.g. support more monetization). Some felt that there is adequate capacity for the market to absorb more monetization. Others felt that Honduran markets are nearly saturated. Consequently, USAID/Honduras should consider conducting or commissioning an independent more rigorous Bellmon Analysis prior to proposing an expansion including monetization in the Title II program. The analysis would need to incorporate other food aid operations (including USDA, WFP and other donor-sponsored food aid programs) evolving markets for products that can be considered substitutes for commodities proposed for monetization (eg, bread imported from Mexico), identify methods for monitoring potential disincentives and propose options for improving collaboration among food aid partners.

It was also noted that some development partners have mixed or negative impressions of food aid and a limited understanding of food security. USAID/Honduras and Title II PVOs will need to address these misconceptions and generate greater awareness of food security issues and how they relate to poverty alleviation.

While the current USAID/Honduras Strategic Plan does not emphasize food security per se, poverty alleviation is inextricably linked to attainment of food security as envisioned in the Food Aid and Food Security Policy Paper and adopted by the Title II program in Honduras. Some areas for greater collaboration within the new Strategic Plan (FY2004 – FY2008) are the market development and improved watershed management intermediate results.

## **1. Objective of the Report**

In order to help guide USAID/Honduras in its food aid program development and resource allocation, and to give the Mission and USAID/W an updated analysis of the food situation, the Mission commissioned a Food Security Strategy Update. Based on a review of literature and key informant interviews, this strategy update will discuss the nature and scope of food insecurity in Honduras, identify major constraints to improving food security, and suggest broad policy and program responses for the Title II food aid program. The update is expected to help USAID/Honduras identify Title II program priorities.

USAID/Honduras is currently developing its Integrated Strategic Plan for FY2004 – FY2008, and the Title II Food Security Strategy will form a part of the Mission's overall Plan. The Mission has expressed interest in improving the integration of its programs. In order to provide timely input to this process, it was decided that the Food Security Update be divided into two phases: 1) a short concept paper outlining basic food security issues in Honduras and providing the key recommendations (parameters) for the new Title II Food Security Strategy and input to the April/May 2002 discussions between the Mission and USAID/W, and 2) a longer report that provides more background and incorporates the comments and suggestions from the Mission as well as the outcomes from the discussions between Mission and USAID/W. This paper constitutes the second longer report.

## **2. Defining Food Security**

Throughout the development community and within USAID, interest in food security as a development objective grew and matured during the 1980s. During this time, numerous definitions and conceptual frameworks for food security evolved. In 1992, Policy Determination #19 established a definition of food security for USAID resource programming purposes, which included Development Assistance (DA), the Development Fund for Africa, Economic Support Fund and PL 480 Food Aid programs. The definition is as follows:

When all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life (USAID, 1992).

According to Policy Determination #19, food security is comprised of three interrelated and reinforcing dimensions: food availability, food access and food utilization. Food availability relates to having sufficient quantities of appropriate food derived from production, commercial imports and transfers available to individuals or within reasonable proximity. Food access implies that individuals have adequate income or other resources to acquire sufficient amounts of appropriate food. Food utilization means that people can adequately use available food. This is dependent on a good quality of health,

feeding practices and food preparation (including how food is stored, processed and used), as well as access to adequate health and sanitation services.

### **3. Food Security and Title II**

In 1993, the US General Accounting Office (GAO) published a review of US food aid programs. In response to GAO's observations and recommendations, USAID drafted the "Food Aid and Food Security Policy Paper" as a guide to program development and resource allocation for all USAID-administered food aid activities, including Title II emergency and non-emergency (development) programs. The Policy Paper established priority regions and program areas, outlined how Results Management would be applied to Title II programs and highlighted the importance of resource integration. Although the Policy Paper targets food insecure regions and countries, program emphasis is on addressing household-level food insecurity within these areas.

The Policy Paper states that the main objective of Title II programming is to alleviate food insecurity, especially among the most vulnerable populations. The Policy Paper and subsequent Guidance from Food For Peace (FFP) stipulated that the primary focus of Title II programs should be on improving household nutrition, primarily in children and mothers, and on alleviating the causes of hunger, especially by increasing agricultural productivity. However, these stated priorities were not intended to be interrupted as prohibiting the application of food aid resources to address other critical factors underlying food insecurity such as microenterprise development, microfinance or water and sanitation when the situation warranted it. In fact the most recent FFP Guidance (ie, the FY2003 Policy Letter and Guidelines) explicitly mentions that Title II food resources can be programmed for microenterprise development activities (USAID, 2001).

The Policy Paper established a definition of food security that closely mirrors that of Policy Determination #19, and is as follows:

People are 'food secure' when they have regular access (either through production or purchasing power) to sufficient food for a healthy and productive life (USAID, 1995).

This definition of food security also incorporates the three underlying pillars - food availability, food access and food utilization.

### **4. Food Security and USAID/Honduras**

The current USAID/Honduras Strategic Plan (FY1998-FY2003)<sup>3</sup> promotes sustainable improvements in economic access and participation, stewardship of natural resources, family health and democracy (USAID, May 1997). It supports a more democratic and prosperous Honduras. The component strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan are bound

---

<sup>3</sup> USAID/Honduras is presently drafting a new five-year Strategic Plan for FY2004-FY2008.

together by common themes of poverty reduction and transition to a more open economy and participatory democracy. While the Strategic Plan does not emphasize food security per se, the Plan's objective of poverty alleviation is inextricably linked to attainment of food security as envisioned in the Food Aid and Food Security Policy Paper and adopted by the Title II program in Honduras. For example, the Policy Paper acknowledges the key role of poverty alleviation in combating food insecurity. It states that:

Hunger results from lack of broad-based economic growth, especially for the very poor. Hunger prevents people from being economic participants, except in desperation or as supplicants - and lack of economic opportunity engenders poverty. Increased food productivity plays an important role in alleviating hunger and in broad-based economic growth. Very few countries have experienced rapid economic growth without growth in food productivity preceding or accompanying it (USAID, 1995).

The Title II program supports USAID/Honduras' strategic objectives (SOs) and the overall Strategic Plan in several ways. It is housed under SO3 (Sustainable Improvements in Family Health). In addition, Title II activities to promote improved sustainable agricultural production practices supports stewardship of natural resources (SO2). Rural road rehabilitation and commercialization of smallholder agriculture contribute to increasing market access and poverty alleviation. Whereas SO1 focuses primarily, although not exclusively, on macro policy and economic reform, the Title II program is concerned with household-level income growth and market access. Conceptually the two programs are complementary. SO1 fosters an enabling environment while Title II raises the capacity of rural households. Title II community health and nutrition programming expands the coverage of basic services and enhances the quality of life as measured by the Human Poverty Index and Human Development Index, two key indicators of economic performance that guide the Honduran Government and donors working in Honduras. Finally, the intense collaboration with local municipal bodies reinforces the building of democratic institutions and processes. For more detail on USAID/Honduras Strategic Plan see section 10.1.3 of this report.

## **5. Summary of Current Food Security Strategy (1996-2002)**

The current Title II Food Security Strategy for Honduras (1996-2002) is based primarily on the results of the National Income, Expenditure, Food Consumption and Nutrition Survey for 1993 – 1994 (Rogers, Swindale and Ohri-Vachaspati 1996). The conclusions of the study related to food security and nutrition can be summarized as follows:

1. Household income from any source should to be increased,
2. The educational level and income of women should to be increased,
3. Childcare practices (eg, weaning and other feeding practices) should be improved,
4. Diet diversity should be increased to both improve nutritional status and reduce food price risks,
5. Transportation and market infrastructure needs to be improved, and

6. The rural west<sup>4</sup> deserves special attention because it has the high rates of malnourished children, poor dietary diversity, and low incomes, employment and levels of educational attainment.

The study noted that conditions in the rural west warranted provision of food supplements, and in the long run the region would benefit from improved market accessibility, investments in human capital (through both health and education) and employment generation.

Other factors also influenced the formation of the current Title II strategy. In 1994, CARE conducted a series of livelihood studies in the Departments of La Paz, Intibucá, Lempira, the Mosquitia and three peri-urban areas (Choluteca, Tegucigalpa and Comayagua) in an effort to identify where there was the greatest need for food aid. They determined that the west and south and central south regions possessed the most food insecurity. Perhaps the most influential factor in terms of the food aid programming was the 1995 USAID Food Aid and Food Security Policy Paper, which defined the conceptual framework and priorities for the global Title II food aid program (USAID, 1995). It emphasized agricultural productivity and nutrition programming, medium- and long-term household food security, more rigorous monitoring and evaluation of program impacts and outcomes, and greater program and resource integration. In Honduras, this meant a reorientation away from a heavy concentration on direct distribution and school feeding programs toward longer-term health and agricultural interventions, and even more recently, toward greater sectoral integration (mostly agriculture and health/nutrition) within the Title II program.

## **6. Geography of Food Insecurity in Honduras**

The incidence of poverty in Honduras declined from 74.8 percent of the total population in 1991 to 65.9 percent in 1999 (WB, 2001). The World Bank notes that while extreme poverty declined in urban areas during this time frame (from 46.7 to 36.5 percent), it remained essentially unchanged in rural areas. Showing similar trends, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) reports that in terms of access to basic services, longevity (of human life) and income, urban populations are making more rapid advances than rural populations (UNDP, 2000). In fact, since 1991 poor populations in urban areas have been shifting upward and concentrating closer to the poverty line while the poor populations in rural areas have been dropping further below the poverty line. Poverty in Honduras continues to be more concentrated in rural areas, with 74.6 percent of the rural population falling below the poverty line in 1999. Table 1 summarizes basic poverty indices and population data.

Honduras continues to be predominantly a rural country, although it is becoming

---

<sup>4</sup> The underlying study and resultant strategy defined the “Rural West” as rural La Paz, Lempira, Intibucá and Ocotepeque. Copán and Santa Barbara, Departments normally included in the West, were assigned to the “Rural North and Central Region” for the purposes of the study. See Rogers, Swindale and Ohri-Vachaspati, 1996.

increasingly more urban. Approximately 3.4 million of the total 6.3 million Hondurans live in rural areas. The population growth rate is high, but slowing down. Table 1 illustrates that whereas the population grew 16 percent from 1990 to 1995, it increased 14 percent over the next five-year period. On average, the population grew at an annual rate of 2.8 percent from 1990 to 2000. Despite the high rate of population increase, the rate of growth in gross domestic product per capita in 2000 was higher than in 1996 (2.5% compared to 0.6%). However, growth in per capita gross domestic product has been extremely variable over the past decade (Republic of Honduras, 2001).

Table 1: Poverty Indices for Honduras

Indicator	National	Urban	Rural
Human Development Index 1999 <sup>1</sup>	.651	.701	.596
Change in HDI from 1991 to 1999	7.8%	7.2%	6.6%
Human Poverty Index 1999 <sup>2</sup>	21.3	15.8	27.5
Change in HPI from 1991 to 1999	-24.7%	-26.1%	-19%
Percent extreme poor in 1991	54.2%	46.7%	59.9%
Percent extreme poor in 1999	48.6%	36.5%	60.9%
Percent poor in 1991	74.8%	68.4%	79.6%
Percent poor in 1999	65.9%	57.3%	74.6%
Population in 2001	6,340,009	2,957,406	3,382,602
Population growth 1990-1995	16%	31%	4%
Population growth 1995-2000	14%	27%	3%
Average population growth 1990-2000	2.8%	5.21%	.68%
GDP/capita growth 1996	.9%		
GDP/capita growth 2000	2.5%		

<sup>1</sup>Human Development Index measures education, longevity, and per capita income. Increases signify improvements. <sup>2</sup> Human Poverty Index measures income and access to education, water sanitation, electricity, and reasonable housing conditions. Decreases signify improvements. SOURCE: UNDP. (2000). "Informe Sobre Desarrollo Humano: Honduras 2000." Tegucigalpa, UNDP and WB. (2000). Honduras Poverty Diagnostic 2000." Washington, DC, WB,LAC, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit. INE. (2001). "Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples." Tegucigalpa, INE. Republic of Honduras. (2001). "Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper." Tegucigalpa. FAO website.

## 6.1 Food Insecurity by Region and Department

**The west** (Lempira, La Paz, Intibucá and Ocotepeque) and **south or central south** (southern portion of Francisco Morazán and El Paraíso, Valle and most of Choluteca) continue to be areas with high incidences of poverty and food insecurity. This has resulted in some of the highest rates of child malnutrition, as measured by stunting, in the country (see Table 2). And although fertility rates in Honduras have been dropping steadily over the last 20 years (from 6.5 in 1981 to 4.4. in 2001), the rates in the west remain well above the national average (ENESF, 2001). In addition, the south and central south are among the most densely populated and land constrained. A number of key informants interviewed as part of this study expressed concern that the south has become somewhat dependent on food aid. These views suggest that if the south and central south regions are proposed as sites for future Title II activities, proposed DAPs will need to explicitly account this and be strategic in the specific designs of food aid interventions. For example, the DAP design could emphasize counterpart contributions and define clear and transparent graduation criteria and exit strategies.

Table 2: Malnutrition and Fertility Rates by Region (2001)

<b>Health Region</b>	<b>Prevalence of Chronic Malnutrition (stunting) – Under 5 years</b>	<b>Total Fertility Rates</b>
<b>National</b>	29.2	4.4
<b>Region 1 + Tegucigalpa</b> El Paraiso Francisco Morazan	29.8	4.6
<b>Region 2</b> Comayagua Intibuca La Paz	47.6	5.3
<b>Region 3 + San Pedro Sula</b> Cortes Santa Barbara Yoro	21.9	4.0
<b>Region 4</b> Choluteca Valle	27.6	4.5
<b>Region 5</b> Copan Lempira Ocotepeque	48.0	5.7
<b>Region 6</b> Atlantida Colon Islas de Bahia	27.7	4.8
<b>Region 7</b> Olancho	23.0	6.0
Source: Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiologia y Salud Familiar (National Survey of Epidemiology and Family Health)		

Comparing the 1999 “Human Poverty Indices”<sup>5</sup> for individual departments and the national average, the indices for Valle and Choluteca are the highest and far exceed the national average and those of Lempira, La Paz, Intibucá, and Ocotepeque. Indices for all departments improved from 1991 to 1999, but at different rates. Notable advancement in national education coverage over this time interval is one key contributing factor. An interesting case is La Paz, which shifted from a below-average to above-average status, due largely to significant investment in social infrastructure and services (UNDP, 2000).

<sup>5</sup> The Human Poverty Index calculated with data from the Encuesta Permanente de Hogares de Propósitos Múltiples (Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey) and reported in the annual UNDP Human Development Report, measures access to basic services (health, education, sanitation, etc), longevity, and income. Higher values indicate greater deprivation.

Table 3: Trends in Human Poverty Indices by Department

Department	Human Poverty Index 1991	Human Poverty Index 1994	Human Poverty Index 1999
National			
Atlántida	21.1	22.6	18.3
Colón	32.1	27.4	26.0
Comayagua	25.7	29.1	23.3
Copán	34.8	36.6	27.7
Cortés	19.8	18.2	15.7
Choluteca	43.2	38.4	33.6
El Paraíso	35.4	24.2	24.4
Francisco Morazán	25.5	24.1	15.5
Intibucá	31.7	38.0	23.6
La Paz	30.5	30.0	19.1
Lempira	36.7	33.2	30.6
Ocotepeque	26.3	23.4	23.7
Olancho	35.1	24.6	23.0
Santa Barbara	32.1	27.7	25.6
Valle	42.4	40.6	38.0
Yoro	25.1	23.1	22.1
National	28.2	25.3	21.3
SOURCE: UNDP. (2000). "Informe Sobre Desarrollo Humano: Honduras 2000." Tegucigalpa, UNDP.			
NOTE: Higher values indicate greater human poverty based on income, access to basic services and longevity.			

Portions of **Santa Barbara and Copán** were identified as food insecure and deteriorating primarily as a result of the coffee crisis (see section 7.2.2. for details of coffee crisis). Representatives from both World Vision (WV) and the European Union (EU) were of the opinion that much of the population living at higher altitudes in these two departments could qualify as among the most food insecure in Honduras. They noted that rates of out migration and child malnutrition have recently been increasing as a result of the coffee and plantation agriculture crisis. Along with Lempira and Intibucá, Santa Barbara and Copán have more than three-quarters of their municipalities with Human Poverty Indices above the national average of .575. In 1999 the Department of Copán ranked the highest in terms of number of households with unsatisfied basic needs (Republic of Honduras, August 2000). CARE's 1999 Livelihood Study generally concluded that Lempira, Intibucá, La Paz, Ocotepeque, Santa Barbara and Copán were similar in terms of agroecological, livelihood and vulnerability characteristics (Galvez and Acevedo, June 1999).

**Northwest Olancho** is another area reported to have high rates of food insecurity (interview with the EU). UNDP calculates 1999 Human Development Indices of less than .400 for the municipalities of Manguilile and Esquipulas del Norte, which are included in this area (UNDP, 2000). Although Olancho generally has a better resource base, the road links between this area and "nearby" centers are extremely limited. Travel from here to such centers usually requires extremely circuitous routing. Here too off-farm employment options have fallen, also associated with, but not limited to, the coffee price decline.

The population of **the Mosquitia** is considered chronically food insecure but the logistics of working in this area are extremely complicated and costly. In addition, the population is mobile, traveling between Honduras and Nicaragua, and thus hard to monitor and work with. Still, a number of non-Title II PVOs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work in this region. The Mosquitia and the Department of Yoro experienced more substantial damaging rains Hurricane Michele.<sup>6</sup>

A number of key informants identified the **Department of Yoro** as another area with high rates of food insecurity. Yoro is characterized as having insecure landholdings and land conflicts. While tenure conflicts are not unique to Yoro, informants felt that the problem in Yoro was particularly bad in some areas. The Department of Yoro also has a high concentration of indigenous people, a group strongly associated with higher rates of food insecurity in Honduras (Republic of Honduras, August 2000; WFP, 2001 and WB, 2001). Indigenous populations tend to be more dispersed than other Hondurans, which makes the implementation of development activities through groups (a standard Title II and PVO approach) more time consuming and costly. The Human Development Index for Yoro has increased relatively slowly compared with other departments, but Yoro has no municipalities with very low Human Poverty Index scores (.400 or lower) that would pull the overall index score down (Republic of Honduras, August 2000 and UNDP, 2000). While the prevalence of malnutrition in Yoro is 21.9 percent, it is one of the lowest levels in Honduras (Adelski, 2001)<sup>7</sup>.

The **northern belt** running from Copán to San Pedro Sula and on through La Ceiba to Trujillo was identified as a potentially volatile area with respect to poverty and food insecurity. Although not historically a food insecure area, at least compared to the west, informants remarked on the need to monitor the food security situation in this area.

Human Development Indices for Atlántida and Colón are above the national average, but Cortés' index falls below. The Human Poverty Index<sup>8</sup> improved from 1991 to 1999 for all three departments, but the poverty gap edged up somewhat. This suggests that while access to basic services is still better compared to most other departments, incomes or purchasing power have faltered slightly; however, these departments still compare favorably to departments in the west, south and central south regions (UNDP, 2000).

---

<sup>6</sup> Michele was a strong tropical storm that affected largely the north and particularly Mosquitia in August/September 2001.

<sup>7</sup> Copán, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Comayagua, La Paz and Intibucá all have rates of chronic malnutrition in excess of 47.5 percent.

<sup>8</sup> Recall that the Poverty Gap compares income with the cost of basic needs and the Human Poverty Index includes measures of access to services and life expectancy.

## 7. Factors Contributing to Food Insecurity

### 7.1. Climate:

A current focus of attention is the consequence of recent natural disasters – Hurricane Mitch, floods resulting from tropical storm Michele and multiple droughts. According to a 1999 study conducted by the Family Assignment Program (PRAF), of the 80 municipalities with the worst nutritional profiles, 35 percent of households suffered crop losses due to the hurricane. Valle was also noted to have suffered considerable livestock losses (CARE, 1999). Asset damages were greater (World Bank, 2000) and as a consequence income losses were greater among wealthier households who tend to possess more assets. Households in the medium- to high-income range reported income losses of between 40 and 50 percent whereas poor households reported losses of 30 percent (Morris, et al, 2002 and Republic of Honduras, August 2000).<sup>9</sup> Still, it is often more difficult for poorer as opposed to wealthier households to absorb even small income shocks. In addition, some poor households subsequently sold livestock they could no longer afford to feed while many others were compelled to sell livestock and other productive assets in order to cover household food needs or recovery costs, which further diminished their stock of assets (CARE, 1999; CRS, 1999 and Adelski, 2001). These divestments were generally underestimated or excluded from hurricane damage figures. CRS reported that households dependent on agriculture and food secure before the hurricane, generally recuperated within a season or two, while households that were previously food insecure or dependent on wage labor on coffee farms and fruit plantations badly damaged by the hurricane experienced a slower more prolonged recovery period.

A number of the most food-insecure departments, those in the west of the country,<sup>10</sup> were not greatly affected by Hurricane Mitch or tropical storm Michele. Damage was greater in the south. Staff of Save the Children (SCF) noted that some households are still homeless since they are unable to return to what remained of their homes because of the new prohibition against settlement in designated high-risk areas. Flooding was particularly bad in the Mosquitia, Yoro and Choluteca. Both Yoro and Choluteca have recurrent flood problems that contribute to the local populations' transient food-security status. Since the latest series of natural disasters, communities are being trained to conduct regular flood monitoring and develop response plans.

Overall, the regions most affected by drought are the south and central south and the southern portion of the west. Drought causes higher rates of transient food insecurity, extending over one or two agricultural seasons (primera and/or postrera). Preexisting food insecurity or depressed income-earning opportunities exacerbate drought-related food insecurity. For example, in the Choluteca area increasing competition in international shrimp markets and damage to melon farms have had disastrous effects on derived labor markets and wages and no doubt have exacerbated the negative food-

---

<sup>9</sup> The report notes that crop losses among poorer households are likely to be under reported, and the affects on future income streams from the heavy asset losses are not adequately addressed.

<sup>10</sup> Lempira, Intibucá, La Paz, Ocotepeque, Copán and Santa Barbara.

security impacts of the droughts. To address food insecurity resulting from these fairly regular droughts, short-term food or seed distributions to targeted households is sometimes needed and should be determined by findings of rapid assessments. The Secretary of Agriculture (SAG), COPECO, EU, World Vision and FAO are all involved in implementing, funding or coordinating new seed multiplication initiatives that strategically locate seed near vulnerable agricultural areas for rapid access and restocking.

Looking at the available data<sup>11</sup> on area, production and yields for basic grains – maize, beans, rice and sorghum – there are few indications of dramatic changes outside the regular range of variation at the national (see Table 4) and agriculture-region level<sup>12</sup> due to the storms and droughts. The notable changes occurred in different crops, in different years for different seasons. Region one (Choluteca, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso and La Paz) registered reduced maize yields and production for the primera<sup>13</sup> in 1997/98, but showed signs of continuing recuperation in 1998/99 and 1999/2000. Maize production for the 1998/99 postrera<sup>14</sup> fell in agriculture-region six (El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán and Comayagua). Bean production in the primera of 1997/98 actually spiked upward in agriculture-region four (Yoro, Atlántida, Colón and Gracias a Dios). Rice was the only crop that consistently performed poorly across most regions. Both the 1998/99 primera and postrera were poor. Regions three and four registered significantly lower production for both rice and sorghum for both seasons. The data somewhat mask the emergencies, but this is probably due to the fact that damages were heavy and spotty, much of it associated with landslides and inundation.

Table 4: Production of Basic Crops 1988/89 – 1998/99 (thousands of quintales<sup>1</sup>)

Year	Maize	Beans	Rice	Sorghum
1988/89	9,711	1,154	704	1,180
1999/90	11,236	1,258	1,028	1,361
1990/91	12,301	1,623	989	1,790
1991/92	12,482	1,795	1,195	1,554
1992/93	11,146	999	915	1,906
1993/94	12,985	1,216	672	1,563
1994/95	11,812	1,425	659	1,142
1995/96	14,471	1,211	881	1,855
1996/97	11,915	1,387	792	2,271
1997/98	12,685	2,079	791	1,900
1998/99	10,505	1,175	274	1,568

<sup>1</sup> A quintal is equivalent to 100 kgs  
 SOURCE: Encuesta de Granos Basicos. (November 2001). Tegucigalpa, INE.

<sup>11</sup> Encuesta de Granos Basicos, compiled by INE for 1984/85 to 1999/2000.

<sup>12</sup> SAG divides into agricultural regions, which are different from simple geographic and the health regions.

<sup>13</sup> *Primera* is the first agricultural season of the year, with planting in April/May and harvest in June/July.

<sup>14</sup> *Postrera* is the second and major agricultural season, with planting in August/September and harvest in November/December.

## 7.2. Rural Poverty:

Despite the sometimes dramatic swings in food insecurity following natural disasters, food insecurity in Honduras is primarily a problem of poverty (access) and poverty is widespread, although more prevalent in rural areas than in urban centers. This observation is consistent with the current Title II strategy which notes that incomes, regardless of the source, have a large effect on household food consumption, diet diversity and nutritional status (Rogers, Swindale and Ohri-Vachaspati 1996).

**7.2.1. Food Availability and Low Agricultural Productivity:** A major contributing factor to rural poverty is low agricultural productivity and degrading cultural practices (eg, slash and burn). Although inappropriate agricultural practices are only one of the contributing factors, significant negative environmental trends have been noted in recent years. Although still heavily forested, the rate of deforestation in Honduras is high (Republic of Honduras, 2001; and UNDP, 2000).<sup>15</sup> Staff from the Weather Service of Civil Aeronautics have reported higher average temperatures, lower precipitation, longer periods between rains (including the *canicula*<sup>16</sup>), and more extreme El/La Niño/a effects in recent years. There are some additional negative impacts on the water supply of Tegucigalpa. These trends illustrate why rural poverty is more than a rural issue and concerns the national economy.

Few Honduran farmers employ soil or water conservation technologies. Numerous development projects have attempted to increase smallholder environmental awareness and alter their practices (Barahona and Solomon, 2000; Falck, et al, 1999; Pender 1999; Pender and Scherr, 1999; Bonnard, 1995; and Sanchez, 1994), and collaboration among the various development organizations and government agencies has been increasing. Yet, to date there are few lessons learned concerning which practices work best - in terms of production, natural resource management and farmer acceptance – or under what circumstances.

Farmers continue to concentrate on producing maize and beans, the basic dietary staples, although rice and sorghum are also grown in some regions (see table 5). Despite low productivity, small-scale farmers produce 60 and 80 percent of the nation's maize and bean production, respectively. In fact, household production can only provide for a portion of the family's needs (World Vision, 2001). In the department of Valle, maize stocks last for perhaps six months, beans for several months only (CARE, 1995). While yield gaps (actual verses potential) persist for these two crops,<sup>17</sup> providing potential for significant improvement.

---

<sup>15</sup> Deforestation is particularly serious in broadleaf-forested areas – principally in the north. However, fires, pests and fuelwood extraction apply significant pressure on pine forests.

<sup>16</sup> The *canicula* is a pause in the rains that occurs during mid-July to mid-August.

<sup>17</sup> In 1995, CARE reported a baseline figure for a weighted yield gap for traditional crops (maize, beans and sorghum) of 28.5 percent. Weights correspond to volume of production.

Table 5: Rice and Sorghum Producing Areas

Crop	Agriculture Regions*	Departments Corresponding to Agriculture Regions**
Rice	3 and to a lesser extent 2, 4, and 5	Predominantly in Cortés, Santa Barbara, Yoro and Atlántida and to a lesser extent Comayagua, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Colon, Gracias a Dios, and Olancho
Sorghum	1 and to a lesser extent 2, 6, and 7	Predominantly in Choluteca, Valle, Francisco Morazán, El Paraíso, La Paz and to a lesser extent Comayagua, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Copán, Ocotepeque and Santa Barbara
*Standard practice for reporting agricultural data in Honduras. Inclusion of an agricultural region is based on production levels reported in the “Encuesta de Granos Basicos.”		
**Regions do not necessarily follow department boundaries		

the agronomic and economic potential of beans, and particularly maize, is somewhat limited in Honduras. Nevertheless, maize and beans remain the staples and primary commercial crops for the majority of smallholders<sup>18</sup>. While in the medium to long term many Honduran smallholders need to find supplemental or alternative means of employment and income generation; in the short term, they need assistance in the form of innovations that increase the productivity of their extremely constrained resources base.

Rural Hondurans are extremely cash poor, consequently farmers use very little inputs and households are unable to purchase basic household items and services (Barahona and Soloman, 2000 and Bonnard, 1995). In the short to medium run, improvements to agricultural productivity of smallholders will need to come largely from either investments requiring few cash resources – low external input and organic practices as well as soil and moisture management technologies that employ mostly family labor - or from incorporating higher-value crops (eg, vegetables and fruits) for greater income generation and cash flow (Pender, Scherr and Durón, 1999; Bonnard, 1995, interviews with WV, CARE, EU and USDA).

**7.2.2. Food Access and Limited Income-Earning Opportunities:** High transportation costs inhibit growth in commercial production, including basic grains and higher-value crops for small- and even medium-scale farmers. Intermediaries (eg, coyotes as rural Hondurans refer to them) extract a large share of the marketing margin, imposing further disincentives for producers. A recent study of Honduran food retail markets indicates that the increasing market concentration of large supermarkets is associated with a growing preference for larger-scale transactions, which disfavors small agricultural traders (eg, “pulperias”) and smallholders (Orellana, 2001). But, alternatives to farming in rural areas are few and not very lucrative. Furthermore, the stalled national economy, national budget crisis and insufficient urban planning translate into dwindling employment opportunities and growing environmental, health and criminal problems in urban centers.

The recent coffee crisis has exerted economic pressure on both coffee growers and laborers located throughout much of Honduras. Coffee growing households, many of

<sup>18</sup> A smallholder is a small-scale farmer who produces largely for household consumption and typically employs mostly family labor and few cash resources. The qualifying size varies from country to country. CARE defines a smallholder as a farmer with 1-5 *manzanas* (.7-3.5 hectares) of land (CARE, 2000).

which are smallholders,<sup>19</sup> have been experiencing steep income declines for the past several years as producer prices for coffee plummet below the costs of production (Banegas Espinoza, 2001 and Adelski, 2001). As a consequence, coffee pickers (including seasonal migrants from Valle and Choluteca) have fewer and less attractive employment opportunities. It is expected that coffee prices will remain low for another two or three years at least (USAID, October 2001).

There are about 100,000 coffee producers who employ between 100-120,000 permanent workers and 400-500 seasonal laborers between November and March as coffee pickers. It is estimated that 40 percent of permanent workers have been laid off and about 35 percent of the temporary laborers are unable to find employment (USAID, September 2001). The international coffee market tends to fluctuate, and this current downturn is not the first the market has experienced. With high and stable consumer prices in importing countries, it seems that depressed producer prices are not the result of a change in demand preferences (Banegas Espinoza, 2001). Nevertheless, the coffee crisis will likely continue to cause economic hardship and food insecurity in the medium term. Banegas Espinoza notes that coffee grown at 1,000 meters and above could be sold at considerably higher prices as specialty coffee. This would require modest modifications in production and significant changes to in post-harvest treatment, assembly and marketing.

The northern belt in recent years has been experiencing rising unemployment, shrinking plantation agriculture and *maquilas* or assembly plants (driven in part by global economic recession and the free trade agreements, particularly the 1995 Agreement on Textiles and Clothing), and poor coffee prices leave few viable employment opportunities within the belt. For example, numerous households in Yoro rely on wage labor but the traditional sources of employment (coffee picking, plantation work, and *maquila* employment) have been declining sharply over the past few years. Another contribution to poverty in this belt, especially in Atlántida and Colón, is the rapid influx of indigent and extremely poor people from other parts of Honduras. Associated with this migratory trend is the high rate of spontaneous settlement of forested land and ecologically fragile urban peripheries, which increases the risks and vulnerability to natural disasters such as landslides. Finally, HIV/AIDS appears to be concentrated in the eastern segment of this belt (San Pedro Sula and eastward) and the central corridor from Puerto Cortés to Tegucigalpa; however, widespread internal migration could quickly alter the pattern of incidence and risk.

A common and increasingly popular livelihood strategy for Hondurans is migration, including rural to rural, rural to urban, urban to urban and regional (to Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and the United States). Growing evidence suggests that many Honduran households are critically dependent on remittances from family members working in other parts of Honduras, neighboring countries and the US (Puerto, 2002; USAID, no date). In fact, remittances are now the largest source of foreign earnings. It is estimated that 3 out of 10 families receive remittances from the US alone. Households with a head of household who has migrated from his/her place of birth have an average

---

<sup>19</sup> According to Banegas Espinoza, 92 percent of Honduran coffee growers are smallholders with farms of less than 10 manzanas or approximately 7 has. A manzana is equal to approximately .69 hectares and 1.7 acres.

annual per capital income that is 5 to 15 percent higher than other households (WB, 2000). The World Bank notes that this is particularly true of urban households.

For the many Hondurans who work as migrant or seasonal agricultural labor, the wages are low but still critical to household food security. From 1990 to 1999, women's official labor force participation rates increased from 32 to 42 percent (Republic of Honduras, August 2001). A common destination for women is the *maquilas* concentrated in San Pedro Sula, but the wages and working conditions in the *maquilas* are poor. The effects of the migration of mothers for work on the health and nutritional status of their children is not currently known. The World Bank notes that while the official unemployment rate for Honduras is lower than in the neighboring countries, one out of ten heads of households would like to work more (WB, 2000). Without an expansion in local employment opportunities and improvements in wages and working conditions within Honduras, people (both men and women) will continue to out migrate, exploiting legal or illegal channels.

**7.2.3. Health and Nutrition:** Honduras has made great strides in improving child malnutrition over the past decade, however stunting is still a significant problem in the western part of the country. Infant mortality rates have remained relatively steady over the last six years at 34/1,000 live births (ENSEF, 1996; ENSEF, 2001). Maternal mortality rates have declined significantly over the last five years. In 1996, the national maternal mortality rate was 147/100,000 (ENSEF, 1996). In 2001, the rate was 108/100,000 (ENSEF, 2001).

In poor Honduran households typical diets do not provide adequate calories or diversity to meet energy and micronutrient requirements. A calorie deficit of 22 percent of daily requirements has been noted in Lempira, La Paz and Intibuca (CARE, 2000). Diets in the rural areas are comprised largely of maize and beans (with some variation in local staples such as rice or cassava). Hondurans consume few fruits or vegetables and livestock is reared almost exclusively for sale or as a form of savings. These dietary limitations are reflected in the high anemia among children and women of reproductive age throughout the country (see Table 6). The problem of limited dietary diversity is noted in the current strategy. The study from which the strategy is derived notes that 80 percent of the calories are derived from just ten foods (Rogers, Swindale and Ohri-Vachaspati 1996).

Table 6: Anemia Prevalence in Children and Women by Health Region

<b>Health Region</b>	<b>Anemia Prevalence for Children 12-59 months</b>	<b>Anemia Prevalence for Women of Reproductive Age</b>
<b>National</b>	29.9	14.7
<b>Region 1 + Tegucigalpa</b>	22.9	9.5
<b>Region 2</b>	24.7	13.0
<b>Region 3 + San Pedro Sula</b>	32.4	16.3
<b>Region 4</b>	31.3	18.6
<b>Region 5</b>	25.8	12.1
<b>Region 6</b>	41.8	23.2
<b>Region 7</b>	31.7	11.4
Source: ENESF 2001		

Health sector key informants also noted the high incidence of parasitic infections, including chagas, dengue, malaria and hookworm in pockets dispersed throughout the country. In the mid-1990s, chagas disease was particularly problematic in the west and other mountainous areas such as Olancho and Santa Barbara while malaria and dengue fever were more problematic in Atlántida, Colón, Cortés, Comayagua and Choluteca (Rogers, Swindale and Ohri-Vachaspati 1996). Some of these parasitic infections (malaria and hookworm) are also likely contributing factors to the high rates of anemia.

Many of the rural areas still lack access to basic health care. Public sector financing is biased toward urban areas, hospital-based curative care rather than rural basic health care and salaries of hospital and clinic personnel rather than equipment (USAID, 1997). Drug and supply stock outs in government health facilities are common and there continues to be a high unmet need for reproductive health services in rural areas. Differences exist between contraceptive use and fertility in rural versus urban areas and by level of education - contraceptive use is 55 percent in rural areas compared to 62 percent in urban areas and women with no education have an average of four more children than women with seven years of education (USAID, 1997). This has a direct impact on food security as studies on caloric intake in Honduras have shown that the larger the family, the greater the calorie deficit. (URC, 1995). The optimal birth interval for improving maternal and infant/child health is three years or longer.

The community-level health volunteers, known in Honduras as the Integrated Care of the Child (AIN) have proven effective for reaching households in rural areas with behavioral change strategies, preventative services and referrals for curative care. AIN has existed in Honduras since 1991 and has had a positive impact on rates of childhood vaccination, growth monitoring and exclusive breastfeeding (BASICS, 2001). The current challenge is to expand this model while maintaining quality through the use of recommended protocols for training and implementation, effective links with local health centers and adequate supervision and monitoring.

**7.2.4. HIV/AIDS:** Honduras has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in Central America, and accounts for 60 percent of all Central American cases. The highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS runs along the central corridor from Puerto Cortés on the north coast to Choluteca in the south. The prevalence is high along this route because transportation and economic opportunities are better and draw in people from all over the country - it is where 60 percent of the total population concentrates. Although HIV/AIDS is currently a problem concentrated in this area, it could easily spread due to the high rates of internal and external migration. Recent anecdotal information suggests that there is an increasing flow of HIV/AIDS infected people from the San Pedro Sula area to the rural areas, including the west.

A number of key informants remarked on the potential for an explosion of HIV/AIDS based largely on the prevalence of risk and spread factors including high incidences of poverty with few alternative economic opportunities, a concentration of HIV/AIDS in the *maquila* zones, high rates of migration (internal and external), male promiscuity, women's limited control over her sexual practices, a resistance to promoting condom use by the conservative groups and others working in HIV/AIDS in Honduras, and the general lack of recognition of the potential problem within the development community. HIV/AIDS is still viewed as a health issue, not a food security issue in Honduras.

Given the factors contributing to food insecurity, appropriate food security interventions, especially those aimed at medium- to long-term food security, need to address poverty alleviation, access and natural resource management. In the area of utilization, more attention should be placed on increasing diet diversity, emphasizing greater consumption of animal products, fruits and vegetables, improved feeding practices and food preparation. Still, more research is needed to clarify specific needs and priorities. The current Title II DAP includes interventions that focus on these areas. Some components are strong and quite successful, while others could be strengthened.

## **8. Suitable Food Security Interventions for the Title II Program**

An important consideration in the selection of appropriate interventions for all Title II programs is the nature of food insecurity, constraints and opportunities on the ground, capacity of the particular PVO and priorities emphasized in the Food Aid and Food Security Policy paper and subsequent FFP guidance (ie Policy Letter and Guidelines). FFP continues to prioritize interventions that address malnutrition and agricultural productivity,<sup>20</sup> although other interventions are considered where justified.

### **8.1. Geographic coverage:**

Based on the food security situation described above, the Title II program in Honduras should be expanded. Details on tonnage, commodity type and locations would follow a

---

<sup>20</sup> According to FFP parlance, agricultural productivity includes production and post-harvest technologies and practices, micro-irrigation, natural resource management, rural road rehabilitation, agricultural marketing, credit, and agricultural-based micro-enterprise development.

more intense study of food needs and possible constraints to program implementation. Expansion should consider the potential disincentives to local producers; possible disruption of existing non-food or non-incentive based development projects and the management capacity of the Mission.

CARE's new FY2001 – FY2005 DAP reoriented the Title II program. Because they felt that the impact of their programs would be enhanced through sectoral integration (ie, at a minimum working on multiple sectors (agriculture and health) with the same populations), they decided to concentrate their activities in the west. During the previous FY1996 – FY2000 DAP cycle, their different sectoral programs had limited geographic overlap. Before taking this decision, CARE conducted a poverty study and found that the west continued to be one of the poorest areas in Honduras. In addition, some CARE staff also noted that communities in the west are somewhat more receptive to their program interventions than those of the south and central south. The new geographic concentration is expected to reduce logistics and other costs as well as boost expected impacts. CARE staff noted that the communities in the south and central south are still extremely poor and food insecure and could continue to qualify for Title II assistance. One option for expansion of the Title II program would be to invite another Cooperating Sponsor to the Honduras who would be willing to cover the south and central south regions.

The review of literature and interviews with key informants suggest that west should continue to be a region of priority for the Title II program. Two possible directions of expansion are: 1) the south and central south regions,<sup>21</sup> and 2) parts of the Departments of Santa Barbara and Copán. WFP concentrates its food aid activities these areas as well. They work in 96 municipalities in Intibucá, Lempira, La Paz, Copán, Santa Barbara, Ocotepeque, Choluteca, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán and Valle. PVOs interested in submitting DAP proposals are required to conduct a needs assessment to identify food-insecure municipalities and communities and justify particular program designs. They should account for other food aid and development activities in the area and take advantage of opportunities for collaboration.

There is less justification in the expansion of the Title II program into northeast of Olancho. As is the case with many countries receiving Title II assistance, costs (transport, logistics, additional regional administrative offices, etc) associated with adding new program areas in Honduras are high. In addition, this area represents a pocket of food insecurity within a relatively less food-insecure region (the Department of Olancho in general). Therefore, it would be less cost effective to set up a Title II program in this area than expand operations in other geographically expansive zones of food insecurity such as the west and south and central south regions. Similarly, expansion of food aid development programs into the Mosquitia would be more expensive and require more monetization to cover higher transportation and logistical costs.

---

<sup>21</sup> CARE is currently withdrawing from these areas so an expansion could include replacement Title II activities.

## 8.2. Programming Options :

**8.2.1. Increasing Agricultural Productivity:** Development and food security efforts in Honduras have historically concentrated on availability, as has the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) and others working on food security and agriculture. This meant that interventions centered on increasing output, eg, increasing the productivity of agricultural production. Approaches have over the past decade increasingly recognized the benefits of natural resource management and more recently the importance of soil moisture management such as micro-irrigation and watershed management strategies (Falck, et al, 2001 and interviews with SAG, WV, SCF, FAO and EU). Broader dissemination and implementation of these types of practices and technologies is fundamental to medium- and long-term agricultural productivity in Honduras and supports SAG's new strategic plan. The Title II program should contribute to this effort and adhere to recommendations from SAG and other local authorities.

Under the Mission's current Strategic Plan (FY1998 - FY2003), the "Improved Management of Watersheds, Forests and Protected Areas" SO has helped develop 27 geo-referenced resource and environmental maps.<sup>22</sup> It has also worked intensively with the national forestry school in Siquatepeque to identify key technologies and practices for watershed and forest protection as well as hillside agriculture that could be broadly promoted through the numerous agriculture and natural resource projects and programs working throughout Honduras. Both the literature and key informants tend to agree that no burning, contour planting, live barriers, minimum tillage and incorporation of organic matter (including maize stubble) are practices that farmers are more likely to adopt. Structures such as stone terraces are less appealing. However, more analysis is needed to confirm which technologies and practices are most suitable for different circumstances or environments. Greater information sharing among development partners can help solidify local understanding and disseminate the accumulated knowledge.

Reducing food insecurity in rural areas of Honduras is not only dependent on increasing agricultural productivity, but also reducing vulnerability to environmental shocks such as droughts and flooding. CARE reported that in the second year of the DAP (1997) average yields of maize, beans and sorghum had exceeded the target and some households were able to produce more than they consumed (CARE, 1999). In addition, through the monitoring of program outcomes, CARE was able to document that the agricultural interventions they promoted as part of the Title II program helped participating farmers mitigate the negative impacts of El Niño. Only 40 percent of the crops were lost on participant fields as compared to 80 percent on neighboring non-participant fields (CARE, 1999). CARE also works on diversifying sources of income generation (including crop diversification) in order to reduce risk. The Title II program should continue to support agricultural productivity enhancement, which incorporate natural resource and soil moisture management practices, and approaches to reduce annual variations in production and income – through appropriate technologies, production diversification and/or income-generating alternatives.

---

<sup>22</sup> Their target is to complete 33 environmental maps within the time frame of the Strategic Plan. They are also helping municipalities develop environmental work plans.

**8.2.2. Increasing Access to Markets:** More recently, the attention of the development community in Honduras has turned from concentrating on food availability to embracing food access – principally, greater access to markets, diversification of production and income generation. During the prior DAP cycle (FY1996 – FY2000), the Title II program addressed market access predominantly by road rehabilitation activities through Food for Work (FFW). Several years into the DAP cycle, CARE conducted a rural roads beneficiary study and found that in addition to reducing travel time and costs, roads helped strengthen social capital by making it easier for family members from outside the community return for visits, or to bring gifts of food, other goods and cash. In return, visitors took agriculture produce away with them, thereby strengthening important social networks and perhaps the food security of family members living outside rural areas. The study also noted that improved roads allowed for easier access to training and technical assistance. Representatives from assistance and governmental agencies visited more frequently, and residents could more easily seek out training and technical assistance in other communities or in town. Interviews with Title II beneficiaries revealed that for many communities, greater access to clinical health services was considered the most important benefit derived from road rehabilitation activities.

In addition to its roadwork activities to increase market access, CARE has organized and promoted “Food Security Fairs” where people from southern and western Honduras can trade and exchange ideas. For this new DAP cycle (FY2001 – FY2005), they plan to work more closely with a local organization with technical capacity in market analysis and development and strengthen their marketing component.

In general, in order to effectively and aggressively reorient the focus toward food access, Title II DAPs will need place greater importance on markets, which means starting with market opportunities, as opposed to looking for markets once increases in agricultural output have been achieved. This means developing programs based on well-conceived market opportunities for the rural poor, rather than simply seeking markets for surplus production. PVOs submitting DAP proposals with a marketing component, will have to conduct or commission a market study as part of the DAP proposal preparation and demonstrate adequate evidence of technical competency of the PVO or close collaborator (Bonnard, Haggerty and Swindale, 2002).

A common marketing approach taken throughout the Title II program in general is organizing farmer groups and assembling output for large-scale trade. This approach in the Honduran context could, to some extent, address the growing tendency of buyers to seek larger volume transactions. The practice can also strengthen farmers’ collective market power vis-à-vis intermediaries. Some additional ways that the Title II PVOs can help improve food access through marketing is to organize farmers, teach them how to identify markets and negotiate transactions, improve the quality of their products and diversify their products in accordance to demand preferences. However, such approaches necessitate a significant investment in capacity building of farmers in order to assure sustainable outcomes.

Another strategy is for Title II to take advantage of preexisting projects oriented at developing agricultural marketing, and forge links to their communities and beneficiaries. Such linkages could include assisting Title II farmers build relationships with existing agricultural cooperatives or local agribusinesses, or integrating Title II farmers into the Mission's "Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction" strategic objective. These types of opportunities are site specific, and what works in one region may not be applicable in another. PVOs submitting DAP proposals will have to think strategically. For example, the Mission plans to work on market development in Choluteca and Nacaome, and there is currently some market development work being carried out in Copán. These are areas previously identified as suitable for Title II programs, and considerable collaboration could evolve here. Unfortunately, CARE (the thus the Title II program) is working in an area with few such opportunities and significant obstacles to overcome with respect to marketing. Nevertheless, DA-funded "secondary city" and/or market development programs could counsel CARE on how to formulate market strategies and identify partners with the appropriate complementary business skills in the areas where CARE is working. The three regions mentioned – the south (Choluteca and Nacaome), Copán area and the west will undoubtedly follow different market strategies.

**8.2.3. *Improving Access to Health and Nutrition Services Through Community-Based Approaches:*** Health and nutrition efforts in Honduras are focused on improving access to basic services by families and prioritizes child survival, reproductive health, and prevention and control of infectious diseases. Since 1995 there has been an increased emphasis on strengthening community-based integrated health and nutrition approaches, particularly through the Integrated Care of the Child (AIN) program. The Title II program in Honduras also trains and uses community health and nutrition volunteers to promote preventative health behaviors, the use of public or private institutions for childbirth and curative care, and to oversee distribution of the family food rations. Strengthening and revitalizing these community health approaches and their links to the public/private health system would provide more efficient and cohesive health and nutrition coverage. This could be done by harmonizing messages, training, and supervision through the use of shared protocols and materials and underlining the need for a collaborative relationship between organizations involved in community level health and nutrition program implementation, as well as the MOH. Rural road rehabilitation also plays a role in strengthening the links between the community and public/private health systems. A field visit to a village where the Title II program is supporting rural road rehabilitation pointed to an apparent relationship between the improved roads, community-level reproductive health education and an increase in the number of institutional births. It is clear that improved roads can reduce transport time for women with obstetrical emergencies and also makes it easier for communities to identify emergency transport plans.

**8.2.4. *Targeting of All Children Under Two for Family Food Rations:*** Participant selection criteria currently used by CARE's Title II program in Honduras includes the targeting of all children 6-24 months old in program areas. Focusing on all under-tuos (also called universal or community targeting) supports the rationale that interventions should begin as early as possible and focus on the prevention of malnutrition rather than recuperation from malnutrition. This universal approach has several benefits including:

lessening the impact of existing malnutrition, preventing further malnutrition and decreasing conflict in communities over selection for participation. It is the recommended program approach and should be a part of any expansion of the Title II program.

**8.2.5. Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP):** GMP is a key approach for improving the nutritional status of children and averting mild and moderate malnutrition. For this reason, GMP is a cornerstone of programs promoting a preventative approach because it catches growth faltering before significant malnutrition has occurred. GMP sessions are most effective when they take place on a regular (monthly for the first 24 months of life) basis and involve caretakers in the process. Involving the mother, moves GMP from simply being an assessment of a child's nutrition status to a being an approach that can analyze and address the underlying causes of faltering growth by providing mothers with the information they need to improve their child's growth. This is why the location of GMP in communities – rather than clinics – has been found to provide the optimal environment for engaging households in the transfer of health and nutrition information and knowledge (Bonnard, Haggerty, and Swindale, 2002).

While GMP can be an effective tool for empowering mothers, strong training programs and adequate supervision are needed to ensure the quality of the growth promotion techniques used at the community level and the feasibility of the counseling messages that are a part of these sessions. Links between the community and public health systems are also essential, in order to ensure timely referrals to the public health centers of persistent cases of growth faltering.

CARE/Honduras' community-based health services (HOGASA) program supports monthly growth monitoring and nutrition education sessions. These sessions are conducted separately from ration distribution, however receipt of the family food ration is contingent upon participation in the GMP and nutrition and health education sessions. Any expansion of Title II in Honduras should include GMP in its program.

**8.2.6. Women's Health and Nutrition:** Title II health and nutrition education activities that accompany the growth monitoring of children or ration distribution usually focus on the needs of women only in their role as child bearer. Increased emphasis is needed on improving women's health and nutrition before, during and after pregnancy, because of the potential consequences for the woman as well as for her children. In most countries, but especially in developing countries, women are income earners, food producers and family care-takers therefore there are enormous social, economic, health and development implications of poor female health and nutrition. Interventions at the community level should include counseling on adequate diet, food preparation, micronutrient supplementation, prenatal care, safe deliveries, modern family planning and prevention of STIs/HIV/AIDS and the distribution of micronutrient supplements. This needs to be implemented in conjunction with a well functioning system for referrals to the public health system and might require cost sharing on the part of the Title II PVO.

**8.2.7. Use of the Hearth Nutrition Model:** The Hearth Nutrition Model is another way to ensure that proposed changes to health and nutrition practices are feasible and that the program takes advantage of existing community knowledge. The model is based on the positive deviance approach, which identifies the unique practices of community members who are successfully coping and maintaining family health, even though they have the same low-level of resources as other members of the community. These families are able to provide culturally appropriate solutions that can be taught to other families in the community. The model starts with a community-level inquiry to identify these successful behaviors and then promotes this knowledge in the community. The model can be used in areas where families are receiving Title II rations and in areas where food aid programs are not taking place.

The Hearth Model has been widely used and promoted by Save the Children Federation (SCF) and a number of other Title II PVOs are now incorporating this strategy into their Title II programs (e.g., Africare, FHI, CARE, ADRA) (Bonnard, Haggerty, and Swindale, 2002). In areas where this model has been used, the nutritional status of all children who participated has been found to remain significantly improved even three years after the program phase ended and the program benefits have been transferred down to younger siblings of Hearth participants (Save the Children, 1998).

**8.2.8. HIV/AIDS Prevention:** As noted above, the incidence of HIV/AIDS is concentrated in the belt between San Pedro Sula to Trujillo and the corridor from Puerto Cortés to Choluteca. With the exception of Choluteca, areas identified as most food insecure and therefore most appropriate for Title II programs are not considered areas where HIV/AIDS is concentrated. Nevertheless, the prevalence of significant risk factors throughout most of Honduras, including an extremely mobile population, suggests the need for greater emphasis on prevention. Both the current and future Title II PVOs should incorporate HIV/AIDS prevention activities into their food-security programs or form partnerships with other organizations working in HIV/AIDS in their project areas. After June 2002, USAID grants will be available for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on HIV/AIDS prevention and counseling.

The services provided through the Title II community-based health system should also be expanded to include STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and family planning communication. The development of messages and training for community volunteers should be done with the assistance of other organizations working in these areas in Honduras. This includes the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) affiliate Asociación Hondureña de Planificación de la Familia (ASHONPLAFA), which has funds from USAID to increase access to contraceptives in rural areas. ASHONPLAFA oversees a number of clinics, community distribution posts and a social marketing program for condoms and other contraceptives. Condom distribution is also conducted through MOH clinics.

**8.2.9. Food Security Monitoring:** Hurricane Mitch, the floods and droughts highlighted the importance of early warning for rapid onset emergencies. In Honduras, there has been a massive transformation in efforts to monitor, share information, coordinate response

and develop contingency plans relevant to these types of emergencies. However, these efforts are weak in terms of monitoring household food access (income), and other non-climate related factors underlying food security. Yet, poor access prior and during the previous drought certainly affected or exacerbated household food security in the drought-affected areas. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) conducted a post-Hurricane Mitch food security assessment in 1999. They found that the magnitude of food needs were dependent on the preexisting food-security situation and income opportunities (CRS, 1999). Agricultural communities that suffered considerable crop losses, but limited infrastructure damage recovered within a season. But communities that were dependent on wage labor only recovered once the source of employment was reestablished on heavily damaged plantations.

Drought and flood early warning activities in Honduras as elsewhere cover climate and production of basic food crops. But, a more useful approach would be to include monitoring of household food access or food security. Monitoring overall food security as opposed to production of basic grains is warranted given Hondurans' heavy dependence on wage employment and the expected continued decline in commodity and derived labor markets. To capture vulnerability to food insecurity in the Honduran context, information on wages, employment, prices of food and other basic necessities would be needed to get a clearer picture. A well-designed food-security monitoring system, as opposed to a narrower early warning system, could be used to inform broader policy formation as well as assist emergency response efforts.

The selection of appropriate indicators, coverage (frequency and geographic locations) and interruption and analysis will ultimately depend on local food-security issues, the level of interest, and available resources – time, funds and technical expertise. The system could range from specific analyses of data that are currently being collected on a regular basis, periodic rapid appraisals, multi-agency annual vulnerability assessments to regular monthly reporting or a combination.

It is not expected that Title II or USAID/Honduras would fully fund food-security monitoring, rather it could contribute to a wider effort comprised of Honduran ministries and agencies as well as other donors, eg, SAG, MOH, Climate Service, COPECO, Zamorano, FAO, WFP, RESAL, local NGOs, USDA, EU, GTZ, etc. Title II PVOs could help collect information, interrupt events or train communities to self monitor. In order for a food-security monitoring system to support effective analysis and response, there will need to be cooperation, dialogue and high-level (cabinet-level) commitment.

### **8.3. Using Food as Food (Direct Distribution)**

Several potential uses of food aid are suggested below, but there is clearly room for further assessment and study. Because some of the proposed interventions are currently being implemented by the Title II program, the list of options both reinforces those program choices as well as presents new suggestions and directions for program strengthening. As the Food Aid and Food Security Policy and the recent Title II

assessment (USAID, 1995 and Bonnard, et al, 2002) note, food aid is most effective and results are more sustainable when used in conjunction with complementary programs. To achieve the greatest sustainable results of program options mentioned below complementary activities are recommended in most cases and these activities require cash resources. This issue can be addressed, at least in part, through resource integration. Title II PVOs can partner with DA-funded programs to expand technical capacity if not the financial base. They can use private funds or acquire resources available locally from initiatives and programs that support the kinds of programs they implement. Complementary funds can be acquired from other donors as well.

**8.3.1. Rural Roads:** Food for Work (FFW) on rural roads is a component of the current Title II strategy. It states that transportation and market infrastructure needs to be improved in order to improve household food consumption and nutrition (Rogers, Swindale and Ohri-Vachaspati 1996). It should be noted, however, that while labor-intensive road rehabilitation is a common channel for food distribution in Title II programs worldwide, FFW needs a varying degree of complementary cash resources depending on the training and heavy equipment requirements.

CARE has been implementing FFW activities, including improvements to feeder roads. Roads also provide numerous additional benefits in the form of reduced travel time, increased flow of goods into and out of Title II communities, greater access to health services and project assistance. Pender found that agricultural investment in Francisco Morazán and El Paraíso also related to road development and access to technical assistance (Pender, August 1999).

**8.3.2. Watershed Management and Increased Agricultural Productivity:** Studies in Honduras indicate that farmer adoption of conservation practices is dependent on the opportunity costs of labor (often seasonal) and the intensity of exposure to extension services (Bonnard, 1995 and Pender, Scherr and Durón, 1999). Planting trees, building structures, etc are important elements of improved watershed management which require considerable labor input and significant social as well as private benefits. Because the majority of Honduran farmers are cash and resource poor and conservation measures require resources to implement, are associated with delayed revenue streams and imply new risks, some additional short-term incentives to adoption may be necessary. The argument can be made for transforming a production system based on coffee to one based on another tree product. But it is important to recognize that these types of activities require more than labor input. To be sustainable, they require significant cash resources for training (Bonnard, Haggerty and Swindale, 2002).

The Title II program could combine FFW with farmer training in the value of natural resource and soil moisture management, maintenance of conservation infrastructures, appropriate cultural practices and crop diversification. In Honduras, there has been considerable experimentation and some isolated lessons learned in the area of smallholder natural resource management, and the new strategic plan of SAG will emphasize watershed management. The Title II program should contribute to the realization of this plan, stay well informed of new developments in hillside agriculture

and natural resource management and provide feedback from their beneficiaries to SAG and other local authorities.

**8.3.3. Safety Nets:** Food could be used as a safety net for those suffering heavy income losses due to the coffee, shrimp and plantation crisis<sup>23</sup>. It could be used as a buffer for households that experience serious short-term food gaps, such as farmers who regularly suffer food shortages due to drought or flooding. A safety net program could fall within a humanitarian assistance strategic objective or intermediate result of a DAP, provided it was a stand alone program without complementary monetized activities such as training and there were clear eligibility and graduation criteria.

Another option for a safety net program would be Title II emergency programming. Alternatively, Title II and WFP to work collaboratively, with WFP managing the safety net programs and Title II assisting in monitoring needs, determining graduation criteria from the program and identifying possible disincentives or conflicts with other development efforts.

Finally, safety nets could bolster a household resources and reduce short-term risks associated with an effort to transform the production system from one based strictly on coffee, for example, to one that is more diverse or based on an alternative crop (eg, fruits). Although, in this case, the food serves as a means to increase short-term income and protect a household from potential short-term declines in food security. This latter application of a safety net would more likely fall under the rubric of an agriculture diversification strategic objective or intermediate result of a DAP, and the food would be distributed through a FFW program (see under Watershed Management and Increased Agricultural Productivity).

**8.3.4. Protecting Natural Resources and Reserves:** FFW for improved management of protected areas has potential for a short-term deterrent of overuse of the reserves, but there is still a need to create sustainable income alternatives for the local communities. Unfortunately, it was not possible to collect significant background on food security issues of communities living in reserves or affiliated buffer zones to provide more detailed suggestions. However, the new USAID/Honduras' Strategic Plan will focus its efforts on the Choluteca and Rio Negro watersheds.

**8.3.5. Health and Nutrition Programs:** In 1999, FANTA sponsored a workshop in Bolivia to discuss issues related to the use of food rations in Title II Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) activities. That workshop concluded that there are three principal purposes of food distribution through Title II MCHN activities: nutritional recuperation, prevention of malnutrition, and as an incentive to program participation (FANTA, 1999). Recuperation rations target children already suffering from malnutrition and prevention rations are best targeted to all children under age two in

---

<sup>23</sup> Long-standing large-scale commercial agricultural enterprises (eg, banana producers) located along the northern coast of Honduras and significant sources of local employment, have experienced financial difficulties (including bankruptcy of one firm) as well as considerable physical damages from Hurricane Mitch.

high-risk communities. As an incentive, food rations encourage attendance at health and nutrition sessions, thereby supporting long-term behavior change in households and communities. Clarifying the purpose of the food ration in MCHN programs will help Title II PVOs determine the parameters of their specific program, including eligibility criteria, ration composition, ration size, graduation and reentry criteria and complementary activities.

#### **8.4. Constraints to Using Title II Food Aid in Honduras :**

**8.4.1. Food Aid Policy:** If the Title II program initiates additional FFW activities to address sustainable improvements in food security, it is critical that the food rations be complemented with training and other complementary activities, which requires cash resources. Additional or strengthened food aid activities in Honduras will undoubtedly require complementary cash resources which implies: a) USAID/Honduras and FFP are willing to monetize more commodities in Honduras<sup>24</sup>, b) the Title II program becomes much more closely integrated with the Mission's programs such that Development Assistance (DA) funds complement Title II activities, or c) PVOs identify other complementary cash resources such as private funds or other foundation grants, or alternative donor funds. Despite recent speculation that a monetization ceiling of 30 percent of total global program resources may be imposed, the law (the current and proposed Farm Bills) actually stipulates a minimum (floor) level 15 percent for monetization. There are nine Title II country programs with 100 percent monetization, and another four programs with a higher percentage of the value of their commodity allocation monetized compared to Honduras. With a total of 28 country programs, Honduras ranks just 14 in terms of the level of monetization. This coupled with the importance of capacity building and poverty alleviation to overcoming food insecurity in Honduras suggests that there is justification to consider additional monetization if markets can absorb the commodities.

**8.4.2. Market Capacity:** Among the key informants interviewed, there was much discussion and disagreement on the capacity of Honduras markets to absorb more food aid commodities (e.g. support more monetization). Some felt that there is adequate capacity for the market to absorb more monetization. Others felt that Honduran markets are nearly saturated. Some key informants questioned the conclusions of the most recent Bellmon. The Mission should consider conducting or commissioning an independent more rigorous Bellmon prior to proposing an expansion in the Title II program (Bellmons commissioned by USAID Missions include Ghana and Uganda). The analysis should include other food aid coming into Honduras (including USDA, WFP and other donor-sponsored food aid programs) evolving markets for products that can be considered substitutes for commodities proposed for monetization (eg, Mexican bread), identify methods for monitoring potential disincentives and propose options for improving collaboration among food aid partners.

---

<sup>24</sup> The current level of monetization is approximately 60-65 percent of the total Title II program in Honduras.

**8.4.3. Perceptions:** A number of people interviewed in Honduras have mixed and/or negative impressions of food aid. The general perception is that food aid is distributed too liberally, without development objectives and with inadequate consideration of beneficiary incentives. This perception is inaccurate with respect to the Title II program. Many people are unaware of the development goals and management requirements of the Title II program and what CARE is actually doing. They extrapolate a more generalized view of food aid onto the Title II program. The recent emergency with Hurricane Mitch has left people with the idea that food aid tends to be blanketed throughout the country without a clear strategy and no relevance to medium- or long-term food-security considerations. Both USAID/Honduras and CARE need to educate their development colleagues on the goals and obligations underlying DAPs, particularly if they are to foster greater partnership.

Interviews with representatives from different development organizations suggested that there is some concern as to whether FFW is an appropriate means of introducing agricultural or natural resource management innovations. This concern arises, in part, from key informants' previous experiences in Honduras and other countries with poorly designed and/or executed FFW programs that did not adequately assess and/or cultivate the participants' (mostly farmers) incentives or the sustainability of their interventions. PVOs that submit DAP proposals should be required to justify the use of FFW for such activities and clearly stipulate both the duration of the FFW and the strategy to graduate food incentives while sustaining the desired practices. They should also propose methods of adequately monitoring potential disincentives resulting from the distribution of food.

Another obstacle that needs to be overcome in working on food security in Honduras, is the notion that food security is synonymous with either food aid or self-sufficiency in production. There is a general lack of appreciation of the food access dimensions of food security and many development workers fail to see the connection between improving food security (access) and poverty alleviation.

## **9. Collaboration and Resource Integration**

**9.1. Integration with USAID/Honduras Strategic Plan:** The Title II program has provided an opportunity to expand the reach of the economic reform and poverty reduction objectives of the Mission's strategy. The Mission's activities generally focus on national- or macro-level outcomes, with results measured at the national level, whereas the Title II program has been aimed at poor communities and households. The Mission's Strategic Plan for FY1998-FY2003 includes the following strategic objectives:

- SO1: Economic reactivation meeting the needs of the poor
- SO2: Improved management of watersheds, forests and protected areas
- SO3: Sustainable improvements in family health (and Title II)
- SO4: Strengthen rule of law, accountability and respect for human
- SO5: More responsive and effective municipal governments
- SO6: Improved opportunity to obtain basic education and skills

Special objective: Critical hurricane reconstruction needs met

Within this Strategic Plan, the Title II program was most closely aligned with the SO3 and hurricane reconstruction objectives. Title II collaboration with the economic reactivation objectives is extremely limited. Economic reactivation emphasized policy reforms, not household-level impacts. The geographic areas of focus tended not to overlap with the Title II program.

DA-funded programs for watershed, forest and protected areas management (SO2) evolved during the FY1998 – FY2003 Strategic Plan. Complemented with Mitch funds, SO2 was able to develop numerous geo-referenced resource maps from which municipalities and communities can develop environmental plans. As part of this exercise, SO2 has trained community leaders and municipal agents in environmental planning in the departments of Yoro, Comayagua, Lempira and Intibucá. This activity has overlapped geographically with Title II communities in Intibucá. In addition, SO2 works with the national forestry school to identify key technologies and practices for watershed and forest protection that provide useful recommendations for sustainable hillside agricultural components the Title II program should take advantage of.

The new Strategic Plan of FY2004-FY2008 stresses economic growth and is comprised of the following strategic objectives:

- SO1: Creating a Sustainable Enabling Environment for Increased Trade, Investment, and Economic Development
- SO2: Improving Opportunities to Obtain Basic Education and increasing the Skill Levels of Honduras' Existing and Emerging Workforce
- SO3: Sustainable Improvements in Family Health
- SO4: More Accountable and Transparent Democratic Processes With Greater Citizen Participation

There are various opportunities for DA-funded activities to partner or collaborate with the current or future Title II Cooperating Sponsors. Although new to working in agricultural marketing in Honduras, CARE has more recently added a stronger market focus and also plans to take advantage of regional (Guatemala and El Salvador) trade routes and potential. Because Title II activities are currently concentrated in the west, there are fewer opportunities to directly link the Mission's market strengthening activities with Title II beneficiaries. Within the new Strategic Plan, SO1 can guide CARE both in the design of their marketing component and in identifying partners with expertise in business and market development situated in their geographic area of influence. There may be more opportunity to collaborate with DA-funded programs around Choluteca or in the northwest (e.g., Copán and Santa Barbara). World Vision (WV) has an ongoing program of production and market diversification in the Departments of Santa Barbara and Copán as well as Lempira and Ocotepeque. They have been assisting poor rural households to increase their production and marketing of chickens, eggs and vegetables for both home consumption and income generation. They promote marketing along the Guatemala and El Salvador trade routes as well as along the north coast to San Pedro

Sula. In the department of Yoro, World Vision supports improved product quality and added value strategies by linking their food-insecure farmers with existing, more economically progressive agricultural cooperatives.

As mentioned above, the Honduras Title II program is transitioning from a focus on food availability to one which also deals with food access. A greater understanding of markets is necessary to successfully implement this transition. SO1 should partner with the Title II program and enhance the reach of their increased market access and poverty alleviation efforts by conducting market studies. One study could investigate strategies for high-altitude coffee and low-altitude coffee in different geographic areas of the Title II program or potential Title II areas. The study would look for where diversification is warranted and where alternative marketing strategies for coffee are warranted. Another study could assess the potential market opportunities for Title II areas and beneficiaries. The study would take into consideration local, regional and international markets and provide guidance on how to proceed with market development.

There is considerable opportunity for the Honduras Title II program to work more closely with SO1 on watershed management and hillside agriculture. This can build on experience gained under the FY1998 – FY2003 Strategic Plan in environmental mapping and sustainable hillside agricultural technologies and practices. Because SO1 will concentrate on the Choluteca and Rio Negro watersheds in southern Honduras, the greatest opportunities for collaboration are with potential new Title II programs in this area. Title II programs working in the west can take advantage of the work in hillside agriculture and watershed management being managed by SAG and FAO. There is clearly room for greater exchange of information and experience.

**9.2. Honduran Poverty Reduction Strategy:** The Government of Honduras launched a Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2001. The strategy for reducing poverty in rural areas can be summarized as follows:

1. Improve equity and security of access to land,
2. Promote sustainable development in high-priority areas, under mechanisms that guarantee participation of local governments and communities,
3. Facilitate access to infrastructure and services (marketing and technology transfer) with an aim to increase smallholder production, productivity and competitiveness,
4. Improve social conditions by increasing the coverage of poverty-reduction programs<sup>25</sup> to reach the most economically depressed populations (Republic of Honduras, August 2001).

The idea of decentralization is not new in Honduras. Legislation, policies and implementation of decentralization has been evolving for over a decade. However, the new government is placing greater emphasis on decentralization as compared to the

---

<sup>25</sup> The Government, in conciliation with donors and other development partners, is currently drafting specific sector plans and priorities for the Poverty Reduction Strategy but are expected to incorporate issues of land access, market competitiveness and access to basic social services.

previous administrations. In addition, the collaboration developed during the recent relief efforts illustrate the potential and importance of linking local, regional and national private and public agents. Many key informants are of the opinion that the successes of the most recent relief operations were largely due to effective collaboration and networking, which included municipal and community organizations. A number of international PVOs and local NGOs work closely with new and more traditional public and civil society entities. They have been building local capacity to monitor and respond to rapid onset emergencies resulting from common natural disasters (eg, flooding and drought, depending on the location). In the health sector, NGOs have been collaborating with the MOH to improve community-level health systems and to strengthen family planning and STI/HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

## **10. Recommendations for Further Study/Action**

The review of literature and key informant interviews provided some insights on information gaps and studies or activities that could better inform the process of developing a new Title II Strategy as well as assist the future administration of the program. These are listed below. The first three items are highly recommended and the second set of items is considered less critical but could provide important insights.

### **10.1. Key Recommendations**

**10.1.1. Objective Bellmon Analysis** – By using the term “objective,” the team does not mean to imply that the Bellmon Analysis conducted was subjective, inappropriately handled or inadequate. Rather, because Honduran markets are near saturation with respect to monetization and may be experiencing some significant changes (see section 8.2.3), there is a need for more sophisticated or rigorous analysis. Representatives from PVOs, USDA and several donor organizations had conflicting views on the potential for more monetization and commodity choices. Some views explicitly or implicitly disagreed with the conclusions of CARE’s most recent Bellmon Analysis (2001). For example, there is a wide range of perspectives on whether Honduran markets can absorb more monetization, which products are appropriate to monetize in Honduras and whether various product markets are evolving in ways that will have significant implications on monetization. While some of the difference in opinion can be explained by a lack of familiarity with the food aid and monetization issues, this does not explain all of the differences. Complicating the analysis are USDA monetizations, which follow a different set of regulations. A rigorous Bellmon analysis would need to account for USDA and any other monetization program. One possibility is to have the Mission conduct or commission the Bellmon Analysis. Mission commissioned Bellmon analyses have been undertaken in other countries (eg, Uganda and Kenya).

**10.1.2. Detailed Study on the Use of Food Aid in Honduras:** Given the mixed perception of development partners concerning the justification of the use of food aid and the possible expansion of food aid resources to Honduras, USAID/Honduras or PVOs interested in presenting DAP proposals should consider conducting a study into the use of

food as food in Honduras. This study would shed light on when, where, how much and what type of food to distribute in Honduras. It could also provide guidance on why and when to discontinue it, particularly as it pertains to safety net programs, disincentives to local production and investment, sustainability of outcomes and DAP exit strategies.

**10.1.3. Integrate Mission Programs and Food Security:** Because a new Strategic Plan is currently being developed, there is an excellent opportunity to build in greater partnership (collaboration) among the various strategic objectives and affiliated programs. Better integration could lead to enhanced performance of all component programs. For example, the Title II program can complement the efforts related to enhanced economic and market development (SO1). The latter concentrates on the policy and economic environment while the former focuses at the community and household level. There is also considerable opportunity for Title II programs to reinforce efforts initiated under the improved watershed intermediate objectives (this was SO2 under the FY1998 – FY2003 Strategic Plan and now is included in SO1 under FY2004 – FY2008 Strategic Plan).

USAID/Honduras could consider measures to enhance the integration of all of the component programs within its Strategic Plan, including an integrated results framework, strengthening the role of the thematic groups, including relevant partners in planning discussions. One way to approach this is to conduct a facilitated workshop on how to better integrate and coordinate the various strategic objectives and associated programs to achieve greater results.

## **10.2. Additional Recommendations**

**10.2.1. Qualitative Research to Strengthen Behavioral Change Strategies:** A recent global review of Title II DAPS found that most did not adequately identify the key behaviors that directly impact on food security and nutritional status (Bonnard, Haggerty and Swindale, 2002). This included complementary feeding practices, maternal nutrition, intra-household food sharing and distribution norms, food transformation and processing, food preparation and storage practices, personal and domestic hygiene, gender roles in household decision-making, community preservation and nutrition coping strategies and quality of available health services. Analysis of context-specific obstacles to behavioral change and the acceptability of specific behavioral change message would work to strengthen Title II health and nutrition interventions in Honduras.

**10.2.2. Designing a Food Security Monitoring System:** It is not expected that USAID/Honduras would independently undertake this activity. Instead, from the Mission's perspective this activity would include: 1) cultivating an interest among development partners and relevant government bodies, and 2) in conjunction with these partners, identifying partners and information sources on food security. This could be a longer-term commitment to building a food-security monitoring system that evolves and strengthens over time as interest and resources grow. A more immediate role would be to continue to participate in discussions concerning how and when food resources should be utilized. These discussions could include ideas for setting threshold values and rules for

the food-security or vulnerability indicators, which would provide an indication of when to go in with food assistance (eg, safety net program) and when to get out.

## REFERENCES

- Adelski, Elizabeth. (November 2001). "Honduras: Information Summary." Washington, DC, USAID, OFDA.
- Banegas Espinoza, Roberto. (November 2001). "Transición Competitiva para el Café Centroamericano Sección Honduras." Tegucigalpa, USAID, consultant report prepared for the Mission.
- Barahona, Milton Flores and Tom Solomon. (January 2000). "Una Vision Ampliada de la Agricultura Como Via para Acelerar el Fortalecimiento de la Economic Rural: Estrategia Agrícola para los PDA's de Visión Mudial Honduras." Tegucigalpa, World Vision.
- Bergeron, Gilles and John Pender. (July 1999). "Determinants of Land Use Change: Evidence From a Community Study in Honduras." Washington, DC, IFPRI, EPTD Discussion Paper No 46.
- Bonnard, Patricia (December 1995). "Land Tenure, Land Titling, and the Adoption of Improved Soil Management Practices in Honduras." East Lansing, Michigan State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, PhD Dissertation.
- Bonnard, Patricia; Patricia Haggerty; and Anne Swindale. (March 2002). "Food Aid and Food Security Assessment (FAFSA): A Review of the Title II Food Aid Development Program." Washington, DC, AED, FANTA Project.
- CARE. (various years). Results Reports: Honduras Title II Development Activity Proposal FY1996-2000. Atlanta, CARE.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (various years). Previously Approved Activity Reports: Honduras Title II Development Activity Proposal FY1996-2000. Atlanta, CARE.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (no date). "Analsis Cualitativo de Desempeño de Proyecto: Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria Titulo II." Tegucigalpa, CARE, Proyecto Hogasa
- \_\_\_\_\_. (1994). "Investigación Rápida de Seguridad Alimentaria en Zonas Urbano-Marginales, Honduras. Tegucigalpa, CARE.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (December 1994). "Household Resources and Food Security in the Departments of Lempira, Intibucá and La Paz, Western Honduras." Atlanta, CARE.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (1995). "Honduras Title II Development Activity Proposal: Sustainable Food Security for the Most Needy in Honduras." Atlanta, CARE.

- \_\_\_\_\_. (March 1999). "Evaluación de Medio Término." Atlanta, CARE.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (March 1999). "Hurricane Mitch Emergency Response Program: Rapid Assessment of Participating Municipios." Atlanta, CARE.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (August 1999). "Evaluación de Medio Término del Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria, Título II, Zona 1: Informe Final." Tegucigalpa, CARE.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2000). "Sustainable Food Security for the Most Vulnerable in Honduras," Tegucigalpa, CARE, Honduras Food Security Program, Development Assistance Program for FY 2001 to FY 2005 Proposal.
- CDA Fintrac. (June 2001). "Mango Flowering Induction Program." Tegucigalpa, CDA Fintrac.
- CDIE. (1997). "Food Aid in Honduras: Program Has Become the Model for Development." Washington, DC, USAID, Center for Documents and Information Exchange, Impact Evaluation, Report No 9.
- Danel, Isabella. (1997). "Maternal Mortality Reduction, Honduras, 1990-1997: A Case Study." Washington, DC, World Bank.
- Dodds, David. (October 1994). "Assessment of Food and Nutrition Security in La Mosquitia, Honduras." Atlanta, CARE.
- FAO. (1999). "Lempira Sur: Informe Sobre la Experiencia del Proyecto." Tegucigalpa, FAO.
- FANTA. (1999) "Improving the Use of Food Rations in Title II Maternal/Child Health and Nutrition Programs." FANTA.
- Falck, Mayra; Raquel Isaula; Pedro Jiménez; Rosa Castro de Zelaya; France Lamy; Virgilio Zelaya; Dilcia Mazier; Johana Bustillo; Susana Díaz; Williams Marroquín; Ian Cherret; Carlos Zelaya; and Fernando Soto. (January 1999). "Zonas de Intervención para el Desarrollo Rural Después del Mitch: Um Análisis Preliminar." Tegucigalpa, SAG/SETCO/SERNA/FAO/RDS/FOPRODEH, findings and proceeding of an interagency meeting on rural development post Hurricane Mitch.
- Fox, James; Throic N Cederstrom; Frederick L Mann; and Edgar G Nesman. (May 1997). "The United States Food Aid Program: Honduras Case Study." Washington, DC, USAID, CDIE, USAID Impact Evaluation Series.
- Galvez, Ernesto and Jose Acevedo. (June 1999). "Perfil de la Seguridad de Meidos de Vida." Tegucigalpa, CARE.

- Grummer-Strawn, Lawrence. (March 1997). "Trends in the Nutritional Status of Children in Honduras, 1987-1996." Atlanta, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, Maternal and Child Health Branch.
- Gutiérrez, Arturo and Gustavo Corrales. (October 2001). "Equesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar (ENESF – 2001) Resultados Principales." Tegucigalpa, Secretaria de Salud, Ayuda Memoria No 133.
- Hintch, David and Johnny Chirinos. (March 1999). "Honduras CRS/USAID Food Security Assessment." Baltimore, CRS.
- Hoddinott, John. (December 1998). "Reconstructing Honduras." Washington, DC, IFPRI Research Report, Vol 20(3).
- Inter-American Development Bank. (May 2001). "Remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean: Comparative Statistics." Washington, DC, IAB, Multilateral Investment Fund.
- Jennings, Joan M. (February 2002). "Results of Quantitative Survey for Final Evaluation FY1996-2000 and Baseline Survey FY2001-2005." Tegucigalpa, CARE.
- McCaston, Katherine and Claudia Romagosa. (September 1994). "Poverty in Honduras: A Food and Nutrition Security Profile." Atlanta, CARE.
- Mora, Jose O; Vilma Estrada; and Anne Swindale. (December 1997). "USAID/IMPACT Micronutrient Field Support to the Government of Honduras, 1994-97: Achievements, Results and Lessons Learned – Final Report." Tegucigalpa, USAID.
- Morris, Saul S; Oscar Neidecker-Gonzales; Marcial Munguía; Juan Manuel Medina and Quentin Wodon. (2002). "Hurricane Mitch and the Livelihoods of the Rural Poor in Honduras." World Development, Vol 30(1).
- Ohri-Vachaspati, Punam and Anne Swindale. (1999). "Iron in the Diets of Rural Honduran Women and Children." Ecology of Food and Nutrition, Vol 38.
- Orellana, Daniel. (2001). "Honduras Market Development Reports: Food Retail Report 2001." Washington, DC, USDA, FAS, Global Agriculture Information Network, Gain Report.
- Pender, John. (August 1999). "Rural Population Growth, Agricultural Change and Natural Resource Management in Developing Countries: A Review of Hypotheses and Some Evidence from Honduras." Washington, DC, IFPRI, EPTD Discussion Paper No 48.
- Pender, John and Sara Scherr. (November 1999). "Organizational Development and

- Natural Resource Management: Evidence from Central Honduras.” Washington, DC, IFPRI, EPTD Discussion Paper No 49.
- Pender, John; Sara Scherr and Guadalupe Durón. (May 1999). “Pathways of Development in the Hillsides of Honduras: Causes and Implications for Agricultural Production, Poverty, and Sustainable Resource Use.” Washington, DC, IFPRI, EPTD Discussion Paper No 45.
- Puerto, Ricardo A. (January 2002). “Remesa para el Desarrollo.” Tegucigalpa, USAID, consultant report prepared for the Mission.
- Republic of Honduras. (August 2001). “Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.” Tegucigalpa, Republic of Honduras.
- Rogers, Bea Lorge; Anne J Swindale; and Punam Ohir-Vachaspati. (November 1996). Determinants of Household Food Security in Honduras: A Report on the National Household Consumption, Income, Expenditure and Nutrition Survey, 1993-94.
- Rosen, Stacey and Shahla Shapouri. (various quarters). “Food Security in Central America: An Update.”
- Sanchez, Miguel. (October 1994). “Diagnostico Rapido de Sistemas de Produccion Agricola: Departamentos de Intibucá, La Paz y Zona Sur de Lempira.” Tegucigalpa, CARE.
- Secretaria de Industria y Comercio. (April 1998). “Instructivo para Encuestadores.” Comayaguela, Secretaria de Industria y Comercio, Direccion General de Estadistica y Censos, Programa de Encuestas Agricolas, Encuesta de Granos basicos.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (April 1998). “Manual del Supervisor de Campo.” Comayaguela, Secretaria de Industria y Comercio, Direccion General de Estadistica y Censos, Programa de Encuestas Agricolas, Encuesta de Granos basicos.
- Secretaría de Salud. (1996). “Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiologia y Salud Familiar 1996: Informe Resumido.” Tegucigalpa, Secretaría de Salud.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (August 1997). “Encuesta Nacional Sobre Micronutrientes Honduras 1996: Informe Ejecutivo.” Tegucigalpa, Secretaría de Salud, Sub-Secretaría de Riesgos Poblacionales.
- Sternin, Monique, Sternin, Jerry and March, David. (December 1998). “Designing a Community-Based Nutrition Program Using the Hearth Model and the Positive Deviance Approach – A Field Guide.” Save the Children.

- UNDP. (1998). "Informe Sobre Desarrollo Humano: Honduras 1998." Tegucigalpa, UNDP.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (1999). "Informe Sobre Desarrollo Humano: Honduras 1999." Tegucigalpa, UNDP.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2000). "Informe Sobre Desarrollo Humano: Honduras 2000." Tegucigalpa, UNDP.
- USAID. (unknown). "Remittance Flows for Development: Policy Options." Tegucigalpa, USAID, consultant report prepared for the Mission.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (April 1992). "Definition of Food Security." Washington, DC, USAID.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (1995). "Food Aid and Food Security Policy Paper." Washington, DC, USAID, Food for Peace Office.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (May 1997). "Strategic Plan for Honduras FY 1998 – FY 2003." Tegucigalpa, USAID.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (September 2001). "Fact Sheet: Central American Drought Update #2." Washington, USAID, Office of Central American Affairs.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (October 2001). "Fact Sheet: Central American Drought Update #3." Washington, USAID, Office of Central American Affairs.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (various years). "Development Activity Proposal/Previously Approved Activity (DAP/PPA) Guidelines." Washington, DC, USAID.
- USDA. (1954). "Agriculture Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954." Washington, DC, USDA.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (1996). "Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996." Washington, DC, USDA.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (August 2001). "Hurricane Mitch and Georges Reconstruction Project." Washington, DC, USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division.
- URC, (1995). "The Impact of Food Assistance and Transfers on Health", University Research Corporation, financed by USAID.
- Van Haeften, Roberta. (March 1999). "An Assessment of the Supply and Demand for Basic Staples in Post Mitch Honduras and its Implications for Food Assistance During the Remainder of the 1998/99 Agricultural Year." Tegucigalpa, USAID.

World Bank. (June 2000). "Honduras Poverty Diagnostic 2000." Washington, DC, World Bank, Latin America and the Caribbean Region, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Sector Unit.

World Food Programme. (unknown). "Rapid Assessment of Food Aid Needs in Selected Municipalities Assisted with WFP-Food Aid." Tegucigalpa, WFP.

\_\_\_\_\_. (unknown). "Poverty and Social Conditions in Honduras." Poverty Assessment, Annex C, Washington, DC, World Bank.

World Food Programme. (September 2001). "Country Program - Honduras." Tegucigalpa, WFP.