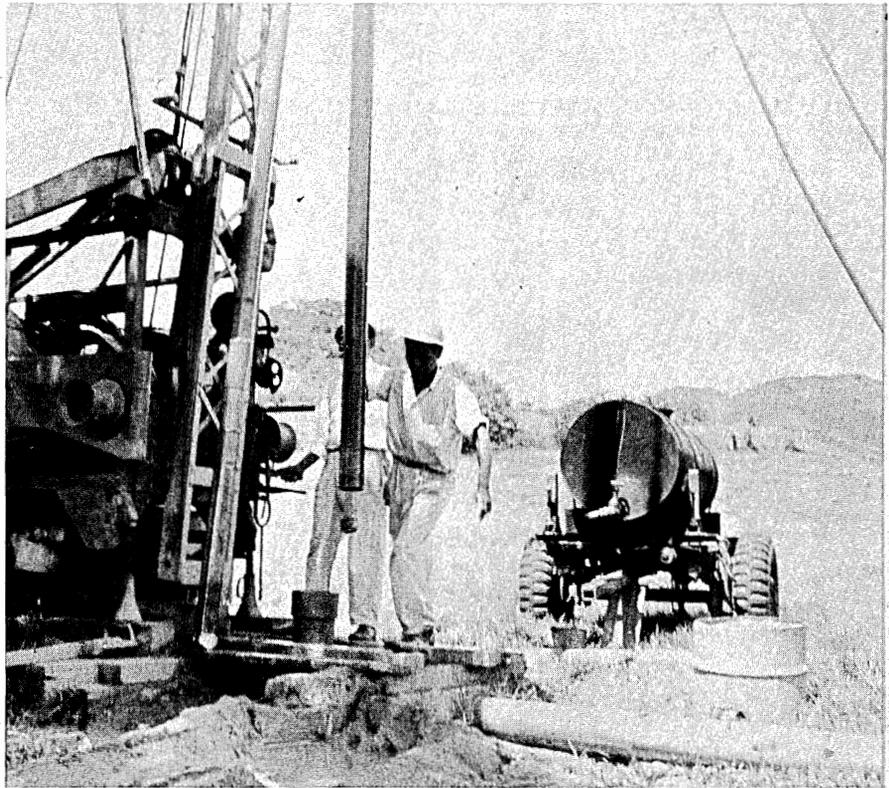


DISASTER
RELIEF

CASE REPORT
Honduras-Drought
1973

Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523



Well drilling technicians from the United States aided the Honduran Government Disaster Committee in drilling wells to alleviate critical water shortages

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of the Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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HONDURAS

DROUGHT 1973

Two years of drought in Honduras caused food shortages that resulted in a disaster declaration by the Government of Honduras in March of 1973, followed by a request for outside assistance. An estimated 100,000 adults and 200,000 children were affected.

Value of Assistance by the U.S.

Government \$63,000

The drought was particularly severe in the Departments of Valle, Choluteca, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazan, and Santa Barbara. Water sources dried up forcing thousands of people to migrate to other parts of the country. In addition, there was a serious reduction in bean and corn food crops.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS:

On March 27, 1973 the Government of Honduras (GOH) declared a disaster situation because of the drought and established a special drought fund in the National Development Bank to be made up of Government contributions and contributions from other sources. The GOH then created a permanent National Emergency Commission which was charged with the preparation and execution of plans to meet natural disasters in Honduras. Its first meeting was to determine what steps should be taken to alleviate the problems caused by the drought. Subsequently, studies of the situation were undertaken by the Committee in order to determine specific requirements for assistance.

On April 27, 1973 the National Emergency Commission (COPEN) requested that the U.S. Government provide technicians for well digging and food commodities for distribution through food-for-work projects to construct wells, dams, latrines, roads, silos, etc. COPEN indicated that the special capabilities of such organizations as the National

Board of Social Welfare, Caritas, and C.A.R.E. would be utilized.

The Government Disaster Committee first undertook to alleviate the situation in and around Tegucigalpa by drilling wells and constructing two small reservoirs. To help provide water for hospital facilities in the city, a pending plan to collect water from the Old San Juancito Gold Mine was implemented. Other areas in which the Government provided assistance were production credit, agriculture extension and research, marketing and material inputs, all of which were aimed at assisting farmer cooperatives and associations to significantly increase production of basic grains and livestock during the 1973-74 crop year.

The value of the GOH's drought assistance and other in-country contributions was not available.

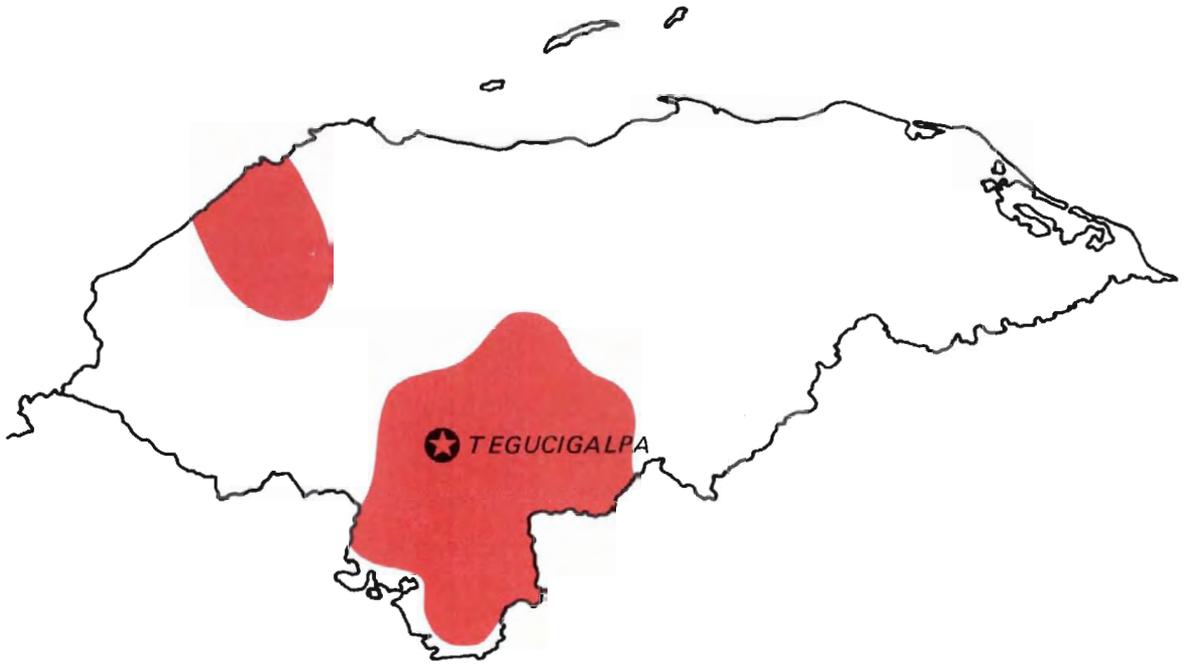
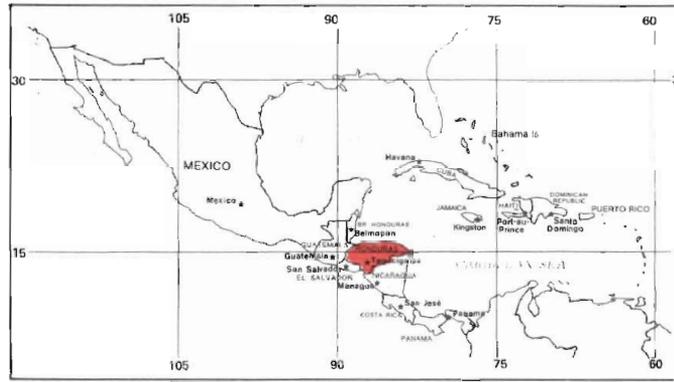
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT:

The American Ambassador exercised his disaster relief authority and released \$25,000 to provide a USG expert to evaluate water problems and to contract for the services of two hydrogeologists for three months. These hydrogeologists were to locate well sites in the five Departments and to advise on well construction methods using the proper types of pumps.

In addition, the U.S. Government donated 200,000 pounds of high protein wheat/soya blend, 60,000 pounds of soybean oil, and 40,000 pounds of wheat through C.A.R.E. Estimated value of these commodities was \$38,000.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES:

C.A.R.E. distributed the previously mentioned 300,000 pounds of USG P.L. 480 food commodities from stocks on hand from its regular program for which it requested replacement by A.I.D.



HONDURAS