

**CRS/USAID FOOD
SECURITY ASSESSMENT**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Executive Summary	
II.	Background	pp. 1
III.	Assessment Methodologies and Procedures:	pp. 1
IV.	Principal Findings:	pp. 2
V.	Overall Conclusions and Recommendations:	pp. 20
Annex 1:	Map of Honduras with FFW Targeted Municipalities	
Annex 2:	Graphic Representation of Project Timeframe	
Annex 3:	Key Accomplishments of FFW Program to Date	
Annex 4:	Overview of Commodity Distribution to Date	

I. Executive Summary:

Hurricane Mitch inflicted heavy damage and negatively effected food security throughout Honduras. The goal of the rapid food security assessment was to gauge actual and future food security needs in targeted municipalities where Food for Work (FFW) programming is currently underway. This information served as a solid base for CRS Honduras to estimate appropriate FFW programming needs and timeframes for interventions within each of the targeted municipalities. This report will discuss the findings of the food security assessment, and their implications for FFW programming in targeted municipalities.

CRS Honduras is currently coordinating FFW activities in collaboration with four project partners in 46 municipalities in seven departments of Honduras. Project partners include the Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa, the Diocese of Olancho, Project Global Village, and the Diocese of Trujillo. CRS Honduras has FFW activities underway in the departments of Colon, Francisco Morazan, Olancho, El Paraiso, Yoro, Cortes, and Comayagua. Hurricane damages varied in each of the municipalities, and thus food security was also effected to different degrees in distinct municipalities. Changes in food security also depended on pre-hurricane food security, as well as sources of food and income. The survey indicated that some municipalities that sustained significant infrastructure damage to farmland crops and roads, and were food security before the hurricane, will be able to recuperate normal food security by the September harvest. Whereas another municipality that sustained similar damages, were food secure before the hurricane, but whose population relies exclusively on income from large plantation producers, will struggle to regain food security until income sources are recovered. Based on findings from the survey, CRS Honduras was able to categorize municipalities into three groups with an estimated timeframe for termination of FFW programming.

In municipalities that sustained considerably less damage, and were food secure before the hurricane, CRS Honduras will look to close FFW programming by June through August. This is due to the fact that losses to crops, farmland, and income sources were not significant, and food for household consumption as well as most income sources, will be readily available and accessible to the local population. Infrastructure damages were also limited, and rehabilitation work will be accomplished in a fairly short timeframe. Of the 46 municipalities currently participating in the FFW program an estimated 15 will discontinue operations by June through August.

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According to the survey, 22 municipalities sustained heavy to moderate damages from Hurricane Mitch. Whether they were food secure before the hurricane or not, these municipalities are not projected to recuperate until the September harvest. In these municipalities damages to crops, farmland, infrastructure, and income sources were significant enough that last year's harvest suffered considerable losses; people do not have food reserves or income sources to draw upon to sustain household food security. The amount of infrastructure damages to roads, houses, farmland, and water systems in these municipalities will also merit FFW programming through September. CRS Honduras predicts that if the harvest is normal FFW activities may be phased out of these 22 municipalities as food security returns to near normal levels.

The assessment found that nine project municipalities are extremely food insecure due to prolific damages from the hurricane, and that it is vital the FFW program continue through

the end of the project in November, and possibly longer. In these municipalities the damages caused by the hurricane destroyed almost all of the traditional grain crops that people relied upon for household consumption, and in some cases household income. In addition, income sources from the production of bananas, coffee, and cattle were also severely damaged, and may take in some cases up to several years to recuperate. The loss of seeds and damage farmland was extensive enough that the September harvest is expected to be below normal. These factors, coupled with the need for massive rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, will merit a strong FFW program to continue in the effected areas until the end of the project.

The current projection of 19,000 metric tons for the program is considered the correct amount needed for the program. Even though the project will be withdrawing earlier than expected from select municipalities, more intense, higher level FFW programming will be needed in other municipalities through the November closure of the project that will easily utilize the projected commodities.

Due to losses of last year's harvest, seeds, and to a lesser extent tools, are needed to accompany the FFW program if it is to obtain optimum success. These inputs are urgently needed in order to obtain a good September harvest, and recuperate food security in the majority of the municipalities. If seeds do not become readily available there may be food insecure areas where the project would normally be able to withdraw.

Lastly, the current project will only cover emergency rehabilitation and recovery needs to a certain point. CRS Honduras projects that some of the targeted municipalities will require further assistance through either cash or food for work into the year 2000. These specific areas will require further infrastructure rehabilitation to prevent or diminish future disasters. In addition in some areas farmland and income sources will not be fully recovered for at least another year and a half, and food insecurity could continue to be prevalent in areas that do not receive assistance. CRS Honduras and USAID will need to review the necessity of a highly focused, time specific Cash or Food for Work program or extension to prevent further disasters and make sure long lasting food security is obtained.

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II. Background:

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch, Catholic Relief Services Honduras (CRS) has implemented a large scale, well targeted, reconstruction and development oriented Food for Work (FFW) program. CRS Honduras is managing the FFW program through four local counterparts and municipal governments in forty-six municipalities in seven departments.

Departments	Counterpart
Colon	Diocese of Trujillo
Francisco Morazan, El Paraiso	Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa
Comayagua, Yoro, Cortes	Project Global Village
Olancho	Diocese of Olancho

The program to date has distributed approximately 3,500 of a scheduled 19,000 metric tons of commodities to an estimated 63,633 families whose livelihoods and food security¹ were affected by the hurricane, and who participate in reconstruction efforts in their communities. The beneficiary population and pace of food distribution is expected to increase as the program further solidifies operations in select municipalities. The project's goal to provide well targeted FFW programming that responds to hurricane Mitch induced food insecurity and reconstruction efforts however will dictate the appropriate timeframe of targeted interventions, as well as correct quantities of commodities needed to ensure a successful program.

Through looking at food security related income, production, and coping strategies of populations where the FFW project is operating, the rapid rural food security assessment will support and ensure that programmatic and strategic decisions of the FFW program are well targeted and time sensitive to the actual needs of the population. Also, the survey will serve as an additional measuring tool to verify the amount of food that the program will need to meet targeted objectives.

This report will first summarize key findings and conclusions from the survey. Based on these findings, and other collected data, key recommendations for program directions will be reviewed. The report will then provide information on major project accomplishments, and possible post FFW interventions.

III. Assessment Methodologies and Procedures:

The survey tool and methodology were developed in conjunction with CARE Honduras and the local USAID mission. Several different food security measurement tools and methodologies were discussed and considered before an open ended, short answer, key informant questionnaire was developed.

A key point that the survey sought to measure was how the hurricane effected food security in different areas of the country, and therefore for how long, to what extent, and where the FFW program is most needed. It was decided that the most appropriate and simple level to

¹ Food security is defined as both access to, and availability of sufficient food to meet daily caloric intake requirements.

conduct the survey was to use the municipality as the target area under review. Through revision of hurricane damage assessments, as well as looking at the FHIS poverty map and human development index, each municipality was designated as either 1) poor and more damaged, 2) poor and less damaged, 3) "rich"² and more damaged 4) "rich" and less damaged. Each institution conducted the survey in a total of 20 municipalities where FFW interventions were underway. In the case of CRS Honduras the 20 municipalities constituted 40% of the total municipalities where FFW operations are being implemented. In the 20 municipalities where CRS Honduras carried out the survey, 4 were conducted in municipalities considered poor and less damaged, 4 in rich and more damaged, 4 in rich and less damaged, and 8 in poor and more damaged.

In each of the chosen municipalities three key informant interviews were conducted. Key informants included municipal government or community leaders, local business people, religious leaders, farmers and agricultural cooperatives, teachers, and health officials. Each interview took on average one hour to complete. In addition to the survey secondary data was also collected or verified at the municipality level. Over a two week period a total of 60 key informant interviews were completed in the 20 municipalities.

IV. Principal Findings:

A) Overview of Francisco Morazan:

Department: Francisco Morazan

Counterpart: Archdiocese of Tegucigalpa

Municipalities: (14) Map found in index 1.

Poor and most damaged: **Marales and Oropoli**

Poor and less damaged: **Vallecillo, Cedros, Morocelli, Yauyupe, Alauca, San Matias, Potrerillos, El Porvenir**

Rich and more damaged: **Talanga, Orica**

Rich and less damaged: **Guaimaca, Yuscaran**

(Municipalities in bold designates where survey was conducted)

Survey Findings for the Department of Francisco Morazan:

Principal findings in the area of income:

- *Traditional income sources:*

In all of the municipalities where the FFW program operates in Francisco Morazan the majority of the population receive the bulk of household income from the sale of traditional grains. In the northern part of the department coffee and timber are also important primary income sources for some households. Women throughout the department focus much of their effort in supporting the household, and gain additional income from the sale of small animals such as chickens, and sale of eggs. It was reported that in poorer and more damaged municipalities that as much as 85% of the basic grain crops were lost or severely damaged, and that recuperation of harvest to

² "Rich" signifies areas where food security pre-Mitch may be considered less threatened.

normal levels would be difficult for the first crop (September) due to losses of seeds and tools, and destruction of farm lands. Because of watershed destruction and soil erosion, some areas of Marales may not be recovered for several years. In other areas the losses of traditional grains ranged from 60% to 70%, but because the overall destruction was less severe, there are better possibilities of at least a partial recuperation in the first harvest. The need for seeds, credit programs, and technical assistance was stressed in every municipality as the key to recovery of the agricultural system. In all municipalities income generated from small animal husbandry will be curtailed, or even lost in some instances, due to losses of feed grains and animals.

- *Supplemental Income Sources:*

Much of the population in Francisco Morazan obtain supplemental income by growing or working in the harvest of coffee, melons, citrus, or in the timber industry. Throughout the department these supplemental income sources were damaged by the hurricane. Due to the hurricane coffee production was approximately 50% of normal in Marales and Vallecillo. Those surveyed agree that coffee production will take two to three years to recuperate to pre-hurricane Mitch standards. In Oropoli the melon production also suffered setbacks, but not as severe as coffee. The timber industry suffered losses of up to 20% due to landslides and erosion. With the exception of mango plantations that were situated along side rivers and were totally destroyed, citrus production was damaged to a more limited extent and is expected to recover fairly quickly. The damages incurred in these areas led to the larger producers to hire less than the normal number of employees. In all of the municipalities surveyed it was found that wages had mostly stayed the same or had slightly risen, but that jobs were much more difficult to obtain. Although larger producers will be able to mostly recover for the next harvest, the majority of small or mid-level producers incurred greater losses, and will not have the capital or the access to short term credit to get back on their feet quickly. Therefore, although some of the secondary employment will recover, it will not be until the next harvest, and in diminished numbers.

- *Sale of household capital:*

There were no cases in the surveyed municipalities where the population was selling household capital assets to purchase food. It was noted however that most of the population was consuming grains it normally sells for profit, and that an even partial failure of the next crop would lead to the need to sell household capital assets. In areas that were the most damaged the most vulnerable population lost their household assets with the flood and do not have assets to sell.

- *Food availability and prices at local markets:*

The survey found that foods that constitute the family basket were available at all local markets, but prices were generally 15% higher than normal. It was also found that sales in the market were down in some cases as much as 40% due to the higher prices and lack of available income. Most of the people interviewed believed that prices would normalize with the next harvest.

Principal findings in the area of production:

- *Production of staple crops and projection of next harvest:*

In the areas that were the poorest and most damaged by the hurricane the production of staple crops was diminished by up to 85%. In the other municipalities the damage

incurred was closer to 60%-70%. Most of the damaged incurred was due to hillside and watershed damages, soil erosion, and loss of seeds. All areas, to a varying degree, expect at least some recovery by the first harvest in September. In areas that were the most damaged production may be up to half the normal. For example, if a farmer typically plants one hectare of beans, because of soil erosion and seed loss he may only be able to plant a half of hectare. The provision of seeds, tools, and technical assistance were all sited as keys to ensure the normal production of staple crops.

- *Production of non-traditional crops:*
Vegetable production for household consumption and income generation incurred losses of up to 75% in most areas, and total losses in municipalities deemed poor and most damaged. These losses are expected to be temporary and be mostly recovered in September. Melon, citrus, and coffee all suffered extensive damages due to the hurricane. Most melon, citrus, and bananas are expected to be recovered by the next harvest, while small coffee and mango growers are expected to recover in one to three years.
- *Farming and transportation infrastructure:*
Even though each municipality suffered infrastructure damage in one way or another the extent of the damage varied greatly from one municipality to another. In Marales up to 98% of land was damaged to varying degrees due to soil erosion, and up to 80% of all roads and paths were severely damaged. In other areas from 50% to 75% of land was damaged due to soil erosion and watershed problems, and all areas suffered secondary and tertiary road damage. In all of the municipalities there was widespread damage of community water systems (50%-70%), housing, and foot bridges. In Marales, Orica, and Oropoli there were whole communities that were destroyed due to landslides and flooded rivers.
- *Animal Production:*
Throughout the department there were only isolated cases of loss of animals due to the hurricane. In areas such as Marales, where there was significant damage caused by landslides and rivers overflowing their banks, losses were more acute. All areas of the survey reported that animal production will decline not so much due to immediate losses, but because animal feed and fencing were either lost or damaged, and several outbreaks of diseases have occurred. In the department much of the population augments its diet with animal meat, especially chickens and eggs. Because of losses in the production of basic grains, people are relying more on the consumption of animal meat to supplement their diet or to bring in extra income. Animal production is not expected to be back to normal for at least another year as people are investing their resources in other areas of what is perceived as more immediate needs.
- *Availability of seeds and tools:*
The loss of seeds and tools were deemed as crucial points in the inability to plant and obtain a normal harvest in September. All areas of the department reported losses of at least 70% of seeds either through crop damage, or the need to consume them at the household level. Many farmers lost, or do not have the necessary tools to repair severe land damage caused by the hurricane. Seeds are not available at the municipality, and most farmers will need to incur extra expenses to travel to Tegucigalpa to purchase seeds for the next crop. The loss of seed and tools, coupled with the loss of income incurred by most farmers, will cause the September harvest to be less than normal.

Principal findings in the area of coping strategies:

- *Dietary Intake:*

The survey suggested that the types of food that people traditionally eat (corn, beans, and rice) have not changed. People are not supplementing their diet with wild or non-traditional foods. In Vallecillos, where a larger percentage of the population may rely more heavily on secondary income sources from coffee production, there was a noted increase the consumption of malanga, plantains, and patate. However all of the surveys indicated that the majority of the population is consuming less food than before due to economic restrictions and lack of reserves to fall back on.

- *Migration or displacement:*

The survey found that migration varied from one municipality to the other depending on the damage done to crops and secondary income sources. In areas that were poor and more damaged, up to 40% of the male population migrated to other areas of the country to look for temporary work. The bulk of the migrants were individuals who worked in coffee production, or their land and crops were severely damaged or destroyed. In other municipalities between 5%-10% of the local population had migrated to other areas of the country to look for work, but the migration was considered to be temporary.

- *Food reserves:*

In the municipalities that are poor and damaged, and poor and less damaged the majority of the population have spent any food reserves from last years crop. This is due to the 75% -85% loss of traditional grains from last year's harvest. In the other wealthier municipalities the population still has some reserves from last years harvest, but little reserves that do remain will be utilized for seeds for the next crop. A major problem in all of the municipalities interviewed was the fact that most of the reserve foods or seeds obtained water damage and fungus because of damage to household grain storage facilities. According to the survey most of the grain reserves are currently at high risk because they are out in the open air and exposed to the elements.

- *Current assistance programs in the area:*

Besides the FFW program, in a few of the selected municipalities there are other smaller assistance and development programs. In Guaimaca PLAN is assisting in the reconstruction of 17 houses, and in Vallecillos the government is supporting some reconstruction activities. Although these programs and other government assistance programs are helpful, they are relatively small for the large needs that exists. FHIS, which is very active in other parts of the country, is not active in any of the program municipalities. Information from the survey suggested that the FFW program is responding to the urgent needs of the population. All municipalities interviewed stressed the importance of the FFW program in the reconstruction of houses, water systems, infrastructure repairs, rehabilitation of farm land, and watershed management. It was suggested that inputs such as tools, seeds, and technical assistance receive high priority to complement FFW programming. The need to review strategy, and possibly change to a cash for work program, or higher rations, after the September harvest was discussed in areas that sustained the most damage. Health or medical brigades was also an area frequently suggested as an urgent need.

- *Vulnerable populations:*

Vulnerable populations mentioned that need special attention within the FFW program include senior citizens and single mothers. In most cases these segments of the population receive food without having to work. In some cases however they are

involved in the FFW projects as much as possible, providing assistance whenever possible. CRS, through its counterparts, insists that this vulnerable population be attended. The majority of the FFW programs make an effort to involve these vulnerable segments of the population in the FFW projects in order to help them contribute to the reconstruction efforts in their community.

Conclusions and recommendations:

- Based on the information collected from the survey, and participatory needs assessments undertaken by project counterparts, CRS views the need to continue FFW activities in Marales, Oropoli, and sections of Orica through the formal end of the program, November 17, 1999. The massive destruction of not only housing, water systems, and infrastructure, but to subsistence crops, tools and seeds, as well as diminished sources of income and higher prices, have brought the area to the brink of severe food insecurity. The harvesting of a good crop in September will alleviate some of the food security stress, but because of farmers inadequacy to produce at normal levels, coupled with the continued need for infrastructure repair, FFW or possible cash for work activities will be merited.
- Because of the loss of subsistence grain reserves, as well as many secondary income sources, the municipalities of Vallecillo, Cedros, Morocelli, Yauyupe, Alauca, San Matias, Potrerillos, Talanga, and part of Orica will need to be supported with FFW activities until the harvest of the next crop in September. Within each of the municipalities there was sufficient infrastructure and land damage to create well targeted and highly effective FFW programming.
- CRS Honduras foresees that FFW programming will continue approximately through the month of August in the municipalities of Guaimaca and Yuscaran. Although pockets of both municipalities sustained damage from the hurricane, the overall food security was not severely threatened. The September harvest should bring food security to the area because most farmers still retained some reserves from last years crops, seeds and tools are more readily available, and the damage to farm land was less severe. FFW activities will be pinpointed to rehabilitate the areas that were most damaged, or where food security was the most threatened.

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Municipalities	Timeframe for FFW Programming
Marales, Oropoli, Orica*	Through November
Vallecillos, Cedros, Morocelli, Yauyupe, Alauca, San Matias, Potrerillos, Talanga, Orica*	Through September
Guaimaca, Yuscaran	Through July/August

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*Indicates a section of the municipality

(Graphic representation of this chart is found in annex 2)

B) Overview of Olancho:

Department: Olancho

Counterpart: Diocese of Olancho

Municipalities: (10) Map in annex 1.

Poor and damaged: **Esquipulas del Norte, Patuca,**
Poor and less damaged: **Mangulile, Salama, Silca, Jano, Guata**
Rich and damaged: **La Union, Yocon**
Rich and less damaged: **El Rosario**

(Municipalities in bold designate where survey was conducted)

Survey findings for the department of Olancho:

Principal findings in the area of income:

• *Income sources:*

The principal source of income in the municipalities of operation in Olancho is the sale of basic grains. In certain sections of Esquipulas del Norte coffee is a primary source of income, especially for women. In Mangulile up to 60% of the population wash and pan for gold as their primary source of income. Throughout the area basic grain losses were calculated at close to 60%, and are estimated to return to near normal production for the September harvest. The only exception was the municipality of El Rosario where damages to crops were less, and recovery was expected by July. Coffee production was curtailed but not devastated, and the washing and panning for gold was not affected.

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• *Supplemental income sources:*

Supplemental income sources most prevalent in the survey include the sale of chickens and eggs, especially by women, coffee production, vegetable production, and gold washing. Of these areas only coffee and vegetable production were affected, and both are expected to be mostly recovered by the next harvest. In the limited areas where people have been able to obtain work, in general salaries or daily wages have remained unchanged.

• *Sale of household capital:*

In areas that are poor and severely damaged it was found that some families have been forced to sell household capital, including livestock and even land, in order to obtain food. This is not widespread but is occurring in areas where people lost houses, or their crop was totally destroyed. In the other municipalities surveyed there was very little selling of household capital with the rare exception of livestock, mostly chickens.

• *Food availability and prices in the market:*

All types of food are available in markets throughout the department. Prices for most foods have risen close to 20% in the markets surveyed. It was reported that people are purchasing less food at the market because of lack of income.

Principal findings in the area of production:

- *Production of staple crops:*
In the most damaged municipalities staple crop production incurred losses of 70%, whereas in less damaged areas losses were closer to 50%. In all municipalities production is expected to return to near normal by the September harvest. The poorest and most damaged areas will have the most difficulties due to soil erosion, loss of seeds, and limited access to credit. The provision of seeds, technical assistance, and credit programs were all sited as key factors to ensure a successful harvest.
- *Non-traditional crops:*
Vegetables, coffee, plantain, and sugar cane production incurred losses of about 30%. These losses were mainly due to flooding of low lying areas, landslides, and soil erosion. Vegetable and plantain production is expected to normalize by the next harvest in September, and coffee and sugar cane production are expected to be at normal levels by early next year.
- *Farming and transportation infrastructure:*
Road infrastructure damage was estimated to be at 65% throughout the department. Much of the damage to roads is not considered catastrophic, and although transportation is hindered, it is not severe. Much greater damage was incurred by farm land and watersheds due to landslides and erosion. In areas where hurricane damage was more acute, the damage to watersheds and farmland was much more pronounced. Throughout the municipality there is an estimated loss or damage of 30% of community water sources.
- *Animal production:*
Complete losses of livestock were minimal in the surveyed areas. Some families lost a cow, or some chickens, but losses on a massive scale were rare. The losses of animal feed, fencing and pasture land, as well as outbreaks of disease are expected to inflict the most damage. Animal losses are expected to have an impact on food security as many families raise cattle and chickens. Olancho is well known for cheese production, and many of the individuals interviewed expressed concern over losses of this income generating option.
- *Seeds and tools:*
All of the municipalities interviewed reported extensive losses of both seeds and tools. Much of the seed loss was due to crop damage, and the need to utilize the seeds for household consumption. The survey indicated that tools were in short supply before the hurricane, and that many remaining tools were either lost during the hurricane, or broke during reconstruction efforts. The survey indicated that the key to a normal harvest in September will be the availability and accessibility of seeds.

Principal findings in the area of coping strategies:

- *Dietary Intake:*
In municipalities that are poor and were severely damaged, such as Esquipulas del Norte, a segment of the population is consuming much less food than normal. Instead of a good meal two times a day, the family may eat a very poor meal once a day and supplement their diet with wild foods such as berries and malanga. The other municipalities surveyed found that the types of food people eat remained the same, but that people were eating less because of lack of income to purchase needed amounts.

- *Migration or displacement:*
Migration away from the area or internal displacement was minimal, and in most cases temporary. Only in small pockets of areas that were severely damaged was there significant migration. In those small pockets it was reported that up to 35% of young men temporarily migrated to look for work.
- *Food reserves:*
Interviews indicated that farmers do have some reserves from the last crop. However, overall the reserves are much below normal, and in areas where crop damage was severe the amount is minimal. Amounts of reserve available varied from two months to two weeks. In any case reserves are not expected to last until the next harvest. Many farmers are trying to save as much reserves as possible for seeds. It was also reported that some of the reserves are stored in the open, or water damaged, due to damages to silos from the hurricane.
- *Current assistance programs in the area:*
Other agencies currently operating in the area include: FHIS in water and road repairs, SOPTRAVI in road repairs, PRO-Olancho in housing and road repairs, and COHDEFOR through the World Food Program in free food distribution. The FFW program was reported as responding well to the needs of the population. The interviewees felt that people liked the FFW program as it "responded directly to food security needs, and did not create dependency". The FFW program was mainly concentrating on land and watershed rehabilitation, infrastructure repair, reforestation, and housing. It was felt that more inputs such as seeds, tools, and credit were needed to create maximum impact. The survey indicated that the FFW program should continue in the area through the next harvest in September, and through November in areas or pockets where the destruction was most severe.
- *Vulnerable populations: (same as Francisco Morazan)*

Conclusions and recommendations:

- Based on the information collected from the survey, FFW activities will continue in Esquipulas del Norte, Patuca, and small severely damaged sections of Mangulile and Guata through the end of the program, November 17, 1999. The destruction of subsistence crops, loss of tools and seeds, diminished sources of income, and higher prices for food have caused food insecurity in the area. In addition throughout Patuca and Esquipulas del Norte there was significant damage to farmland and watersheds, as well as housing and road infrastructure. The harvesting of a good crop in September will alleviate some of the food security stress, but because of farmers inadequacy to produce at normal levels, coupled with the continued need for infrastructure repair, FFW or possible cash for work activities will be merited.
- Mainly due to the loss of subsistence grain reserves, as well as specific limited losses of supplemental income and non-traditional crops, the municipalities of Salama, Silca, Jano, Guata, Mangulile, Yocon, and La Union will need to be supported with FFW activities until the harvest of the next crop in September. Within each of the municipalities there was sufficient infrastructure, land, and crop damage to create well targeted and highly effective FFW programming. (1)
- CRS Honduras foresees that FFW programming will continue approximately through the month of July in the municipality of El Rosario. Although pockets of El Rosario sustained damage from the hurricane, the overall food security was not severely threatened. The September harvest will bring food security to the area because most

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farmers still retained some reserves from last years crops, seeds and tools are more readily available, and the damage to farm land was less severe. FFW activities will be pinpointed to rehabilitate the areas that were most damaged, or where food security was the most threatened.

Municipalities	Timeframe for FFW program
Esquipulas del Norte, Patuca, Mangulile*, Guata*	November
Salama, Silca, Jano, Guata, Mangulile, Yocon, La Union	September
El Rosario	July/August

*Indicates a section of the municipality

(Graphic representation found in annex 2)

C) Overview of area of Comayagua:

Departments: Comayagua, Yoro, and Cortes

Counterpart: Project Global Village

Municipalities: (15) Map found in annex 1.

✓ Poor and damaged: **Victoria, Sulaco,**
 Poor and less damaged: La Trinidad, Yorito, San Jose de Potrero, La Libertad, Meambar, San Jose de Comayagua,
 Rich and damaged: Esquias, **Las Lajas**, San Luis, San Francisco, Taulabe
 Rich and less damaged: Minas de Oro, **Siguatpeque**

(Municipalities in bold designate where survey was conducted)

Program Note:

The current FFW program with Project Global Village is only through the month of July.

Principal findings in the area of income:

• *Income sources:*

The poorer municipalities of the region rely mainly on agriculture and cattle as principal income source. In municipalities classified as more wealthy, household income is mainly derived from horticultural activities and the production of coffee. Women tend to work more in the domestic arena, and in picking coffee. In poorer

municipalities from 50% to 70% of traditional grains were lost (Victoria), while in wealthier areas 40% of coffee production was lost due to landslides and erosion. Most expect that traditional grain and horticulture production will return to near normal levels by September, and that coffee production will be near normal levels by next year. The exception being small to mid-sized coffee growers who lost trees in landslides.

- *Supplemental income sources:*
Many farmers in the region supplement their income through participation in the coffee harvest, or sale of vegetables. Coffee losses have created limited employment opportunities this year, but are expected to rebound in the coming year. Wages have remained steady throughout the region. Many farmers lost the vegetable crop from the last harvest, but are expected to harvest again in September. Chickens and egg production, which women have traditionally sold for supplemental income, were not severely damaged.
- *Sale of household capital:*
In the poorer municipalities there has been moderate sale of household capital to purchase food. Families that sell household capital are relatively few, and the capital sold is mainly animals, grains, and timber. There is some concern however that in the months immediately preceding the harvest that this situation may worsen. In the wealthier municipalities the selling of household capital has been extremely limited.
- *Food Availability and prices in the market:*
The availability of food, and their prices, varied from one municipality to another. In poorer and damaged municipalities there were reports of limited scarcity of basic grains but overall food was available. Prices for food in those areas has stayed the same or slightly risen. In Yorito, which is classified as poor and less damaged, there was also a reported shortage of basic grains in some markets. Prices had either stayed the same or slightly lowered for basic grains, and slightly risen for vegetable oil. In wealthier municipalities all foods were available at the market, and their prices has stayed the same, or slightly risen. With the exception of Siguatepeque, the survey indicated that sales at local markets are down as people do not have sufficient income to purchase foods at normal levels.

Principal findings in the area of production:

- *Production of staple crops:*
Soil erosion, flooding, and landslides damaged staple crop production (corn, rice, and beans) by 40% in wealthier areas, and up to 70% in poorer, more damaged areas. With technical assistance and seeds, staple crop production is expected to mostly recover by the September harvest. In areas where farmland and watershed rehabilitation will require more effort the September crop may be less than normal.
- *Production of non-traditional crops:*
Horticulture products incurred losses in some cases of up to 95% due to flooding of low lying areas where they are normally planted. These losses however are temporary, and are expected to be recovered during the next harvest. Small and mid-sized coffee growers who lost trees may need up to two to three years to recover losses. Larger coffee growers are expected to recover for next year's harvest.
- *Farming and transportation infrastructure:*

In poor municipalities the destruction or damage of 85% of rural roads and walkways, irrigation systems, watersheds, and farmland by mudslides and erosion was reported. Survey results suggest that the damage will reduce the harvest of the September harvest. In the wealthier and less damaged municipalities there was significant damage to water systems, roads, and farmland, but not to the extent where it will greatly effect the next harvest. In all municipalities well targeted FFW programs focusing on infrastructure rehabilitation are underway.

- *Animal Production:*

Throughout the department there was limited loss of animal production due to hurricane damage. In some municipalities there were reports of moderate losses of cattle and chickens, and in several municipalities there was a reported 10% loss of fish production due to contaminated water. In areas where fish production and consumption are important, such as Yorito, the losses incurred are expected to slightly effect food security and nutrition. A concern is that many families have lost the means to properly feed and maintain animals due to losses of animal feed, and damage to fences and fish ponds.

- *Availability of seeds and tools:*

In poor municipalities there was a major loss of seeds, but the loss of tools was limited. Most people feel that this loss will have a negative effect on the September harvest if seeds are not made easily available. In poorer municipalities seeds are not readily available to small farmers, and even at farmers cooperatives seeds are expensive. In the wealthier municipalities seeds are available, but the prices are slightly higher than normal. Most of the participants interviewed felt that the provision of seeds alongside the FFW program would help ensure that food security would be restored by the September harvest.

Principal findings in the area of coping strategies:

- *Dietary Intake:*

Eating habits have changed slightly in all of the municipalities with the exception of Siguatepeque. The survey found that people are generally eating the same types of food, but in lesser quantities. This is mainly due to decreased ability to purchase sufficient food because of losses of income. In some areas that are closer to forest reserves some people are supplementing their diet with wild game or berries.

- *Migration or displacement:*

In areas that are poor and severely damaged there was significant migration that most view as permanent. Although percentages and numbers were not available, common belief is that where individuals lost homes, or where the land was severely damaged, people opted to move instead of rebuild. In Yorito and Las Lajas there was to a much lesser extent temporary migration of mostly men looking for wage jobs due to limited availability of work in coffee production.

- *Food reserves:*

The majority of farmers in poor and damaged municipalities have a storage of grain that will carry them through the month of May. The use of the stores for household consumption, and not seeds, will effect the September harvest. Farmers in other municipalities have more stored grains, but not enough to carry them through until the next harvest. Most of the grain stored was reported to be in a good state, and not at risk for further losses.

- *Current assistance programs in the area:*
 Besides the current FFW program, in the municipalities interviewed there were very few other assistance programs. CARE and the World Food Program had distributed food in the area right after the hurricane, but have since withdrawn. Most people believe that the principal assistance is provided through the FFW program. Views of the FFW program and methodology were mostly positive focusing on the idea of involving the local population in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of their own village. Major activities where the FFW program is responding include the reconstruction and rehabilitation of farmland, roads and walkways, bridges, water systems, and housing. Most however felt that rations should be increased, and that programs with credit and seeds should be incorporated. The survey indicated that the neediest population is being attended, but that there exist some villages that are still under served because of their remoteness.

Conclusions and recommendations:

- Current FFW programming is scheduled to end in July. The program will be able to close in most municipalities by July, but there is a clear need to continue FFW activities in municipalities which sustained severe damage. CRS and Project Global Village will need to explore options for continued FFW activities with food security vulnerable populations until the September harvest in the municipalities of Victoria, Sulaco, and parts of Yorito, Taulabe, Esquias, and Las Lajas. Due to loss of crops and other income sources, as well as other severe infrastructure damages, there is a risk of creating a food security emergency in the aforementioned municipalities if the FFW program is terminated in July.

Municipalities	Recommended timeframe for FFW
Victoria, Sulaco, Taulabe*, Esquias*, Las Lajas*, Yorito*	September
La Trinidad, San Luis, San Francisco, San Jose de Potrero, San Jose de Comayagua, La Libertad, Meambar, Minas de Oro, Siguatepeque	July

* Indicates only sections of the municipality.

(Graphic representation found in annex 2)

D) Overview of Department of Colon:

Department: Colon

Counterpart: Diocese of Trujillo

Municipalities: (municipalities surveyed in bold)

Tocoa, Bonito Oriental, Olanchito, Sava, Sonaguera, Trujillo, Rio Esteban, Sico, Sangrelaya

The department of Colon is very unique within the framework of the FFW program. Due to large international banana and African palm producers who employ several thousand workers from the area, Colon is considered wealthy in comparison with many other departments in Honduras. It was that "dependency" on banana and African palm production and employment that caused the heavy hurricane damages in the area to have a profound effect on food security. Both banana and palm production were severely damaged, or a total loss throughout the department, and cattle and citrus production were curtailed to a more limited extent. Therefore, not only were traditional crops for household consumption severely damaged, or in some cases a total loss, but the population's sources of primary and secondary income were also lost or reduced. For these reasons the FFW program is playing a significant role in recuperating food security in an area that is traditionally more food secure than other areas, but has incurred major setbacks because of the hurricane damage to crops and employment.

In Colon there were vast differences in damages and how people were effected within municipalities. Within a municipality there may have been whole communities washed away, and within a few hundred yards from the destruction minimal damage. Therefore, the survey was conducted looking at areas within a municipality that were considered poor and damaged, poor and not damaged, rich and damaged, and rich and not damaged, and not the municipality as a whole.

Survey findings for the Department of Colon:

Principal findings in the area of income:

- *Traditional and supplemental income sources:*
In Colon most farmers grow traditional grains or fish to provide food for their family, and earn some extra income from the sale of any excess. However, both men and women gain the majority of income through working as temporary wage laborers in the production of bananas, African palm, cattle, and citrus. Both of these sources of income were severely damaged by the hurricane. Traditional grains and vegetable production that were in low lying areas incurred losses of almost 100% due to flooding, and hillside production was severely reduced by upwards of 50% due to landslides and soil erosion. The flooding and high winds also destroyed much of banana and African palm production. Larger producers will be able to rebound, although not without difficulty, but the small and mid-level producers do not have the capital to bring production back to normal over a short period of time. Due to damages from the hurricane many of the larger banana and African palm producers had to reduce the temporary wage earners that they normally hire. Full time workers were given compensation packages and are still employed at minimum wages, while temporary workers, which represent the majority of the population, were simply told to wait until operations returned to normal. Every survey reported that the biggest problem in the area was the loss of wage earnings from banana, palm, and cattle production. Even in areas where some work may still be available salaries have stayed the same or gone down. In the some areas of Tocoa and Olanchito the supplemental income is returning to normal as larger producers are again hiring. However, it was reported that in other

areas of Olanchito up to 90% of the banana crop was lost and producers are not hiring, and cattle producers are not employing people due to losses in pasture that was close to rivers. In other municipalities these secondary sources of income have not returned to normal, and there was not clarity when they would. In the region of Isleta, where hurricane damage was more significant, it was reported that up to 98% of employment was lost because of damages to banana and palms, and 80% of the traditional grain production was either damaged or lost. According to the survey, with the exception of citrus, production of non-traditional crops was not predicted to return to normal standards for one to three years. Underemployment is critical in areas where the damage to the citrus harvest was limited as people are earning less money because they are paid by the amount of fruit they pick.

Food insecurity is more critical in other areas of the department, such as Santa Rosa de Aguan, where supplemental sources of income are not readily available, and families rely exclusively on their own production of basic grains and horticulture. Most of these municipalities incurred heavy crop losses due to flooding and landslides which is causing the current food security crisis, and will limit the next harvest. Traditional grain production is not expected to be at normal standards for the next harvest due to seed losses and the need to rehabilitate farmland.

- *Sale of household capital:*
The sale of household capital or assets was not reported as wide spread. Some families in areas hardest hit were selling livestock, but many times it was due to the fact that resources or conditions were not available to keep the animal.
- *Food availability and prices in the market:*
Throughout the department food is available in all of the markets. Because some of the food has been brought in from other parts of the country, the prices for most products have risen slightly. The price of beans has gone from six to seven lempiras per pound, rice from four to five lempiras. As is the case of all the departments surveyed, interviews stressed that people simply do not have the enough income to buy food at the markets that cover household needs. The food is available, but people do not have enough resources to purchase.

Principal findings in the area of production:

- *Basic grain production:*
Because of flooding, in low lying areas basic grain losses were close to 95%, and farm land was severely damaged as it was filled with rocks and sand. Hillside production also sustained heavy damage, estimated 50% losses, from soil erosion and high winds. Due to the heavy damages many farmers did not bother to harvest. The September harvest is expected to be less than normal as farmers lost seeds, and much of the soil is unworkable. In order for production to return to normal levels seeds will need to become available, and much of the soil, hillsides, and watersheds will need to be rehabilitated.
- *Non-traditional crops:*
Bananas and African palm production were heavily damaged by the hurricane. Large producers who have the resources will be able to recuperate losses over the next year.

Plantain production is expected to return to normal in nine months, and palm production is expected to be recovered in a year and a half. Small to mid-sized farmers who do not have the capital resources to rehabilitate their land and orchards will need a period of up to three years to recuperate losses and produce at normal levels.

- *Animal production:*

There were isolated cases of large scale animal losses in areas close to rivers, an estimated 8,000 head were lost in Tocoa, but in general the losses were moderate. Animal production is expected to be more effected by the loss or destruction of pasture, fencing, and animal feed. In addition, outbreaks of diseases have occurred in cattle, chickens, and pigs due to damaged animal feed. In select municipalities animal losses are expected to have a negative effect on food security and nutrition, as they are a major source of secondary income, and in some cases household consumption. Animal production, especially cattle, is also a major source of temporary wage employment in some municipalities. According to the survey animal production is expected to recuperate after the next harvest when grains become more available.

- *Agriculture and transportation infrastructure:*

No matter where the area in Colon there was significant infrastructure damage. Up to 80% destruction of walkways and secondary roads destroyed in hillside areas of the department, and major highways and bridges were washed away isolating areas of major commerce. The very rivers and streams that make Colon a high production area for bananas and palms flooded their banks and destroyed prime farmland and whole communities. Areas that were once had rich soil were covered by rocks, sand, and debris. Hillsides where many of the poorer farmers plant were also severely damaged due to mudslides and soil erosion. Many small and mid-sized farmers planted palm and citrus on hillsides that in some cases were totally buried under several feet of mud.

- *Seeds and tools:*

As in other departments, there is a lack of seed availability in Colon due to losses incurred by the hurricane. Most farmers lost their seeds in the field, and will therefore be unable to plant a normal crop for the September harvest. Seed availability is limited even in the major urban areas of the department, and the prices have risen. Therefore many farmers go to La Ceiba or San Pedro Sula to purchase seeds at a more reasonable price. Major losses of tools were not reported in the survey. However, the rehabilitation of farmland and watersheds will require inputs, of tools as many will break or are not sufficient for the task. The survey indicated that seeds and tools were needed to complement FFW programs in order to obtain a larger impact.

Principal finding in the area of coping strategies:

- *Dietary intake:*

The traditional diet of the local population is bananas, yuca, and plantain. The destruction of those crops has led the population to consume more corn and rice, which has to be imported into the area. In other communities the local population is supplementing its diet with iguanas, turtle, and other wild foods that are available in the forest. In the mountains of Sonaguera it was reported that in upwards of 50% of the local diet is supplemented with wild foods and hunting. The impact of increased

hunting and foraging in protected areas is yet to be seen. Overall, the local population is consuming less food due to economic restrictions and lack of easily available local food.

- *Migration or displacement:*

There was reported moderate migration within, and out of the department. People who before had lived in high risk areas next to rivers, or near landslide areas, have now moved to makeshift communities in safer areas. In the heavily damaged municipality of Santa Rosa de Aguan there was an estimated 20% permanent migration out of the area due to total losses of income sources and farmland. There has been a large amount of internal migration of young men who have moved to other municipalities of the department where large banana or palm producers are still offering wage employment. In some areas it was reported that a portion of the population had migrated to the USA to live with relatives.

- *Food Reserves:*

According to the survey there is very little food reserves from last years harvest because of the crop losses.

- *Current assistance programs in the area:*

Besides the FFW program there a number of other assistance programs operating in the area. These include: *Red Cross* in medicine and clothing, *Medicos del Mundo* in health and sanitation projects, *FHIS* in infrastructure work, *ICADE* in housing projects.

According to the survey the local population was satisfied by the work being accomplished by the FFW program. Most viewed FFW as the correct approach needed for rehabilitation of hurricane damages until people are ready to feed themselves. Many felt that programs that only distributed food were not as effective as programs where the local population actually participated in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of their village. In general it was felt that the FFW program will need to continue until the next harvest in most areas, and in the areas most damaged by the hurricane until October or November. Some mentioned that a cash for work program to continue rehabilitation efforts after September would be more appropriate because food in most areas would be more available. Also mentioned was the fact that additional inputs of seeds and tools would be critical if rehabilitation and planting efforts were to be successful.

Conclusions and recommendations:

In areas of the department where there was prolific destruction of farmland, housing, and watershed the FFW program should continue until November 17th. Due to seed losses and poor farmland the harvest is not projected to be at normal levels, and food availability may not return to normal after the September harvest. In addition, secondary income sources were most damaged and are unlikely to return to normal by September. Lastly, the damage to farmland will require several months of rehabilitation work that would benefit from a continued FFW program.

In areas of the department that suffered moderate damage the FFW project is expected to close in August or September. This is mainly due to the fact that the September harvest

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should bring sufficient food into the area, and supplemental income sources are projected to be recuperated.

In a few areas of the department where the hurricane damage was relatively light, FFW programming will discontinue in June or July. In these areas most rehabilitation work is already almost finished, and larger producers are re-hiring wage workers. The food security situation in these areas is not considered critical, and because infrastructure damages were minimal, FFW programming is not merited.

The following chart is a breakdown of projected FFW programming in Colon from now until the end of the program:

Number	Municipality	Zones	% of the Municipality	FFW through June	FFW Through Sep.	FFW through Nov.
1	Tocoa	Poor Less Damaged	50%	Yes	No	No
		Poor More Damaged	50%	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Bonito Oriental	Poor Less Damaged	100%	Yes	No	No
3	Olanchito	Rich Less Damaged	80%	No	No	No
		Poor More Damaged	40%	Yes	Yes	No
4	Sava	Poor Less Damaged	30%	Yes	No	No
		Poor More Damaged	40%	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Rica More Damaged	30%	Yes	Yes	No
5	Sonaguera	Rich More Damaged	30%	Yes	Yes	No
		Rich Less Damaged	30%	No	No	No
		Poor More Damaged	40%	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Trujillo Santa Rosa de Aguan	Poor Less Damaged	60%	Yes	No	No
		Poor More Damaged	40%	Yes	Yes	No
7	Río Esteban	Poor Less Damaged	70%	Yes	No	No
		Poor More Damaged	30%	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Sico/Sangrelaya Irióna	Poor Less Damaged	100%	Yes	Yes	No

V) Overall Conclusions and Recommendations:

1. CRS Honduras, from the initiation of the FFW program, has focused on providing FFW programming for well targeted, Hurricane Mitch related reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. The goal of the FFW program is to respond to emergency needs, and rehabilitate damages looking into the future towards prevention of further similar disasters. The food security assessment served as important tool to assist and guide the program on defining FFW needs in areas where programming is currently operational. The assessment reconfirmed CRS Honduras' plans of a time specific phase out from select municipalities of emergency and rehabilitation FFW activities until the end of the program in November. From information collected in the survey, CRS Honduras foresees three distinct periods of withdraw from the 46 targeted municipalities.

It is clear from the survey that certain municipalities did not sustain significant damage from the hurricane, were considered fairly food secure before the hurricane, and food availability and accessibility were not adversely effected. In these municipalities the FFW program will target vulnerable groups that may have been effected more than others, and rehabilitate damage that occurred. In these municipalities, or sectors of municipalities, 15 of which are outlined in the text of this report, CRS Honduras foresees a close of programming in the months of (June through August) *April?* It is estimated that in these areas the hurricane damages to infrastructure, crops, and secondary income sources was not as much as other areas, and that the local population will have recuperated income sources, and food will be available and accessible by June or July.

In 22 of the targeted municipalities, CRS Honduras will need to provide FFW programming until the September harvest. In these municipalities Hurricane Mitch had an adverse effect on crops and income sources. It was found in these municipalities that the majority of last year's harvest and crops were destroyed by the hurricane, and that only a good September harvest would bring food back to the household level. In many cases secondary or primary income sources were also damaged by the hurricane, and will not be recuperated until at least September. Most of these income sources are temporary employment in production areas such as banana, coffee, and cattle workers, and rely on other larger producers for jobs that will provide them with enough cash to obtain household food security. The majority of these jobs were either reduced, or lost altogether because of hurricane damaged crops. A good harvest will bring affordable food back into the area, and FFW activities will be able to withdraw without adverse effects.

In municipalities, or sectors of municipalities, that sustained heavy, long term damage from the hurricane, food security will not be easily recuperated. In these municipalities crops and income sources were totally lost, and devastating losses of road infrastructure, homes, farmland, watershed, and water systems were widespread. Even if limited food security is recovered after the September harvest it will not be total, and there will still be major work in rehabilitation and reconstruction. In order to provide the extra "nudge" that will be needed to rehabilitate damages, and restore food security, CRS Honduras will continue FFW programming in 9 of these most needy

municipalities until the end of the program in mid-November. CRS Honduras strongly believes that the continuation of programming in these municipalities will not only save lives, but through participatory community organization rehabilitate and reconstruct whole communities, and promote development within a civil society context.

2. CRS Honduras views the current programming of 19,000 metric tons of commodities to be a correct amount to adequately operate the FFW program. In some municipalities FFW activities will be ending sooner than expected due to increased, or improved, food security. However, in other municipalities food security needs are greater than expected, and large scale FFW programming will need to be conducted through the end of the program in November. FFW programming with the counterpart Global Village is scheduled to end in July. CRS Honduras will need to explore options with USAID to prolong the program until September. There are select municipalities that are currently covered by Global Village that will need the FFW project's assistance through the September harvest. Withdrawal of FFW programming in these municipalities could lead to incomplete rehabilitation efforts, food insecurity, and in extreme cases severe hunger. The need for more food, or only increased funding, will need to be defined. CRS
push
3. The assessment strongly suggested that there is an urgent need for seeds, tools, and other inputs to accompany the FFW program if it is to obtain optimum success. Every survey collected indicated that most seeds were lost, and the next harvest will not be successful if seeds are not made easily available at affordable prices. Tools were also sited as indispensable to conduct repairs of farmland and infrastructure damage. Although seeds and tools were made available to accompany the FFW program, the amount does not fulfill the actual needs, and options for alleviating this problem will need to be considered. "Seed for work" may even be considered in some contexts.
4. The survey found that there is a great need to focus on farmland and watershed rehabilitation if food security is to be achieved. Large producers and some government officials focused mainly on infrastructure and road repairs as priority. In areas where the local population rely exclusively on large producers for all of their income infrastructure may be the most important. However, in areas where people rely on crop production for household food consumption and secondary income, food security will not be obtained until the land is rehabilitated.
5. Damages caused by Hurricane Mitch were extensive in many of the targeted municipalities. Rivers have changed course, destroyed levees and dikes that held back normal rainy season flooding, covered once prime farmland with sand and rocks, brought hillsides down on villages, or through erosion loosened soil that now threatens homes and villages. CRS feels that there is a distinct need in targeted areas to continue a Food or Cash for Work extension to reconstruct or rehabilitate areas that are vital to prevent or diminish the effects of further disasters. A prime example of such an activity would be the reconstruction of levees in areas of the department of Colon that if not secured, will again cause devastating floods in a slightly heavier than normal rainy season. Another example is the town of Marales where the river changed course and destroyed an embankment that normally protected the town from flooding. CRS Honduras is currently collaborating with the state government of Massachusetts to obtain heavy equipment and technical assistance that could possibly be utilized in

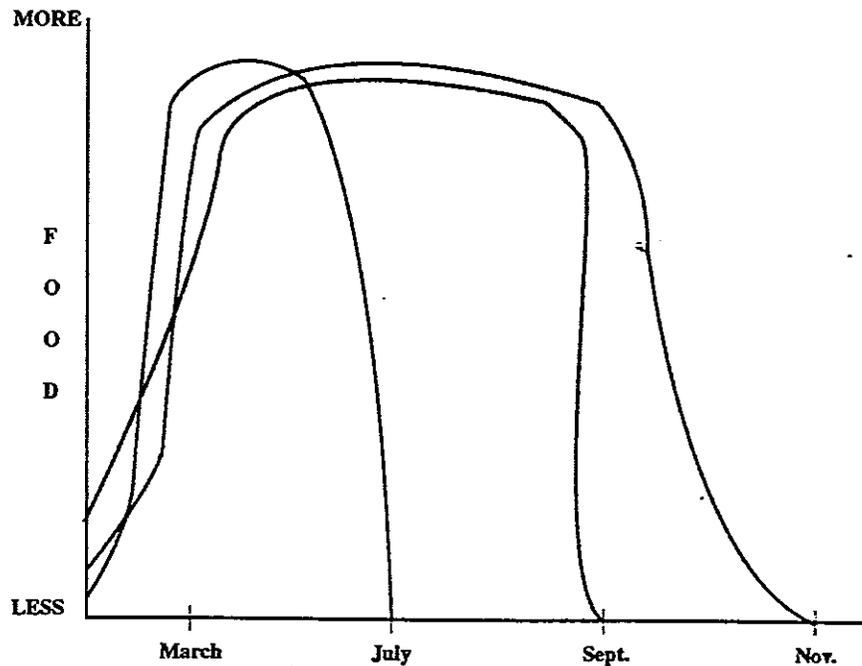
Honduras would like to explore options with USAID for a possible TAP that would focus on pinpointed projects vital to preventing another Hurricane Mitch disaster.

6. CRS Honduras views that the FFW program has made other valuable contributions other than the rehabilitation of damages from Hurricane Mitch, and stabilization of food security in the area. Before the hurricane, in many municipalities there was very little community organization or collaboration of development efforts. Roads or school walls would remain damaged because the municipality and local organizations did not have the capacity, organization, or "civil will" to rehabilitate them. The FFW program has served to organize and mobilize communities to build or re-build civil society structures and tackle urgent rehabilitation needs. The FFW program has created a municipal organizational structure that did not exist before, and which could be utilized as a catalyst for further development activities. If the FFW program is cut short, or fails to deliver, these newly created community organizations may also be lost, and future development efforts with them.

Annex 1:
Map of Honduras
with FFW
Targeted
Municipalities

Annex 2:
Graphic
Representation of
Project Timeframe

GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION OF COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION



Department Francisco Morazán

- Marales, Oropolí, Orica
- Vallecillos, Cedros, Morceli, Yauyupe, Alauca, San Matias, Potrerillos, Talanga, Orica
- Guaimaca, Yuscarán

Department Olancho

- Esquipulas del Norte, Patuca
- Mangulile, Salamá, Silca, Jano, Guata La Unión, Yocon
- El Rosario

Department of Comayagua

- Victoria, Sulaco, Taulabé, Esquias, Las Lajas, Yorito
- La Trinidad, San Luis, San José del Potrero, San Francisco San José de Comayagua, La Libertad, Meambar, Minas de Oro Siguatepeque

Department of Colon

- Due to distinct damages within municipalities the Department of Colon is not divided municipalities but by areas of damage, see text for breakdown and timeframe

Annex 3:
Key
Accomplishments
of FFW Program
to Date

B. Community Organization/Rebuilding Civil Society

USAID sponsored FFW has provided a platform for building broad-based community organizations that reach across religious, political, and gender barriers.

CRS promotes a program of civic activity centered around the Local Development Committees (CODELs) in each of the communities receiving FFW.

- CODELs are responsible for identifying projects, prioritizing them as responding to urgent, identifiable needs and ensuring that stated activities are accomplished.
- CODELs ensure that the GOH mandate prohibiting "free food" distribution is adhered to while also ensuring that highly vulnerable groups do not "fall through the cracks".
- CODELs act as the mediating structure uniting the local church (as project implementor) and municipality providing a forum for civil society action in local reconstruction efforts. Attention is given to ensuring that programs do not become political vehicles and that they do not discriminate by religion, party affiliation, ethnicity or gender.
- Through regular meetings, CODELs act as a sounding board for community discussion on the strategic direction of the FFW program; they create the opportunity for concerted action beginning at this level (this is consistent with the social teaching of the church on subsidiarity) and moving to the next level where problems can be addressed and solved. This short circuits the common approach in which "authority figures" or international organizations intervene to quickly solve problems with external resources.
- CODELs serve as the basis for decision making on issues such as the transition from FFW to other development oriented activities.

C. Institutional

CRS has effectively retooled and scaled-up its pre-Mitch socio-economic development program to implement a reconstruction and development oriented Food for Work program on a large scale. In so doing, it has defied accepted wisdom that emergency program should occupy itself exclusively with direct distribution. It has also demonstrated that large scale, quality FFW is possible if attention is paid to social organization at the community level, as demonstrated by the CODEL system in place throughout the project.

CRS worked closely with USAID cooperating sponsor Caritas Peru to develop the management systems needed for administering 19,000 metric tons of commodities through a counterpart network operating at the community level. This assistance yielded the necessary "paper trail" inputs required for proper accounting; the training of counterpart staff; the development of training manuals for field use; and the overall orientation of the program toward reconstructive, developmental FFW.

D. Key Constraints/Solutions

Constraints fall into three categories:

1. Logistics, including:

- Port congestion
- Difficulties with Sealand transport (overwhelmed by the demands made on them by program tonnage)
- Persistent rains on the north coast interrupting the flow of food to that region
- Proper phasing in the arrival of products

Over time, these problems have been corrected but not without a significant and costly investment of CRS time, financial and human resources. CRS was pleased to have excellent collaboration from USAID in re-routing food supplies to Puerto Castilla, solving the weather problem during a time of acute duress for program beneficiaries. CRS continues to work with the appropriate decision makers on the phasing of product delivery.

2. Competing Methodologies

CRS and CARE manage FFW programs along similar programmatic lines and have done so from the early stages of the emergency effort. The World Food Program (WFP) manages a free, direct distribution program on a large scale in areas bordering the CRS and CARE programs. Several issues arise in relation to this arrangement:

First, Hondurans are receiving a mixed message. While two of the programs require a disciplined, product oriented approach that recognizes the dignity inherent in work, a third displaces a natural impetus toward work as a contribution towards the larger reconstruction effort with what is essentially a hand out. In some areas, this has caused participants in the reconstruction to withdraw their labor in favor of receiving freely distributed food.

Second, two of the programs stress local organization (and building local organization) as the basis for making a transition from reconstruction/rehab to development. A third relies heavily on municipal distribution systems with uncertain civil society participation.

Third, two of the programs spend considerable time in discussion with WFP on issues of territory despite these issues having been largely resolved under USAID leadership in the start-up phase of the program (November/December). This drains staff time, confuses participants, and sets uncomfortable precedents for cooperation.

3. Program Pacing

CRS has moved forward quickly and effectively through its Colon, Olancho and Aldea Global counterparts. Its work with the Archdiocese is moving at a different pace with the organizational and competency building effort requiring greater attention. As it comes up to speed, this counterpart is and will be taking on programming in several of the neediest Mitch affected zones in central Honduras. The challenge (as opposed to constraint) is currently the focus of the CRS effort as the other three counterparts are operating with greater and greater autonomy.

Annex 4:
Overview of
Commodity
Distribution to
Date

Counterpart: Parroquia de Tocoa
Departamento: Colón
Municipalidades/Parroquias: Sico, Sangrelaya, Río Esteban, Olanchito, Saba, Trujillo, Sonaguera, Tocoa.

Communities involved in FFW activities:	525
Food distributed Nov. 98/Feb 99:	1926 MT
Person/Months Food for Work:	15,385
FFW Family Daily Rations (jornales):	307,700
Total # beneficiaries	181,800
Total # of participants in FFW	30,308

Counterpart: Programa Aldea Global
Departamentos: Comayagua, Cortéz, and Yoro
Municipalidades: Meambar, San José de Poriero, Minas de Oro, La Trinidad Esquinas, Siguatepeque, Las Lajas, Taulabe, San Luis, Sulaco, Yorito, Santa Cruz de Yojoa, San Francisco de Yojoa

Communities involved in FFW activities:	485
Food distributed Nov. 98/Feb 99:	750MT
Person/Months Food for Work:	5,269
FFW Family Daily Rations (jornales):	105,380
Total # of beneficiaries	197,425
Total participants FFW activities	33,078

Counterpart: Pastoral Social Diócesis de Olancho
Departamentos: Olancho
Municipalidades: La Unión, Salamá, Patuca

Communities involved in FFW activities:	63
Food distributed Feb/Mar 99:	475
Person/Months Food for Work:	200
FFW Family Daily Rations (jornales):	4,000
Total # of beneficiaries to date	1,000
Total participants FFW activities	200

Counterpart: Caritas Arquidiocesana
Departamentos: Francisco Morazán
Municipalidades: Marale, Orica, Cedros, Guaimaca, Talanga, Vallecillos, Sabanagrande, Texiguat, Yauyupe, Yuscarán, Oropoli, Morocell, San Matias, Potrerillos, Alauca

Communities involved in FFW activities:	300
Food distributed Feb./Mar. 99:	307.6
Person/Months Food for Work:	600
FFW Family Daily Rations (jornales):	3,200
Total # of beneficiaries	2,336
Total participants FFW activities	570

Note: In Olancho and Morazán FFW began in February # of FFW participants and beneficiaries are initial estimates for the first month of activities and are not comparable to those of other counterparts. Monitoring data will be available in April

Counterpart: Parroquia de Tocoa

Departamento: Colón

Municipalidades/Parroquias: Sico, Sangrelaya, Rio Esteban, Olanchito, Saba, Trujillo
Sonaguera, Tocoa.

Communities involved in FFW activities:	525
Food distributed Nov. 98/Feb 99:	1926 MT
Person/Months Food for Work:	15,385
FFW Family Daily Rations (jornales):	307,700
Total # beneficiaries	181,800
Total # of participants in FFW	30,308

FFW activities carried out Nov.98/Feb.99	% of Total	Indicators	Person/Months emp. in FFW	# Beneficiaries from Activities output	FFW participants P/T - Nov/Feb
Community rehabilitation: clearing and basic repairs of mud, flood and wind damaged communal facilities, schools, centers, clinics, water, drainage canals	40%	525 communities partially rehabilitated	6,077	180,000	12,154
Roads access and secondary: clearing and repair	24%	1575 Kms cleared	3,692	180,000	7,385
Agricultural rehabilitation: clearing, soil recovery, drainage	16%	2250 Has. Rehab	2,462	14,770	4,923
Housing rehabilitation: clearing and basic repairs of mud, flood, and other damage to individual houses or plots	14%	4,308 houses	2,154	25,847	4,308
Water and Sanitation clearing and repairs	5%	525 community systems	769	180,000	1,539
Direct Assistance, to elderly children and other individuals not able to participate in FFW	1%	427	n/a	427	0

Counterpart: Programa Aldea Global

Departamentos: Comayagua, Cortés, and Yoro

Municipalidades: Meambar, San José de Portero, Minas de Oro, La Trinidad
Esquinas, Siguatepeque, Las Lajas, Taulabe, San Luis, Sulaco,
Yorito, Santa Cruz de Yojoa, San Francisco de Yojoa

Communities involved in FFW activities:	485
Food distributed Nov. 98/Feb 99:	750MT
Person/Months Food for Work:	5,269
FFW Family Daily Rations (jornales):	105,380
Total # of beneficiaries	197,425
Total participants FFW activities	33,078

FFW activities carried out Nov.98/Feb.99	% of Total	Indicators	Person/Months exp. in FFW	# Beneficiaries from Activities output
Community rehabilitation: clearing and basic repairs of mud, flood and wind damaged communal facilities, schools, centers, clinics, water, drainage canals	33%	485 communities partially rehabilitated	1,739	197,425
Roads access and secondary: clearing and repair	25%	1600Kms cleared	1,317	197,425
Agricultural rehabilitation: clearing, soil recovery, drainage	3%	523 Has. Rehab	158	948
Housing rehabilitation: clearing and basic repairs of mud, flood, and other damage to individual houses or plots	15%	1,693 houses	790	10,158
Water and Sanitation clearing and repairs	18%	194 community systems	948	197,425
Direct Assistance, to elderly children and other individuals not able to participate in FFW, and others	6%	146	316	146

Counterpart: Pastoral Social Diócesis de Olancho

Departamentos: Olancho

Municipalidades: La Unión, Salamá, Patuca

Communities involved in FFW activities:	63
Food distributed Feb/Mar 99:	475
Person/Months Food for Work:	200
FFW Family Daily Rations (jornales):	4,000
Total # of beneficiaries to date	1,000
Total participants FFW activities	200

Note: In Olancho FFW activities began in February # of FFW participants and beneficiaries are initial estimates for the first month of activities and are not comparable to those of other counterparts. Monitoring data will be available in April

FFW activities projected to May 99 Estimates	% of Total	Indicators	Person/Months emp. in FFW	# Beneficiaries from Activities output
Community rehabilitation: clearing and basic repairs of mud, flood and wind damaged communal facilities, schools, centers, clinics, water, drainage canals	20%	63 communities partially rehabilitated	100	1,000
Roads access and secondary: clearing and repair	20%	300Kms improved	100	1,000
Agricultural rehabilitation: clearing, soil recovery, drainage	20%	100 Has. Rehab	100	600
Housing rehabilitation: clearing and basic repairs of mud, flood, and other damage to individual houses or plots	20%	250 houses	200	1,500
Water and Sanitation clearing and repairs	10%	63 community systems Improved	50	7,500
Direct Assistance, to elderly children and other individuals not able to participate in FFW, and others	10%	100	n/a	100

Food For Work Program Activities and Outputs: Francisco Morazán - Arqu. De Tegucigalpa

Counterpart: Caritas Arquidiocesana

Departamentos: Francisco Morazán

Municipalidades: Marale, Orica, Cedros, Guaimaca, Talanga, Vallecillos,

Sabanagrande, Texiguat, Yauyupe, Yuscarán, Copolf, Moroceli, San Mateo, Potrerillos, Alauca

Communities involved in FFW activities:	300
Food distributed Feb./Mar. 99:	307.6
Person/Months Food for Work:	600
FFW Family Daily Rations (jornales):	3,200
Total # of beneficiaries	2,336
Total participants FFW activities	570

Note: In Morazán FFW activities began in February the # of FFW participants and beneficiaries are initial estimates for the first month of activities and are not comparable to those of other counterparts. Monitoring data will be available in April

FFW activities Feb./Mar. 99	% of Total	Indicators	Person/Months emp. in FFW	# Beneficiaries from Activities output
Community rehabilitation: clearing and basic repairs of mud, flood and wind damaged communal facilities, schools, centers, clinics, water, drainage canals	40%	4 communities rehabilitated	240	1,000
Roads access and secondary: clearing and repair	15%	40 Kms improved	90	1,000
Agricultural rehabilitation: clearing, soil recovery, drainage	10%	20 Has. Rehab	60	360
Housing rehabilitation: clearing and basic repairs of mud, flood, and other damage to individual houses or plots	15%	50 houses rehab. 71 in construction	90	726
Water and Sanitation: clearing and repairs	15%	4 community systems repaired	90	1,000
Direct Assistance, to elderly children and other individuals not able to participate in FFW, and others	5%	150		150

SUMMARY OF EMERGENCY FOOD COMMODITIES RECEIVED AND DISTRIBUTED BY CRS HONDURAS
FROM NOVEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY

COMMODITIES BORROWED AND RECEIVED IN METRIC TONS

	CORN	RICE	BEAN	OIL	TOTALS
WFP-PMA CORN LOANED TO CRS	1250				1250
FROM USAID	3016	1498	1983	150	6647
TOTAL BORROWED & RECEIVED	4266	1498	1983	150	7897

COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED TO COUNTERPARTS/BENEFICIARIES
FROM NOVEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY

	CORN	RICE	BEAN	OIL	TOTALS MT
COLON DEPT./PARROQUIA DE TOCOA	778	778	297	73.15	1926.15
COMAYAGUA, YORO, CORTES/ ALDEA GLOBAL	277	267	162	43.46	749.46
OLANCHO/SALAMA, LA UNION/ DIOCESIS DE OLANCHO	118	216	108	33	475
FRANCISCO MORAZAN/TEGUCIGALPA CARITAS ARQUIDIOCESANA For distribution through March	112.5	112.5	62	20.6	307.6
TOTAL CRS COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED	1285.5	1373.5	629	170.21	3458.21

Notes on sources and method for FFW quantitative analysis

- Commodities in country. Amount of CRS commodities received is based on amounts arrived in country and moved to CRS warehouses in Castilla, Toco, Saba and Tegucigalpa.
- Commodities borrowed refers to a loan obtained by CRS from PMA of 1,250 MT of corn whose devolution will be completed by March 18th.
- Food distributed by CRS refers to commodities dispatched to counterpart and received at their warehouses, storage areas, or distribution sites.
- For FFW program analysis we used data on food actually delivered by the counterparts to beneficiaries or programmed for distribution during March. Data on food delivered comes from field food monitors and CRS supervisors.
- Data on output indicators (ie. Length of roads cleared or repaired, hectares rehabilitated for agriculture, etc.) was obtained in some cases from direct field reports, and in other cases estimated from averages and documented work applied.
- The distribution of the types of FFW activities was provided in detail by Parroquia de Tocoa and Aldea Global, and estimated in field visits in the Olancho and Francisco Morazan. The counterparts used different categories which were consolidated into the six groups in the charts.
- The Person/months values are derived from the daily rations reported delivered assuming 20 working days per month. The number of individual men and women participants is calculated based on each individual working on the average half time.
- Community rehabilitation and road clearing have been a dominant component of FFW program, the number of indirect beneficiaries can be assumed to be the total population. Because this tends to inflate overall beneficiary figures we consider direct participants and the person/months figures better indicators of the impact of the programs.
- The Olancho and Francisco Morazán programs have only become operational in February as reflected in the volume of commodities and the number of projects and participants involved. The pace of work in these areas should continue to increase through June and stabilize until harvest time in September.