The impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and of Hurricanes Eta and Iota have exacerbated the multidimensional crisis in Honduras, weakening communities’ coping capacities. Growing levels of inequality and poverty, violence, displacement and limited access to basic social services are some of the main factors leading to increased food insecurity and malnutrition in the country. Vulnerable populations such as women, children, informal workers, indigenous and Afro-descendant communities as well as people living with disabilities are among the most affected.

Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners of the Food Security Cluster to:

• Support the resilience of affected people and the nexus between humanitarian action and development support.
• Increase food access and contribute to restoring sustainable livelihoods.

Activities

Strengthen agricultural livelihoods
mapping and coordination with key actors and leaders | procurement and distribution of agricultural kits (including seeds for maize, bean, yuca, camote, local vegetable, banana tree and pineapple production) to 21,800 households | rehabilitation of productive infrastructure damaged by the hurricanes | provision of micro-irrigation system kits to 3,200 households | support to 9,600 households to establish community seed banks through an initial 1,800 kg of maize | micro-gardening kits to 12,800 households | provision of 25 hens and a rooster to each of the 1,600 targeted women together with material for the construction of chicken coops | voucher schemes benefiting 250 households | good agricultural practices | training of 32,000 heads of household on risk mitigation, market access, sustainable agriculture, post-disaster soil management, sustainable and diversified agriculture, climate change and nutrition education | farmer field schools

Improve food security analysis
monitoring of food security and nutrition indicators in key productive periods | production and dissemination of timely information on the number of people at risk of food insecurity to inform decision-making

With intersecting crises leading to growing needs in the county, livelihood support is urgently needed to quickly restore the production capacity of affected households to access food and generate income.
3.3 million people projected to be in high acute food insecurity (IPC, July–September 2021)

937,000 internally displaced people due to disasters in 2020 – the highest number of new displacements in Latin America

70% of the population were estimated to be living in poverty at the end of 2020, up from the 59.3% at the end of 2019

Impact on food security

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures was particularly harsh in Honduras. The effects of the pandemic are not only related to health, but have also affected food systems, leading to reduced purchasing power with households unable to cover basic needs. Compounding the situation in 2020 were Hurricanes Eta and Iota, Category 4 and 5, respectively, representing the most severe natural hazards that hit Honduras in over 20 years. These shocks have exacerbated the existing multidimensional crisis in the country, further eroding the resilience of the population, and significantly affecting their livelihoods and local economies. As a result, the levels of poverty, inequality, food insecurity and malnutrition have increased.

In this context, providing vulnerable households with the necessary means to produce food and generate income is crucial to restore their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience against future shocks.