



International Building a Better World

Latin America and the Caribbean



> Honduras

An Integrated Approach to Relief and Development

CHF International has been working in Honduras for over 25 years, implementing a wide range of development projects, including work in economic development, housing and sanitation, disaster mitigation, municipal development, and environmental management, agriculture, and sustainable tourism.

Currently, CHF is building on these years of experience and continuing its efforts in Honduras, with three new development initiatives: strengthening the national response to HIV/AIDS and malaria; improving agricultural productivity in the drought areas of southern Honduras; and empowering at-risk youth in the northern industrial cities of El Progreso and Choloma.

Strengthening the National Response for Health Protection and Promotion in HIV/AIDS and Malaria

Honduras has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in Central America, claiming over 60% of reported cases. Highly vulnerable groups include pregnant women, youth, indigenous groups, men who have sex with men, and commercial sex workers. Additionally, malaria is widespread throughout the country, particularly along the coast. Honduras is currently home to 40% of Central America's malaria cases, with a reported 10,000 cases.

CHF is working hard to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and malaria, and was selected as the principal grant recipient in Honduras by **The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**, a unique public-private partnership established in 2002. The Global Fund is the largest contributor in the global fight against these deadly diseases, providing two-thirds of all financing to combat malaria and tuberculosis, and 20% of all international funding to combat HIV/AIDS. Through this innovative grant through partners such as the National Ministry of Health and many local non-profits, CHF is managing a \$25 million HIV/AIDS program and a \$3 million Malaria program over the following three years.



Supported by the YEAH program, an IPC Instructor works with a student on advanced textile manufacturing equipment training

Increasing Agricultural Productivity in El Valle

Located in southern Honduras, the rural state of Valle is currently struggling with a host of socio-economic problems, including environmental degradation and intense migration, which have greatly decreased the agricultural output of the region. With the support of the **Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)**, CHF has begun efforts on a project designed to revitalize El Valle's agricultural productivity. Partnering with local leaders and 180 small farmers, the program is designing and building water-harvesting reservoirs and drip-irrigation systems. CHF technicians also work with farmers to increase their technical capacity to manage their crops and raise their productivity by twenty percent.

Youth Engagement for Advancing Hope

The Alcoa Community Foundation, a US-based non-profit associated with Alcoa Inc., the world's largest producer of aluminum, is funding a three-year program coordinated by CHF and targeting at-risk youth in Honduras. The project, entitled **Youth Engagement for Advancing Hope (YEAH)**, provides vulnerable youth with vocational training in marketable skills, particularly those highly sought by the local private sector. It is being implemented in collaboration with the Central American Polytechnic Institute (IPC), a state-of-the-art training center for the garment and electrical industries. Through YEAH, CHF provides subsidies for 28 low-income students from the at-risk communities of El Progreso and Choloma, and organizes educational and extra-curricular events for over 120 IPC students from the at-risk communities of El Progreso and Choloma.



Past Expertise in Honduras:

Agriculture

With funding from the **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food for Progress program** CHF International worked with local partners to assist small farmers in the provinces of Valle and Ocotepeque by:

- > training them to diversify their agricultural crops and production methods;
- > helping them to access new technologies;
- > improving irrigation facilities;
- > reaching new local and export market opportunities; and
- > establishing agro-industrial processing facilities and two agri-business centers for use in both provinces.

As with our current program in El Valle, small farmers were provided with training and technical assistance to increase their competitiveness. Additionally, CHF worked with youth to provide them with entrepreneurial skills and a revolving loan fund was established for the disbursement of seed capital grants.

These activities were financed by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food for Progress program**.

Microfinance

Tourism Micro and Small Enterprise Development:

In 2004, CHF International worked with Fondo Prosperidad, a sustainable tourism development project that provides grants and technical assistance to tourism microenterprises and innovative public/private partnerships among microenterprises, NGOs, and community-based organizations to implement 69 tourism-related projects along the Atlantic coast of Honduras with funding from the **World Bank** through the **Honduras Institute of Tourism**. In 2005, CHF also helped beneficiaries to establish and expand 70 sustainable and innovative businesses that both provide income to

support their families and enhance their communities' economic viability through the development of the country's tourism industry. The program ended in September 2006.

Small Business & Home Improvement Microlending:

In addition to the Fondo Prosperidad program, CHF International operated a micro-lending program in eight municipalities, providing small business, agriculture and home improvement loans. CHF administered 1,300 loans and a portfolio of US\$889,333, including \$277,000 in agricultural loans in an effort to reach out to the agricultural sector and work with small producers and their associations.

Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness

In 2005, CHF coordinated several disaster mitigation projects designed to reduce vulnerability to flooding through the installation of early alert systems. Using a community articulation



model, CHF worked in five river watersheds to help communities to be better prepared for natural disasters such as hurricanes. This work built on CHF's long-standing presence in Honduras, including our response to Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which:

- > reconstructed 11,000 destroyed homes;
- > established standards for hurricane-safe construction;
- > trained municipal agencies and non-governmental organizations on disaster mitigation techniques; and
- > helped local communities to prepare Action Plans.