



World Food Programme

Central America Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO)

Continuous natural disasters compromise the precarious food security situation of the poor in Central America. This is particularly true in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, the four Central American countries with WFP field presence.

Poverty: These countries are lower-middle income with high levels of inequality and poverty as seen in the following table.

Prevalence of Poverty and Extreme Poverty¹

	Extreme Poverty		National Poverty
	Urban	Rural	Rates
El Salvador	12.7%	23.5%	46.6%
Guatemala	5.1%	21.1%	54.8%
Honduras	26.0%	56.8%	67.4%
Nicaragua	5.6%	26.6%	58.3%

Emergencies: Recurrent shocks are common in this sub-region. In addition to earthquakes and plagues such as the Coffee Rust, these countries experienced 133 extreme weather events between 2000 and 2012.² Hazards like these can easily turn into crises

because populations with few means of recovery often live in high-risk areas.

PRRO: A Regional Approach

Since disasters are regional in nature, the World Food Programme (WFP) responds to them through the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). WFP has used PRROs in Central America since 1999 when a PRRO was first approved to assist the population affected by Hurricane Mitch.

Through the Central America PRRO WFP supports national response efforts. This regional operation employs fast and efficient response, contingency planning and pre-positioned stocks in order to meet the immediate needs of food-insecure populations in the face of emergencies.

WFP also addresses aggravating factors that persist after the initial emergency response and provides the opportunity for community members to create and rehabilitate assets and infrastructure. Programmes such as Food for Assets and Food for Training are used during this recovery phase.



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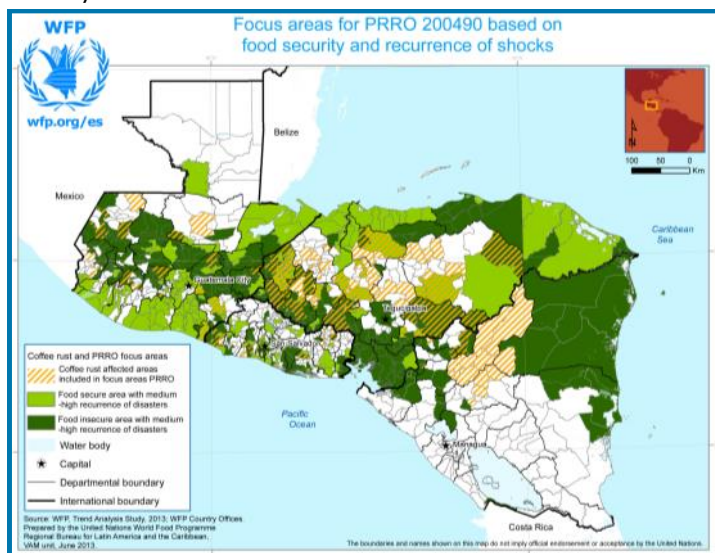
World Food Programme
PRRO in Central
America



WFP emergency response through the PRRO

In Central America, WFP fosters activities aimed at strengthening national and local capacities in Emergency Preparedness and Response. When a disaster exceeds government capacities, WFP offers support through the PRRO.

In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, WFP relies on partnerships with civil protection agencies (Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil, CONRED, COPECO and SINAPRED, respectively), as well as with other government institutions, UN partners, NGOs and civil society.³



- The November 2012 earthquake that struck Guatemala: WFP assisted 2,800 families in temporary shelters.⁵
- The July 2013 floods in Nicaragua destroyed crops and forced people to evacuate their homes: WFP began responding immediately and assisted approximately 7,900 affected families.
- Between July and December 2013, WFP is providing food assistance to around 54,000 families in Central America affected by the Coffee Rust, an effort of approximately US\$ 8 million.

The New PRRO

The current PRRO 200043 ends December 2013 and, pending approval, the new PRRO 200490 will begin in January 2014. With a planned duration of two years, the new regional operation plans support an average of 428,000 people with emergency food assistance each year, valued at US\$ 70 million. The new PRRO reflects recommendations of the WFP 2012 evaluation and the 2013 Regional Portfolio Evaluation, which concluded that the PRRO is necessary and effective.

Through PRRO preparedness, relief and recovery efforts WFP will safeguard investments in resilience that are on going throughout Central America. The Cash and Voucher modality will be gradually introduced into WFP response in the region.

This new regional operation continues to be necessary in Central America given that the number of extreme weather events, shocks and slow onset emergencies is to rising.

WFP is prepared to continue supporting governments to maintain food security in the face of disasters.

Recent responses:

- Tropical Depression 12-E in 2011 brought widespread destruction in large parts of Central America: WFP assisted over 60,000 families with general food distributions during the initial response alone.⁴

PRRO 200490 2013-2016: number people likely to be effected by emergencies and estimated number of beneficiaries⁶

People likely to be affect by sudden onset emergencies	People likely to be affect by slow onset emergencies	People likely to be affect by slow onset – Coffee Rust	Annual Beneficiaries Year 1 (including Coffee Rust)	Annual Beneficiaries Year 2 and Year 3 (excluding Coffee Rust)
262,000	148,000	57,000	467,000	410,000

Notes:
¹ ECLAC. Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012; Nicaragua: Living Standards Measurement Survey 2009 (EMNV 2009); Guatemala (ENCOVI 2011).
² The Emergencies Even Database, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (EM-DAT).
³ National Civil Defence System for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; National Coordination for Disaster Reduction; Permanent Contingency Commission; National System for Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Disasters
⁴ WFP Standard Operation Report 2011 and Response Strategy TD-12 November 2012
⁵ WFP Standard Project Report 2012
⁶ New Central America PRRO 200490 Project Document.



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