



**CWS**

## Food Security and Resilience in Central America

Approximately 6.4 million people in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras suffered from severe food insecurity in 2021. This number grew three-fold from 2.2 million people in 2019. High levels of inequality, insecurity and political violence, weak public institutions, social safety nets, and economic models fail to address the rights and wellbeing of small-holder farmers. Many people in the region are now choosing to migrate to meet their needs for safety and dignity.

CWS works on reaching people in remote dispersed communities in Central America. CWS connects them with support and services that help them to access their rights in dignity, adequate standard of living and opportunities for development.

### Program Overview

Over the last 19 years, CWS has developed a regional food security program in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, which addresses the unique challenges affecting populations living in neglected geographies. These communities suffer from underinvestment by national and local institutions that are not responsive or not resourced to meet the needs of rural households. Our approach is on integrated programs that are locally designed, led and implemented by local civil society organizations that bring technical skills, experience, and a long-term presence to the communities they already live in. In these countries, CWS also focuses on reducing the root causes of distress migration, ensuring that those who wish to remain and lead dignified and secure lives can do so.

### Program Approaches

#### Sustainable and Climate Smart Agriculture

Crop diversification, improved soil health, and rainwater harvesting systems to increase yields and improve nutrition. Training programs that focus on climate-smart practices ensure sustainability and avoid creating dependence.

#### Resilient Rural Livelihoods

Providing access to credit, new income opportunities through animal husbandry, honey production, fish-farming, investing in water infrastructure and strengthening local water management capacity, and connecting farmers with new markets.

#### Empowering Communities

Removing the barriers to participation for women, indigenous people, and marginalized populations by strengthening the capacities of these communities to enhance their local and rural participation in advocacy actions.



**2021-2023:** \$1.15 million USD

**Locations:** Guatemala (Quetzaltenango and Quiche), Honduras (Santa Barabara) and Nicaragua (Carazo).

**Funders:** Growing Hope Globally, Church of the Latter-Day Saints



## Program Impact

In 2023, through its food security programs, CWS partners reached more than 2,000 families in Central America.



### Guatemala

*Local Partners:* CIEDEG, CODI, Presbiterio Mam

CWS works with CIEDEG, CODI, Presbiterio Mam Working, and with Ixil and Mam indigenous communities and organizations located in the Western Highlands to reduce food insecurity and child malnutrition. Key activities include constructing greenhouses, supporting organic vegetable production, increasing incomes by developing local markets, and organizing mothers around health challenges.



### Honduras

*Local Partner:* CASM

CWS works with CASM and difficult-to-access communities near the Honduran – Guatemalan border to reduce the vulnerability of small holder farmers to climate change. Key activities include supporting climate-smart agricultural practices, accompanying local water administration boards, and strengthening citizenship and human rights.



### Nicaragua

*Local Partner:* CIEETS

CWS works with CIEETS and rural communities of the Dry Corridor to promote food security and community peacebuilding. Key activities include developing farmer field schools that model climate-smart agricultural practices, promoting market-oriented farming activities to diversify incomes, and empowering churches to lead community risk management activities.

## Local Partnership & Capacity

CWS provides partners in the region with multi-year funding, flexibility for exploring innovative responses, technical advice, support in local and regional advocacy efforts, and funding for capacity building in line with the principles of Trust Based Philanthropy. This approach is critical for the success of programs focused on neglected rural areas that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, disasters, and global health challenges. Additionally, this provides partners the opportunity to pursue local and national partnerships that complement or replace planned program activities.

Current programs and partnerships include the Evangelical Council of Churches of Guatemala (CIEDEG), Comisión de Acción Social Menonita in Honduras (CASM) and Centro Intereclesial de Estudios Teológicos in Nicaragua (CIEETS).

## Bridging Traditional & Scientific Knowledge

CWS responds to the needs of families and communities who are highly vulnerable to climate hazards, or already feel the adverse effects of climate change. Partners are encouraged to incorporate Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles with the aim of increasing community voice, leadership, and control of resources in adaptation efforts. This includes using strength-based approaches that value local and Indigenous knowledge alongside technical and scientific knowledge, and that encourage building the capacity of impacted communities to assess their own climate risk and risk management options.

## About CWS

Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement, and disaster. Our vision is a world where all have food, voice, and a safe place to call home.

CWS has been working in Central America through local partners for the last 50 years. Other programs in the region include Child Protection and Migrant Protection and Assistance.

As a global humanitarian organization, CWS adheres and applies Core Humanitarian and Sphere Standards across all programs and seeks to ensure that it is accountable to all those who participate in and benefit from its program activities. CWS' Accountability to Affected Populations Guidance reflects this commitment and outlines CWS practices and procedures to improve the quality and quantity of feedback within CWS program activities. CWS has PSEA, Child Safeguarding, Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption policies and practices which are IASC compliant.

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