

3. Disaster Preparedness

3.1 Host Disaster Plan

A permanent Council for National Emergencies (COPEN), created by executive decree in 1973, directs disaster relief. COPEN's responsibilities include: establishment and coordination of committees/work groups necessary for effective emergency assistance; organization and coordination of all participants (including bilateral and international donors) in prevention, planning, rescue, and rehabilitation activities; requesting Chief of State to declare state of emergency; creating sub-councils in departments and major urban areas to assist COPEN; preparation of work plans which include rescue, evacuation, first aid, and rehabilitation instructions for use in the event of disasters. COPEN is also required to submit initial and final disaster reports and yearly operation reports (including budget recommendations) to the Chief of State.

COPEN membership:

President.....	Lt. Col. Inf. Rigoberto Regalado Lara
Sub-Sec. Health and Social Assistance.....	Dr. Rigoberto Alvarado
Rep. of the University of Honduras.....	Lic. Gustavo Alvarado Aguilar
Rep. of the Private Enterprise Council.....	Agronomist Roberto F. Vanegas
Rep. of the Confederation of Honduran Workers.....	Andres Victor Artiles
President of the Red Cross...	Dr. Jorge Gomez Andino
Director General of the Budget, Treasurer.....	Hector V. Medina

COPEN's National Control Center is located at Army General Staff Headquarters in Comayagua (Tel. 22-2384).

3.2 Disaster Functions of GOH Agencies

Survey of damage and assessment of needs

Honduran Armed Forces; Honduran Red Cross; Ministry of Communications; Public Works and Transportation; Ministry of Public Education;

Ministry of Natural Resources; and National Social Welfare Agency (JNBS)

Food

Ministry of Natural Resources; Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance; the Central District Council and Municipalities

Water

Armed forces; National Autonomous Water and Sewage Service (SANAA); and the Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation

Health

Honduran Red Cross; Honduran Medical Association; Honduran Social Security Institute; Honduran Armed Forces; Central District Council and Municipalities; Ministry of Natural Resources; Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance; and Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation

Relief supplies

Honduran Armed Forces; Honduran Red Cross; the Central District Council; the National Social Welfare Agency (JNBS); the Municipalities; and the Ministry of Government and Justice

Communications

Honduran Armed Forces; Honduran Red Cross; and the Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation

Security

Honduran Armed Forces; Central District Council; the Municipalities; and the Ministry of Government and Justice

Rescue

Honduran Armed Forces; Honduran Red Cross; Fire Department and the Ministry of Government and Justice

Technical and personnel assistance

Honduran Armed Forces; National Social Welfare Agency (JNBS); National Autonomous Water and Sewage Service (SANAA); Housing Insti-

tute (INVA); Ministry of Economy and Commerce; Ministry of Labor and Social Security; and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance

Coordination with local, international, and voluntary organizations

COPEN; Honduran Armed Forces; Honduran Red Cross; Ministry of Government and Justice; Ministry of Foreign Relations; and the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit

Records and reporting

Each institution has the responsibility for submitting to COPEN a final report 30 days after terminating their disaster relief assistance or every 15 days for long-term assistance, whichever is applicable.

The use of buildings as centers or for keeping supplies

Honduran Armed Forces; Honduran Red Cross; National Social Welfare Agency (JNBS); National Development Bank (BNF); Central District Council and Municipalities; Ministry of Government and Justice; Ministry of Natural Resources; and the Ministry of Public Education

Social services

Honduran Red Cross; National Social Welfare Agency (JNBS); Honduran Development Foundation (FUNHDESA); Central District Council and Municipalities; and the Ministry of Public Education

Pre-education and training

Honduran Red Cross; National Social Welfare Agency (JNBS); Fire Department; Central District Council and Municipalities; Ministry of Public Education; and Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance

Reconstruction

Honduran Red Cross; National Social Welfare Agency (JNBS); Central District Council and Municipalities; Honduran Development Foundation (FUNHDESA); Housing Institute (INVA); Ministry of Natural Resources; Ministry of Finance and Public Credit; Ministry of Labor and Social Security; and the Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation

Logistics and transportation

Honduran Armed Forces; Central District Council and Municipalities; Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS); Housing Institute (INVA); National Electric Company (ENEE); National Autonomous Water and Sewage Service (SANAA); Ministry of Labor and Social Security; and the Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation

Infrastructure

Fire Department; National Electric Company (ENEE); Ministry of Government and Justice; Ministry of Labor and Social Security; and the private sector

3.3 Host Contacts

See COPEN membership, section 3.1.

3.4 US Mission Disaster Relief Committee

MDRO: Represents Ambassador on Disaster Relief Committee (DRC); monitors and coordinates all incoming and outgoing messages concerned with disasters and/or requests for US assistance; coordinates with consulate; approves outgoing messages except those needing Ambassador's personal approval; informs DRC and, via cable, Washington about developing disasters.

Disaster Relief Coordinator: (Political and/or Economic Counselor) assists MDRO in all aspects of disaster situation; acts as liaison with foreign office and other ministries.

Joint Administrative Officer: Coordinates use of Embassy and other available resources; aids consulate in caring for US citizen casualties.

USAID Representative (Ass't Director/USAID): guides policy, coordinates activities of USAID in relief operations; serves as liaison with representatives of UN, OAS, and other international organizations.

Chief, USAID Multi-sector Office (or designee): acts as liaison with COPEN, US Volags receiving PL 480 title II foods.

Defense Attache and Chief, Army Section: is liaison with GOH military elements active in disaster relief and with USSOUTHCOM; coordinates activities involving use of military elements (air and sea rescue teams, DAST team, etc).

Peace Corps Country Director: coordinates disaster activities involving PC volunteers.

USIS Public Affairs Officer: acts as liaison with all news media in country and with bi-national centers; directs messages from State to CM, DCM, MDRO.

3.5 US Contact

MDRO: Jimmie Stone
Asst. Mission Director, HRD
(as of 1/81)

3.6 Post Assessment

GOH agencies concerned with survey and assessment are listed in Disaster Functions of GOH Agencies, section 3.2. Specific skills and responsibilities are listed below. Honduran Armed Forces provide aerial photographic reconnaissance. Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation, Ministry of Public Education, and National Social Welfare Agency (JNBS) are charged with determining extent of damage and number of victims; Honduran Red Cross performs similar task. Ministry of Natural Resources assesses damage to crops, livestock, fish, and wildlife.

3.7 GOH Capacity

Decrees which created COPEN are the only laws dealing with disaster relief and its financing. A national disaster plan exists, but "it needs improvement." COPEN'S performance in Hurricane Fifi relief operation was "adequate," when the magnitude of the storm, in-country transportation difficulties, and the inexperience of personnel were taken into account. (All quotes are from Mission Plan.)

Honduras has sent participants to AID/W seminars from 1972 to 1976; unfortunately, the only participant still able to assist in the event of a disaster is Capt. Dr. Armando Guillen, Chief of Medical Department of the second military region (headquartered in San Pedro Sula).

Mission's opinion is that outside aid will be required for any disaster involving more than 2,000 victims.

3.8 Lessons Learned

The US Mission indicated 2 specific problems after Hurricane Fifi disaster: 1) Type and quantity of stockpiled medicines were unknown in detail; also acquisition and shipment from US were delayed. 2) Communications between field and Embassy was restricted until commercial service was restored.*

* Note: USSOUTHCOM now provides Mission with a list of stockpiled medicines issued quarterly. Also USAID/Honduras now has 3 SSB transceivers and is in the process of acquiring mobile units for field vehicles.

3.9 Host Resources

By late 1976, GOH did not have a significant stockpile or emergency supplies. Tents are "unavailable" - no large retail or wholesale outlets sell them. However, canvas covers used for loads on large open trucks are obtainable. Blankets, simple hand tools, and construction materials are available within 1-2 days; largest outlets are in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. A partial list of companies dealing in construction materials is included in Mission plan.

Health System Network

A two-way radio communications system is used by the Ministry of Health in major hospitals and centers; no direct communications with ambulances. Locations of radios are as follows:

Tegucigalpa
San Pedro Sula - Swan model 310, Freq 6659.0 K
Santa Rosa de Copan, Copan
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara
Yoro, Yoro
Juticalpa, Olancho

La Celba, Atlantida
Tocoa, Colon
Olanchito, Yoro

The Health Department has three warehouses, each with 20,000 cubic meters capacity, located in the following cities:

Tegucigalpa - Instituto Nacional del Torax
San Pedro Sula, Cortes
La Celba, Atlantida

The pharmacies in Honduras do not stock their goods but buy them from large Honduran distributors who in turn buy from other countries. Most of these distributors do not stock antivenin or vaccines but are able to get them. The distributors are:

Tegucigalpa

Mandofer - Carretera Suyapa facing Hospital Materno
Infantil Tel. 22-1191
Latin American Hospital Supply - 2 AVE 4-5 Calle #404
Tel. 22-2054
Equipos Medicos - S.A. 12 AVE 5 Calle #412
Tel. 22-6556
American Hospital Supply
Rivera y CIA
611 6 AVE 513 - Tegucigalpa, D.C.
Tel. 22-8753

San Pedro Sula

Laboratory Finlay
Farcimar

Food Programs

JNBS has an ongoing program (with food provided by World Food Program) which can be tapped for emergency use. CARITAS/CRS and CARE distribute PL 480 commodities but amounts in storage at any given time would be insufficient for the needs of most disaster victims.

Equipment

Heavy construction equipment commonly available in the country is listed in chapter 4J-4 of the Mission disaster plan, as are major construction companies.

Transport

Lists of transportation services, airfields, and registered planes, and of vehicles available from private, international, and voluntary agencies are included in the Mission disaster plan.

3.10 Food Storage

Grain warehouses are maintained by the National Development Bank (BNF) and by private firms. Following is a list of warehouses by location and capacity in quintals (1 quintal=100lbs) and in metric tons:

National Development Bank (BNF)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Quintals</u>	<u>Metric tons</u>
Tegucigalpa, D.C. FCO Morazan	464,600	21,079
San Pedro Sula, Cortes	374,600	16,996
Comayagua, Comayagua	25,600	1,161
Choluteca, Choluteca	15,700	712
Puerto Cortes, Cortes	15,000	680
Danli, El Paraiso	14,600	662
Tela, Atlantida	13,700	621
Olancho, Yoro	10,400	471
El Porvenir, FCO Morazan	6,600	299
La Entrada, Copan	6,600	299
Quimistan, Santa Barbara	6,600	299
El Negrito, Yoro	6,600	299
El Triunfo, Choluteca	6,600	299
Cuyamel, Cortes	6,100	276
Catacamas, Olancho	5,500	249
Total	989,200	44,882

<u>Private</u>			
<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Quintals</u>	<u>Address & Telephone</u>
Tegucigalpa		177,000	
	Hasbun warehouse	20,000	Col 15 Sept 34-0561
	Facusse warehouse	40,000	Bo la Hoya
	Moncada warehouse	10,000	Bld Miraflores
	Zuniga warehouse	12,000	1 C11 Bo 22-3763
			San Rafael 517
	GN Store Aldesa	15,000	9 C11 Col 22-4601/9
San Pedro Sula			Alameda 507
	GN Store Aldesa	80,000	Bo la Hoya 22-4210
			22-0155
		685,000	
	Hurth warehouse	35,000	3A Ave 14-15 C11 S0
	Rivera warehouse	50,000	3A Ave behind
			Fecochal off
Valle	GRN Store Aldesa	500,000	Col Festitranh
	Flour mill Sula	100,000	3A Ave 14-15 C11 S0
	San Lorenzo warehouse	70,000	Cotton Coop-Whse #2
	Danil warehouse	10,000	exit rd to Valle
Comayagua			Jamastran
	La Hondurena	35,000	main entrance road
Olancho	warehouses		to Comayagua
	Juticalpa warehouse	30,000	main entrance to
Total			Juticalpa
		1,007,000	

3.11 US Voluntary Agencies (Volags)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Personnel</u> <u>Int'l/Local</u>	<u>Programs</u>
Agricultural Missions Foundations Gracia A Dios	--	Comm; CD; Food Prod & Ag
The Americas - Hand In Hand La Joya	9/7	Ed; Med & PH

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Personnel Intl/Local</u>	<u>Programs</u>
Baptist Missionary Association of America Capules, San Marco	3/	Med & PH
Brother's Brother Foundation	--	Equip & Mat Aid; Med & PH
La Buena Fe Association	2/15	Ed; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
CAM International	4/21	Ed; Med & PH
CARE, Inc.	6/	CHP; Med & PH
Catholic Medical Mission Board	--	Med & PH
Catholic Relief Services	1/4	CD; Coops & Loans; Equip & Mat Aid; Food Prod & Ag
Christian Medical Society La Celba	--	Med & PH
Christian Reformed World Relief Committee Tegucigalpa	3/2	Ed; Equip & Mat Aid; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
Church of the United Brethern in Christ	4/	Med & PH
Church World Service	--	Equip & Mat Aid
Claretian Fathers (C.M.F.) La Celba, Tela, Masica	7/11	Ed; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
Compassion, Inc. Tegucigalpa	--	SW
Conservative Baptist Home Mission Society	1/1	Ed; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
Conventional Franciscans (OFM Conv.) Gualaco Comayagua	9/15	CD; Ed; Equip & Mat Aid; Med & PH

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<u>Agency</u>	<u>Personnel Intl/Local</u>	<u>Programs</u>
Direct Relief Foundation	--	Equip & Mat Aid
Eastern Mennonite Board of Mission and Charities La Ceiba, Tegucigalpa	5/6	CD; Coops & Loans; Ed; SW
Episcopal Church in the US La Ceiba, Omoa, Tegucigalpa	12/local teachers	Ed; Med & PH; SW
Family Planning International Assistance	--	Pop & Fam Serv
Foster Parents Plan	1/62	Ed; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
School Sisters of Saint Francis (O.S.F.) Comayagua, Tegucigalpa	4/15	Ed; Med & PH; SW
Helper Project International, Inc.	2/16	Food Prod & Ag
Hermidad, Inc. San Marcos	1/1	CD; Coops & Loans; Ed; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
International Eye Foundation	1/	Med & PH
International Voluntary Services, Inc. Choluteca, San Pedro Sula	6/	Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
Society of Jesus (S.J.)	20/1	Comm; Ed
Lutheran World Relief, Inc. San Marco Ocotepeque	--	CD; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
Map International	--	Equip & Mat Aid
Meals for Millions/Freedom from Hunger Foundation Olancho Department	6/	Med & PH
Sisters of Mercy of the Union La Ceiba	12/	Ed

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Personnel Intl/Local</u>	<u>Programs</u>
Missionary Aviation Fellowship Siguatepeque, Anuas	6/	Comm; Med & PH
Moravian Church in America, Inc. Brus Laguna, Ahuas, Wompasirpi, Mosquitia Cauquira	9/15	Coops & Loans; Food Prod & Ag; Med & PH
School Sisters of Notre Dame (S.S.N.D.)	4/7	Ed; Med & PH
Pan American Development Foundation	--	Coops & Loans; Ed; Equip & Mat Aid; Med & PH
Partners of the Americas		Ed; Med & PH; SW
The Pathfinder Fund	/46	CD; Ec & Dev Pl; Equip & Mat Aid; Pop & Fam Serv
Presbyterian Church in the US	2/6	CD
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Mogote	5/2	Ed; Food Prod & Ag; Ind Dev; Med & PH
Salesians of St. John Bosco (S.D.B.) Tegucigalpa	--	Ed; SW
Save the Children Federation Pespire, La Esperanza, Tegucigalpa	/13	CD; Equip & Mat Aid; Ind Dev
Self Help Foundation	/6	Ed; Food Prod & Ag; Ind Dev
Seventh-Day Adventist World Service, Inc.	--	Equip & Mat Aid
Southern Baptist Convention	2/	Med & PH
United Church Board for World Ministries	3/	Ed; Med & PH

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Personnel Intl/Local</u>	<u>Programs</u>
United Methodist Committee on Relief San Pedro Sula	--	Food Prod & Ag; Equip & Mat Aid
Volunteers in Technical Assistance, Inc. (VITA)	--	Ed
World Education, Inc. Yoro, Cortes, Choloma	/198	CD; Med & PH
World Relief Corporation Choluteca	1/	Equip & Mat Aid
World Vision Relief Organization, Inc. Choluteca	/2	CD

Key

Comm	Communications
CD	Community Development
CHP	Construction, Housing, Planning
Coop	Cooperatives, Credit Unions, Loans
Ec & Dev Pl	Economic and Development Planning
Ed	Education
Equip & Mat Aid	Equipment and Material Aid
Food Prod & Ag	Food Production and Agriculture
Ind Dev	Industrial Development
Med & PH	Medicine and Public Health
Nutr	Nutrition
Pop & Fam Serv	Population and Family Services
Pub & Bus Adm	Public and Business Administration
SW	Social Welfare
Women	Women
Youth	Youth

3.12 Volag Resources

CARE

Main Office: Tegucigalpa; Regional office: San Pedro Sula

Sub Offices: La Ceiba, Choluteca

Staff: 6 executives, 22 field supervisors with vehicles, 6 warehouse/port personnel, 3 drivers, 16 office workers; total: 53

Vehicles: two 4-wheel drive 1/2-ton pick-ups; 20 4-wheel drive jeeps for field supervisors; one 4-wheel drive jeep for Choluteca medical staff.

Communications: RFZ 2,200 radios operating on 3,505.0 and 4,628.0 MH in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula (office and warehouse), and Tocoa.

Warehouses: Tegucigalpa (5,580 MT capacity) and San Pedro Sula (5,989 MT capacity)

CARITAS/CRS

Offices: Tegucigalpa; Sub-offices (Caritas Diocesana): San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, Sta Rosa de Copan, Orocuina, Sta Barbara, Comayagua, Puerto Cortes, Omoa, Salama, Sonaguera, La Ceiba

Employees: 80-100, many in San Pedro Sula

Communications: 2-way radio network between Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Tela, Trujillo, and Puerto Lempire

Vehicles: Seven 10-ton trucks, 6 Ford 1 1/2-ton trucks, 20 passenger vehicles

Warehouses (PL-480 Food): Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, El Progreso, Sta Rosa de Copan, San Marcos, Sta Barbara, San Lorenzo, Comayagua

Total capacity: 1,075 MT

3.13 Volag Contact Addresses

The Red Cross: Honduran Red Cross, la Avenida Entre 3a, Calles No. 313, Comayaguela D.C. Cable: HONDUCRUZ Comayaguela. Tel.: 22-8654.

WCC: Acorde (Asociacion coordinadora de recursos para el desarrollo) 2A Av. 5A y 6A Calle No. 522, Tegucigalpa D.C.

CRS: 6a Calle No. 1106, Boulevard Morazan, Apartado 257, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Cable: CATHWEL Tegucigalpa. Tel.: 22-6836 and 22-3042.

CARITAS: Apartado Postal 257, Tegucigalpa. Cable: CARITAS TEGUCIGALPA. Tel.: 22-6836.

UNDP: Colonia Palmira, 2a Calle y 3a Avenida, Casas No. 302-304, Tegucigalpa D.C. Cable: UNDEVPRO/Tegucigalpa. Telex: 1177 UNDEVPRO

3.14 Early Warning

The Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation and National Water and Sewage Service are charged with the establishment and maintenance of permanent meteorological and physical surveillance systems over all significant bodies of water; these agencies are to notify COPEN of any abnormal weather conditions or other "natural phenomena" which could cause disaster.

3.15 Disaster Types and History

Hurricane, flood, epidemic, earth tremor, drought, civil strife.

Weather history alternates between droughts and floods (usually from tropical storms). The severe drought of 1975 was preceded by Hurricane Fifi in September 1974, the worst storm in Honduras in the 20th. century; the fertile agricultural region in the north was the hardest hit, just before harvest. Damage was increased by a meteorological anomaly: the hurricane moved E to W, perpendicular to a chain of mountains which intensified cloud convection, thereby increasing wind speed and rainfall. All north coast primary roads were damaged, especially roads from San Pedro Sula to La Ceiba and Puerto Cortes; 27 primary bridges were also downed.

Summary Disaster History

<u>Disaster</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u># Killed</u>	<u># Affected</u>	<u>Dmg (\$ 000)</u>
Flood	Central & South	9/24/65		6,000	\$500
Epidemic	San Pedro Sula	8/00/65	7	170	
Drought	S, Valle & Choluteca	0/00/66		100,000	
Civil Strife	Valle, Lempira, Ocotepe	7/14/69	300	92,800	\$2,500
Hurricane	Roatan, Utila, Guanaja	9/01/69		8,000	\$19,500
Accident	Marcala	5/10/71	37	160	
Drought		0/00/73		300,000	\$7,000
Hurricane	Widespread	9/18/74	8,000	600,000	\$540,000
Hurricane	N Coast Gracias Dios			7,000	\$1,000
Flood	N Coastal Area		1	40,000	\$13,000,000

Source: Disaster History on file at OFDA in Washington, D.C. Covers 1965 to present.