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Colón

**Honduras National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment
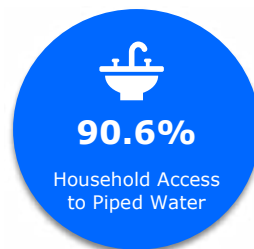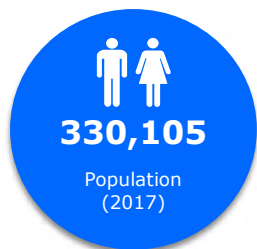Department Profile**

Department: Colón

Department Capital: Trujillo
Area: 8,249 km²
Colón is located on the northern Caribbean coast of Honduras, west of Gracias a Dios. The department is home to a substantial Garifuna population. Colón's economy is based primarily in cattle ranching and agriculture.

330,105	54.4%	15.4%	75.4 yrs	90.6%
Population (2017)	Population in Poverty	Illiterate Adult Population	Average Life Expectancy	Household Access to Piped Water

Municipality	Population
Balfate	13,326
Bonito Oriental	29,313
Iriona	21,716
Limón	15,112
Sabá	31,402
Santa Fe	5,376
Santa Rosa de Aguán	5,498
Sonaguera	45,073
Tocoa	98,602
Trujillo	64,688

Multi-Hazard Risk Rank: Very Low (16 of 18)

Lack of Resilience Rank: Low (13 of 18)
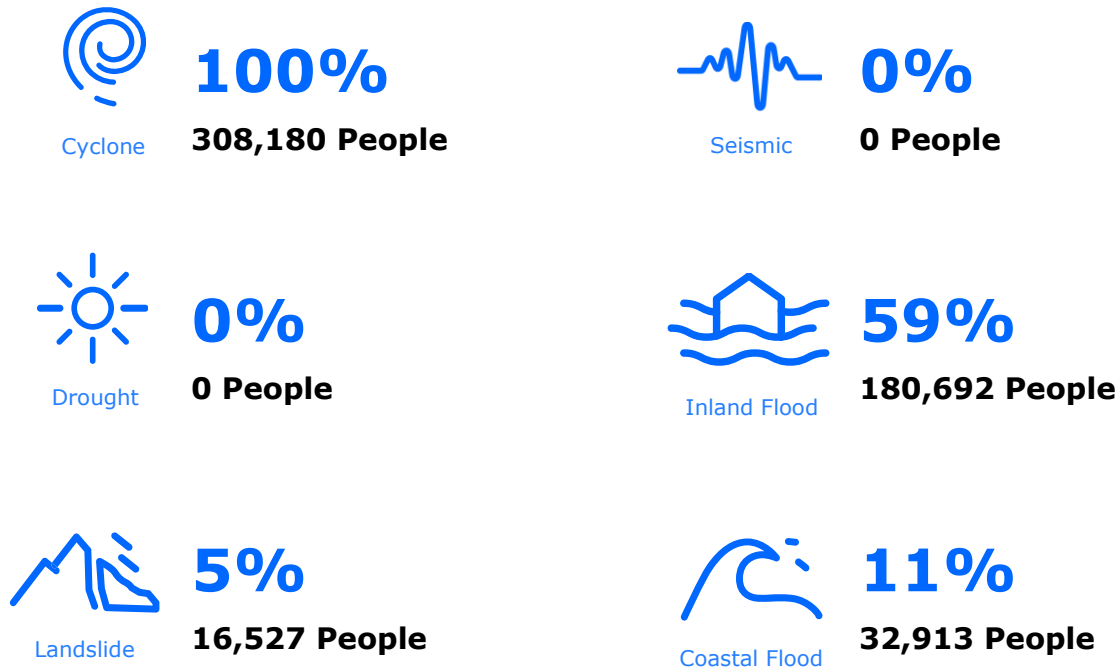
RVA Component Scores

Table 1. Department scores and ranks (compared across departments) for each index.

Multi-Hazard Risk		Lack of Resilience		Multi-Hazard Exposure		Vulnerability		Coping Capacity	
Very Low		Low		Low		Low		Low	
Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)
0.422	16	0.470	13	0.325	13	0.409	14	0.468	14

Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

Multi-Hazard Exposure[1] Rank: 13 of 18 Departments (Score 0.325)

Table 2. Estimated ambient population[2] exposed to each hazard (2014)

100%
Cyclone
308,180 People

0%
Seismic
0 People

0%
Drought
0 People

59%
Inland Flood
180,692 People

Heavy rainfall in January 2014 caused thousands of people in the town of Santa Fe to be stranded.

5%
Landslide
16,527 People

11%
Coastal Flood
32,913 People

Case Study: Santa Fe Evacuation Plan

The municipality of Santa Fe has a well-rehearsed disaster-evacuation plan. Coordinators are assigned to warn homes in case evacuation is required. They have posted signs with escape routes and warnings to not cross the river based on water levels. They have built an evacuation center up the mountain from the town to escape flood waters.

MHE 0.325
Raw MHE 0.395
Relative MHE 0.255

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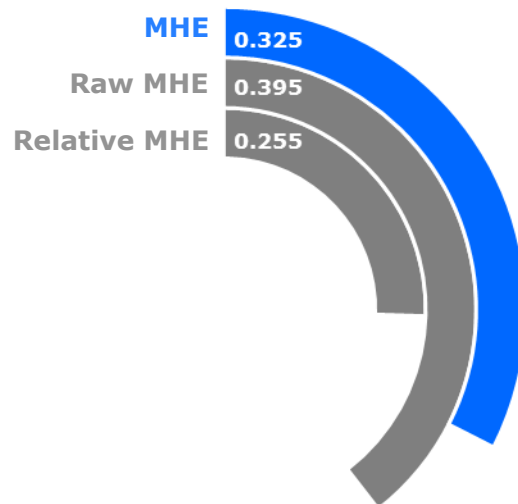
[1] **Multi-Hazard Exposure**: Average exposure of the population to hazards.

[2] **Ambient Population**: 24-hour average estimate of the population in each department. Ambient population typically differs from census population.

Vulnerability (V)

Vulnerability[3] Rank: 14 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.409) Vulnerability in Colón is influenced by Information Access Vulnerability, Vulnerable Health Status, Population Pressures, and Gender Inequality. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

Table 3: Component scores for each vulnerability subcomponent.
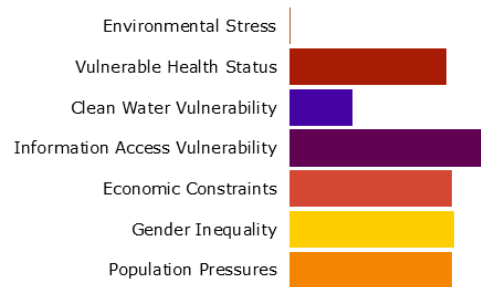
Environmental Stress	**0.1%** Forest Loss Due to Pine Beetle Plague	**0%** Water Shortage Area					
Vulnerable Health Status	**16.5** Infant Mortality Rate	**249** Maternal Mortality Ratio	**75.4** Life Expectancy (years)	**1.3%** Acute Malnutrition Rate	**2.6%** Population Disabled	**0.404** Communicable Disease Sub-Index[4]	**0.454** Non-Communicable Disease Sub-Index [4]
Clean Water Vulnerability	**90.6%** Households Access to Piped Water	**77.8%** Households Connected to Sewer or Septic System					
Information Access Vulnerability	**15.4%** Adult Illiteracy	**6.0** Average Years of Schooling	**90.7%** Enrollment in Basic Education	**95.2%** Households without Internet	**35.9%** Households without TV	**42.2%** Households without Radio	
Economic Constraints	**0.77** Economic Dependency Ratio	**54.4%** Population in Poverty	**0.29** GINI Coefficient				
Gender Inequality	**0.58** Ratio of Female to Male Land Ownership Rate	**0.91** Ratio of Female to Male Home Ownership Rate	**0.25** Ratio Female to Male Economic Activity	**1.07** Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Enrollment			
Population Pressures	**2.1%** Average Annual Population Change	**7.8%** Average Annual Urban Population Change					

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[3] **Vulnerability**: The socioeconomic conditions that are associated with the susceptibility to disruptions in a country's normal functions.

[4] **Sub-indices:** A combination of scaled indicators to represent a vulnerability theme (e.g. Communicable Disease). Values range from 0 (low) to 1 (high).

Coping Capacity (CC)

Coping Capacity[5] Rank: 14 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.468) Colón exhibits weaker Coping Capacity in the areas of Economic Capacity, Governance, and Infrastructure (especially Transportation and Health Care). The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.
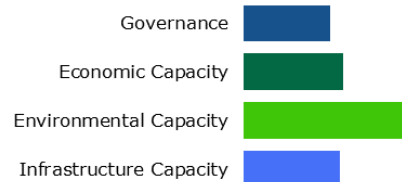
	Governance
	Economic Capacity
	Environmental Capacity
	Infrastructure Capacity

Table 4: Component scores for each coping capacity subcomponent.

	Governance			
	65.0 Homicides per 100k Persons	**129.1** Sexual Violence and Assault per 100k Persons	**7.8%** Households with Public Garbage Collection	**60.5%** Voter Participation (2013 Election)

	Economic Capacity		
	32.7% Economic Activity Rate	**97.8%** Employment Rate	**14.5%** Population in Highest Wealth Quintile

	Environmental Capacity
	42.3% Natural Protected Area

	Infrastructure Capacity

	Health Care Capacity				
	4.3 Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	**2.0** Physicians per 10,000 Persons	**9.0** Nurses per 10,000 Persons	**50.1 km** Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	**86.1%** Children Completed Immunization Schedule

	Communications Capacity	
	12.8% Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	**65.8%** Households with Access to Mobile Phone

	Transportation Capacity	
	36.6 km Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	**7.7 km** Total Length of Road per km² (area)

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[5] **Coping Capacity**: The systems, means, and abilities of a country to absorb and respond to events that could potentially disrupt normal function.

Lack of Resilience (LR)

Lack of Resilience[6] Rank: 13 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.470)

Colón's Lack of Resilience score and ranking are due to low Vulnerability combined with low Coping Capacity scores.

Table 5. The three thematic areas with the weakest relative scores.

Governance

Economic Capacity

Infrastructure (Transportation and Health Care)

Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

Multi-Hazard Risk[7] Rank: 16 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.422)

Colón's Multi-Hazard Risk score and ranking are due to low Multi-Hazard Exposure combined with low Vulnerability and low Coping Capacity scores.
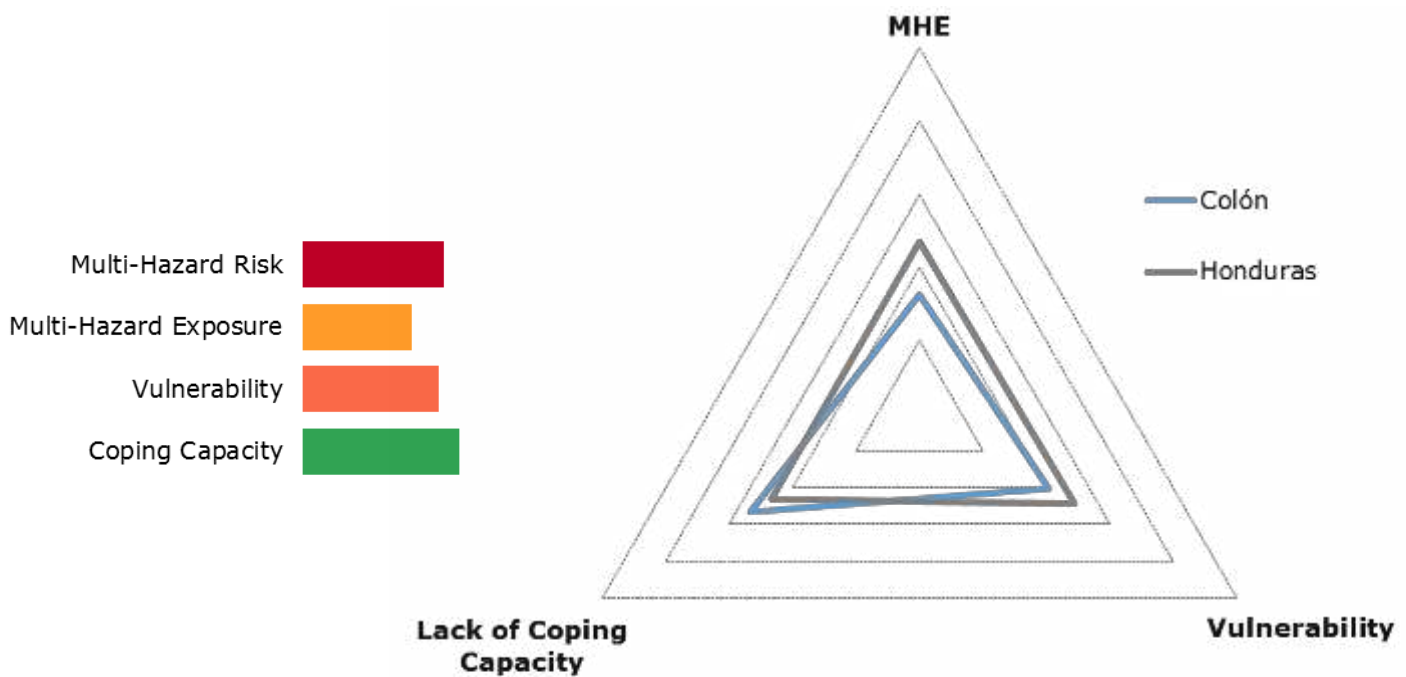

Figure 47. Department multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores.

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[6] **Lack of Resilience**: The susceptibility to impact from the short-term inability to absorb, respond to, and recover from disruptions to a country's normal function. This index provides a hazard-independent look at current socio-economic conditions.

[7] **Multi-Hazard Risk**: The likelihood of losses or disruptions to a country's normal function due to interaction between multi-hazard exposure, socioeconomic vulnerability, and coping capacity.

Successes

✓ **Low overall vulnerability**
Ranked 14 of 18 departments, low overall vulnerability indicates that Colón department is less susceptible to the negative impacts of a disaster and will likely recover faster after an event.

✓ **Low clean water vulnerability**
Ranked 15 of 18 departments, low clean water vulnerability indicates that a population has access to high water quality and good containment systems, reducing susceptibility to disaster.

✓ **Low environmental stress**
Ranked 16 of 18 departments, low environmental stress indicates that natural resources and agriculture will be more resilient to the effects of a disaster and may recover faster.

Recommendations

01 **Increase government services**
Investments in public services such as garbage collection, fire, and police will increase coping capacity and the department's ability to handle crises.

02 **Invest in transportation infrastructure**
Investing in transportation infrastructure will facilitate the distribution of goods and services before, during, and after a disaster event.

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