

**Better solutions.
Fewer disasters.
Safer world.**



Gracias a Dios

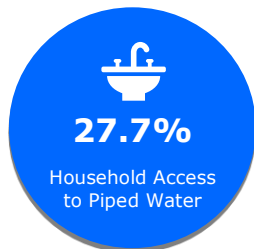
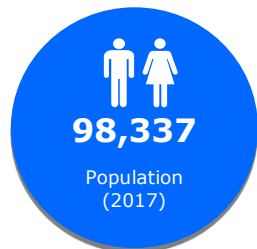
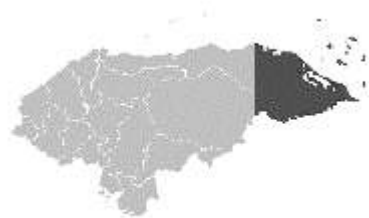
**Honduras National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment
Department Profile**

Department: Gracias a Dios

Department Capital: Puerto Lempira

Area: 16,997 km²

Once part of the Mosquito Coast, Gracias a Dios is the easternmost department in northern Honduras. The department is relatively isolated and sparsely populated, containing extensive pine savannas, swamps, and rainforests. Gracias a Dios has the highest poverty rate in Honduras, and lowest access to piped water and sanitation.



Municipality	Population
Ahuas	8,694
Brus Laguna	13,801
Juan Francisco Bulnes	6,428
Puerto Lempira	53,131
Villeda Morales	10,365
Wampusirpi	5,919



**Multi-Hazard Risk Rank:
Very High (1 of 18)**

**Lack of Resilience Rank:
Very High (1 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 High		Very High		Low		Very High		Very Low	
Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)
0.573	1	0.696	1	0.326	12	0.639	1	0.247	18

Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

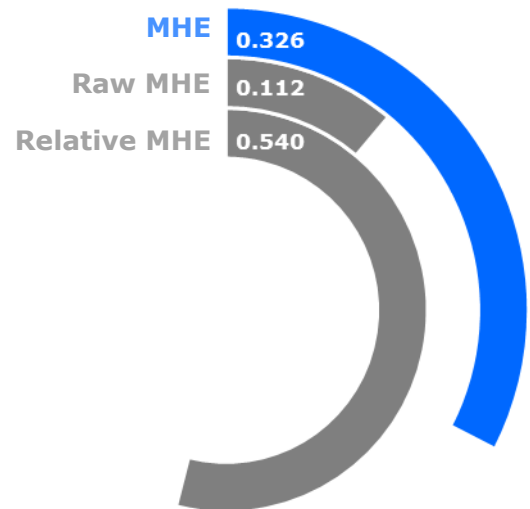
Multi-Hazard Exposure¹ Rank: 12 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.326)

Table 2. Estimated ambient population² exposed to each hazard (2014).



Case Study: Remote Territory

Gracias a Dios is the second largest department in Honduras, but the least densely populated with less than six people per km². The department is inaccessible by land, and most roads in the department are not paved. Despite its remoteness and low population density, Gracias a Dios suffers from relatively high crime. Due to its vast size and the Honduran government’s relatively low ability to fight crime in the area, trafficking of narcotics is common in Gracias a Dios. Criminal organizations are also common in the area. Remoteness and high crime rates indicate that Gracias a Dios may have less capacity to cope with the effects of a disaster.



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)

Vulnerability³ Rank: 1 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.639) Vulnerability in Gracias a Dios is strongly influenced by Clean Water Vulnerability, Population Pressures, Economic Constraints, and Information Access Vulnerability. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

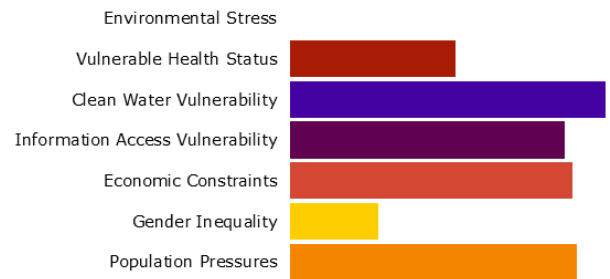


Table 3. Component scores for each vulnerability subcomponent

	Environmental Stress	0% Forest Loss Due to Pine Beetle Plague	0% Water Shortage Area					
	Vulnerable Health Status	15.1 Infant Mortality Rate	186.9 Maternal Mortality Ratio	74.5 Life Expectancy (years)	0.9% Acute Malnutrition Rate	2.5% Population Disabled	0.671 Communicable Disease Sub-Index ⁴	0.731 Non-Communicable Disease Sub-Index ⁴
	Clean Water Vulnerability	27.7% Households Access to Piped Water	8.4% Households Connected to Sewer or Septic System					
	Information Access Vulnerability	16.0% Adult Illiteracy	5.9 Average Years of Schooling	85.3% Enrollment in Basic Education	98.3% Households without Internet	77.2% Households without TV	71.2% Households without Radio	
	Economic Constraints	0.79 Economic Dependency Ratio	89.4% Population in Poverty	0.38 GINI Coefficient				
	Gender Inequality	0.61 Ratio of Female to Male Land Ownership Rate	1.15 Ratio of Female to Male Home Ownership	0.52 Ratio Female to Male Economic Activity	1.01 Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Enrollment			
	Population Pressures	2.9% Average Annual Population Change	16.6% Average Annual Urban Population Change					

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 Capacity⁵ Rank: 18 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.247)

Gracias a Dios exhibits weaker Coping Capacity in the areas of Economic Capacity, Governance and Infrastructure (especially Communications). The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.

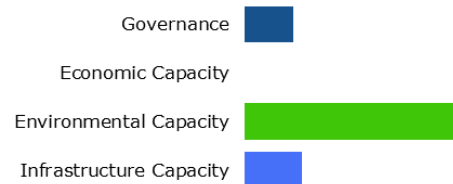









Table 4. Component scores for each coping capacity subcomponent

	Governance	27.5 Homicides per 100k Persons	234.0 Sexual Violence and Assault per 100k Persons	1.0% Households with Public Garbage Collection	45.6% Voter Participation (2013 Election)	
	Economic Capacity	30.0% Economic Activity Rate	94.4% Employment Rate	1.1% Population in Highest Wealth Quintile		
	Environmental Capacity	60.2% Natural Protected Area				
	Infrastructure Capacity					
	Health Care Capacity	3.5 Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	7.7 Physicians per 10,000 Persons	14.6 Nurses per 10,000 Persons	74.8 km Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	67.6% Children Completed Immunization Schedule
	Communications Capacity	2.9% Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	36.9% Households with Access to Mobile Phone			
	Transportation Capacity	25.5 km Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	2.1 km Total Length of Road per km ² (area)			

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 Resilience⁶ Rank: 1 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.696)

Gracias a Dios' Lack of Resilience score and ranking are due to very high Vulnerability combined with very low Coping Capacity scores.

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



**Clean Water
Vulnerability**



**Economic
Capacity**



**Population
Pressures**

Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

Multi-Hazard Risk⁷ Rank: 1 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.573)

Gracias a Dios' Multi-Hazard Risk score and ranking are due to low Multi-Hazard Exposure combined with very high Vulnerability and very low Coping Capacity scores.

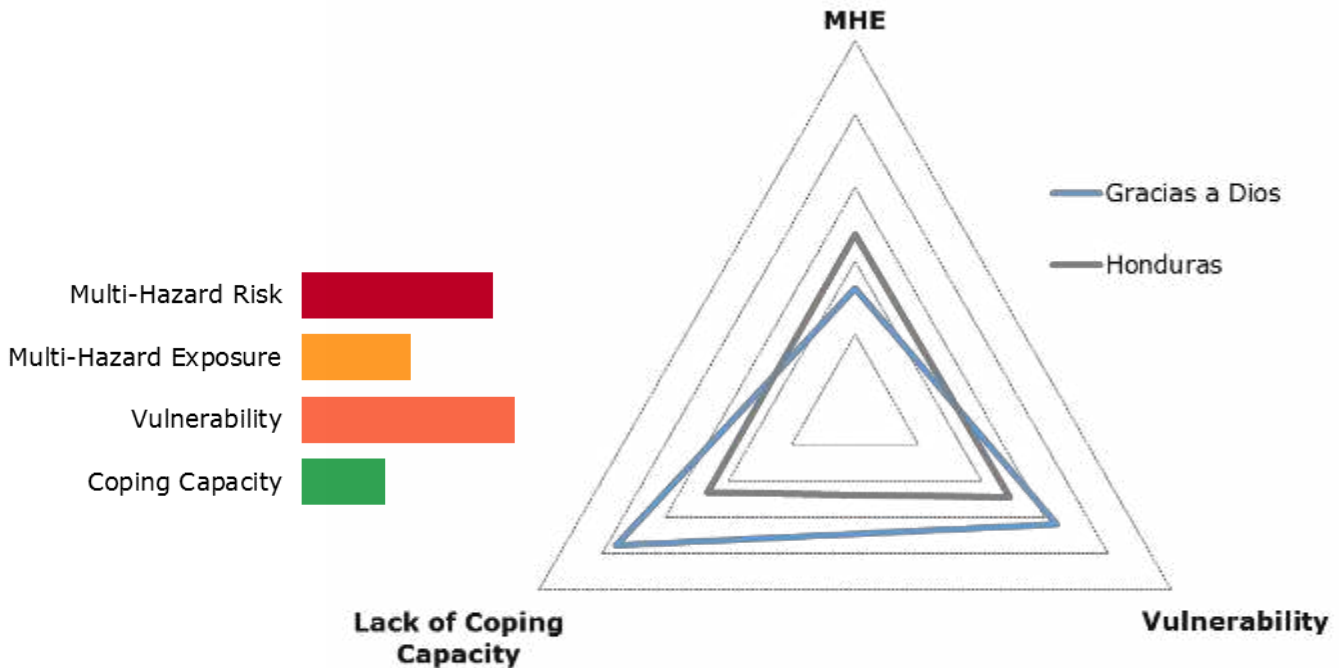


Figure 53. Department multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores.

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



Lowest environmental stress

Ranked 17th (tied with Islas de la Bahía) 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.



Highest environmental capacity

Ranked 1 of 18 departments, high environmental capacity indicates that natural resources and agriculture will be more resilient to the effects of a disaster and may recover faster.



Low gender inequality

Ranked 16 of 18 departments, low gender inequality indicates that vulnerable populations are more likely to have their needs met under “normal” conditions and may be less susceptible during times of disaster.

Recommendations

01

Increase water and sanitation services

Invest in public water and waste facilities to increase water quality and access and reduce the spread of disease.

02

Increase economic opportunity

Invest in business development and public education to increase economic capacity.

03

Reduce population pressure

Rapid population changes are difficult to plan for and can destabilize social, economic, and environmental systems. Analyze trends in the department to determine potential population changes, and update plans and SOPs more frequently to accommodate the changes.



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