

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



**La Paz**

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



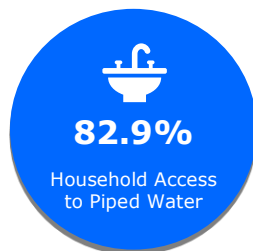
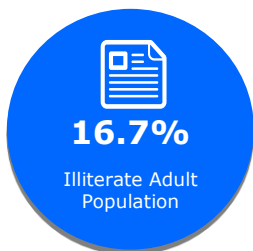
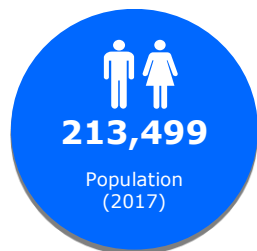
## Department: La Paz



Department Capital: La Paz

Area: 2,525 km<sup>2</sup>

La Paz is located in southwest Honduras, between Francisco Morazán and Intibucá, sharing its southern border with El Salvador. The economy of La Paz is primarily agricultural, producing coffee, wheat, henequin (for rope making), and cattle. Along with Intibucá, La Paz shares the highest income inequality rate in Honduras.



Municipality	Population
Aguanqueterique	4,888
Cabañas	3,579
Cane	4,150
Chinacla	8,366
Guajiquiro	15,317
La Paz	48,640
Lauterique	3,060
Marcala	31,148
Oporoto	7,754
San Antonio del Norte	2,851
San José	9,086
San Juan	2,571
San Pedro de Tutule	7,421
Santa Ana	12,486
Santa Elena	13,139
Santa María	11,404
Santiago de Purangla	16,978
Yarula	9,522
Aguanqueterique	4,888



**Multi-Hazard Risk Rank: Low (14 of 18)**

**Lack of Resilience Rank: Moderate (10 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	
Low		Moderate		Very Low		Moderate		Moderate	
Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)
0.427	14	0.496	10	0.288	16	0.524	10	0.532	9

## Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

**Multi-Hazard Exposure<sup>1</sup> Rank: 16 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.288)**

Table 2. Estimated ambient population<sup>2</sup> exposed to each hazard (2014).

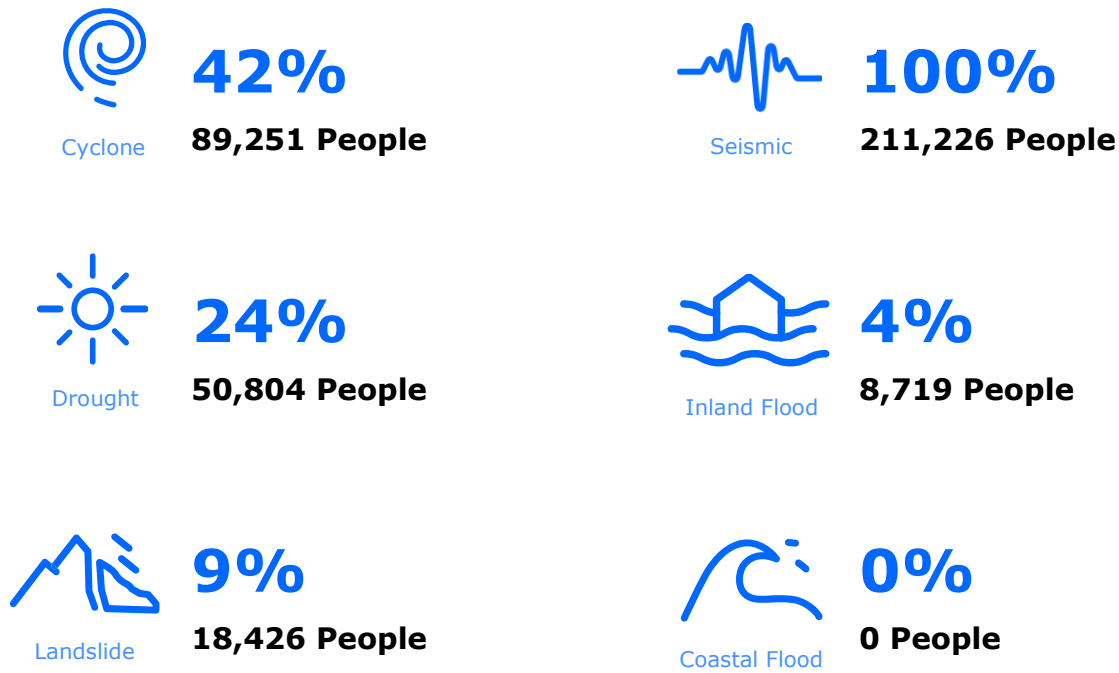
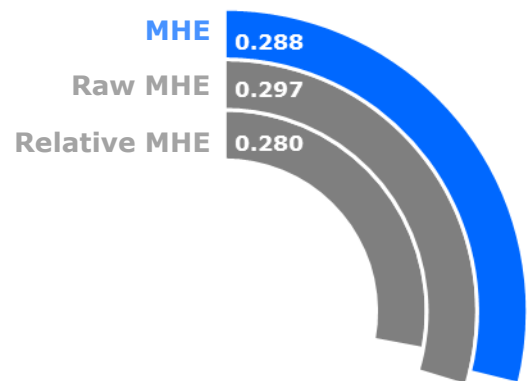


Figure 1. Bridge in La Paz (image credit: Panoramio).



<sup>1</sup> Multi-Hazard Exposure: Average exposure of the population to hazards.

<sup>2</sup> Ambient Population: 24-hour average estimate of the population in each department. Ambient population typically differs from census population.

## Vulnerability (V)

**Vulnerability<sup>3</sup> Rank: 10 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.524)** Vulnerability in La Paz is influenced by Economic Constraints, Gender Inequality, and Vulnerable Health Status. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall score.

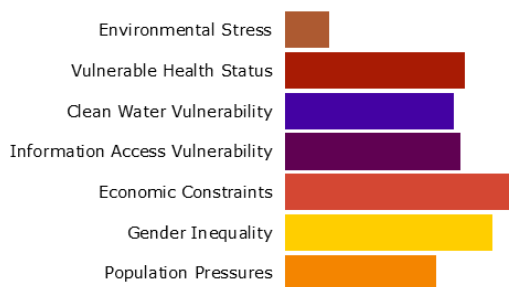









Table 3. Component scores for each vulnerability subcomponent

	<b>Environmental Stress</b>	<b>7.0%</b> Forest Loss Due to Pine Beetle Plague	<b>6.3%</b> Water Shortage Area					
	<b>Vulnerable Health Status</b>	<b>23.8</b> Infant Mortality Rate	<b>181.8</b> Maternal Mortality Ratio	<b>74.6</b> Life Expectancy (years)	<b>0.4%</b> Acute Malnutrition Rate	<b>3.4%</b> Population Disabled	<b>0.447</b> Communicable Disease Sub-Index <sup>4</sup>	<b>0.352</b> Non-Communicable Disease Sub-Index <sup>4</sup>
	<b>Clean Water Vulnerability</b>	<b>82.9%</b> Households Access to Piped Water	<b>54.5%</b> Households Connected to Sewer or Septic System					
	<b>Information Access Vulnerability</b>	<b>16.7%</b> Adult Illiteracy	<b>5.9</b> Average Years of Schooling	<b>93.7%</b> Enrollment in Basic Education	<b>96.2%</b> Households without Internet	<b>65.8%</b> Households without TV	<b>30.1%</b> Households without Radio	
	<b>Economic Constraints</b>	<b>0.76</b> Economic Dependency Ratio	<b>63.1%</b> Population in Poverty	<b>0.42</b> GINI Coefficient				
	<b>Gender Inequality</b>	<b>0.41</b> Ratio of Female to Male Land Ownership Rate	<b>0.83</b> Ratio of Female to Male Home Ownership Rate	<b>0.23</b> Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity	<b>1.02</b> Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Enrollment			
	<b>Population Pressures</b>	<b>2.3%</b> Average Annual Population Change	<b>6.4%</b> Average Annual Urban Population Change					

<sup>3</sup> **Vulnerability:** The socioeconomic conditions that are associated with the susceptibility to disruptions in a country's normal functions.

<sup>4</sup> **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<sup>5</sup> Rank: 9 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.532)** La Paz exhibits weaker Coping Capacity in the areas of Infrastructure (especially Transportation and Communication) and Economic Constraints. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.

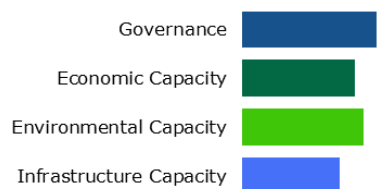


Table 4. Component scores for each coping capacity subcomponent

	<b>Governance</b>	<b>18.4</b> Homicides per 100k Persons	<b>291.7</b> Sexual Violence and Assault per 100k Persons	<b>13.6%</b> Households with Public Garbage Collection	<b>74.7%</b> Voter Participation (2013 Election)	
	<b>Economic Capacity</b>	<b>35.0%</b> Economic Activity Rate	<b>98.8%</b> Employment Rate	<b>5.9%</b> Population in Highest Wealth Quintile		
	<b>Environmental Capacity</b>	<b>27.9%</b> Natural Protected Area				
	<b>Infrastructure Capacity</b>					
	<b>Health Care Capacity</b>	<b>3.0</b> Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	<b>2.3</b> Physicians per 10,000 Persons	<b>9.2</b> Nurses per 10,000 Persons	<b>30.4 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	<b>94.4%</b> Children Completed Immunization Schedule
	<b>Communications Capacity</b>	<b>10.9%</b> Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	<b>54.1%</b> Households with Access to Mobile Phone			
	<b>Transportation Capacity</b>	<b>44.4 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	<b>19.3 km</b> Total Length of Road per km <sup>2</sup> (area)			

<sup>5</sup> 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<sup>6</sup> Rank: 10 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.496)**

La Paz's Lack of Resilience score and ranking are due to moderate Vulnerability combined with moderate Coping Capacity scores.

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



**Economic Constraints**



**Gender Inequality**



**Vulnerable Health Status**

## Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

**Multi-Hazard Risk<sup>7</sup> Rank: 14 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.427)**

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

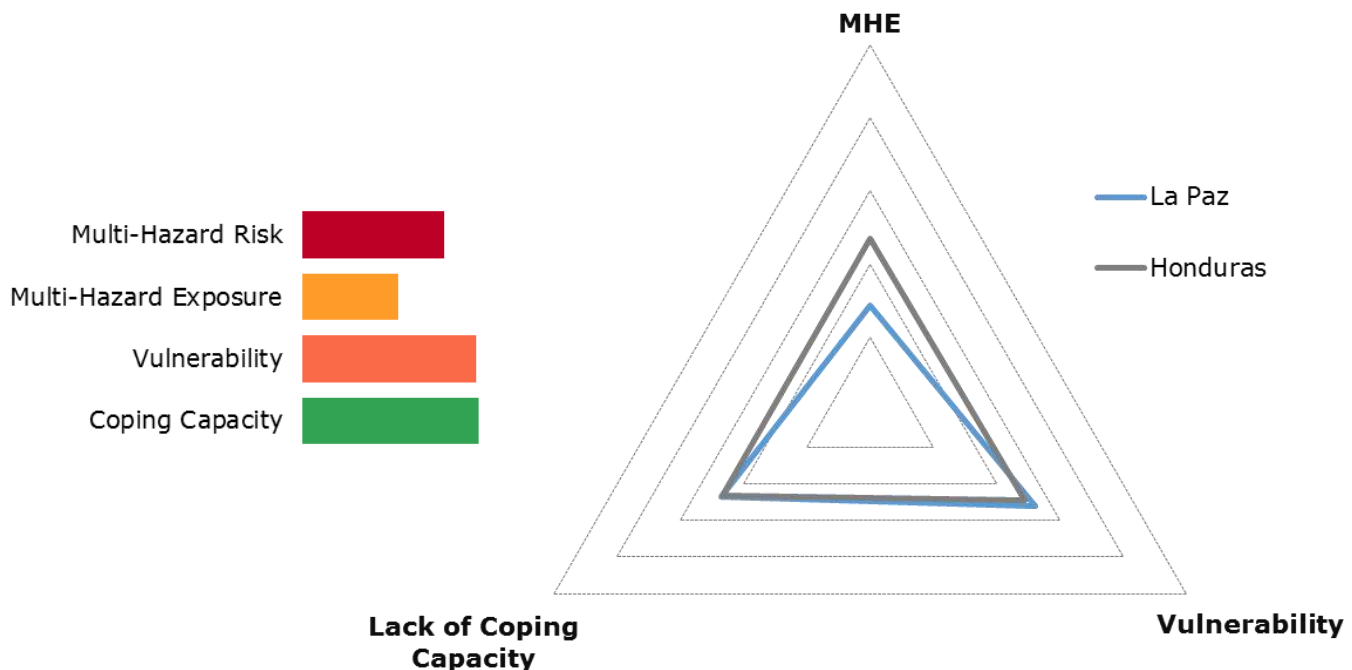


Figure 56. Department multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores.

<sup>6</sup> **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.

<sup>7</sup> **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 environmental stress

Ranked 12 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.



### High environmental capacity

Ranked 5 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.

## Recommendations

01

### Provide business opportunities and education

Institute programs to provide independent economic opportunities in the department. Increased economic capacity will decrease vulnerability in emergencies.

02

### Provide opportunities for women

Public education and awareness programs that focus on increasing the role of women in the workplace and society will improve resilience and decrease vulnerability.



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