

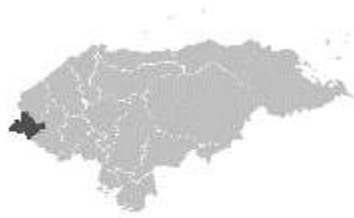
**Better solutions.  
Fewer disasters.  
Safer world.**



# Ocotepeque

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

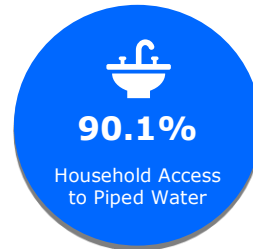
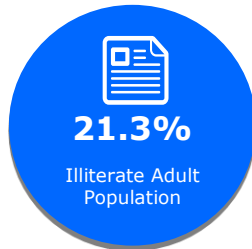
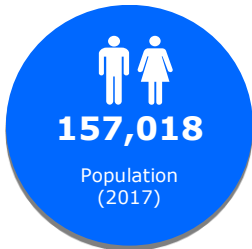
## Department: Ocotepeque



Department Capital: Nueva Ocotepeque

Area: 1,630 km<sup>2</sup>

Ocotepeque is the westernmost department in Honduras, bordering both Guatemala and El Salvador. While the main economic activities are agricultural – including coffee, corn, cabbage, sugar cane, and onion – Ocotepeque has the economic benefit of being a tri-country center of business.



Municipality	Population
Belén Gualcho	16,568
Concepción	5,439
Dolores Merendón	4,287
Fraternidad	6,111
La Encarnación	5,330
La Labor	10,188
Lucerna	6,157
Mercedes	7,491
Ocotepeque	24,770
San Fernando	7,184
San Francisco del Valle	10,051
San Jorge	5,336
San Marcos	21,448
Santa Fe	5,174
Sensenti	11,881
Sinuapa	9,601



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

**Lack of Resilience Rank:  
Low (14 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		Very Low		Moderate		Very High	
Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)
0.303	18	0.429	14	0.051	18	0.541	8	0.682	2

## Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

**Multi-Hazard Exposure<sup>1</sup> Rank: 18 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.051)**

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



### Case Study: Emigration and Food Insecurity

Ocatepeque Department, the northernmost department within the Dry Corridor, has seen excessive drought over the last two years, as have other departments in Honduras and areas of El Salvador and Guatemala. According to an interagency study entitled *Food Security and Emigration*, released in August 2017, food insecurity caused by the drought is causing emigration north to the United States. The study showed that younger and more vulnerable populations are emigrating, and if the emigration fails, families are left scrambling to feed the additional household members. The emigration causes further poverty in the area as the family members left behind are forced to take on the debt and workload of those leaving.

The study was funded and jointly produced by WFP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) with the collaboration of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organization of American States (OAS).



<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: 8 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.541)**

Vulnerability in Ocotepeque is strongly influenced by Gender Inequality, Population Pressures, and Information Access Vulnerability. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall score.

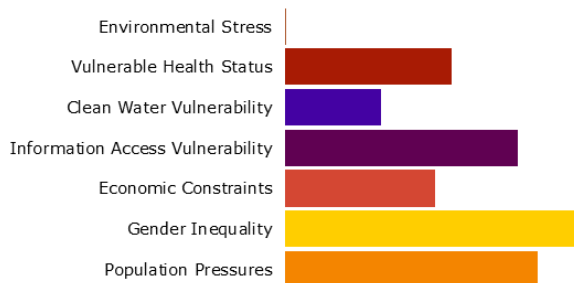









Table 3. Component scores for each vulnerability subcomponent.

	<b>Environmental Stress</b>	<b>0.2%</b> Forest Loss Due to Pine Beetle Plague	<b>0.0%</b> Water Shortage Area					
	<b>Vulnerable Health Status</b>	<b>18.6</b> Infant Mortality Rate	<b>67.5</b> Maternal Mortality Ratio	<b>75.3</b> Life Expectancy (years)	<b>2.7%</b> Acute Malnutrition Rate	<b>3.4%</b> Population Disabled	<b>0.464</b> Communicable Disease Sub-Index <sup>4</sup>	<b>0.572</b> Non-Communicable Disease Sub-Index <sup>4</sup>
	<b>Clean Water Vulnerability</b>	<b>90.1%</b> Households Access to Piped Water	<b>62.6%</b> Households Connected to Sewer or Septic System					
	<b>Information Access Vulnerability</b>	<b>21.3%</b> Adult Illiteracy	<b>5.6</b> Average Years of Schooling	<b>88.5%</b> Enrollment in Basic Education	<b>95.6%</b> Households without Internet	<b>40.7%</b> Households without TV	<b>42.8%</b> Households without Radio	
	<b>Economic Constraints</b>	<b>0.70</b> Economic Dependency Ratio	<b>53.8%</b> Population in Poverty	<b>0.33</b> GINI Coefficient				
	<b>Gender Inequality</b>	<b>0.33</b> Ratio of Female to Male Land Ownership Rate	<b>0.77</b> Ratio of Female to Male Home Ownership Rate	<b>0.19</b> Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity	<b>1.13</b> Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Enrollment			
	<b>Population Pressures</b>	<b>3.0%</b> Average Annual Population Change	<b>11.1%</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: 2 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.682)**

Despite having relatively high Coping Capacity overall, Ocotepeque exhibits moderate weaknesses in the thematic areas of Environmental Capacity and Communications Infrastructure. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.

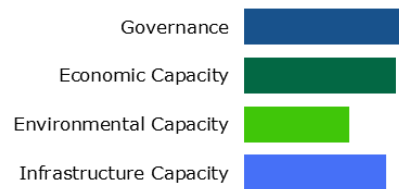









Table 4. Component scores for each coping capacity subcomponent.

	<b>Governance</b>	<b>50.8</b> Homicides per 100k Persons	<b>108.2</b> Sexual Violence and Assault per 100k Persons	<b>26.2%</b> Households with Public Garbage Collection	<b>77.0%</b> Voter Participation (2013 Election)	
	<b>Economic Capacity</b>	<b>38.8%</b> Economic Activity Rate	<b>99.0%</b> Employment Rate	<b>9.4%</b> Population in Highest Wealth Quintile		
	<b>Environmental Capacity</b>	<b>23.5%</b> Natural Protected Area				
	<b>Infrastructure Capacity</b>					
	<b>Health Care Capacity</b>	<b>5.3</b> Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	<b>3.4</b> Physicians per 10,000 Persons	<b>13.2</b> Nurses per 10,000 Persons	<b>20.0 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	<b>91.8%</b> Children Completed Immunization Schedule
	<b>Communications Capacity</b>	<b>10.2%</b> Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	<b>63.9%</b> Households with Access to Mobile Phone			
	<b>Transportation Capacity</b>	<b>16.7 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	<b>25.3 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: 14 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.429)**

Ocotepeque's Lack of Resilience score and ranking are due to moderate Vulnerability combined with very high Coping Capacity scores.

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



**Gender Inequality**



**Population Pressures**



**Information Access Vulnerability**

## Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

**Multi-Hazard Risk<sup>7</sup> Rank: 18 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.303)**

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

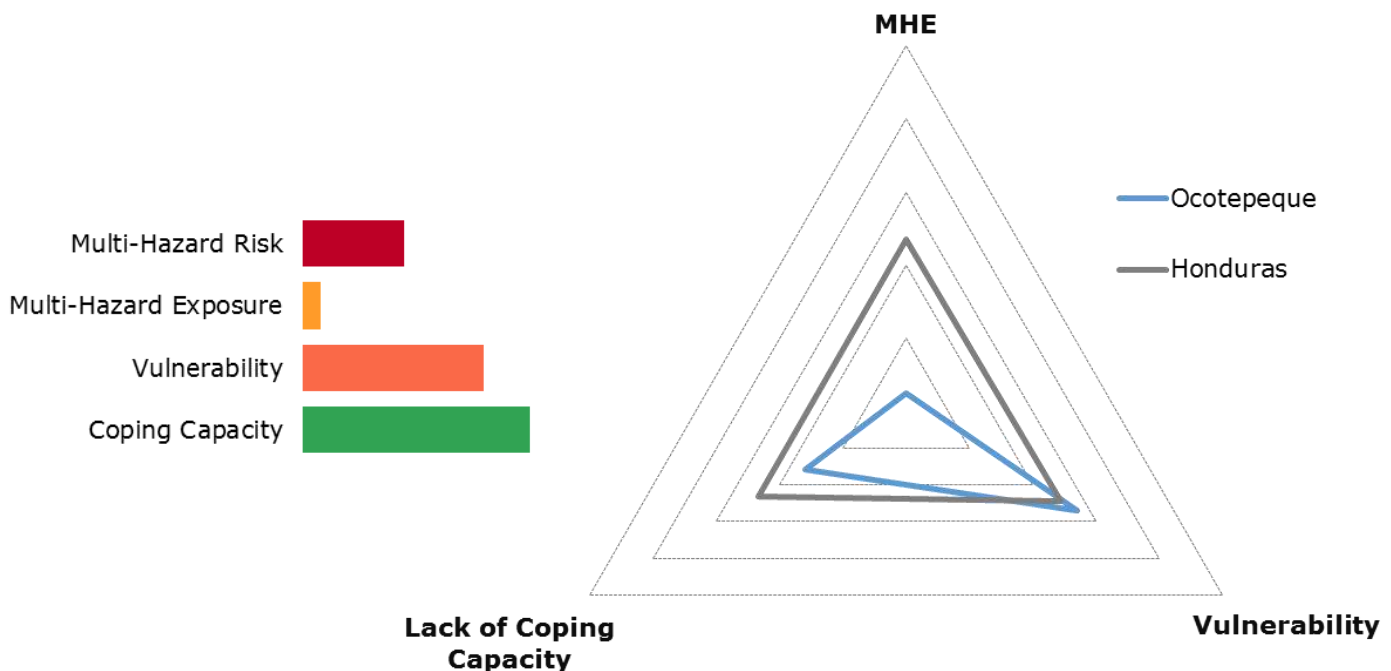


Figure 58. Department multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores

<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



### High transportation capacity

Ranked 3 of 18 departments, well-developed transportation networks facilitate the movement of goods and services, decreasing wait times for response and relief supplies.



### Highest overall governance

Ranked 1 of 18 departments, high governance could facilitate the implementation of disaster-management initiatives into departmental and municipal communities.



### Low environmental stress

Ranked 15 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

### 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.

02

### Monitor and manage population influx

Invest in a program to manage population influx into the region. Ocotepeque's vast (protected) resources have caused an increase in corporate and individual farming and logging operations. Population-control measures must be enacted to control the influx in personnel as the infrastructure is not designed to handle it.

03

### Increase information accessibility

Increase access to information for the population through investments in infrastructure and education. By increasing citizen access to information, disaster managers can provide disaster-related information to a greater percentage of the population.



# Better solutions. Fewer disasters. Safer world.

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