

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



# Copán

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

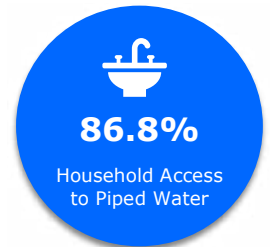
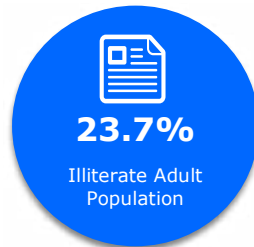
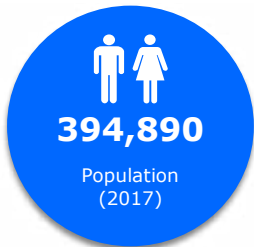
**Department: Copán**



Department Capital: Santa Rosa de Copán

Area: 3,242 km<sup>2</sup>

Copán is located in western Honduras, sharing a border with the Republic of Guatemala. The department is known for its tobacco production and the pre-Columbian ruins of Copán. Copán has the lowest life expectancy in the country.



Municipality	Population
Cabañas	15,082
Concepción	8,524
Copán Ruinas	40,952
Corquín	17,940
Cucuyagua	17,379
El Paraíso	20,104
Florida	29,400
La Jigua	9,677
La Unión	16,612
Nueva Arcadia	43,346
San Agustín	5,801
San Antonio	10,185
San José	7,218
San Juan de Opoa	9,788
San Nicolás	8,068
San Pedro	7,772
Santa Rita	31,455
Santa Rosa de Copán	66,629
Trinidad de Copán	7,215



**Multi-Hazard Risk Rank: Moderate (9 of 18)**

**Lack of Resilience Rank: Moderate (9 of 18)**

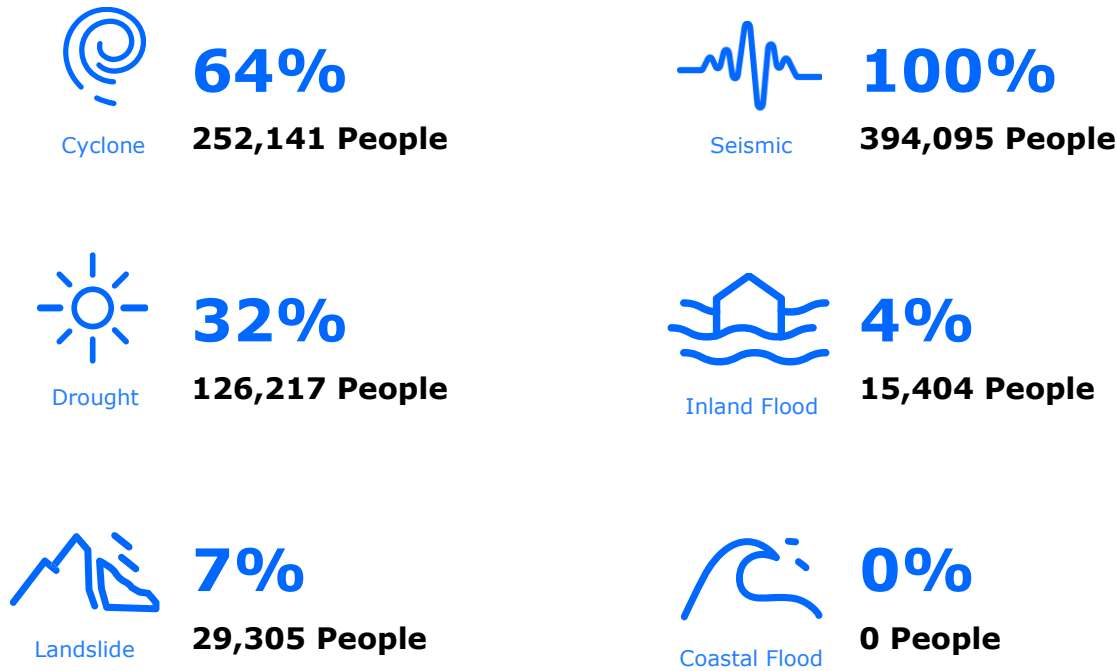
**RVA Component Scores**

Multi-Hazard Risk		Lack of Resilience		Multi-Hazard Exposure		Vulnerability		Coping Capacity	
Moderate		Moderate		Moderate		High		High	
Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)
0.489	9	0.497	9	0.472	9	0.573	5	0.579	5

## Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

**Multi-Hazard Exposure<sup>1</sup> Rank: 9 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.472)**

Table 1. Estimated ambient population<sup>2</sup> exposed to each hazard (2014).

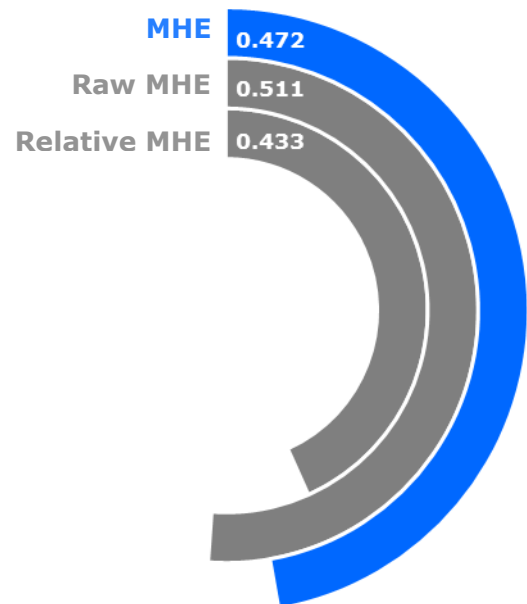


### Case Study: SOUTHCOM Community Center

In 2016, U.S. Southern Command financed and constructed a community center to benefit the Chorti Commonwealth within the Department of Copán. The center will support the preparation for disaster relief in vulnerable communities in the west of Honduras.

The facility will function as a storage facility, alternate emergency-operations center, staging for medical brigades, and hosting cultural and community events.

The center consists of a conference room and a warehouse with a storage capacity of 10 metric tons of supplies. It also has sanitation facilities, an electrical power generator, a water tank, and an office. The property can shelter approximately 300 people.



<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: 5 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.573)** Vulnerability in Copán is strongly influenced by Information Access Vulnerability, Gender Inequality, Economic Constraints, and Vulnerable Health Status. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

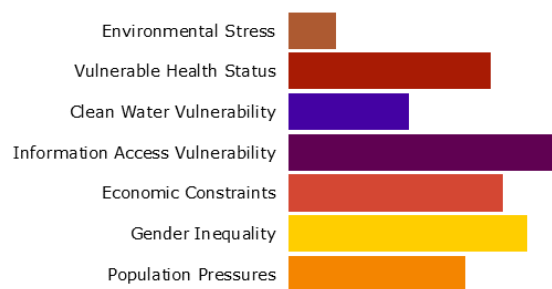









Table 2. Component scores for each vulnerability subcomponent

	<b>Environmental Stress</b>	<b>0.2%</b> Forest Loss Due to Pine Beetle Plague	<b>18.8%</b> Water Shortage Area					
	<b>Vulnerable Health Status</b>	<b>24</b> Infant Mortality Rate	<b>209.2</b> Maternal Mortality Ratio	<b>73.6</b> Life Expectancy (years)	<b>1.2</b> Acute Malnutrition Rate	<b>3.2%</b> Population Disabled	<b>0.319</b> Communicable Disease Sub-Index <sup>4</sup>	<b>0.408</b> Non-Communicable Disease Sub-Index <sup>4</sup>
	<b>Clean Water Vulnerability</b>	<b>86.8%</b> Households Access to Piped Water	<b>63.4%</b> Households Connected to Sewer or Septic System					
	<b>Information Access Vulnerability</b>	<b>23.7%</b> Adult Illiteracy	<b>5.4</b> Average Years of Schooling	<b>85.2%</b> Enrollment in Basic Education	<b>96.2%</b> Households without Internet	<b>44.4%</b> Households without TV	<b>45.5%</b> Households without Radio	
	<b>Economic Constraints</b>	<b>0.75</b> Economic Dependency Ratio	<b>58.6%</b> Population in Poverty	<b>0.41</b> GINI Coefficient				
	<b>Gender Inequality</b>	<b>0.38</b> Ratio of Female to Male Land Ownership Rate	<b>0.84</b> Ratio of Female to Male Home Ownership Rate	<b>0.23</b> Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity	<b>1.10</b> Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Enrollment			
	<b>Population Pressures</b>	<b>2.4%</b> Average Annual Population Change	<b>7.6%</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: 5 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.579)** Copán exhibits weaker Coping Capacity in the 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.

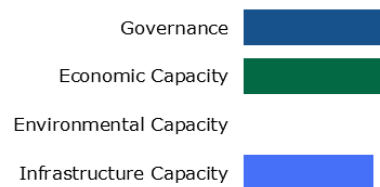









Table 3. Component scores for each coping capacity subcomponent

	<b>Governance</b>	<b>58.8</b> Homicides per 100k Persons	<b>154.4</b> Sexual Violence and Assault per 100k Persons	<b>24.4%</b> Households with Public Garbage Collection	<b>72.2%</b> Voter Participation (2013 Election)	
	<b>Economic Capacity</b>	<b>37.2%</b> Economic Activity Rate	<b>98.6%</b> Employment Rate	<b>15.5%</b> Population in Highest Wealth Quintile		
	<b>Environmental Capacity</b>	<b>4.6%</b> Natural Protected Area				
	<b>Infrastructure Capacity</b>					
	<b>Health Care Capacity</b>	<b>18.2</b> Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	<b>3.4</b> Physicians per 10,000 Persons	<b>10.3</b> Nurses per 10,000 Persons	<b>29.2 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	<b>87.1%</b> Children Completed Immunization Schedule
	<b>Communications Capacity</b>	<b>11.2%</b> Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	<b>56.9%</b> Households with Access to Mobile Phone			
	<b>Transportation Capacity</b>	<b>20.1 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	<b>22.3 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: 9 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.497)**

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

Table 4. The three thematic areas with the weakest relative scores.



**Information  
Access  
Vulnerability**



**Vulnerable  
Health Status**



**Environmental  
Capacity**

## Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

**Multi-Hazard Risk<sup>7</sup> Rank: 9 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.489)**

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

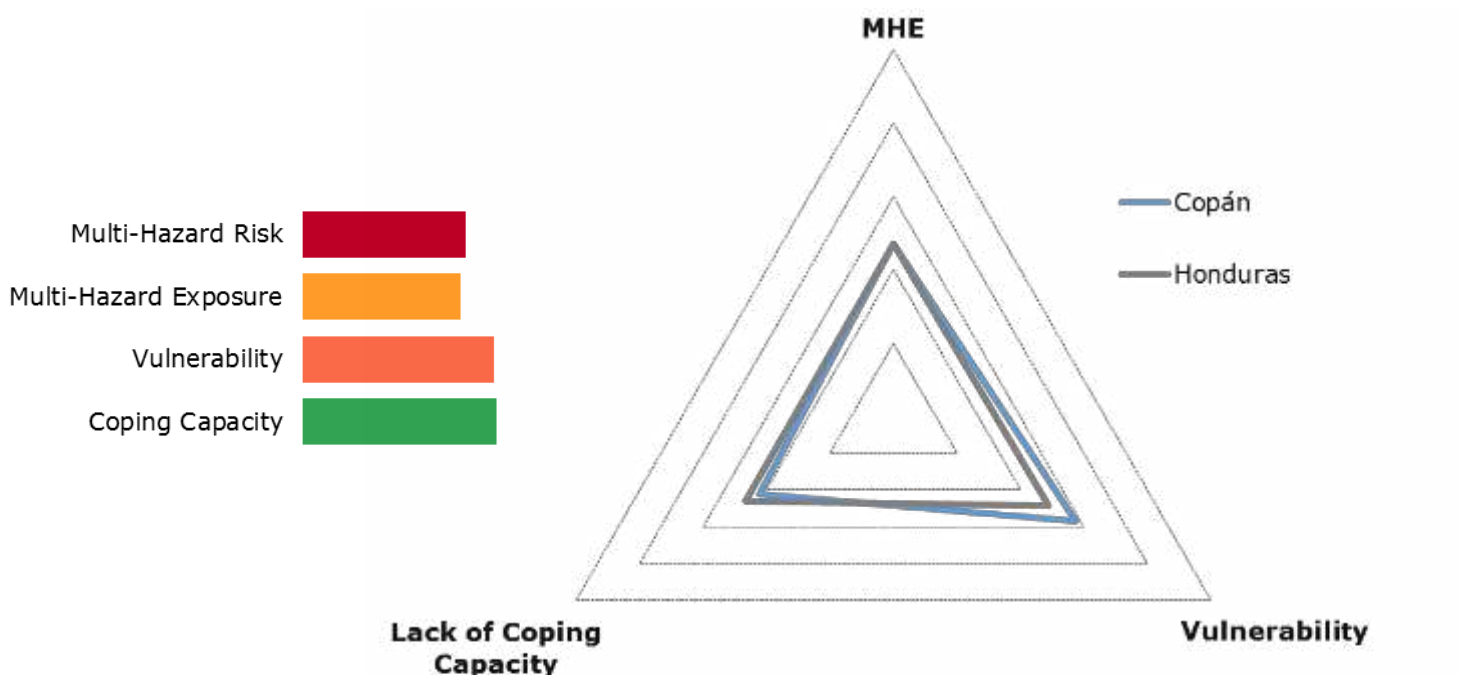


Figure 49. Department multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores.

<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 5 of 18 departments, well-developed transportation networks facilitate the movement of goods and services, decreasing wait times for response and relief supplies.



### High economic capacity

Ranked 5 of 18 departments, high economic capacity indicates that Copán may be able to invest in additional mitigation and preparedness measures at the local and community level.

## Recommendations

01

### 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.

02

### Provide health education and access

Increased early health education and access for special-needs populations and new/expectant mothers can decrease health vulnerability. Additional health-care infrastructure (doctors and nurses) will increase access to critical services before, during, and after disaster events.



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