

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



Cortés

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

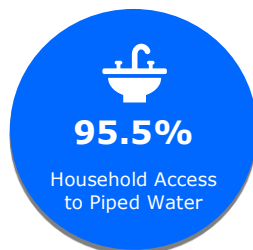
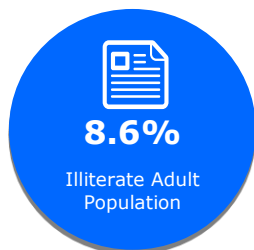
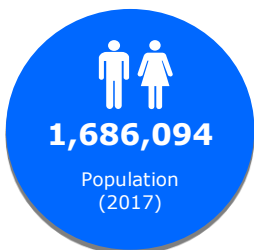
Department: Cortés

Department Capital: San Pedro Sula

Area: 3,923 km²



Cortés is located west of Atlántida on the Caribbean coast of Honduras. It is the most populous department in Honduras, and is home to the city of San Pedro Sula, the nation's primary industrial center. The fertile Sula Valley provides ideal conditions for the cultivation of bananas, citrus, pineapple, sugar cane, coffee, and rice.



Municipality	Population
Choloma	255,625
Omoa	49,749
Pimienta	20,394
Potreros	24,958
Puerto Cortés	129,961
San Antonio de Cortés	22,498
San Francisco de Yojoa	23,499
San Manuel	61,159
Santa Cruz de Yojoa	88,054
Villanueva	165,602
La Lima	78,596
San Pedro Sula	765,999



**Multi-Hazard Risk Rank:
High (4 of 18)**

**Lack of Resilience Rank:
Very Low (16 of 18)**

RVA Component Scores

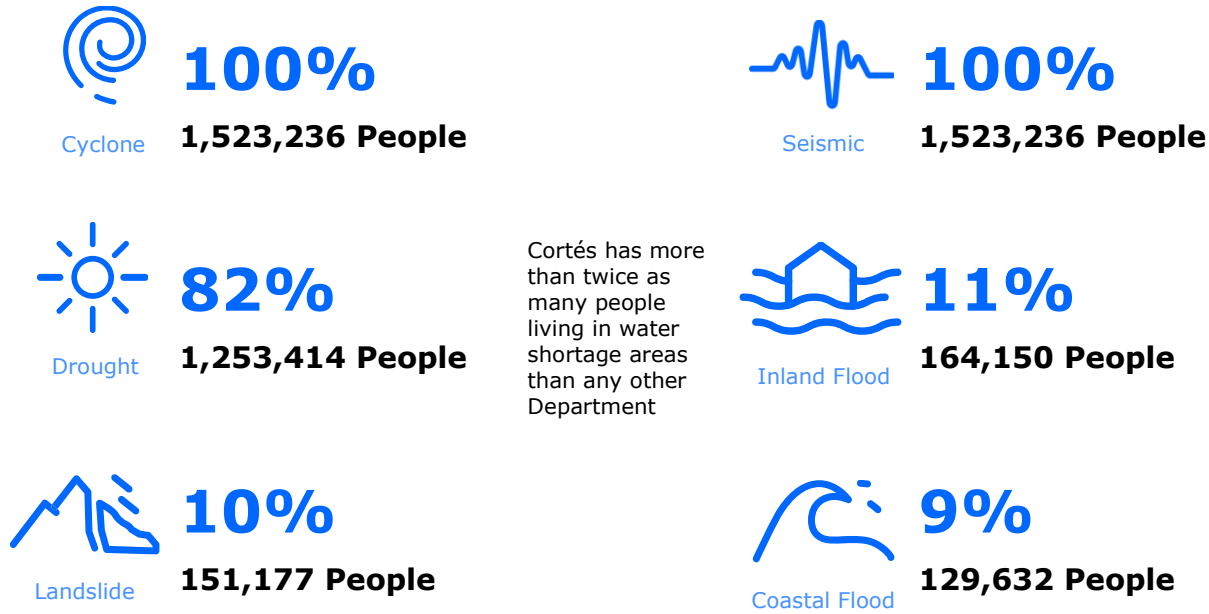
Table 1. Department scores and ranks (compared across departments) for each index.

Multi-Hazard Risk		Lack of Resilience		Multi-Hazard Exposure		Vulnerability		Coping Capacity	
High		Very Low		Very High		Very Low		High	
Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)
0.545	4	0.318	16	1.000	1	0.265	18	0.629	4

Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

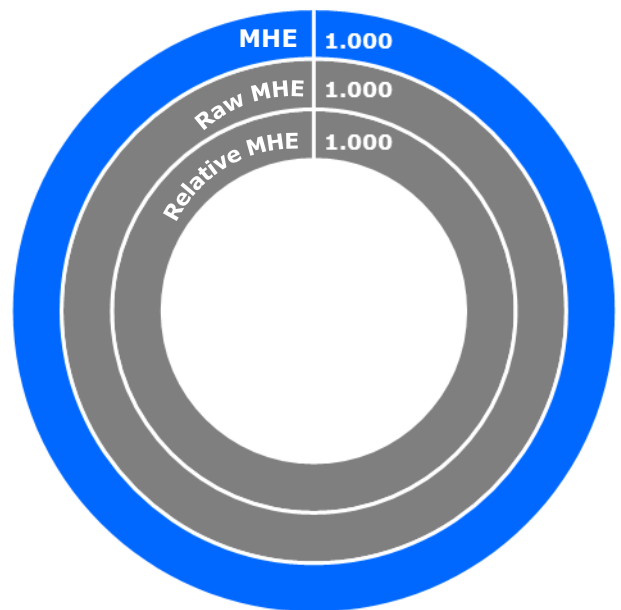
Multi-Hazard Exposure¹ Rank: 1 of 18 Departments (Score: 1.000)

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



Case Study: Association of Honduran Maquilas (AHM)

El Valle de Sula is the economic engine of the country, producing 35% of the country’s GDP through the textile manufacturing industry. The area is also considered to be very vulnerable to natural hazards. Recognizing this vulnerability, an EU-funded initiative in partnership with DIPECHO-TROCAIRE and the Honduran Association of Maquilas (AHM) devised a program to develop “a culture of prevention.” The program established local emergency committees that receive and conduct trainings in the handling of HAZMAT, evacuation procedures, CPR, use of rescue equipment, etc. While the program initially focused on industrial-related hazards “internal” to factories, it was soon recognized that with 40% of workers living in vulnerable areas, a disaster occurrence had the potential to significantly interrupt production. The program now engages surrounding communities, and is developing a hazard-monitoring capability as an extension (redundant capability) of COPECO.



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: 18 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.265) Despite having relatively low vulnerability overall, Cortés ranks 7th in Environmental Stress. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

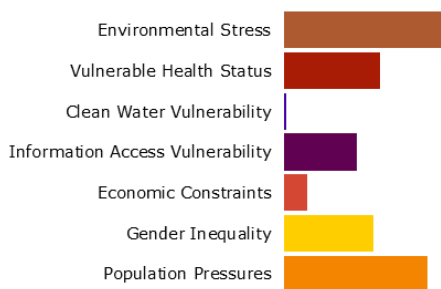









Table 3. Component scores for each vulnerability subcomponent

	Environmental Stress	16.2% Forest Loss Due to Pine Beetle Plague	39.1% Water Shortage Area					
	Vulnerable Health Status	13.7 Infant Mortality Rate	238.8 Maternal Mortality Ratio	75.9 Life Expectancy (years)	1.1% Acute Malnutrition Rate	1.4% Population Disabled	0.307 Communicable Disease Sub-Index ⁴	0.164 Non-Communicable Disease Sub-Index ⁴
	Clean Water Vulnerability	95.5% Households Access to Piped Water	89.1% Households Connected to Sewer or Septic System					
	Information Access Vulnerability	8.6% Adult Illiteracy	6.9 Average Years of Schooling	93.6% Enrollment in Basic Education	86.5% Households without Internet	13.0% Households without TV	31.2% Households without Radio	
	Economic Constraints	0.61 Economic Dependency Ratio	43.1% Population in Poverty	0.17 GINI Coefficient				
	Gender Inequality	0.57 Ratio of Female to Male Land Ownership Rate	1.11 Ratio of Female to Male Home Ownership Rate	0.44 Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity	1.00 Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Enrollment			
	Population Pressures	2.5% Average Annual Population Change	5.0% 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: 4 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.629) Cortés exhibits weaker Coping Capacity in the areas of Governance and Health Care Capacity. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.

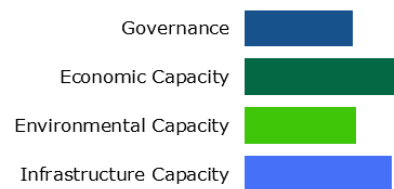


Table 4. Component scores for each coping capacity subcomponent

	Governance	90.4 Homicides per 100k Persons	238.8 Sexual Violence and Assault per 100k Persons	39.8% Households with Public Garbage Collection	53.5% Voter Participation (2013 Election)	
	Economic Capacity	37.8% Economic Activity Rate	96.9% Employment Rate	32.9% Population in Highest Wealth Quintile		
	Environmental Capacity	25.3% Natural Protected Area				
	Infrastructure Capacity					
	Health Care Capacity	4.8 Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	2.3 Physicians per 10,000 Persons	5.5 Nurses per 10,000 Persons	22.1 km Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	75.6% Children Completed Immunization Schedule
	Communications Capacity	22.6% Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	73.8% Households with Access to Mobile Phone			
	Transportation Capacity	22.1 km Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	26.6 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: 16 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.318)

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

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



Governance



Health Care Capacity



Environmental Stress

Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

Multi-Hazard Risk⁷ Rank: 4 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.545)

Cortés' Multi-Hazard Risk score and ranking are driven primarily by its very high Multi-Hazard Exposure combined with very low Vulnerability and high Coping Capacity scores.

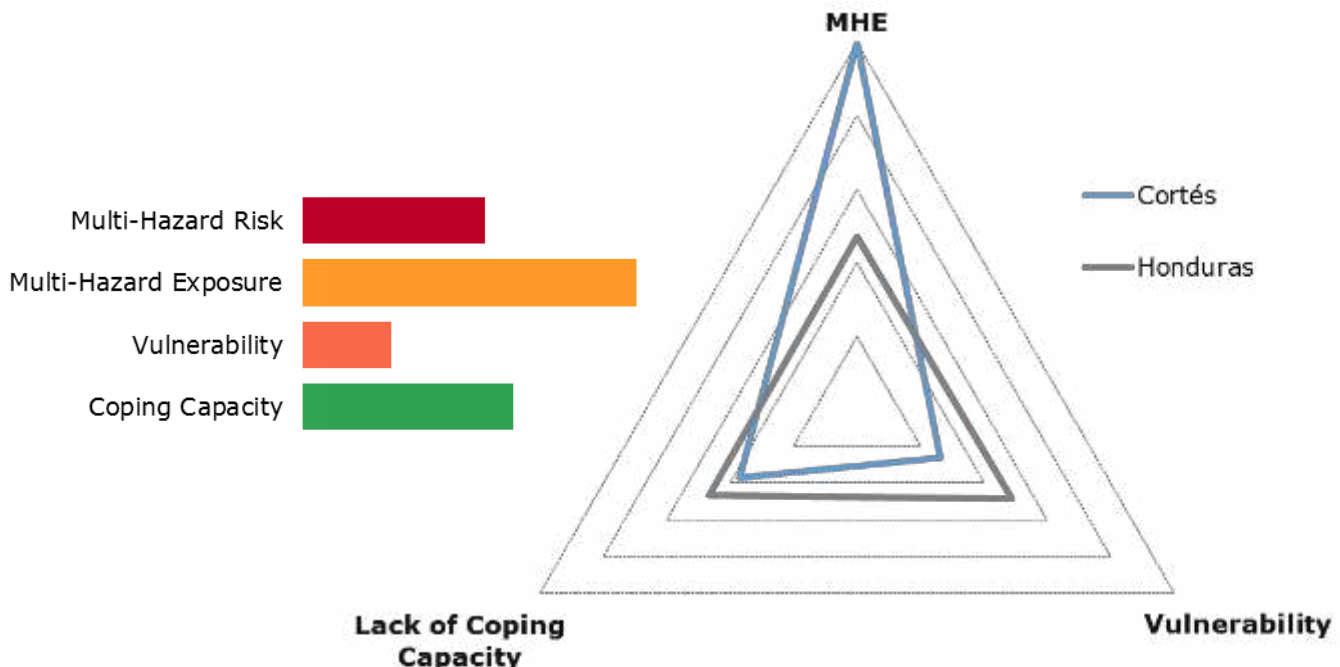


Figure 50. Department multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores.

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 vulnerable health status

Ranked 18 of 18 departments, low health vulnerability could indicate a population that will be more resilient to the negative health impacts associated with major disaster events.



Lowest economic constraints

Ranked 18 of 18 departments, low economic constraints indicate that Cortés may be able to invest in additional mitigation and preparedness measures at the local and community level.



Lowest overall vulnerability

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

Recommendations

01

Promote drought-resistant farming methods

A high percentage of the department is at risk of drought. Programs that promote drought-resistant crops and farming methods will decrease vulnerability to drought in the department.

02

Increase government services

Like Atlántida and Colón, investments in public services such as garbage collection, fire, and police will increase coping capacity and the department's ability to handle crises.

03

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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