

NORTHERN TRIANGLE

(HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA)



Instability, food insecurity, and lack of economic livelihoods have driven hundreds of thousands of people to flee the Northern Triangle for the United States. The U.S. Government's suspension of humanitarian and development assistance to the region has exacerbated these challenges.

Country Context

Migrants, including a large number of women and children, are fleeing the Northern Triangle in high numbers. On average, about 265,000 people have left annually. However, this number is on track to more than double in 2019. Around 60% of Hondurans and Guatemalans live below their countries' national poverty lines, compared to 30% of all Latin Americans.

How is the U.S. Involved?

In 2014, the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America increased foreign assistance to the region to address challenges of security, governance, and prosperity. However, in 2019, the U.S. suspended \$164 million (26%) of FY 2017 funds, redirected \$404 million (82%) of FY 2018 funds, and is holding all future humanitarian and development funds from the region.

Key Figures



539,000

people expected to be displaced by the end of 2019



1.4 million

in need of food assistance



511,000

migrants and asylum seekers from the region apprehended at the U.S. border in FY 2019



Over 27%

of youth aged 15-24 in all three countries are not in employment, education, or vocational training



1.5 million

children have left school in Guatemala

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Current efforts to eliminate humanitarian and development programming threaten to increase community vulnerabilities to migration and erode decades-long work to build credibility, trust, and partnerships with civil society, local government, and the private sector.
- Climate change, soil degradation, and recurrent drought affect the lives of more than 2 million people across all three Northern Triangle countries.

Responses and Actions

- The U.S. government has invested in the Central America Regional Security Initiative to improve security, which recorded a 51% decline in reported murders and a 51% decline in reported extortions in program-supported neighborhoods.
- AgriJoven, a USAID funded program in Guatemala implemented by Mercy Corps, supported over 1,000 youth-formed savings and loan groups and facilitated training on new agricultural innovations. By the end of the program, participants reported a 30% reduction in thinking about migrating frequently or all the time.
- Many USAID programs tackle economic hardship and increased prosperity. U.S. assistance in El Salvador generated over \$147 million in sales and exports and 26,500 new jobs and mobilized \$19.6 million from the private sector for small business growth between 2013 and 2017.
- Guatemala and Honduras are Feed the Future target countries. In Honduras, there has been a 30% reduction in the prevalence of stunting in children under five years old.

InterAction has a Northern Triangle working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

