



GLOBAL GRANTS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Use this form to report community assessment findings to The Rotary Foundation when you apply for a global grant.

Assessing the strengths, weaknesses, needs, and assets of the community you plan to help is an essential first step in designing an effective and sustainable global grant project. See [Community Assessment Tools](#) for full instructions and helpful tips.

This form will help you report the results of your community assessment, and it's required when you apply for any humanitarian or vocational training team grant. Complete a separate form for each beneficiary community (e.g., school, health care system, or village), using information that is both current and specific to each community. Remember, you can't use global grant funds to cover the cost of doing an assessment, but you can use district grant funds.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Describe the characteristics (such as geographic information, main sources of income, population size, and access to education and health services) of the specific community where this project will take place.

La Paz is a city located in the department of La Paz in Honduras. Here is an overview of the community characteristics, focusing on geographic information, main sources of income, population size, and access to education and health services:

Geographic Information

Location: La Paz is situated in the western part of Honduras. It is the capital city of the La Paz department.

Terrain: The area is characterized by hilly and mountainous terrain, typical of the Honduran highlands.

Climate: The region has a tropical climate with a wet and dry season. The wet season typically occurs from May to October.

Population Size

Population: The city of La Paz has an estimated population of around 30,000 to 40,000 people. The city serves as a central hub for surrounding rural areas, with approx. 300 thousand people

Demographics: The population is diverse, with a mix of urban and rural residents. The city is home to various indigenous communities as well, like Lenca.

Main Sources of Income

Agriculture: A significant portion of the population relies on agriculture, with coffee being a major crop. Other agricultural products include corn, beans, and various fruits and vegetables.

Commerce: La Paz serves as a commercial center for the surrounding region, with local markets and small businesses playing a crucial role in the economy.

Access to Education

Primary and Secondary Education: La Paz has several primary and secondary schools. Access to education is generally available, but quality and resources can vary significantly between urban and rural areas.

Higher Education: For higher education, students often need to travel to larger cities, such as Tegucigalpa, as La Paz has limited options for university-level education.

Access to Health Services

Roberto Suazo Cordova Hospital: This hospital is a major healthcare facility in La Paz, providing a range of medical services to the local population and surrounding communities.

COLLECTING COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT DATA

When you conducted the assessment, who in the community did you speak to? At least two different community representatives and beneficiaries who are not involved in Rotary (such as teachers, doctors, or community leaders) should be included in the discussions.

During the assessment, Rtn. Jonathan Zelaya and a support team led by Stephanie Phinney of Honduras Compassion Partners, the Cooperating Organization on the project, spoke with a range of community representatives and beneficiaries to gather diverse perspectives. The individuals consulted included:

Onix Garcia, a member of the Buenos Aires community.

Doris Fonseca, a teacher at the adult high school.

Anibal Flores, Mayor of the Municipality of La Paz.

Felicita Avila, Leader mountain community Guachipilin

Rosa Lopez, Leader community La Municipal.

These discussions ensured that insights were collected, providing a well-rounded understanding of the community's needs and challenges.

When in the last year did the discussions occur?

These discussions have occurred from January 2025 to May of 2025.

What methods did you use to collect information from community members (such as community meetings, interviews, or focus groups)?

Interview

TARGET POPULATION

Who will benefit directly from the project? List the groups that will benefit (such as schools, hospitals, vocational training centers, cooperatives, or villages).

The project will benefit the following groups directly:

- The Whole City of La Paz, Honduras
- The Entire Department of La Paz, Honduras
- Surrounding Areas in the Department of La Paz, Honduras

Describe the process of how the beneficiaries were identified.

- Interviews.
- Community Input.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHS, NEEDS, PRIORITIES, AND PROJECT DESIGN

Describe what members of the community said matters to them during the assessment.

1. Protecting the environment and stopping floods and erosion

People are really worried about how the land is being damaged—like trees being cut down and water running off and causing floods or washing away good soil. They talked about how planting trees, especially fruit trees, could help stop that. It would keep the ground strong, stop erosion, and help protect the rivers and water sources that they all depend on.

2. More opportunities for young people

A lot of adults mentioned that they want kids and teenagers to have something positive to do. They want us to learn about the environment, how to plant and take care of trees, and even how to make money from selling fruit. It's not just about planting trees—it's about giving young people real skills for the future.

3. Food security and income

People said they need more food options and ways to make a living. Fruit trees can give them fresh food and also something to sell. So they're hoping this project helps families eat better and have something to support themselves with long-term.

Describe the community's strengths and resources.

• Strong leaders who really care

There are community leaders like Rosa Lopez and Felicita Avila who are super involved and already doing things to help. That's a huge plus because they know the people and how to get things moving.

• Schools and teachers already helping

Teachers like Doris Fonseca are already doing their part to educate adults and young people. That means there's already a system we can plug into to teach people how to plant trees, take care of them, and maybe even start small businesses from the fruit.

• Support from the government

The mayor, Anibal Flores, is also backing this idea. Having someone from the government on board means the project has more chances to grow and last a long time.

Describe any challenges and gaps in the community's behaviors, skills, and knowledge.

1. NOT EVERYONE KNOWS HOW TO CARE FOR TREES OR GROW FRUIT

A big gap is that most people don't have the skills or experience to grow fruit trees or take care of them properly. Like, planting a tree is one thing, but making sure it survives, produces fruit, and doesn't die from bugs or bad weather is a whole other skill. So, without training, a lot of trees might not even make it.

2. PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS SEE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TREES AND LONG-TERM CHANGE

Some folks are used to just thinking short-term—like, what can help right now. So things like tree planting or protecting the environment might not seem urgent to them, even though it actually helps prevent flooding, gives food, and protects the soil. There's a behavior gap where people might not feel motivated unless they understand how it helps them and their family in the long run.

3. NOT A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HOW TO SELL OR MARKET THE FRUIT

Even if the trees grow and produce fruit, most people don't really know how to turn that into a business. There's a knowledge gap in how to sell fruit, package it, find markets, or make money from what they grow. Without that kind of training, people might just eat the fruit and not use it to earn income like the project hopes.

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What issues will the project address, and how does the community currently address those issues?

This project is going to focus on some really important problems the community is dealing with. First off, there's flooding and soil erosion. Because a lot of trees have been cut down, rainwater just washes away the soil, and sometimes floods mess up crops and roads. The project will help by planting fruit trees, which protect the soil, stop water from running wild, and even bring shade and better air.

It'll also help with food insecurity. A lot of families don't have enough healthy food, or they rely on expensive stuff from far away. By planting fruit trees, people can grow their own food and have more to eat.

And another big issue is lack of jobs and opportunities, especially for young people. This project will train people—especially youth—on how to grow, take care of, and even sell the fruit. So it's not just about the environment—it's about helping people make a living too.

Right now, the community is doing what they can, but it's not really enough. Some leaders are trying to raise awareness about protecting nature, but most people don't have the resources or training to actually fix the problems. For example, if there's a flood or the soil washes away, they just deal with the damage—it's not like there's a plan to stop it from happening again.

Some people grow crops, but they don't always have the tools or knowledge to grow fruit trees or do it in a way that's good for the land. And there's barely any support or training on how to turn farming into a business.

So yeah, people are trying, but they definitely need more help. That's why this project is so important—it brings tools, training, and hope to make things better for real.

Provide the specific details of the project design and how it will solve these issues.

1. **Community Training and Workshops**

First, people in the community (especially young people and farmers) will get trained on how to plant, take care of, and protect fruit trees. They'll also learn about how trees help the land—like stopping erosion, preventing flooding, and improving soil.

2. **Planting Fruit Trees**

Once everyone is trained, the project will provide the trees and supplies, and people will start planting. These aren't just any trees—they're **fruit trees**, so in a year or two they'll start giving food like mangoes, oranges, and more. These will help feed families and even schools.

3. **Soil and Water Conservation**

The trees will be planted in smart ways—like near rivers or on hills—to protect water sources and keep soil from sliding away. This will help stop floods and erosion, especially in rainy seasons.

4. **Business Skills and Selling Fruit**

People will also get trained on how to **sell the fruit** when it's ready. This includes how to harvest, package, and market it. The idea is not just to eat the fruit—but also **make money** from it. So it turns into a small business for some families.

5. **Leadership and Youth Involvement**

Community leaders and schools will help organize the work and keep the trees alive. Youth will be involved in every step, learning skills they can use in the future—whether for farming, business, or even teaching others.

Describe the long-term plan for the project (such as oversight, financial responsibilities, and expected behavior change) after Rotary's involvement ends.

1. COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT

After Rotary finishes helping with the start-up stuff (like funding and training), the local leaders, schools, and youth groups will take charge. Leaders like Rosa, Felicitia, and teachers like Ms. Fonseca will help organize tree care, make sure people stay involved, and teach new people what to do. Basically, the people who live there will be in control and responsible for keeping it alive.

2. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The cool thing is, once the trees start producing fruit, families and groups can start making money by selling it. That means they won't need to depend on donations later—they can use some of the profits to buy more tools, plant more trees, or fix stuff they need. It's like the project starts with help, but then turns into a self-sustaining system.

Also, part of the training includes how to save money and manage small businesses, so people aren't just making money—they're learning how to use it wisely.

3. LONG-TERM BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Probably the most important part is that the project changes how people think and act. After being part of this, people (especially youth) will:

- Care more about protecting the environment
- Know how to grow their own food
- Understand how to earn income from nature without destroying it
- Be more organized and confident to lead future projects

The idea is that this project becomes a habit—a lifestyle, not just a one-time thing.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (FOR ALL ENVIRONMENT AND WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE PROJECTS)

What are currently the greatest environmental threats to local land, air, water resources, and the ecosystem?

The greatest environmental threats right now are deforestation, soil erosion, flooding, and the loss of clean water sources. Too many trees have been cut down for firewood or farming, which leaves the land exposed. When it rains, the soil washes away, rivers dry up, and floods happen more often. This damages crops, homes, and the ecosystem. Climate change is also making the weather more unpredictable, which adds even more pressure to the land, water, and people.

List any cultural practices that are relevant to the project (such as agricultural techniques or traditions).

Some cultural practices related to the project include slash-and-burn farming, which many farmers use to clear land quickly, but it harms the soil and air. A lot of families also do small-scale farming just to feed themselves, often without methods that protect the environment. However, the idea of growing fruit trees is already somewhat known in the culture, and this project builds on that by teaching people how to grow them in a sustainable and profitable way.

What positive and negative environmental changes do you expect to result from the project?

The project will bring positive changes like more trees on the land, better protection from floods and erosion, and fresh fruit that helps families eat better and earn money. It will also teach people how to take care of the environment for the future. A possible downside is that if people don't follow the training, trees might not grow well, or planting only one type of tree could harm the soil. But overall, the benefits are much greater if the project is done right.