



# Human Security, Migration, and Rural Livelihoods in Honduras

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**New Direction in South-South Migration Workshop**

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# Honduran migrants: 'We left because we had to'

By Katy Watson  
BBC Mexico and Central America reporter

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## *Trump Administration Ends Protected Status for Thousands of Hondurans*



## **Crisis of Honduras democracy has roots in US tacit support for 2009 coup**



## **Trump threatens Honduras' foreign aid over migrant caravan**

## Child immigration crisis



# Human Security Paradigm

- Moving from state to individual
- “Freedom from fear” *and* “freedom from want”
- Categories (UNDP)
  - Economic
  - Food
  - Health
  - Environmental
  - Personal
  - Community
  - Political
- Helpful in conceptualizing motivations for and barriers to migration
- Critique – focus on security as outcome rather than experience



Yorito, Honduras





# Partnership

- Fundación para la Investigación Participativa con Agricultores de Honduras (FIPAH)
- Yorito Municipal Health Centre
- Instituto San Pedro



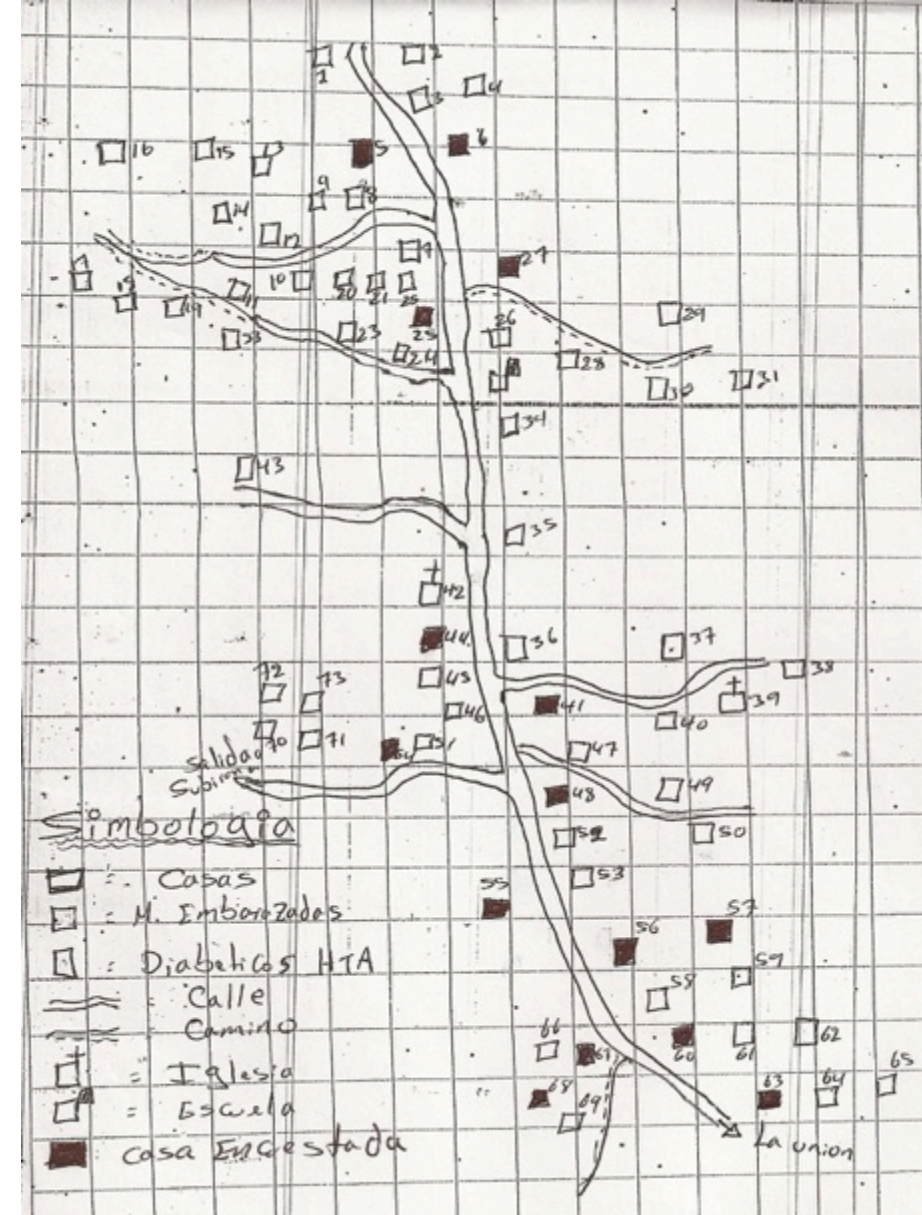
**FIPAH**

FUNDACION PARA LA INVESTIGACION PARTICIPATIVA  
CON AGRICULTORES DE HONDURAS

*Trabajamos con pequeños agricultores en las zonas de laderas de Honduras*

# Methods

- Multi-stage random sampling
  - Sampled communities and then households within communities
- 248 households surveyed in 22 communities
- Migrant defined as someone who was currently employed outside of the community
  - 47 migrant households (64 migrants) and 201 non-migrant households
- Qualitative activity with graduating secondary school student (n=60)



## Demographic Characteristics of internal and international migrants from Yorito, Honduras

	<b>Internal migrant (n=51)</b>	<b>International migrant (n=10)</b>	<b>Overall (n=61)</b>
<i>Demographics</i>			
Female (%)	15 (29%)	3 (30%)	18 (30%)
Mean age (SD)	24.2 (6.7)	29.6 (6.2)	25.1 (6.9)
Not married (%)	29 (57%)	4 (40%)	33 (54%)
Fully literate (%)	43 (84%)	9 (90%)	52 (85%)



# Industry of employment for internal and international migrants from Yorito, Honduras

	<b>Internal migrant (n=49)</b>	<b>International migrant (n=10)</b>	<b>Overall (n=59)</b>
Construction	12 (24%)	6 (60%)	18 (31%)
Agriculture (e.g. coffee harvesting)	11 (22%)	0	11 (19%)
Service (e.g. waitress)	8 (16%)	2 (20%)	10 (17%)
Maquila (factory)	7 (14%)	0	7 (12%)
Other manufacturing (e.g. furniture factory)	4 (8%)	2 (20%)	6 (10%)
Education (e.g. teaching)	5 (10%)	0	5 (8%)
Military	2 (4%)	0	2 (3%)



# Use of remittances among migrant households (n=41) in Yorito, Honduras

<b>Use of remittances</b>	<b>Number of migrant households (%)</b>
Immediate expenses	35 (85%)
Health costs	13 (32%)
Education for children	12 (29%)
Small agriculture costs (e.g. seeds)	8 (20%)
House repairs	4 (10%)
Pay off debts	4 (10%)
Big agriculture costs (e.g. equipment)	3 (7%)
Savings for the future	3 (7%)

# Household level concerns of households from Yorito, Honduras (ranked by overall frequency)

	<b>Migrant households (n=47)</b>	<b>Non-migrant households (n=201)</b>	<b>Overall (n=248)</b>
Money	19 (40%) <sup>a</sup>	172 (86%) <sup>b</sup>	191 (77%)
Food security	4 (9%) <sup>c</sup>	131 (65%) <sup>d</sup>	135 (54%)
Employment opportunities	39 (83%) <sup>a</sup>	94 (47%) <sup>b</sup>	133 (54%)
Land	2 (4%) <sup>c</sup>	85 (42%) <sup>d</sup>	87 (35%)
Health	10 (21%)	72 (36%)	82 (33%)
Clothing	0 (0%) <sup>c</sup>	53 (26%) <sup>d</sup>	53 (21%)
Crop yields	0 (0%) <sup>c</sup>	39 (19%) <sup>d</sup>	39 (16%)
Education for children	0 (0%) <sup>e</sup>	32 (16%) <sup>f</sup>	32 (13%)
Housing	1 (2%) <sup>g</sup>	26 (13%) <sup>h</sup>	27 (11%)

ab Different superscript within rows denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.001$ ) based on a Pearson chi-square test.

cd Different superscript within rows denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.001$ ) based on a Fisher's exact test.

ef Different superscript within rows denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.01$ ) based on a Fisher's exact test

gh Different superscript within rows denotes a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) based on a Pearson chi-square test.

# Results

- There was no difference in the prevalence of seasonal food insecurity (within subsistence agricultural systems) between individuals from households that received remittances from migrant labour and individuals from households that did not receive remittances





Motivations for migration among migrant households (n=47) in Yortio, Honduras (ranked by frequency)

Motivation	Number of migrant households (%)
No work in community	47 (100%)
Opportunity to earn more money	37 (79%)
Not enough land for agriculture	16 (34%)
Pay debts	15 (32%)
Save for large expense	10 (21%)
Earn money for to pay for education costs for children	10 (21%)
Adventure	3 (6%)
Pay for health problem of family members	1 (2%)
Violence concerns	1 (2%)

Barriers to migration among non-migrant households (n=201)  
in Yorito, Honduras (ranked by frequency)

Barrier	Number of non-migrant households (%)
Family responsibilities	179 (89%)
Agriculture responsibilities	119 (59%)
Not enough education	70 (35%)
Household members are either too young or too old	52 (26%)
Housing responsibilities and upkeep	44 (22%)
Lack of understanding around migration process	35 (17%)
Violence concerns	29 (14%)

# Results from qualitative activity

- 60 graduating student participants
- 34 females (97.1%) and 24 males (96.0%) intended to migrate
- Lack of opportunities and support for family
- Education appeared to mitigate uncertainty around migration process



Yorito, Honduras



# Conclusions

- Competing dimensions of security combined with contextual realities (family structure, level of education, etc.) shape migration decisions and trajectories
  - Freedom from fear vs. freedom from want?
- Education without corresponding rural investment = migration?



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## **Full Paper:**

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