

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



# Choluteca

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

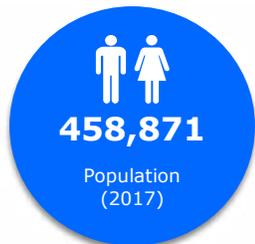
## Department: Choluteca



Department Capital: Choluteca

Area: 4,360 km<sup>2</sup>

Choluteca is the southernmost department of Honduras, with its coast on the Gulf of Fonseca, sharing a border with the Republic of Nicaragua to the east and south. Economic activity is based in agriculture, livestock, fishing, and trade. The department has the second highest Clean Water Vulnerability in Honduras.



### Municipality

Municipality	Population
Apacilagua	9,093
Choluteca	162,125
Concepción de María	27,687
Duyure	3,537
El Corpus	25,591
El Triunfo	46,490
Marcovia	47,113
Morolica	5,012
Namasigue	32,096
Orocuina	18,676
Pespire	24,063
San Antonio de Flores	5,470
San Isidro	3,793
San José	4,633
San Marcos de Colón	28,679
Santa Ana de Yusguare	14,813



**Multi-Hazard Risk Rank:  
Very Low (15 of 18)**

**Lack of Resilience Rank:  
Low (12 of 18)**

### RVA Component Scores

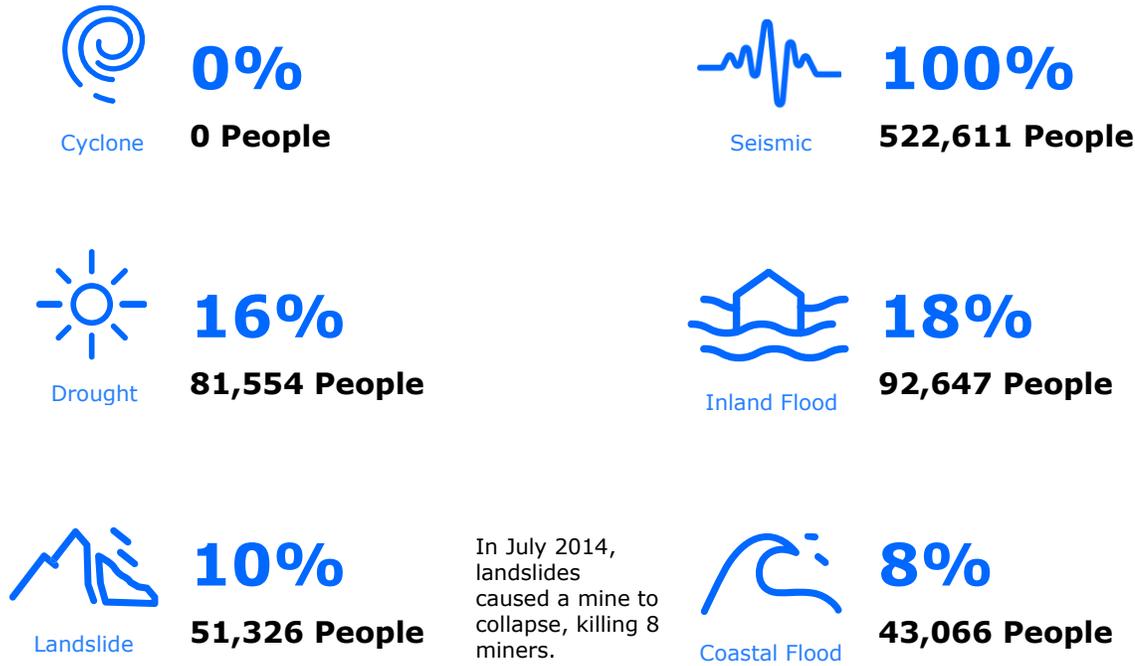
Table 1. Department scores and ranks (compared across departments) for each index.

Multi-Hazard Risk		Lack of Resilience		Multi-Hazard Exposure		Vulnerability		Coping Capacity	
Very Low		Very Low		Very Low		Low		Low	
Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)	Score	Rank (of 18)
0.422	15	0.476	12	0.315	15	0.459	13	0.508	12

## Multi-Hazard Exposure (MHE)

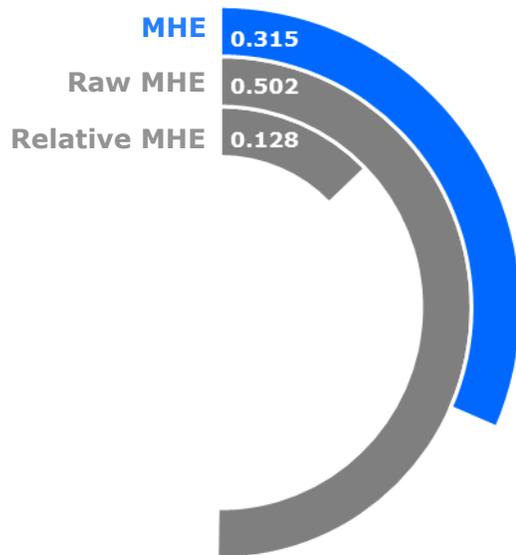
**Multi-Hazard Exposure<sup>1</sup> Rank: 15 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.315)**

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



### Case Study: Pan American Highway

The department’s capital city, Choluteca, is well-connected to the rest of Central America via the Pan American Highway, which passes directly through the city. The Pan American Highway is a 30,000-km road along the Pacific coast, stretching from Peru to Canada. Access to the highway increased the department’s ability to receive goods and services during response and recovery activities.



<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: 13 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.459)** Vulnerability in Choluteca is strongly influenced by Clean Water Vulnerability, Economic Constraints, and Information Access Vulnerability. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Vulnerability score.

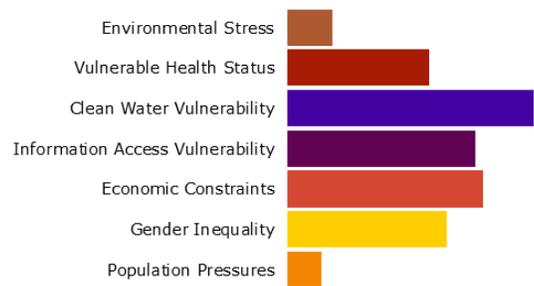


Table 3. Component scores for each vulnerability subcomponent.

	<b>Environmental Stress</b>	<b>0.6%</b> Forest Loss Due to Pine Beetle Plague	<b>17.4%</b> Water Shortage Area					
	<b>Vulnerable Health Status</b>	<b>18.7</b> Infant Mortality Rate	<b>95.1</b> Maternal Mortality Ratio	<b>75.3</b> Life Expectancy (years)	<b>2.3%</b> Acute Malnutrition Rate	<b>2.6%</b> Population Disabled	<b>0.500</b> Communicable Disease Sub-Index <sup>4</sup>	<b>0.313</b> Non-Communicable Disease Sub-Index <sup>4</sup>
	<b>Clean Water Vulnerability</b>	<b>76.1%</b> Households Access to Piped Water	<b>41.5%</b> Households Connected to Sewer or Septic System					
	<b>Information Access Vulnerability</b>	<b>17.7%</b> Adult Illiteracy	<b>6.1</b> Average Years of Schooling	<b>93.2%</b> Enrollment in Basic Education	<b>95.2%</b> Households without Internet	<b>44.6%</b> Households without TV	<b>39.9%</b> Households without Radio	
	<b>Economic Constraints</b>	<b>0.69</b> Economic Dependency Ratio	<b>61.9%</b> Population in Poverty	<b>0.41</b> GINI Coefficient				
	<b>Gender Inequality</b>	<b>0.44</b> Ratio of Female to Male Land Ownership Rate	<b>0.92</b> Ratio of Female to Male Home Ownership Rate	<b>0.23</b> Ratio of Female to Male Economic Activity	<b>1.03</b> Ratio of Female to Male Secondary Enrollment			
	<b>Population Pressures</b>	<b>1.0%</b> Average Annual Population Change	<b>4.6%</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: 12 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.508)** Choluteca exhibits weaker Coping Capacity in the areas of Economic Capacity, Environmental Capacity, and Communications Infrastructure. The bar chart on the right indicates the socioeconomic themes contributing to the department's overall Coping Capacity score.

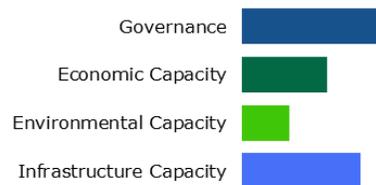


Table 4: Component scores for each coping capacity subcomponent.

	<b>Governance</b>	<b>22.3</b> Homicides per 100k Persons	<b>165.0</b> Sexual Violence and Assault per 100k Persons	<b>17.1%</b> Households with Public Garbage Collection	<b>73.6%</b> Voter Participation (2013 Election)	
	<b>Economic Capacity</b>	<b>32.5%</b> Economic Activity Rate	<b>97.6%</b> Employment Rate	<b>9.7%</b> Population in Highest Wealth Quintile		
	<b>Environmental Capacity</b>	<b>11.4%</b> Natural Protected Area				
	<b>Infrastructure Capacity</b>					
	<b>Health Care Capacity</b>	<b>4.2</b> Hospital Beds per 10,000 Persons	<b>2.5</b> Physicians per 10,000 Persons	<b>9.1</b> Nurses per 10,000 Persons	<b>26.8 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Hospital	<b>92.4%</b> Children Completed Immunization Schedule
	<b>Communications Capacity</b>	<b>12.3%</b> Households with Access to Fixed Phone Line	<b>54.2%</b> Households with Access to Mobile Phone			
	<b>Transportation Capacity</b>	<b>23.1 km</b> Average Distance to Nearest Port or Airport	<b>23.1 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: 12 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.476)**

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

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



**Clean Water  
Vulnerability**



**Economic  
Constraints**



**Economic  
Capacity**

## Multi-Hazard Risk (MHR)

**Multi-Hazard Risk<sup>7</sup> Rank: 15 of 18 Departments (Score: 0.422)**

Choluteca's Multi-Hazard Risk score and ranking are due to very low Multi-Hazard Exposure combined with low Vulnerability and low Coping Capacity scores.

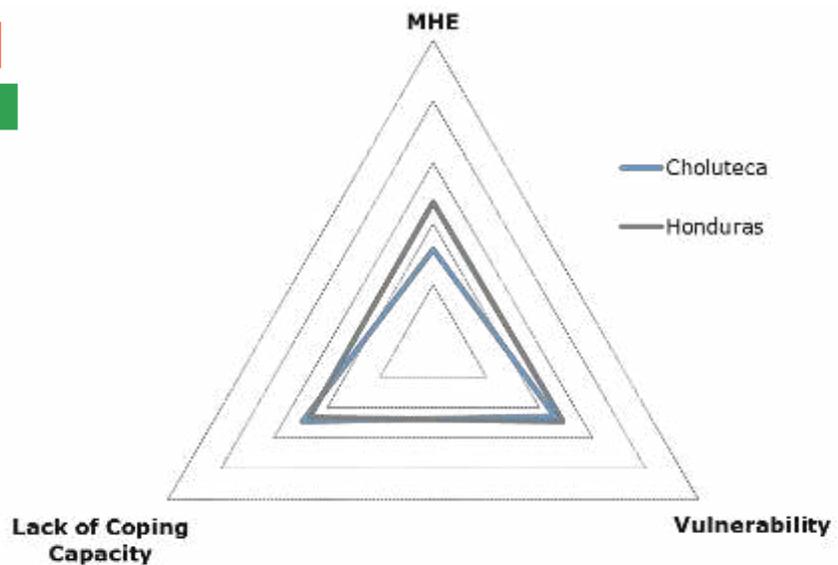


Figure 46. Department multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores.

<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



### Lowest population pressures

Ranked 18 of 18 departments, limited population change allows disaster managers to form accurate evacuation, sheltering, and resource plans.



### High overall governance

Ranked 4 of 18 departments, high governance could facilitate the implementation of disaster-management initiatives into departmental and municipal communities.

## Recommendations

01

### Invest in water infrastructure

Increased availability of clean water sources and proper sanitation services will decrease vulnerability and allow for quicker recovery in the event of disaster.

02

### Provide business opportunities and education

Institute programs to provide independent economic opportunities in the department. Increased economic capacity will decrease vulnerability in emergencies.



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