

Claiming human rights and boosting self-sufficiency

Context

Honduras is one of Latin America's poorest countries. Roughly two-thirds of its population live below the poverty line, of which 40 per cent in extreme poverty. The country continues to be plagued by an economic and political crisis. Following a neoliberal approach, the state promotes export-oriented and environmentally harmful mining projects and agro-industry. This strategy benefits primarily the country's powerful economic and political elite while degrading the environment and disregarding the local people. The military and police brutally repress all forms of protest. There are massive human rights abuses. People who stand up peacefully for the observance of human rights, the rights of the local people or in defence of natural resources live in constant mortal danger or are criminalised. Added to that is organized crime and its entanglement with state organs, police and military.

Objectives, priorities, activities

Central to the work of HEKS/EPER is improving the living conditions of rural dwellers both socially and economically and in terms of protection from despotism. HEKS/EPER supports the rural population in their efforts, even under difficult circumstances (small farming families with very little land, barren soil, drought) to produce sufficient, good quality food to cover their own needs and for sale. The marketing of agricultural produce is a crucially important element of the Country Programme. People and groups who oppose the misuse of power, injustice, the impunity of criminals, forced displacement, large profit-oriented projects or environmental degradation should be protected from repression. Protecting the population from state despotism, safeguarding human rights and disaster preparedness are also priorities. Those affected by the two hurricanes that caused extensive devastation in





Honduras in November 2020 are being assisted in the rebuilding of infrastructure. Destroyed plots of land are being cleaned up so that key crops such as maize (corn), beans and cassava can be replanted by the next sowing season.

Target groups

Direct beneficiaries are poor and marginalised peasant families in rural parts of Honduras. Other significant target groups are threatened communities and human rights defenders.

Partnerships, networks, alliances, memberships

HEKS/EPER cooperates with various local organizations in Honduras. Strategic partners in rural development include the Asociación de Desarrollo Pespireense (ADEPES), Vecinos Honduras (VH), PRR (Rural Reconstruction Programme), Asociación Nacional para el fomento de la agricultura ecológica (ANAFEA) as well as several networks and alliances. In the realm of human rights and conflict transformation, HEKS/EPER cooperates with C-Libre, ACI PARTICIPA, Peace Watch Switzerland (PWS) and Plataforma Internacional Contra la Impunidad (PI).

HEKS/EPER also coordinates its work with other international relief agencies and is a member of the Action by Churches Together (ACT International) network.

HEKS/EPER on the ground

HEKS/EPER maintains a Coordination Office in Tegucigalpa.

Topics and working approach

HEKS/EPER advocates for the most vulnerable in society. Their participation and decision-making input should be strengthened and their livelihoods improved. HEKS/EPER views its work in Honduras as a concrete contribution to peaceful coexistence, justice, respect for human rights and the conservation of natural resources. Systemic changes are needed in order to overcome marginalisation and poverty and safeguard human rights. Realising this will require the cooperation of as many relevant stakeholders as possible.

Country:

Honduras

HEKS/EPER No.: 383.500

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