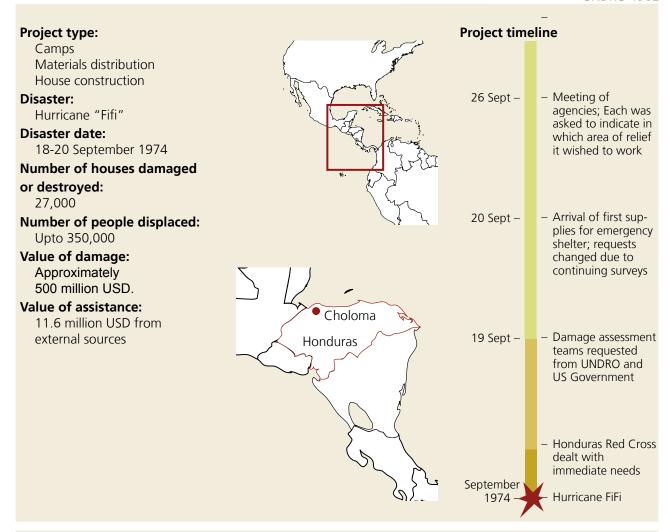
C.8 Honduras - 1974 - Hurricane

Case study: Shelter construction

Case study credit: UNDRO 1982



Emergency

Eight large refugee camps were established. The largest was built in Choloma to house 318 families (1,831 people). In addition there were improvised shelters. The extended family system does not appear to have functioned effectively. Existing buildings, such as schools, were used as temporary shelter.

Reconstruction

There were the major programmes of house building, each lead by a voluntary agency. In addition, CARE distributed roofing materials for 5,324 houses; housing was built above the flood plain, on the hillside, but remained vulnerable in many instances, due to poor 'cut and fill' techniques. A wide variety of systems including prefabricated timber and precast concrete systems were used for housing construction.

Strengths and weaknesses

- ***** There was a marked absence of governmental provision of new housing.
- * There was marked lack of local involvement in the camp and in rehousing programmes, many of which were culturally unsuited to local conditions
- **x** The distribution of aid was concentrated in certain centres such as Choloma, which caused a spiral of dependency with adverse long-term consequences.
- ➤ Many of the housing systems were not easily modified or maintained by those living in them.
- ➤ New buildings were not designed or sited to resist future high winds or flood action adequately.
- One of the new housing settlements, 'Colonia Canada', in Cholorna is interesting in that it evolved from a refugee camp of 485 families to a permanent settlement of 381 houses.