

**Honduras:** The project “Supporting COVID-19 Response in Rural and Indigenous Communities in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua”, supported by Global Affairs Canada until August 2021, helped to address food and economic insecurity in areas affected by drought and exacerbated by the pandemic, particularly working with women (68% of participants). It included awareness campaigns on the prevention of COVID-19 and sexual and gender based violence. Actions involved 28,370 people and reached another 683,280 people indirectly in the three countries. Despite the pandemic and two hurricanes/tropical storms, participants saw increased quantity and quality of food through farm diversification (crops and animals) and access to local basic grains. An average of 83% of women participants increased their productive resources, and nearly 100% of participants said this had improved their family’s food security. Women’s networks and community organizations will help sustain many of the enduring effects of this initiative such as raising awareness on women’s rights. Please see this [video for a summary of the project in Honduras](#), and this [story](#) on how agroforestry is key to recovery.

As of September 2021, SeedChange continued to support work by long-standing partner [FIPAH](#) in the regions of Yoro, Francisco Morazán and Intibucá. FIPAH supports farmer action research groups (CIALs) to strengthen local food and seed systems, organize collective marketing and policy advocacy. The program has a strong emphasis on gender equality and collaboration with women’s networks, climate adaptation through agroecological practices, and the development of markets for diverse products including avocado, aloe, coffee, sesame seeds and maize products.

**Bolivia:** SeedChange supports work by long-standing partner [PRODII](#) to strengthen local leadership in Indigenous Quechua communities of Northern Potosí for biodiversity-based agriculture. PRODII’s approach is informed by local Indigenous knowledge systems and includes a training methodology called EFLEPI ([video](#)) to promote farmer-to-farmer learning and small business management for ecological products. PRODII is currently working with 837 farmers and 12 collective enterprises on seed security and diversity, natural resource management, and the generation of economic opportunities. Recent results include 304 families now have highly diversified farms with improved soils that help guarantee household food security. The program is also leading in crucial work on seed security such as training and accompaniment with 38 farmers who are producing botanical potato seeds, which helps reduce plant diseases, increase genetic diversity and facilitate storage in community seed banks.

**Timor Leste:** RAEBIA, SeedChange’s partner in Timor Leste, works to increase seed security of smallholder farmers through community seed banks (CSBs) and community-based production and distribution of quality seeds. This year’s priorities have included the establishment and strengthening of a central CSB with diversity plots and production of source seeds for community seed production programmes. These have allowed family farmers in two districts, to have access to 25% more varieties of staple crops like maize, beans, cassava and taro, and 30% more varieties of vegetables. This increased access to diversified seed means better harvests for farmers, and more diversity in their family’s diets. RAEBIA has also piloted a participatory guarantee system for production and marketing of seeds and engaged with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the scaling out of CSBs in wider communities.