

# HONDURAS Earthquakes and Hurricanes RISK PROFILE

## What is a country disaster risk profile?

An estimation of the potential economic losses to property caused by adverse natural hazards.

### Country Disaster Risk Profile

#### Applications

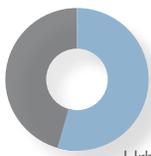
- ▶ **Develop** key baseline data
- ▶ **Evaluate** impact of disasters
- ▶ **Promote and inform** risk reduction
- ▶ **Inform** disaster risk financing

## Country At-A-Glance

GDP US\$ **19.3 billion** | Population **8.3 million** | Total Building Exposure US\$ (Replacement Value) **27.5 billion**

#### Population

Rural **46%**



Urban **54%**

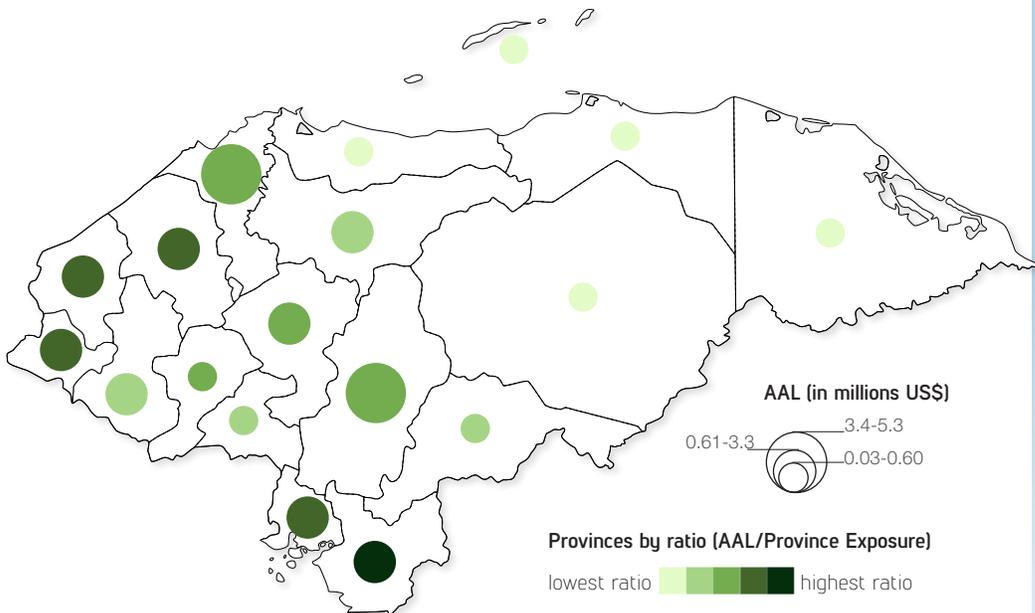
#### Gross Capital Stock

Public **30%**



Private **70%**

## Two representations of earthquake risk



**Absolute Risk:** The larger the circle, the higher the Annual Average Losses that the province could potentially incur over the long term.

**Relative Risk:** The darker the color, the higher the ratio of AAL/Province Exposure. The darkest color represents the province of Choluteca which has a higher proportion of vulnerable structures due to construction types and/or potentially higher earthquake intensity.



## Snapshot

▶ The hurricane risk in Honduras is **more significant** than the earthquake risk.

▶ Annual Average Loss (AAL) from hurricanes is **US\$ 48M (0.25% of GDP)** and from earthquakes is **US\$ 25.5M (0.13% of GDP)**.

▶ The Probable Maximum Loss for hurricanes (250 year return period) is **US\$ 1.6B (8% of GDP)** and for earthquakes (250 year return period) is **US\$ 684M (3.5% of GDP)**.

▶ Single-family, residential houses constructed with adobe are the buildings most vulnerable to earthquakes, **accounting for over 40% of AAL**.

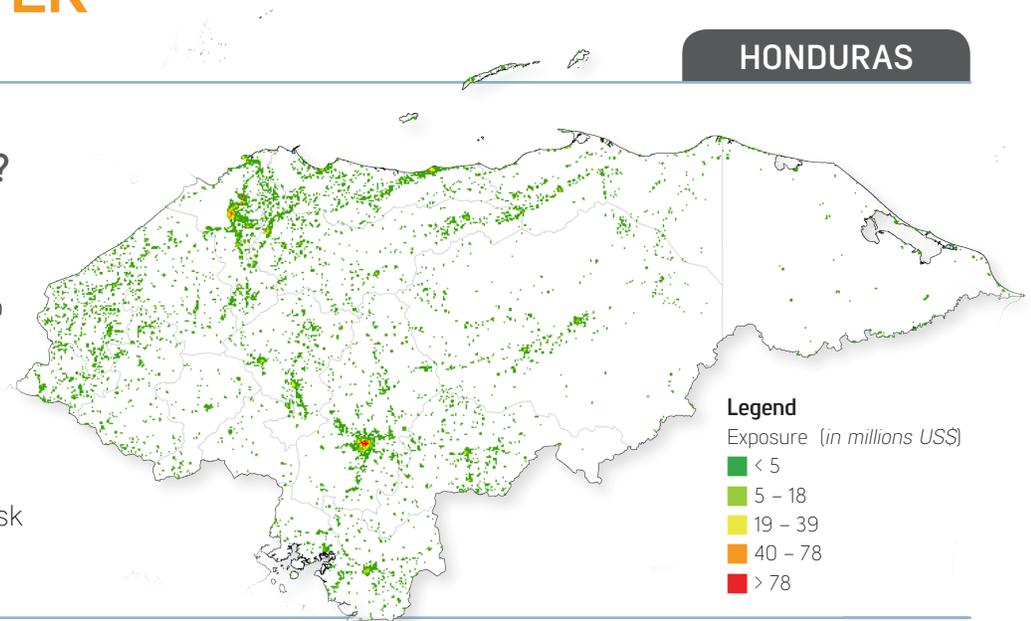
# COUNTRYDISASTER RISK PROFILES

HONDURAS

## What is at risk in Honduras?

Economic assets such as residential and non-residential buildings are at risk. These assets that are exposed to natural disasters are referred to as a country's **Building Exposure**.

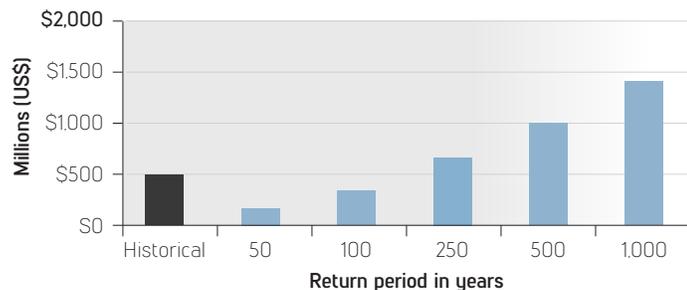
The map illustrates the value and distribution of residential and non-residential buildings in Honduras at risk from earthquakes and hurricanes.



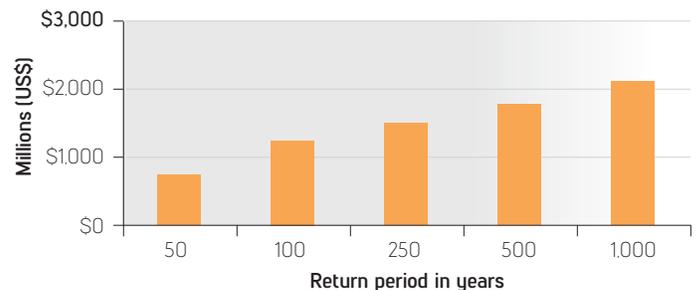
## What are the potential losses in Honduras?

These charts show the estimated potential future losses to Honduras that could be caused by earthquakes and hurricanes that could occur within a given return period. In 1851, a magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck Honduras. If this historical event were to happen in 2015, it would cause losses of US\$ 490M, amounting to 3% of GDP.

Estimated Losses Due to **EARTHQUAKES**

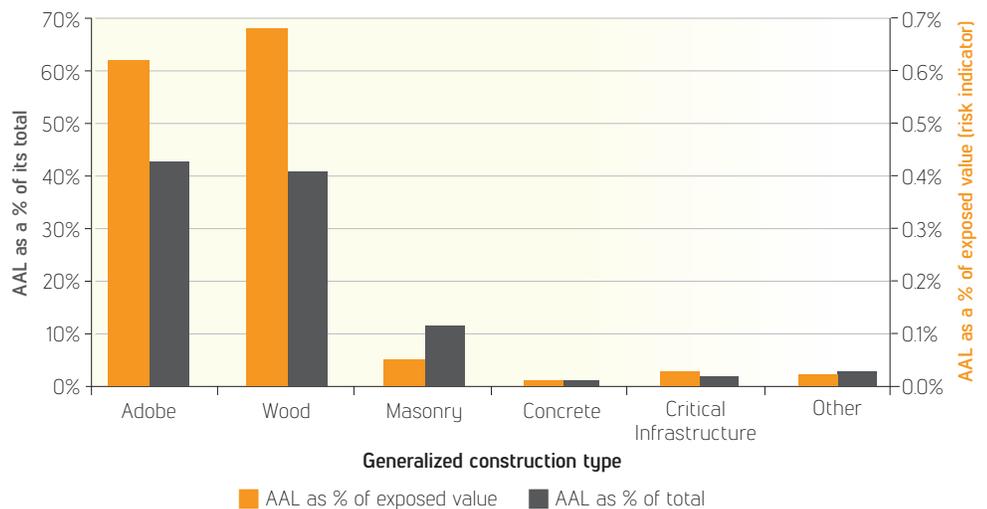


Estimated Losses Due to **HURRICANES**



## How can hurricane risk be reduced?

Adobe and wood structures are the most prevalent building types in Honduras. These account for over 80% of AAL due to hurricanes. Wood structures, however, are the riskiest type of construction.



To learn more, visit: [collaboration.worldbank.org/groups/cdrp](http://collaboration.worldbank.org/groups/cdrp) or email [cdrp@worldbank.org](mailto:cdrp@worldbank.org)

© 2016 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank  
1818 H Street NW  
Washington DC 20433  
Telephone: 202-473-1000  
Internet: [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

This work is a product of the staff of The World Bank with external contributions. The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this work do not necessarily reflect the views of The World Bank, its Board of Executive Directors, or the governments they represent.

The World Bank does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this work. The boundaries, colors, denominations, and other information shown on any map in this work do not imply any judgment on the part of The World Bank concerning the legal status of any territory or the endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.

### **Rights and Permissions**

The material in this work is subject to copyright. Because The World Bank encourages dissemination of its knowledge, this work may be reproduced, in whole or in part, for noncommercial purposes as long as full attribution to this work is given.

Any queries on rights and licenses, including subsidiary rights, should be addressed to World Bank Publications, The World Bank Group, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA; fax: 202-522-2625; e-mail: [pubrights@worldbank.org](mailto:pubrights@worldbank.org).