

CARE Proposal #2 for Multiple District 19 Lions



Country: Honduras

Project Location: Northern Honduras

Project Name: Support Families with Production of Natural Fuel for Cooking

Requested Amount: \$40,000 Goal for Year 1
(\$80,000 goal for 2 years)

Fundraising Period: July 2023 - June 2025

Project Implementation: Jan. 2025 - Dec. 2026

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Introduction

Honduras has one of the highest rates of deforestation in Latin America, [losing 10% of its forests in just over a decade](#). While the new government that took power in 2021 has put in place measures to combat climate change and preserve forests, the damage will last a long time. Deforestation and related environmental degradation play a major role in climate-related stresses including flooding, contamination of water, heat waves and droughts – all of which pose a threat to the livelihoods of rural agricultural areas and are driving high rates of migration.

One such area is Northern Honduras, including the departments of Cortés, Santa Bárbara and Yoro, where small-scale farming families face extremely high rates of poverty, limited economic opportunity and gender inequality. Marginalized populations like women, small farmers, micro-entrepreneurs and their families face enormous barriers to improving their livelihoods, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing economic crisis – and particularly by climate change and related natural disasters.

An important contributor to deforestation in rural Honduras, as elsewhere in Central America, is the [burning of wood for cooking and other household purposes](#). Traditionally, open fires are used not only to cook staple foods such as tortillas, but also to heat water, keep insects away, provide light when there is no electricity, and heat clothes irons.

It is vitally important to introduce and promote the use of sustainable alternatives to wood as a household fuel. Fortunately these exist, including the production of [biogas from waste products](#) such as pig manure – readily available in small-scale farming communities. Pig manure can be converted into safe gas for cookstoves through a process known as anaerobic digestion, during which bacteria break down organic material in a sealed vessel called a biodigester – a relatively simple and low-cost technology that has been demonstrated to be feasible in rural agricultural communities. However, in Northern Honduras, the vast majority of small-scale farmers do not use pig manure for productive

purposes, but rather deposit these residues in the environment, generating pollution and wasting a potentially important resource.

To capture this missed opportunity, CARE now proposes to partner with MD19 Lions to **construct biodigesters to produce natural fuel**. Our objective is to reduce the use of firewood in kitchens, helping address deforestation and contamination of water sources, and protecting the health of the population and the ecosystem. In addition, products such as organic fertilizers will be obtained.

The project will be implemented in three municipalities in northern Honduras (Santa Cruz de Yojoa and Villanueva in the department of Cortes, and Siguatepeque in the department of Comayagua) and four communities (Agua Salada, Terreritos, Casitas and El Guiral).

The project will have two phases, each lasting 12 months, starting in early 2025 and ending in late 2026. The MD19 Lions-funded project will complement the ongoing work of a larger project in the region known as Nutriendo el Futuro (Feed the Future), where CARE works to improve access to inclusive markets and productive resources with a strong focus on inclusion, adaptation and climate change mitigation.

With the support of MD19 Lions, CARE intends to implement the following activities:

- Construction of 20 biodigesters with their respective ovens that will be installed in the selected homes.
- Carry out an environmental education campaign involving households that are part of the Nutriendo el Futuro, Schools and children project.
- Carry out reforestation campaigns involving the population in the selected communities, using native plants from each region.
- Conduct training for the families that will be building the biodigesters.
- Raise awareness about the experience and make the main impacts visible.

Conclusion

Creating better opportunities for rural farming families in Northern Honduras urgently requires addressing the causes of climate change. That is a complex and long-term challenge, but a relatively simple step is to reduce the burning of wood as a household fuel, substituting biogas. Experience has shown that rural communities can readily produce clean biogas by processing organic waste such as pig manure using biodigesters – a simple, sustainable technology. With support from Multiple District 19 Lions we will be able to introduce this technology to four communities in Northern Honduras, not only bringing immediate benefits to the selected families but also showcasing the technology in a manner that we hope will promote its wider adoption. We hope you will consider this important project..

June 2023