

CPA in Central America

ChildFund Alliance in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua



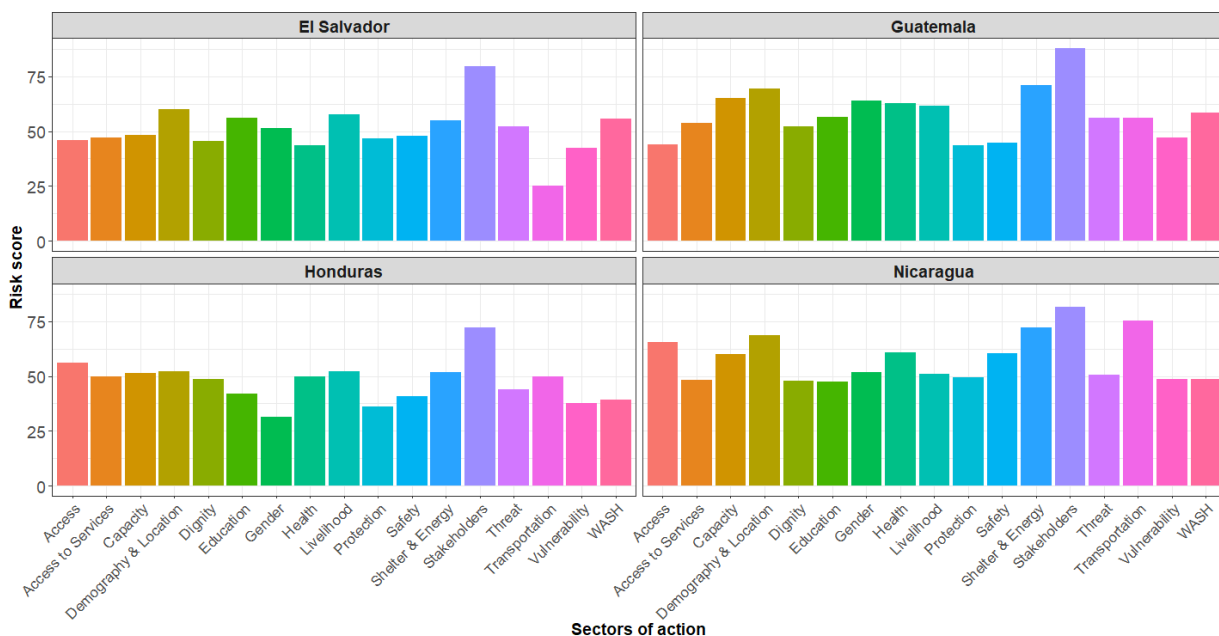
The CPA is an action-oriented approach and community participatory methodology to examine the geographical areas and sectors with the highest protection risks, to co-develop Protection Response Plans, together with the affected population and local constituencies, in order to reduce vulnerabilities and increase capacities of affected population, by increasing agency through an innovative people-centred approach for community engagement and empowerment. Between June and October 2021 partners of ChildFund Alliance and local organizations have implemented a joint exercise using one of the component of the CPA, the Multi-sector questionnaire (MQ) to identify the principal protection risks in 62 communities of Central America (illustration no. 1).

Sectorial Protection Risk in Central America

A series of protection indicators are generated to characterize and carry out comparative studies at the regional, national, and local levels. The Multi-Sector Questionnaire is only the first step of a system that guides us to generate community participatory strategies. In this step, more than 80 indicators in 12 humanitarian action sectors are generated, classified in various analysis frameworks. By monitoring these indicators, a continuous analysis of the different sectors can be made, and particularly vulnerable groups in terms of access to basic services, education, transportation, violence, and others, can be identified. The results are also useful to adjust the community strategies since they acknowledge the different threats, vulnerabilities, and coping capacities of the communities.

Even when there are clear differences from country to country, (that can be seen in the next graph), in general, the Central American countries analyzed have high protection risks; especially in the sector of “stakeholders” which refer to the central government, the local authorities, NGOs, international organisms, etc. They also show high protection risks in other sectors such as “demography and location”, “livelihoods”, “health”, “shelter and energy”, and the sector of “water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)”.

PROTECTION RISKS, BY SECTOR AND COUNTRY

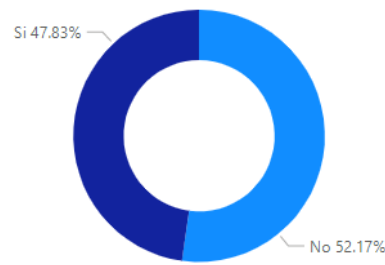


The higher the risk score, the higher the protection risk in that sector. Each dot represent a community. Source: CPA initiative

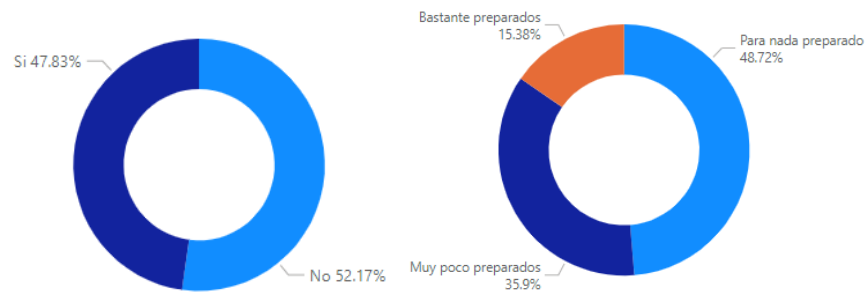
Preparedness for disaster

Organizations can no longer work in isolation to one another. Hence, coordination between civil society actors, local and national authorities, international cooperation, and the donor community is needed, especially when it comes to serious, structural problems like, Disaster preparedness, that demand strategic and synergic actions to truly make communities more resilient. In the communities analyzed, almost half of them confirmed to have experienced a natural disaster in the last year (Illustration 1). However, just 15% of communities feel well prepared to face these disasters (Illustration 2).

Illustration 1. Experienced a natural disaster in the last year



Source: CPA initiative
Illustration 2. Feeling of preparedness to face natural disaster



Livelihoods in Times of COVID-19

The CPA is a flexible tool that can be adapted to the different contexts, including complex and emerging crises.

This particular flexibility, allows us adapt to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and collect relevant information about its impact on local communities. For example, this allowed us to identify that, in the evaluated communities, more than 80% reported having had a decrease in their income due to the pandemic. Also, most of the communities said that more than 75% of workers lost their job during this time; with a significant number of communities saying that all workers had lost their jobs.

This situation is especially worrying, considering that the lack of regular income can aggravate the situation of chronic child malnutrition, where almost 1 in 2 communities reported a confirmed case of child chronic malnutrition.

Illustration 3. Impact of Covid-19 crisis in the earnings of the households

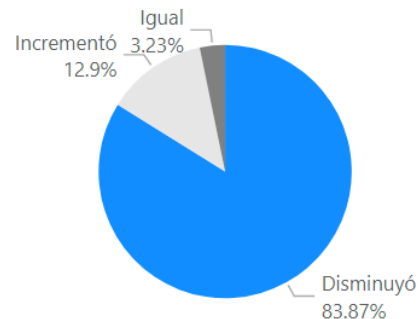
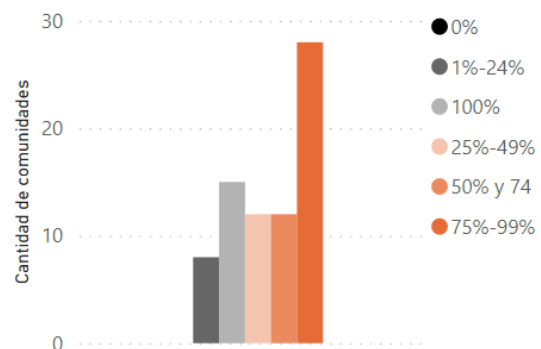


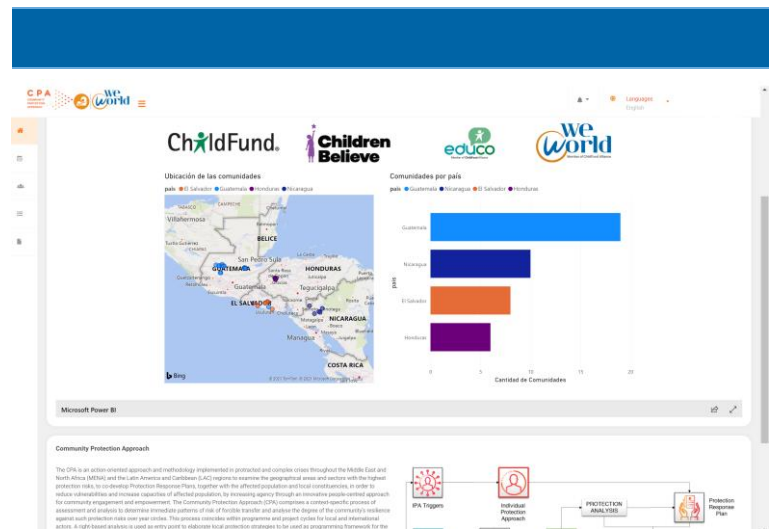
Illustration 4. Percentage of persons who lost their job in the communities during the pandemic



The CPA Platform

The implementation of the CPA as a tool has permitted us to transcend the traditional standard of working with communities and has allowed us to overcome daily work challenges faced by teams in the field.

The digital CPA platform (for more info on the platform and CPA components please visit <https://cpainitiative.org/>), has made the systematization and administration of all the information possible and more efficient for practitioners and partners alike. It also helps to visualize the information collected in the communities and countries where we work and to characterize the communities according to their vulnerabilities, as well as the protection risks that people face. On the other hand, the platform also automatically generates quality indicators, allowing for remote and real-time review of the quality of the field work carried out.



Source: CPA Initiative

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