

A Safer Home and Business Pave the Way to a Brighter Future for Modesta Rodríguez

The U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), in partnership with MCA-Honduras, is conducting one of the most comprehensive resettlement projects in Honduras. A legislative measure developed by MCA-Honduras and passed by the Honduran Congress enabled the prompt, fair, and equitable compensation to those who needed to be relocated out of the 'right of way' as a result of the construction of an upgraded and expanded CA-5 highway (one of the country's main corridors). Many of those who are receiving compensation now have access to homes with basic amenities that they lacked previously, such as water, sewerage, and electricity. The MCC-funded Transportation Project is expected to have positive long-term impacts on the lives of Hondurans by improving 109 kilometers of the CA-5 highway and 57 kilometers of three secondary highways, thereby contributing to opportunities for economic growth. In addition to improving access to markets for rural communities, the project will also introduce a vehicle weight control system to help preserve the national road network.

Modesta Rodríguez is one of the beneficiaries of this resettlement effort. In anticipation of the improvements to the CA-5 highway, Modesta was consulted early in the process and offered various compensation options. Modesta decided to relocate her home and business out of the road's right of way and into one of the new resettlement complexes under construction by MCA-Honduras. Her new home is located in the complex, "Milenio Pumas," which is close to where she used to live, and is constructed of better materials. The complex includes a new school, community center, basketball court, market stalls, potable water system, and other basic services that were previously unavailable. In addition, Modesta has received business services support through the MCA-led economic reactivation program to help improve sales of her artisan products.



Modesta Rodríguez expresses her gratitude for a home, a better place for her business and a brighter future.



Before the MCA-Honduras resettlement effort, Modesta Rodríguez lived and sold her arts and crafts along the CA-5 highway. With the help of MCC, her new location, as well as training and support, will allow her business to grow in a safe sustainable way.

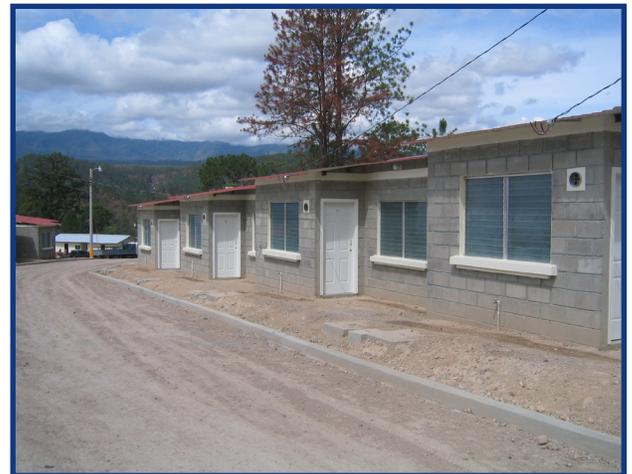
the resettlement policy. For example, local authorities and citizens organized a Highway Pro-paving Committee to pave the secondary road from Comayagua-Ajuterique-La Paz. This Committee mobilized people living alongside the highway, supervised the relocation of the public lighting system, and financed design and environmental impact studies, among other activities. They have been an essential part of the MCA-Honduras effort, helping to implement the Transportation Project. Country ownership has ensured that the project is both effective and valued by beneficiary communities. As the Mayor of Siguatepeque Comayagua Guillermo Martinez says, “We see the CA-5 project as a very interesting prospect for the development of the city. For me the CA-5 is the best thing that could happen, because it will give our city better growth.”

At the inauguration event for the “Milenio Pumas,” community, into which Modesta and 26 other families moved, Modesta addressed the public, particularly thanking U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Hugo Llorens, MCC’s Resident Country Director Jonathan Brooks, and the MCA General Director Martin Ochoa. She said, “I would like to thank you for giving me such a pretty house and business. On behalf of the 26 families, we are extremely grateful.”

Country Ownership of the Resettlement Process

The resettlement process has been implemented successfully to date, benefiting Hondurans like Modesta Rodríguez Ramírez, due in part to the country-led approach. Some of the lessons learned are now being considered by the roads ministry and other donors. For example, the ministry has taken note of how quickly and non-confrontationally MCA-Honduras had been able to clear the road and provide compensation to the approximately 1,900 people involved.

Cooperation from local communities for the Transportation Project has been evident during the implementation of the project, especially during the implementation of



MCC funds constructed homes for 26 resettled families in the Colonia “Milenio Pumas.” Not only are hundreds of thousands of Hondurans expected to benefit from the upgrades of the CA-5 highway, but people living along the road are also benefiting from the equitable compensation that they are receiving as part of the implementation of MCC’s resettlement policy.