



# MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

## NATIONAL REPORT: HONDURAS

ICA – EU PARTNERSHIP



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## I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report is part of a Mapping exercise launched by the International Cooperative Alliance and its regional offices, within the framework of a partnership signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-2020. The programme aims to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development. Other research projects led within this partnership include a worldwide Legal Frameworks Analysis, and several thematic researches on themes of significance for cooperatives.

Responding to challenges and existing knowledge gaps facing the cooperative movement, this research seeks to provide exhaustive information on cooperatives worldwide. This is achieved through a process jointly conducted by the ICA and its four regional offices – Cooperatives of the Americas, Cooperatives Europe, ICA Africa, and ICA Asia-Pacific – using a common methodology. Each office collected the input of ICA members present in the countries within its geographic area, by using the same questionnaire, and completing it with relevant national statistics, in order to obtain an accurate picture of the national situation.

Mapping out cooperatives in each country provides a more precise picture of the cooperative context at national and regional levels, enhances the movement's visibility, networking, partnerships opportunities, as well as advocacy, and empowers cooperators by providing them tools for positive change.

Within this framework, the present report showcases information about the cooperative landscape in Honduras.

## i. Historical background

The origin of Honduran cooperativism dates back to the last century according to Confecoop<sup>1</sup> (n.d.); the first expressions were manifested in the last quarter of the 19th century with the emergence of a mutual organization known as Sociedad de Ladinos de Márcala, department of La Paz in 1876. This is the oldest antecedent in the history of organized cooperativism. In 1930, the Managerial Type Society and the “El Obrero” Mutual Society were established in Ocotepeque, the same manifestation took place in Santa Rosa de Copán with the Copaneca Society of Workers. The first two demonstrations presented here are still valid.

In 1923 the precept was inserted for the first time in the Constitution of the Republic: “It is the function of the State to promote the cooperative association”; in 1927 the Municipalities Law dedicated two articles to it, to the promotion and execution of cooperative societies; In 1936, the Cooperative Societies Law was approved for the sale of merchandise on time with provisions for the regulation and promotion of Cooperative Associations.

In 1949 a chapter for the regulation of cooperative societies was included in the Commercial Code, considering them in the same body of laws of commercial companies. In 1954 the Law of Cooperative Associations was approved, leaving the chapter of the Commercial Code without force. This Law was in force until 1987, when a new Cooperatives Law was promulgated.

The decade of the 50's is considered as the one of the birth of the Honduran cooperative movement. In 1953, the first agricultural cooperative was created. On March 13, 1954, the Cooperative Associations Law was promulgated, leaving the chapter of the Commercial Code without force. This Law was in force until 1987, when a new Cooperatives Law was promulgated. Later, the Cooperative Development Directorate was organized.

The Sovereign National Congress, in 1987, promulgated the current Cooperatives Law of Honduras, a fact that allowed the formalization and dynamization of the productive

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<sup>1</sup> Confecoop. (s.f.). Cooperativism in the world: Honduras. Available at: <https://confecoop.coop/cooperativismo/en-el-mundo/honduras/#:~:text=El%20origen%20del%20cooperativismo%20Hondure%C3%B1o,de%20La%20Paz%20en%201876.>

social economy of Honduras. The Cooperative Companies of Honduras in a relatively short period of time spread throughout the Republic to cover a total of 17 departments.

## ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Honduras, the present section provides key data from the country's public registers as a useful background context to the ICA members' data showcased in Section II of the report.

The data presented here comes from the National Database of the Superior National Council of Cooperatives for 2019<sup>2</sup>.

### NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

In 2019, the National Database of the Superior National Council of Cooperatives reports for 2019 a total of 1 107 active cooperatives in Honduras.

### EMPLOYMENT:

Honduras does not have updated public information on the employment generated by cooperatives.

### COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

Honduras does not have updated public information on the number of cooperative memberships.

### PRODUCTION VALUE:

Honduras does not have updated public information on the value of the production generated by cooperatives.

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<sup>2</sup> Consucoop. (2019). Cooperatives database. Available at: <https://consucoop.hn/mapa/>

### iii. Research methodology

The aim of the mapping research is to collect and make publicly available reliable and up-to-date data to understand what the cooperative movement represents in the targeted country. With this view, the data detailed in the present report has been collected using the methodology detailed below.

The methodological tools include a questionnaire used to collect the data, which was distributed online to the members, as well as a methodological note provided for further guidance. They were built jointly with all ICA regional offices with the support of external experts from the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) and are applied in a harmonised way in all the target countries.

The classifications used in the research are consistent with the internal system used within the ICA movement (e.g. on membership status and types of cooperative organisations) and with standards increasingly adopted in recent studies and by international organisations like the ILO – e.g. using international classifications of economic activities such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) rev. 4, which ensures the comparability of statistics both nationally and internationally, as well as with statistics on other forms of enterprises.

Regarding the target organisations, considering that a worldwide survey has very challenging goals, and while the value of directly collecting data from non-member cooperatives must be recognised, the present Mapping exercise targets cooperative organisations members of the ICA.

Furthermore, in order to complete the ICA members' data, the decision was taken to also look at external sources, to provide additional and more exhaustive cooperative statistics for the country. As a result, the data is collected following two strategies contemporaneously: 1) collecting statistics already available in the country; 2) carrying out a survey targeting ICA cooperative members.

In Honduras, the mapping questionnaire was distributed and completed by 2 ICA member organizations. After further follow-up of the surveyed members, the figures provided were compiled to be presented in the next section.

## II. KEY FIGURES

This section presents the results of data collection conducted by ICA members.

Honduras has 4 ICA member organizations (all as full members):

- **Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito Sagrada Familia.** Full member.

Founded 50 years ago by a small group of humble visionaries with deep religious fervor, all members of the Society of the Holy Name of Jesus and the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary, with the aim of promoting community development by providing capital and financial services to people and communities that are not typically served by traditional financial institutions. Sector: Finance.

- **Federación de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Crédito, Ltda. (FACACH).** Full member.

Founded in 1966, it is the organization that integrates and represents the Savings and Credit Cooperatives committed to success, support and competitiveness through financial, educational and technical solutions for its members, complying with cooperative principles and contributing to the development of the country. Sector: Finance.

- **Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito Educadores de Honduras Limitada (COACEHL).** Full member.

Founded in 1971 by a group of teachers from the República de Guatemala school with the aim of solving their economic problems, their families and the community under the name COSMEHL, changing to its current name in 1976. Sector: Finance.

- **Cooperativa de Ahorro y Crédito CACEENP Limitada.** Full member.

Founded in 1979 by employees of the National Port Company, today it is a cooperative that allows the free and voluntary membership of any citizen who shares cooperative values and principles, currently having more than 30 000 members. Sector: Finance.

ICA member organizations are directly or indirectly active exclusively in the finance sector.

#### iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided for the year 2017 and 2019, as it was the data provided by the member organizations.

#### v. General overview

This section provides an overview of the ICA membership data for Honduras. It is displayed in various categories and supported by tables and graphs, for clarity.

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	89
Number of memberships	975 503
Number of employees	2 679

Overall, ICA members represent 89 cooperatives in the country, with a total number of memberships of 975 503 and a total number of 2 679 employees.

#### vi. Sector overview

The sectors used below correspond to the categories used in the ISIC rev. 4. to classify the economic activities carried out by the organisations concerned.

A general overview is provided in the chart below:

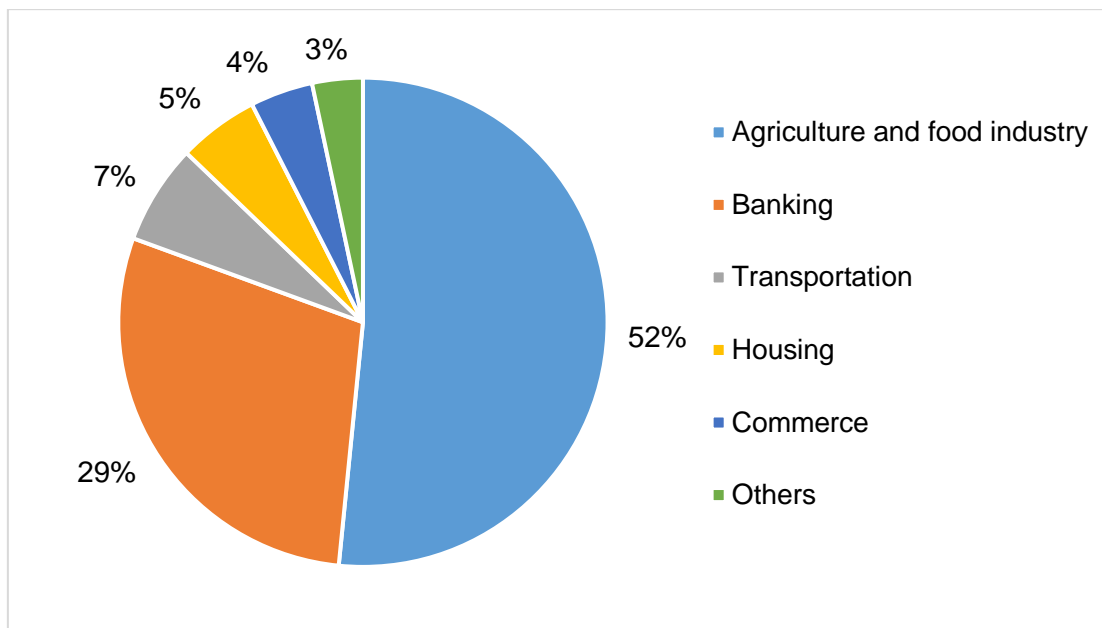


Sector	Cooperatives
Agriculture and food industry	571
Banking	321
Transportation	73
Housing	59
Commerce	46
Industry	10
Education	2
Accommodation and food	2
Utilities	1
Health	1
Others	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 107</b>

### III. GRAPHS

Specific variables are also detailed in the graphs below when sectorial data was available.

#### vii. Percentage of total cooperatives by sector



## IV. ANNEXES

### Sources:

Confecoop. (s.f.). Cooperativism in the world: Honduras. Available at: <https://confecoop.coop/cooperativismo/en-el-mundo/honduras/#:~:text=El%20origen%20del%20cooperativismo%20Hondure%C3%B1o.de%20La%20Paz%20en%201876>.

Consucoop. (2019). Cooperatives database. Available at: <https://consucoop.hn/mapa/>

### Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on [www.coops4dev.coop](http://www.coops4dev.coop)

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