



# COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



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## **The importance of food security in an emergency context. The Roya crisis in Guatemala**



This study aims at examining the importance of food security in an emergency context through the analysis of an empirical case: the actual impact of the World Food Programme's response to the Roya crisis in Guatemala on food security and nutritional status of the local population.



After a brief introduction of the literature debate on the main concepts of this work and on the importance of a quick, effective and efficient response to the adverse events, this work focuses on the investigation of the empirical case.



Insieme, per un mondo possibile.

The Roya, better known as coffee rust, is a plant fungus that attacks the leaves of coffee trees. In Guatemala this disease has determined a huge drop in agriculture production and an increase of the unemployment rate, deteriorating the food security and nutritional status of the local population, especially in the southern-western part of the country, the Boca Costa area of the department of San Marco, the area of interest of this study.



The investigation has been conducted through the analysis of the quantitative (individual interviews) and qualitative data (communitarian focus groups) collected during the final evaluation of the WFP project. According to the three main dimensions of food security, the results show that this project has positively impacted the



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food security and nutritional status of the affected population, but only in the short-term. For this reason, at the end, this study recommends, through some practical examples, the implementation of long-run strategies and programmes based on the sustainable livelihood approach.

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