

Hurricane Makes its Way Through Central America

Earlier this week Felix, a Force 5 Hurricane, hit Nicaragua and Honduras' barrier islands along the Mosquito Coast with strong winds and rain. On Wednesday September 5, 2007 Felix made its way inland and into the Copan area of Honduras. All of us at SATC were concerned about the safety of *Manos Amigas* staff, the clinic and the people in the various barrios of La Entrada. Nicaragua took the brunt of the storm. Although it rained heavily for 24 hours in La Entrada, reports from our clinic staff said that they weathered the storm pretty well and that some of the land, although flooded will recover. Here are several pictures sent to us by *Manos Amigas*. The first two pictures were taken near La Entrada showing the Jagua River and the last series of pictures are from the area near Chalmecca showing the flooding of the Chamelecon River. The clinic report on September 6 was "Don't worry, everything on the land is good. The weather is good, very sunny and a little hot."



The swollen Jagua River after 24 hours of rainfall



The Jagua overflows its banks



Flooded fields near the Jagua



The Chamelecon River spills over



A portion of the hilltop is devoid of vegetation as local inhabitants have planted crops there. If they plant crops along the contour lines in rows running perpendicular to the slope of the hill, the land will trap some of the water and prevent soil erosion. Frequently, we see people who have planted rows in such areas that run parallel or down the hillside. This is a practice that needs to be corrected. It contributes heavily to flooding and loss of soil, causing the hill to cave in on itself after heavy rains.