

# Measuring social impacts of aquaculture production on communities in Honduras and Western Isles, Scotland

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# What impact has the aquaculture sector had on community wellbeing in Honduras and Scotland?

## Objectives:

1. **Evaluate** social impact measurement and identify wellbeing gaps
2. **Develop** a comprehensive social sustainability framework focused on wellbeing
3. **Test** and adapt the framework in Honduras and Scotland

*Through the lens of what's important to people in communities*

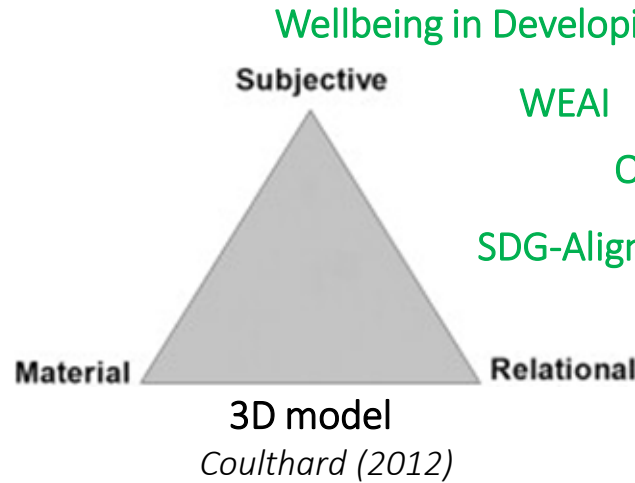


# So what?!

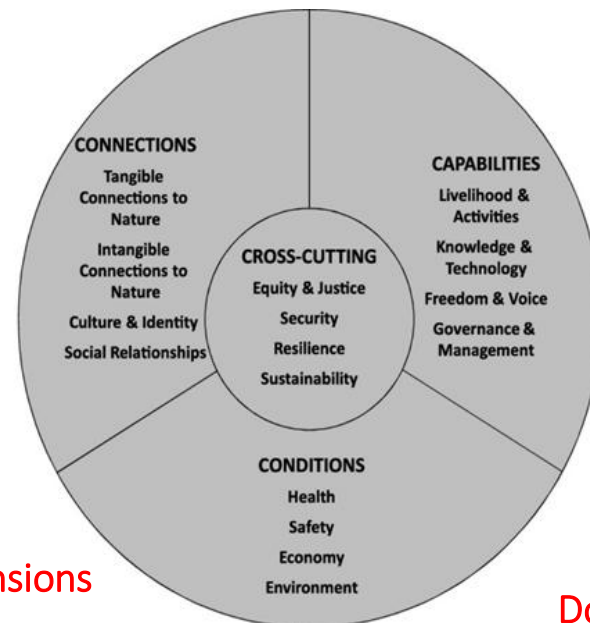
## Why measure social impacts?

- **Supports fair livelihoods** and community wellbeing
- **Builds trust** and acceptance among workers, communities, and consumers
- **Balancing economic, environmental, social** goals, results in a holistic approach to sustainability
- **Bridges a key gap** and advances sustainability

# Frameworks and models



Blue Economy and Blue Communities framework  
Campbell et al. (2021)



Dimensions

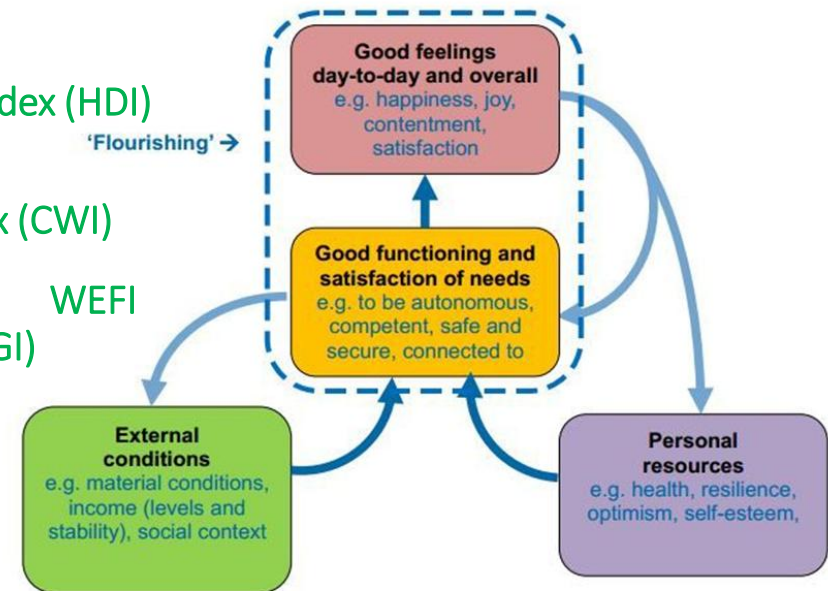
Flourishing

Material/ Relational/ Subjective

Capabilities

Eudaimonia

Multidimensional

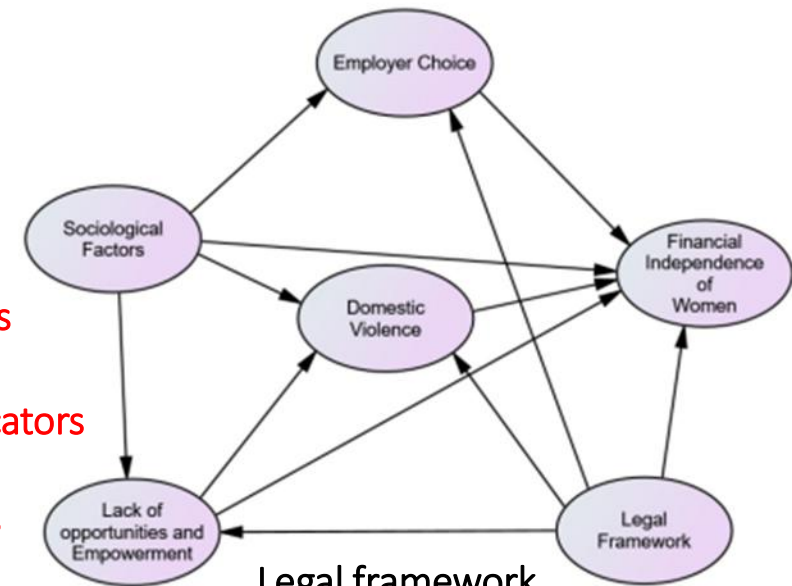


Domains

Indicators

Components

Functioning



Legal framework  
Rughoobur et al. (2023)

# Indicators





# Literature...

## What is the literature telling us?

- Understanding social sustainability in aquaculture is a critical gap
- Research is skewed toward environmental concerns
- Social dimensions, especially wellbeing and gender equality, are underexplored
- Existing frameworks lack nuance in measuring human wellbeing and women's experiences
- Global frameworks, largely focused on agriculture/ fisheries, overlook local and aquaculture contexts
- Aquaculture lacks a comprehensive framework to measure social impacts



# Research Design

Three-stage mixed-methods design combining qualitative research with a quantitative element

## **Stage 1:**

- Scoping fieldwork: Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and semi-structured interviews to define community wellbeing locally

## **Stage 2:**

- Primary fieldwork: Semi-structured interviews to test and refine the THRIVE Community Wellbeing Framework, with qualitative insights supported by Likert-scale quantitative data

## **Stage 3:**

- Cross country comparative analysis: Data from Stage 1 and 2 analysed to identify patterns and differences across Global North and Global South



# Stage 1

- Scoping fieldwork:  
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and semi-structured interviews to define community wellbeing locally
- Conducted in Honduras (May–June 2025); and Western Isles (July–Aug 2026)
- Resulting in 46 datasets: 17 FGDs and 29 interviews with 122 participants from aquaculture industry, community and health and social care sector in Honduras

# Stage 1 Fieldwork





# Stage 1 Findings

## Definitions of wellbeing from community perspective

- Six priority indicators identified by communities:
  1. Income
  2. Jobs
  3. Health
  4. Education
  5. Family
  6. Faith
- Strong focus on survival, income security, and basic services within a Low Middle-Income Country (LMIC) context
- Influenced by environmental pressures, industry reliance, and social challenges (eg. drugs/ violence/ abuse)

**All informs THRIVE Community Wellbeing Framework**



# Developing the THRIVE Community Wellbeing Framework







## **Community-driven indicator development**

- FGDs explored local definitions of wellbeing
- Participatory ranking identified shared priorities
- Themes refined through iterative saturation
- Six wellbeing priorities informed indicator design
- Co-creation of indicators grounded in community values

## **Theory-informed framework refinement**

- Material, subjective and relational wellbeing integrated (*Coulthard, 2012*)
- Alignment with relevant SDGs ensured (*Costanza et al., 2016*)
- Gender equality embedded in framework design (*Berik, 2023*)

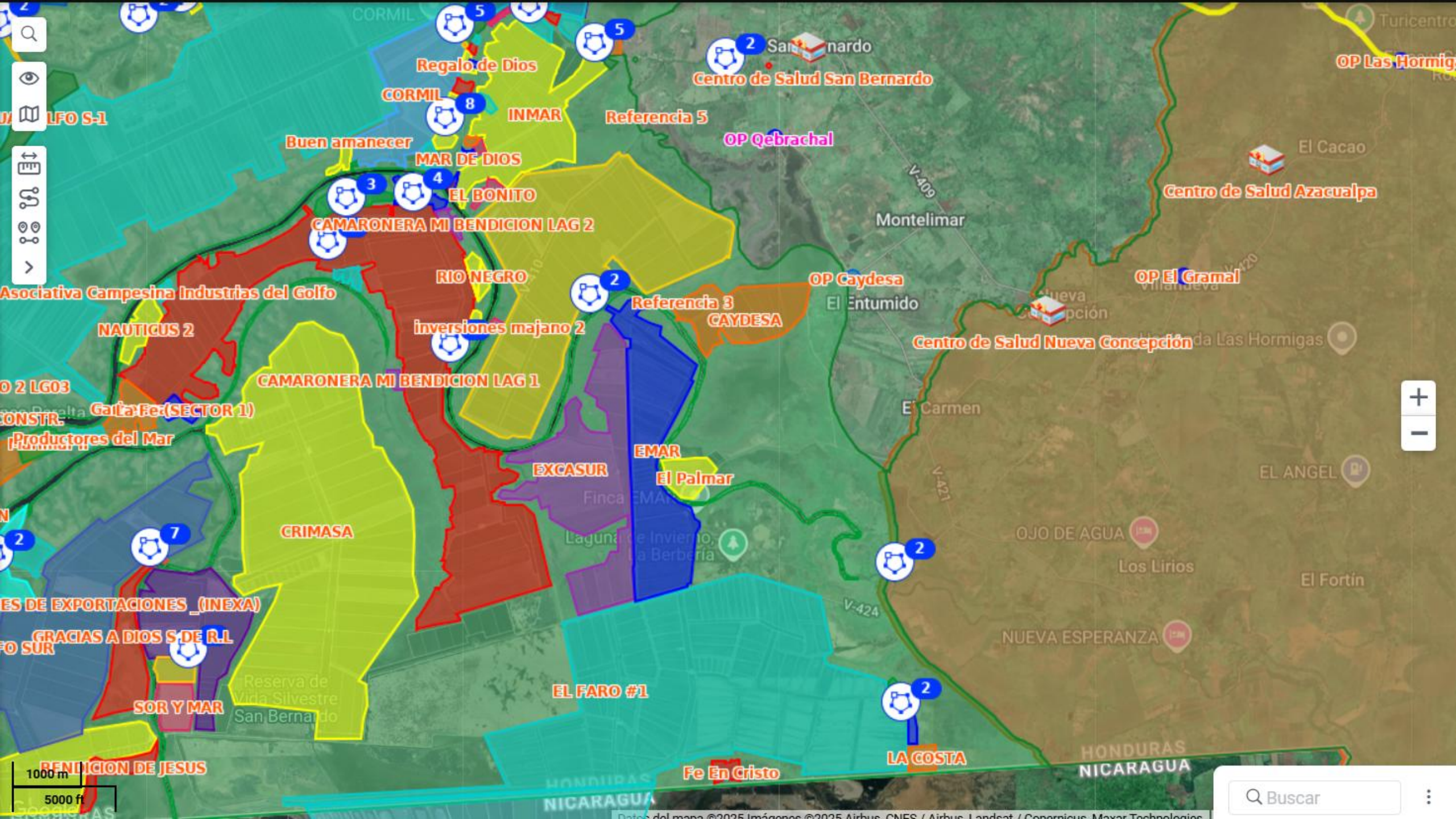
# THRIVE Community Wellbeing Framework

	INDICATORS	COMPONENTS	CATEGORIES
<b>T</b>	<b>Take-home finances</b>	Household income; Basic needs; Household financial management; Assets; Savings; Debts	<b>Material</b> 
<b>H</b>	<b>Health &amp; wellbeing</b>	Access to services; Responsibility for provision (public/ private); Meet needs; Immunisations and medication; Inpatient services; Primary care; Mental health; Sexual health; Social care; Substance use; Domestic Violence	<b>Subjective</b> 
<b>R</b>	<b>Relationships &amp; support</b>	Family and friends; Colleagues; Role in community (governance); Membership (association); Community activities (arts/ culture/ sports); Faith groups; Safety and security	<b>Relational</b> 
<b>I</b>	<b>Income &amp; employment</b>	Job role/ meaningful employment; Grade/ level of income; Level of influence/ decision making; Access to work; Fair pay; Job security; Job satisfaction/ valued employee; Promotion prospects; Benefits; Unpaid work and value attached	<b>Material</b> 
<b>V</b>	<b>Vocational &amp; educational opportunities</b>	Education to date; On the job skills and training; Opportunities for growth and development; Access to education and training (enablers); Barriers to education and training	<b>Subjective</b> 
<b>E</b>	<b>Equality &amp; fair treatment</b>	Equal access to opportunities; Voice and decision-making power; Equal pay; Protective employment policies; Feeling included/ listened to; Consultation to ensure views are heard; Social conditions impacting on life	<b>Subjective</b> 



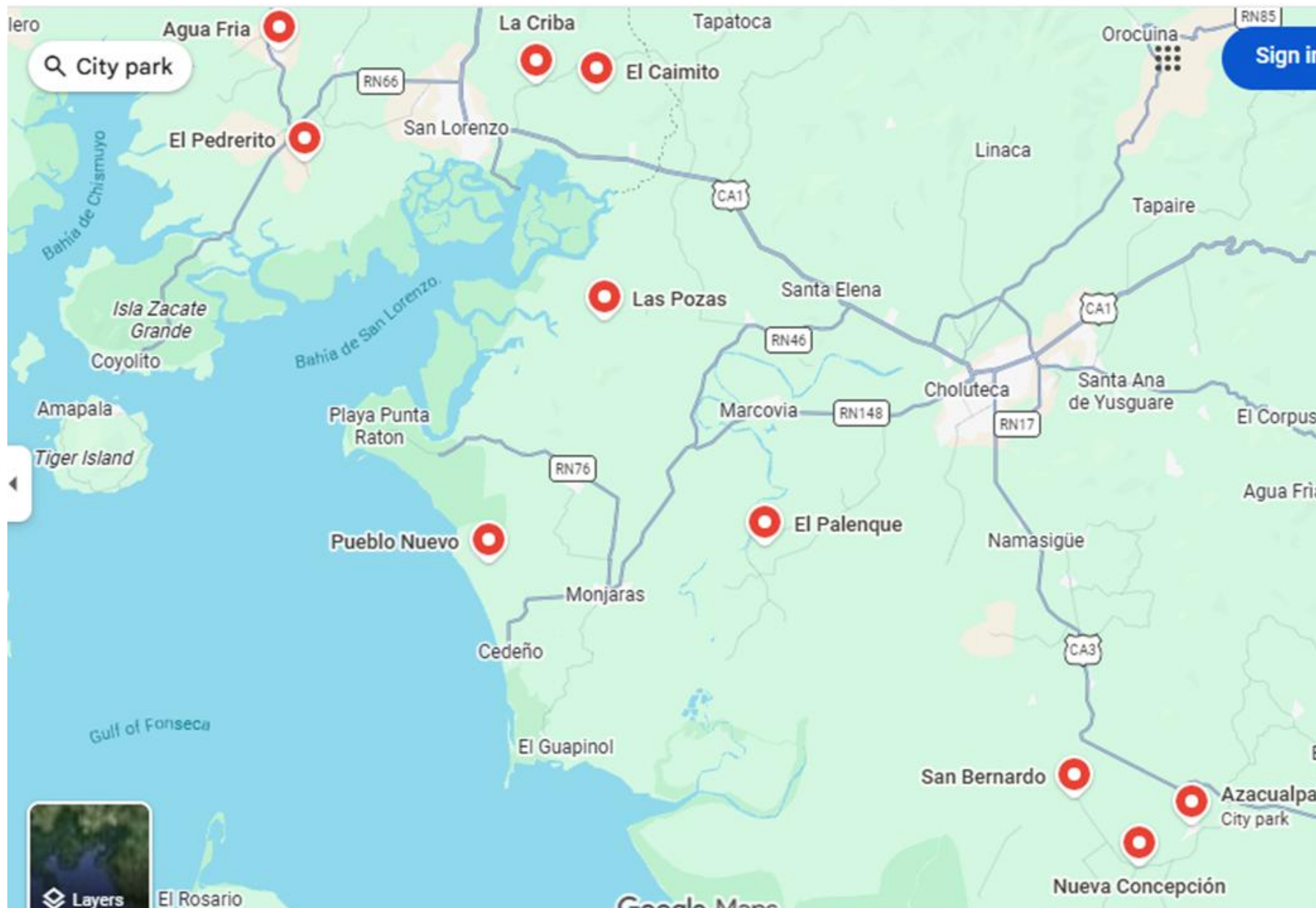
## Stage 2

- Primary fieldwork: May 2026 (Honduras)
- Semi-structured interviews to test and refine the THRIVE Community Wellbeing Framework
- Qualitative insights supported by Likert-scale quantitative data
- Repeat process in Scotland August 2026



# Map of the 10 Fundesur health centre locations

1. San Bernardo
2. Nueva Concepción
3. Azacualpa
4. Agua Fria
5. Palenque
6. El Caimito
7. La Criba
8. Las Pozas
9. Pueblo Nuevo
10. Guanacaste (El Pedrerito)



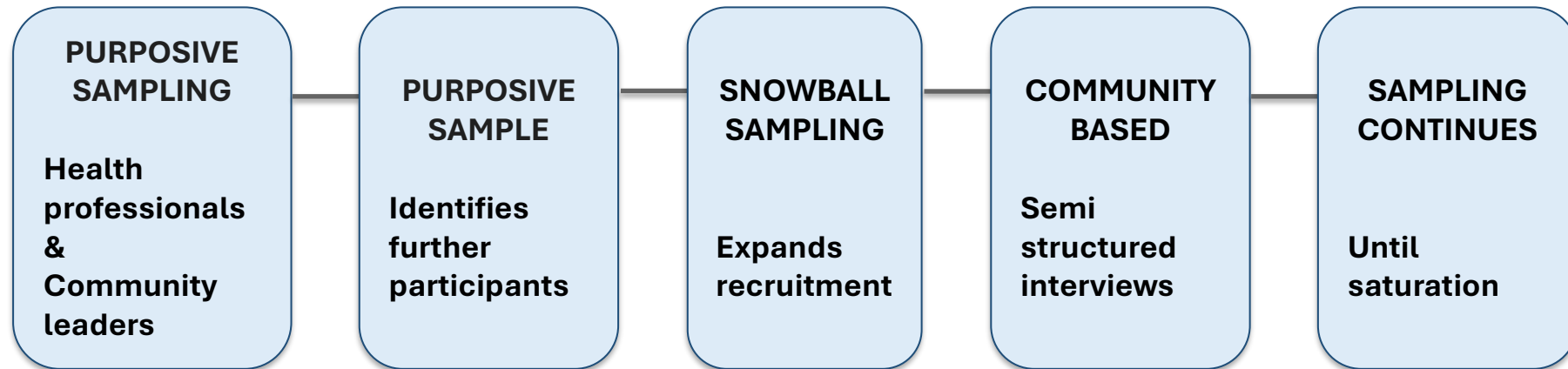
# Site selection

HEALTH CENTRE	NOTES
1. San Bernardo	Near large farm
2. Pueblo Nuevo	Near hatchery
3. La Criba	Near processing plant

**nb.** 7 sites were discarded in the interests of time, resources, and the fact that it is anticipated that quality data can be obtained from 3 selected communities in the region.

- Health Centres have been provided by Fundesur, the NGO that supports the shrimp industry, serving as a focal point within communities
- Health Centres are located in/ near communities in and around aquaculture activities (farms, processing plants, hatcheries)
- Therefore, the research will take place in communities serviced by the selected health centres
- The sites selected represent a range of sizes, activities and outlier
  - **Size:** of farm/ aquaculture activity nearest to health centre
  - **Activities:** hatchery, farming, processing
  - **Outlier:** Coastal/distance from urban centre/ community conflict
- Outlier (Pueblo Neuvo) is selected for its coastal location and community culture. The reason being, to explore if findings from this community will be different to others

# Stage 2 Sampling and recruitment process



- 1 week at each site, recruiting and interviewing 8-10 participants (24–30 total)
- Recruitment strategy prioritises relevance, contextual insight, and thematic depth



## Stage 3

- Cross country comparative analysis
- Data from Stage 1 and 2 analysed to identify patterns and differences across Global North and Global South contexts
- Test, refine and validate THRIVE Community Wellbeing Framework



# Methodology summary

## **Design**

Mixed methods

Comparative sites

THRIVE framework

## **Analysis**

Thematic analysis

Likert analysis

Triangulation

## **Outcome**

Social impact evidence

Framework validation

Transferable tool

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# Thank you!

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