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When Demand Outpaces Primary Care Tools On Hand

In many regions of Honduras, there is a great need for primary care equipment. Dr. Ana Paris explained to Angela J. Garcia, our Executive Director, when she visited, that the blood pressure cuff and stethoscope she showed her *"...got damaged from so much use, because they are used from Monday to Sunday from 7 [am] to 7 [pm]."* Dr. Ana Paris went on to explain that they see 150 patients a day but have only one oto-ophthalmoscope for the entire health center. Additionally, their center's nebulizers for respiratory medications burn out from overuse. *"We have four [nebulizers], but they spend all day very busy...and we can't keep up. We have to wait...they get damaged by overuse."*

The doctor continued to explain how bedding and linens are also needed for treatment wards, and she showed Angela, *"This is where we put the little patients with dengue right now and hydrate them."* Honduras has been grappling with a significant dengue outbreak in recent years. The epidemic is largely driven by the spread of the Aedes mosquito and is exacerbated by heavy rains and poor sanitation, leading to increased public health concerns and pressure on the healthcare system.