

PROFILING OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DUE TO VIOLENCE

IN HONDURAS

2004 - 2018



COMISIÓN INTERINSTITUCIONAL
PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DE LAS PERSONAS
DESPLAZADAS POR LA VIOLENCIA



GOBIERNO DE LA
REPÚBLICA DE HONDURAS



SECRETARÍA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

With the support from



**UNHCR
ACNUR**
La Agencia de la ONU
para los Refugiados



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JIPS
Joint IDP Profiling Service

Internally displaced people are those “who have been **forced** or obliged to **flee or to leave** their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of **generalised violence**, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and **who have not crossed an internationally recognised State border**”

United Nations Commission on Human Rights. (1998). Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2

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*The World Vision team conducted qualitative data collection for this profiling in coordination with UNHCR and JIPS in 2017 and 2018.

FOREWORD

This study offers insight into the lives of brave men, women, children and youth who were forced to make the difficult decision to abandon their communities, livelihoods, extended family, schools and roots as a self-protection and survival strategy in the face of different types of violence such as threats, extortion, assassinations, and sexual and gender-based violence which threaten the lives and personal integrity of those affected.

The findings of this report show that 247,090 people were internally displaced in Honduras between 2004 and 2018. This reality nonetheless lacks visibility in the country, and affected families remain anonymous and lack assistance and protection.

This study is the result of coordinated and joint efforts of the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV in Spanish), with support from the National Institute for Statistics (INE in Spanish), the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) and World Vision (WV). This study complements and expands upon the profiling exercise carried out in 2015, which examined patterns of displacement in 20 urban municipalities of the country between 2004 and 2014. The updated evidence collected and analysed in this new study represents an essential input for the development of protection mechanisms capable of addressing the humanitarian consequences generated by internal displacement, hence its importance.

We hope that the key takeaways and results of this study contribute to the development of measures and public policies to respond to internal displacement in Honduras. Victims of displacement call for this study to be more than just another piece of research or book on a shelf, but rather for us to see the figures as people, and regard the document as an important source of evidence to inform decision-making for the promotion of responses in line with the scale of the challenge.

We must also recognise the work carried out by organisations defending the human rights of internally displaced people. Prior even to the creation of the CIPPDV in 2013, these organisations have been supporting affected families in securing durable solutions and restoring their violated rights. Likewise, we must recognise the role of communities throughout the country who have, unbeknown to them, welcomed and supported these families.

Decisions made based on this study should seek to foster an environment which is respectful of human rights, and rebuild the social fabric of communities affected by violence in Honduras.

Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., December 2019

KARLA EUGENIA CUEVA AGUILAR
Secretary of State

CONTENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
Process and methodology	10
Internal displacement in Honduras	10
Keys for the prevention of internal displacement	11
Humanitarian assistance needs during internal displacement	11
Protection needs of the internally displaced population	12
Achieving durable solutions	12
Conclusions	13
1. INTRODUCTION	14
1.1 Background	15
1.2. Objectives of the profiling exercise in Honduras	15
1.3. Structure and content of the report	15
2. CONTEXT	17
2.1 Recent trends in violence and population flows	18
2.2 Advances in the institutional policies in response to internal displacement	19
3. METHODOLOGY	21
3.1. Coordination process and structure	22
3.2. Methodological focus	23
3.3. Qualitative component	24
3.4. Quantitative component	25
3.5. Processing and analysis of results	27
3.6. Scope and limitations of the study	27
4. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN HONDURAS	28
4.1. Magnitude and characteristics	29
4.2. Who are Honduras' internally displaced people?	30
4.3. Patterns of displacement and geographical distribution	33
4.4. Key findings on the magnitude and distribution of forced displacement in Honduras	36
5. KEYS FOR THE PREVENTION OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	37
5.1. Events that caused internal displacement	38
5.2. Victims and perpetrators of forced internal displacement	45
5.3. Community risk profile	48
5.4. Key findings on the prevention of forced displacement	51
6. ASSISTANCE NEEDS DURING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	52
6.1 Needs during displacement	54
6.2. Immediate impacts	54
6.2.1. Health	55
6.2.2. Education	56
6.2.3. Employment	57
6.2.4. Shelter	59
6.3. Key findings on assistance for internally displaced people	61

7. PROTECTION NEEDS OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION	62
7.1. Access to justice and protection mechanisms	63
7.2. Family reunification	70
7.3. Protection of abandoned assets	71
7.4. Right to education	73
7.5. Key findings on protection for internally displaced people	74
8. ACHIEVING DURABLE SOLUTIONS	75
8.1. Intentions for residence	77
8.2. Social and cultural integration	79
8.3. Living conditions in host locations	82
8.3.1 Health	82
8.3.2. Education	83
8.3.3. Housing	84
8.3.4. Livelihoods	86
8.4. Key findings on durable solutions for internally displaced people	93
9. CONCLUSIONS	94
10. RECOMMENDATIONS	98
GLOSSARY	102
BIBLIOGRAPHY	103
ANNEXES	*

*To consult the annexes
scan here



or through the [SEDH](#)
[page](#)



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Internal displacement has been increasingly on the agenda in Honduras since the Government recognised the phenomenon in 2013. The Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV in Spanish) was created the same year through the executive decree PCM-053-2013. The CIPPDV was mandated to promote policies and practices for the prevention of internal displacement caused by violence, and enhance assistance, protection, and search for solutions for displaced people and their relatives.

A first profiling exercise on internal displacement in Honduras was coordinated by the CIPPDV in 2014. The study provided the country's first displacement estimates, with 174,000 people reported to have been internally displaced between 2004 and 2014 in urban areas of twenty of the country's municipalities. The study also offered insight into the causes and dynamics of displacement.

The conclusions of this first exercise, alongside recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons following his visit to Honduras the same year¹, resulted in the criminalisation of forced displacement under the new Honduran Penal Code² and underpinned the decision to create the Directorate for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence (DIPPDIV in Spanish) within the Ministry of Human Rights (SEDH in Spanish).

The exercise also contributed to the development of guidelines for the assistance to internally displaced people, most notably a draft bill for the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons which was presented to congress in March 2019 in view of responding to internal displacement in the country. The bill includes prevention mechanisms and measures for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations, as well as an emphasis on the protection of human rights often undermined by displacement, such as education, work, and lost property. The bill also creates a special fund to finance humanitarian assistance interventions and the achievement of durable solutions.

In order to inform the design and implementation of public

policies aimed at prevention, assistance and protection related to internal displacement, thereby enhancing the future effectiveness of the planned law, in 2017 the CIPPDV decided to carry out a new, nationally representative profiling exercise.

This profiling exercise aims to improve understanding of internal displacement in Honduras, determine its magnitude and impacts, and foster the design of an institutional and legal framework able to respond to internal displacement in the country. The objectives of the study are as follows:

- Obtain national estimates of people affected by internal displacement, disaggregated by gender, age, and location.
- Generate updated profiles of displaced and at-risk populations, including gender identity and ethnic origin.
- Strengthen understanding of the causes and perpetrators of internal displacement.
- Analyse the specific situation of internally displaced people compared to the rest of the population, in particular in terms of socioeconomic wellbeing, living conditions, and protection needs.
- Identify needs, vulnerabilities, capacities and protection mechanisms of displaced and at-risk populations in terms of access to and enjoyment of rights.

¹ United Nations General Assembly (2016). Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons on his mission to Honduras. Available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/32/35/Add.4>

² Legislative Decree No. 130-2017. Penal Code of Honduras, art. 248. Currently in vacation legis.

Process and Methodology

The exercise began in 2017 with the creation of a joint coordination structure. The CIPPDV formed a technical working group made up of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS in Spanish), the Ministry of Human Rights (SEDH in Spanish), the Ministry of Security (SEDS in Spanish), the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH in Spanish), the Centre for Investigation and Promotion of Human Rights (CIPRODEH in Spanish) representing civil society, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS). The technical working group agreed on the objectives and methodological focus of the exercise, designed and validated the data collection tools, and shared and validated the outputs produced as part of the exercise with other members of the CIPPDV and decision makers.

A mixed method approach was adopted, comprising a qualitative and a quantitative component.

The qualitative component focused on the following effects of violence: forced recruitment, seizure of housing, conflict over land, gender-based violence, and extortion. These effects were analysed in 15 communities of seven municipalities (San Pedro Sula, Villanueva, Choloma, El Progreso, Yoro, Distrito Central, and Gracias). Data collection was carried out through participatory methods, including 37 focus groups with community members and 92 in-depth interviews with key community stakeholders and representatives of public institutions and civil society organisations.

The quantitative component consisted of an enumeration and a household survey, designed to obtain nationally representative data on the magnitude, patterns and causes of internal displacement, as well as the characteristics of affected people and households, their main assistance and protection needs, their awareness and use of complaint and assistance mechanisms, their future intentions, and their progress towards durable solutions.

In total, 28,794 households in 78 municipalities of 16 departments (Islas de la Bahía and Gracias a Dios were not included in the survey) took part in the enumeration to quantify the incidence of internal displacement and identify displaced households. Of these, 836 displaced households and 837 non-displaced households participated in a longer household survey. The sampling strategy resulted in representative and reliable estimates of the magnitude of internal displacement and the characteristics and experiences of displaced households, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error.

The technical working group also engaged with an extensive

support and consultation group composed of government institutions, civil society organisations, academia, and the international humanitarian and development community. This support and consultation group participated in feedback sessions and validation processes at key moments of the exercise to determine the objectives of the study and participate in joint analysis of the preliminary results, allowing for the prioritisation of findings.

After reviewing qualitative data, cleaning the quantitative dataset, and producing the first descriptive statistics, a series of joint analysis workshops and meetings were carried out with members of the CIPPDV and support and consultation group. This enabled participants to discuss and contextualise initial results, establish connections between qualitative and quantitative findings, and agree on potential interpretations. Based on the discussions and agreements reached during the workshops and bilateral meetings, the key findings which form the basis of this report were identified, in line with the main components of the draft legislation.

Internal displacement in Honduras

The study found approximately **58,500 households** in which at least one member was internally displaced by violence between 2004 and 2018. These households are made up of **247,090 people** (2.7% of the population of Honduras) who have been affected by internal displacement and its impacts to varying degrees. Of these, **191,000 people** (77% of all members of displaced households) were directly displaced by violence or other human rights violations; around **56,000** were born or became household members after the displacement occurred. Female-headed households and households with higher numbers of children are disproportionately affected by internal displacement.

Internal displacement is geographically concentrated in heavily populated areas with higher levels of economic development, as well as areas most affected by violence **82% of displacements** occurred in the departments of Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Olancho, Atlántida, and Yoro, which make up almost 55% of the country's population. Displaced people mostly remain in their municipality of origin with **55% of displacement being intra-municipal**. Proximity and the existence of social networks are important factors in the choice of destination.

Keys for the prevention of internal displacement

The study provides information about the characteristics of those most vulnerable to internal displacement. Households in which at least one person has been a direct victim of violence are more likely to abandon their community, especially if violence is repeated. Indeed, 77% of displaced households decided to flee their community as a consequence of one or several acts of violence against household members. Among non-displaced households, 24% of those who have been victims of violence have concrete plans to abandon their community.

Direct threats were the main trigger of displacement reported by participants, followed by homicides and movement restrictions. Gangs perpetrated 48% of acts of violence, but **26% were attributed to family, friends and acquaintances. A further 4% of acts of violence were perpetrated by organised crime, and 2% by other unspecified perpetrators.** However, 20% of participants were unable or unwilling to denounce the perpetrator.

The causes of internal displacement are multifaceted. Violence, although the most visible factor, should be understood in a context of deeply rooted inequality, poverty, and human rights violations.

The study also noted that violence impacts not only the individual but the entire community. Violence reduces collective action and affects economic activity and employment. Communities suffering from high levels of violence are stigmatised. Perpetrators of violence take control of the public sphere, propelling the growth of illegal activities, the distribution and consumption of drugs, and the recruitment of youth, generating vicious cycles which undermine the prevention of internal displacement.

Humanitarian assistance needs during internal displacement

The study provided information about the multidimensional impact of internal displacement on health, education, employment and shelter.

Health impacts, in particular relating to mental health, were reported by **41% of members** of displaced households. This calls for early, continued and gender-sensitive psychological support, targeted to the specific needs of those affected.

Displacement also has an impact on education. **38% of displaced people** who were studying were forced to temporarily interrupt their studies, and 7% were unable to resume their education following displacement.

37% of displaced people also felt the impacts of displacement on employment. 22% were forced to switch job or business, and 10% were left unemployed as a result of being displaced. Women are disproportionately affected.

At least one third of the displaced households who owned housing prior to displacement has been unable to recover it. This also occurred with land and businesses. Loss of property further undermines opportunities for socioeconomic recovery.

At the time of displacement, the main needs prioritised by displaced households were support with relocation, shelter, food, clothing and hygiene. These pressing basic needs must be addressed early to prevent challenges from increasing and becoming chronic, prolonging the recovery period and limiting displaced people's capacity to improve their conditions in the host community and move toward durable solutions³.

3 IASC (2010), Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Brookings Institution-University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Washington D.C, p. 6. "A durable solution is achieved when former IDPs no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and such persons can enjoy their human rights without discrimination".

Protection needs of the internally displaced population

The study demonstrates a limited level of confidence among displaced households and the general public in the capacity of public institutions to effectively respond to situations of displacement. **Only 22% of displaced households** reported the events that forced them to leave their homes. Practically half of those who did not report the events said they feared retaliation, and about a third considered that reporting the events would be of no use.

Instead, displaced people frequently sought support from churches, praising their work in mediation, awareness raising and protection. Boards of trustees, water control boards⁴ and other community organisations also provided different types of assistance to displaced people, thus becoming the first sources of protection and assistance. This demonstrates the need for state protection mechanisms and suggests that the work of these community organisations should be reinforced and integrated into the design of effective strategies for preventing internal displacement.

Educational centres also play an important role in the protection of children and their households. Schools were described in an ambivalent manner as spaces of both risk and protection. Despite the risk of recruitment, abuse and extortion, teachers were perceived to play an important role in sheltering educational centres from violence.

Displaced households need protection. 20% of them have been victims of violence in their host community. 27% suffered from the impacts of family separation. One third of the households who owned housing, land, crops, or businesses lost them following displacement, and face significant obstacles in regaining their property. This highlights the need to re-establish trust and a protective relationship between the state and internally displaced people, restoring ties with

institutions through the provision of public services and effective protection.

Towards durable solutions

With regards to future intentions, 87% of displaced households want to integrate in their host communities, mainly due to security, availability of housing and the presence of family and friends. The extent to which displaced people strive to integrate into their host communities is evident through their high levels of participation in local and community organisations, and their positive perceptions of the adaptation process.

The study did not identify significant differences in access to health, education and employment among internally displaced people compared to the non-displaced households. Nevertheless, internally displaced people were more likely to report having suffered a health problem, illness or injury in the previous six months.

The main difference found in the study is that those who have been displaced allocate a larger portion of their income towards their current housing and are more likely to live in crowded conditions than non-displaced households. Spending more money on housing, however, limits the ability of displaced households to supplement their basic diet, and their capacity to overcome the impacts of displacement.

4 AHJASA (n.d.), Community water management: effort and support of communities in contribution to the development of Honduras. Honduran Association of Water Systems Management Boards-Alliance for Water-AECID. Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The Water and Sanitation Systems Management Boards (water control boards) are community organisations created by neighbors in peri-urban or rural areas of Honduras to guarantee people's access to drinking water and establish collection, distribution and payment systems in areas where these services, public or private, are generally not provided. These social structures serve as management mechanisms for drinking water and sanitation systems that the communities own.

Conclusions

Prevention and assistance require a coordinated and strengthened institutional response, early warning systems able to identify areas at high risk of displacement through reliable indicators, and increased cooperation between programmes at the national and local level to identify displaced people and enhance their protection. The findings of this exercise can be used to inform decision-making and programme design.

Although it is not possible to identify exactly what makes certain people more vulnerable to displacement than others in situations of generalised violence, this study identifies some situations that increase the risk of displacement. These include domestic violence, bullying, and gender-based violence, which often create a breeding ground for gangs. In addition to extortion and recruitment, efforts to exert control over territories and populations can also lead to the seizure of property, ultimately resulting in loss of shelter. Because feelings of impunity have a strong impact on perceptions of security, limited institutional protection in communities affected by displacement can result in further movements. This combination of factors transforms communities into high-risk areas marked by fear, stigmatisation, economic crises, and a fraying social fabric.

It is possible to identify factors that increase household exposure to violence and resulting risk of displacement. Children and youth are often targeted for recruitment by gangs; women are more exposed to gender-based violence due to structural gender inequality; people without formal land titles are more vulnerable to dispossession since lack of documentation hampers the protection and recovery of property; people who live in strategic areas for criminal activities or refuse to comply with gangs can be at higher risk of property seizure; public sector employees and those working in transportation or merchandise distribution may be more vulnerable to extortion.

With regards to assistance, beyond responding to immediate humanitarian needs related to transportation, shelter, food, first-aid items, psychological support and physical protection during the emergency phase, the state should provide educational and vocational support to help those affected

resume their activities and rebuild their lives following displacement. The state should also provide accessible and responsive justice mechanisms, and ensure the protection and recovery of property lost during displacement. Households, in addition, should benefit from continued monitoring and support to prevent the risk of further victimisation.

An important aspect to consider is that the impacts of displacement can vary according to gender and age; better understanding of these differences is necessary for the provision of comprehensive and differentiated assistance.

This study points towards potential areas of intervention and priorities which go far beyond a punitive response to displacement. The draft legislation for prevention, assistance and protection of forcibly displaced people offers a unique opportunity to collectively develop an effective response to prevent internal displacement and protect people and communities from its negative effects.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The scale and severity of forced displacement in Honduras was officially recognised by the government in 2013, resulting in the creation of the Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV in Spanish) through the executive decree PCM-053-2013. The CIPPDV is mandated to promote the adoption of policies and measures designed to prevent internal displacement caused by violence, to provide assistance and protection, and to support the search for solutions for displaced people and their relatives.

The first profiling of Honduras' displaced population was published in 2015 under the leadership of the CIPPDV in view of acquiring a better understanding of the causes and patterns of displacement in urban areas in twenty of the country's municipalities between 2004 and 2014.

The exercise provided an initial estimate of the number of households and people affected, and provided data to support the development of a law for comprehensive protection of the displaced population. The SEDH, within the framework of the CIPPDV, has since been cooperating with other public entities and civil society organisations in the formulation of the draft law for prevention, assistance and protection of forcibly displaced people. This law aims to establish a coordinated response capable to anticipate forced displacement, provide assistance to those affected, and offer protection and support in the achievement of durable solutions.

While the SEDH led the drafting of this proposed legislation, the CIPPDV decided in 2017 to carry out a new profiling exercise, this time on a national scale, to provide relevant data for the adoption and implementation of public policies for the prevention of internal displacement and the provision of assistance and protection to those affected, thereby enhancing the proposed law's future effectiveness.

Based on the outcomes of the exercise, this report provides insight into the dynamics resulting in internal displacement in Honduras, the drivers and triggers of displacement, the impacts and needs of those affected, and barriers to accessing effective protection mechanisms and alternatives for solutions.

1.2 Objectives of the profiling exercise in Honduras

The study aims to increase understanding of internal displacement and its impacts in Honduras and estimate the magnitude of the phenomenon in order to enable comprehensive responses through the formulation of appropriate institutional and legislative frameworks. The study attempts to provide an estimate of the total number of people affected by internal displacement at the national level disaggregated by gender, age and location. It also seeks to identify needs for humanitarian assistance, vulnerabilities, capacities and protection mechanisms.

1.3. Structure and content of the report

In order to guide public entities and civil society organisations in the design of their strategies, the report is structured in line with the main components of the draft legislation for the prevention, assistance and protection of forcibly displaced people. The report includes:

1. The magnitude of internal displacement in Honduras: geographic distribution, profiles of internally displaced people, and patterns of displacement.
2. Prevention: analysis of the triggers, drivers, and perpetrators of internal displacement, to inform efforts to detect and tackle roots causes of internal displacement.
3. Humanitarian assistance needs: discussion of the needs resulting from internal displacement and the immediate impacts of internal displacement on affected people and households in terms of health, education, employment, and shelter.
4. Analysis of protection needs: insight into the coping strategies of displaced households and their search for support, the impacts of displacement on the household and its property, and the remaining gaps in response.

5. Durable solutions: evaluation of displaced people's integration in their host communities, and discrepancies in terms of access to health, education, shelter and livelihood compared to other households.

Each chapter includes a summary of the main findings. The report concludes with a final summary of key findings and recommendations aimed to inform response at institutional, organisational and community levels. These recommendations are intended to inform the debate regarding the draft legislation.



2. CONTEXT

2.1. Recent trends in violence and population flows

The government of Honduras recognises that efforts to reduce rates of violence and insecurity should go hand in hand with measures to protect affected people and communities, which represents one of the most important challenges the country is facing. In 2012, the homicide rate was 85.5 for every 100,000 inhabitants⁵. A series of government reforms on security, justice, and human rights managed to halve the homicide rate in just six years, reaching 41.4⁶ in 2018. Violence persists, however, affecting families and communities and resulting in a plethora of negative effects such as internal displacement. Gaps in assistance and protection force some internally displaced people to cross borders in search of international protection. This has contributed to an increase in the number of Honduran refugees abroad, which increased sevenfold between 2012 to 2018, from 2,613 to 18,860⁷.

The first profiling exercised revealed the existence of at least 174,000 displaced people in 20 urban municipalities in Honduras⁸, highlighting the severity of the problem and providing the impetus for further research on structural causes of internal displacement and its relationship with cross-border movements.

Following the profiling exercise, a series of studies have concentrated on the impact of displacement on the education sector: access and continued enrollment (NRC 2017), and the situation for teachers (UNHCR 2018). There has also been new research on the need to develop a response for the protection of property, shelter, and land (UNHCR 2017). The

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), meanwhile, delved into the impact of intra-urban displacement by comparing conditions experienced by displaced people in urban areas such as San Pedro Sula⁹.

The National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH in Spanish)¹⁰, of Honduras has published periodic reports based on claims filed by displaced people and those at risk of displacement, examining the causes of displacement. Its 2017 report noted that the main causes of internal displaced that year were violence by organised crime (gangs, drug trafficking, and hitmen); human rights violence and gender discrimination; attacks on freedom of expression, movement and political affiliation; and conflicts over land ownership derived from megaprojects that affected zones inhabited by farmers, indigenous groups and afro-Hondurans¹¹.

Despite these notable efforts to better understand the characteristics of internal displacement, there is still a need for more representative and robust data. This new piece of research on the profile of displaced Hondurans, therefore, should provide evidence and impetus for the development of effective responses for prevention, assistance, protection and durable solutions, and contribute to the strengthening of institutions in view of providing a comprehensive response to this phenomenon.

5 IUDPAS-UNAH (2013), Bulletin No. 28 on Mortality and Others (in Spanish only), January to December 2012, University Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security, National Autonomous University of Honduras. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

6 IUDPAS-UNAH (2019), Bulletin No. 52 on Mortality and Others (in Spanish only), January to December 2018, University Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security, National Autonomous University of Honduras. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

7 UNHCR (2019), Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2018, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, pg. 71.

8 CIPPDV (2015), Profiling of Internal Displacement in Honduras 2004-2014 (in Spanish only), Inter-institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

9 ICRC (2019), Displaced in Cities: Experiencing and Responding to Urban Internal Displacement Outside Camps. Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/4344-displaced-cities-experiencing-and-responding-urban-internal-displacement-outside>

10 CONADEH (2017), Special Report on Forced Internal Displacement in Honduras, 2017 (in Spanish only). National Commissioner for Human Rights, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. 688 cases were registered that year, of which 349 were people at risk of displacement and 399 were internally displaced people.

11 CONADEH (2017). Op Cit., pg. 80.

2.2. Advances in the institutional policies in response to internal displacement

Since the government of Honduras officially recognised internal displacement as a problem in the country in 2013, a series of legislative initiatives and institutional reforms have generated an environment conducive to the development of a structured state response.

The first step was the creation of the CIPPDV. This commission is mandated to promote the formulation of policies and the adoption of measures for the prevention of internal displacement generated by violence, as well as the provision of assistance and protection and the search for solutions for displaced persons and their relatives. The commission coordinated a first profiling exercise of internal displacement in Honduras which was published in November 2015, coinciding with a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons. The conclusions of the first study, and the recommendations included in the Special Rapporteur's subsequent report¹², contributed to the inclusion of the crime of forced displacement in the new Honduran Penal Code and underpinned the decision to create the Directorate for the Protection of Persons Internally Displaced by Violence (DIPPDIV in Spanish) within the new structure of the Ministry of Human Rights in the Office for Human Rights (SEDH in Spanish), as well as the development of draft legislation to respond to internal displacement in the country¹³.

The DIPPDIV has since set up an Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Mechanism (MAHE in Spanish) and developed a set of practical guidelines regarding the operationalisation of criteria for the provision of psychosocial and other differentiated support for people internally displaced by violence. Both instruments outline protocols for the identification, reception, attention and monitoring of individual cases and groups. Spaces for dialogue between

public entities, international organisations and the internally displaced population have also been established to ensure that needs for assistance and protection are incorporated in the ongoing design of response mechanisms, particularly in the draft legislation.

The CIPPDV, meanwhile, developed a set of principles for local-level implementation of policies for assistance to displaced people, with the objective of defining basic criteria regarding the responsibilities and capacities of national and local authorities in responding to internal displacement. In line with the recommendations of the first profiling study, starting in 2016 the CIPPDV prioritised three municipalities for the development of local responses. Correspondingly, the selected municipalities of San Pedro Sula, El Progreso and Distrito Central have developed municipal response plans, enabling the implementation of local coordination and response mechanisms.

In 2018, the municipalities of San Pedro Sula and Distrito Central both launched municipal committees for response to internal displacement, and El Progreso municipality created a support unit for returned migrants and people displaced by violence, with the common objective of moving forward in the development of municipal policies addressing internal displacement.

Thanks to these advances, the country was selected to host the San Pedro Sula Regional Conference held in October 2017 as a follow up to the New York Declaration¹⁴. During the conference, the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS in Spanish) was adopted, promoted by UNHCR, the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the System for Central American Integration (SICA in Spanish). Comprising Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama, the framework aims to ensure a joint, coordinated and comprehensive response to forced displacement in the region for countries of origin, transit and destination, supporting refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people and returnees with protection needs¹⁵. The framework is structured and monitored along four key pillars: reception and admission; immediate needs and support for host communities; durable solutions; and international cooperation. The government of Honduras took on 14 commitments, including the development of an

12 UNGA (2016). Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons on his mission to Honduras. Available at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/32/35/Add.4>

13 Legislative Decree No. 130-2017. Penal Code of Honduras, art. 248. Currently in vacation legis.

14 The San Pedro Sula Regional Conference was held in October 2017, following the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. See: <https://www.mirps-hn.org/en/>

15 MIRPS (2018). Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework. Honduras, 2017. Available at: <https://www.mirps-hn.org/en/>

assistance and protection mechanism for displaced people; the creation of prevention and protection programmes; the implementations of communication and awareness strategies focused on internal displacement; ensuring progress in the registration of abandoned property; and the creation of spaces for dialogue for displaced people¹⁶.

The draft legislation for the prevention, assistance and protection of forcibly displaced people was presented and delivered to congress in March 2019, representing a major step in the country's national response to internal displacement. The legislation proposes the design and implementation of a national plan for the prevention of internal displacement, a mechanism for assistance and protection of displaced and at-risk people, a registry of abandoned property to facilitate their legal protection, and a special fund to finance humanitarian assistance and the achievement of durable solutions. These mechanisms and instruments aim to restore violated rights and allow displaced people to rebuild their lives in dignity and security, free from discrimination.

This profiling report offers data and information to guide the future development and implementation of public policies, increase understanding of the causes, perpetrators and impacts of internal displacement, and bridge gaps between the different phases of response.

16 MIRPS (2018). Op Cit.



3. METHODOLOGY

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Herrera

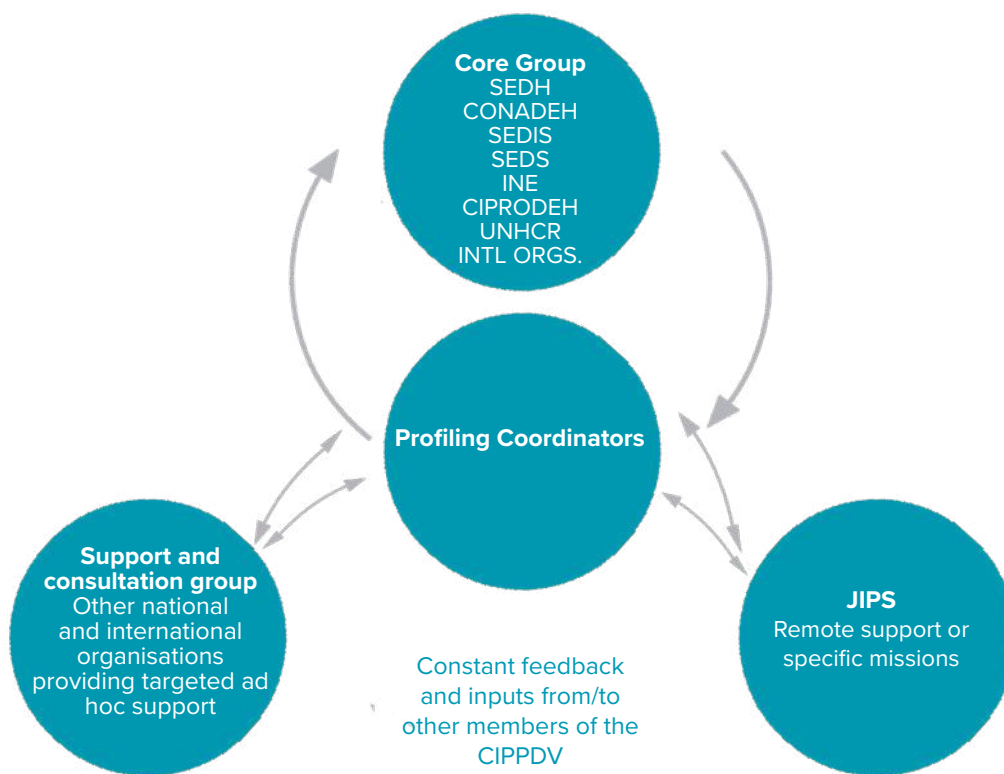
3.1. Coordination process and structure

The study began with the establishment of a joint coordinated structure in late 2017. The CIPPDV formed a technical working group made up of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS in Spanish), the Ministry of Human Rights (SEDH in Spanish), the Ministry of Security (SEDS in Spanish), the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH in Spanish), the Centre for Investigation and Promotion of Human Rights (CIPRODEH

in Spanish) representing civil society, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS).

The technical working group was tasked with defining the objectives and methodological focus of the study, designing and validating data collection tools, coordinating data collection and analysis, sharing and validating input produced by the study with other CIPPDV members and decision-makers, and coordinating the drafting of this report.

Diagram 1. Joint Coordination Structure

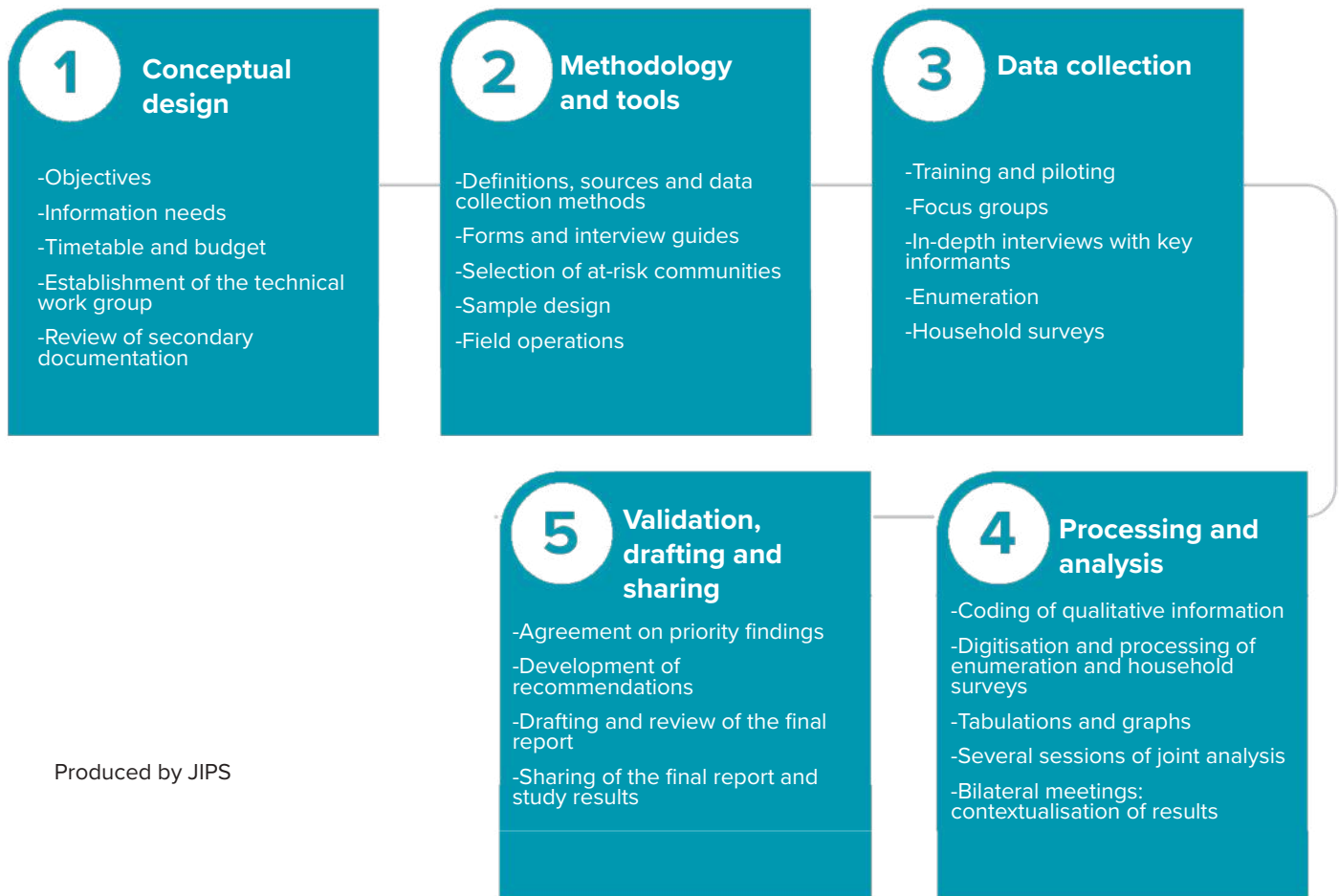


Source: CIPPDV

The technical working group worked alongside an extensive support and consultation group comprised of government institutions, civil society organisations, and international organisations. This group participated in feedback and validation sessions at key points of the exercise, such as the

development of the study objectives and the joint analysis of preliminary results that led to the prioritisation of findings. The study was developed through a staged and collaborative process, as illustrated in Diagram 2.

Diagram 2. Research stages



3.2. Methodological focus

The study adopted a mixed method approach composed of qualitative and quantitative components. The combination of both methods allows for greater precision in understanding the reality of internal displacement faced by the population.

The qualitative component collected communities' perspectives through focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with key actors. This provided insight into displacement risk factors and impacts of internal displacement, as well as communities' protection mechanisms and responses to the phenomenon. The findings obtained are not intended to be statistically representative, but rather reflect the perceptions of a specific group of people in communities affected by different risk factors.

The quantitative component drew upon an enumeration and household survey to obtain statistically representative estimates of the magnitude and patterns of internal displacement at the national level. Data was also collected on the characteristics of those affected, triggers of displacement, main assistance and protection needs, knowledge and practices in terms of filing reports, routes for assistance, future intentions for residence and durable solutions. The results compare the displaced population to non-displaced households who have not been displaced.

3.3. Qualitative component

The qualitative component of this study aimed to collect data on community perspectives of risks leading to internal displacement, protection mechanisms that have been implemented and concrete proposals from communities to tackle this issue. Risks leading to internal displacement are understood in this context as “effects of violence”. Five such effects are included in the study: a) forced recruitment, b) seizure of housing, c) land conflict, d) gender-based violence, and e) extortion¹⁷.

World Vision Honduras (WV) was in charge of the design and implementation of the qualitative component. The unit of analysis of this component was the community. Based on a list of the 34 municipalities most affected by violence developed by the CIPPDV¹⁸, and building on WV’s field presence, 15 communities in seven municipalities (San Pedro Sula, Villanueva, Choloma, El Progreso, Yoro, Distrito Central and Gracias) were selected. Twelve of these communities are located in urban areas and three in rural areas. The communities were selected based on the following criteria:

- Presence of WV in the municipality and existence of trusting relationships between community members and the organization.
- Experience of a particular trigger, identified through internal consultation of WV personnel and the triangulation of results with other members of the technical working group and support and consultation group.

¹⁷ The technical working group defined the effects according to the five main causes of displacement that could have been difficult to capture through quantitative tools. For each of these, the study sought to define causes, impacts, protection mechanisms and access to institutional offers.

¹⁸ In total 34 studies were identified. The selections of these municipalities were made based on information available at the Violence Observatory of the UNAH on to the concentration of homicides between 2016 and 2017, reporting of violations to life, security and physical integrity at the CONADEH, and data provided by the Protection Group about the expulsion zones of cases assisted by UNHCR.

Participatory methods were adopted for data collection, including:

- **In-depth interviews (IDI) with key informants from the communities:** through a series of questions, in-depth interviews sought to understand community perceptions of the role of social conditions in triggering internal displacement in the community.
- **Focus group discussions (FGD):** groups of participants were guided by facilitators to provide insight into communities’ lived experiences of internal displacement.
- **Interviews with public servants and representatives of civil society organisations:** questions were designed to explore current institutional measures for prevention and assistance in order to acquire detailed understanding of existing responses and remaining gaps.

Drawing upon an analytical framework developed based on identified information gaps, and the five specific effects of violence under study, variables and indicators were identified to inform the creation of the data collection tools. These include risk factors, perpetrators, highest-risk profiles in communities, impacts on communities, available protection mechanisms and access to institutional support. The design of the tools took into account potential differences according to age, gender and community participation. Efforts were made to adapt the language and content of the tools to each trigger, context, and different groups or types of participants.

Neutral spaces outside of the community were set up and participants were mobilised. The spaces used were churches, communal homes and WV offices. All the meetings were held with the informed consent of each participant. Information was managed with strict confidentiality, upholding the anonymity of communities and participants.

Between November 2017 and February 2018, 37 focus group discussions with community members and 92 in-depth interviews with key actors from communities (representatives of community organisations, representatives of religious, educational or health organisations, and representatives of economic institutions) as well as officials from public institutions and civil society organisations active in the selected communities were conducted.

The results, based on the perceptions of a limited number of participants, are not representative of the whole population. Nevertheless, they provide valuable information for improving

the understanding of displacement beyond the findings of the quantitative component. These results also offer insight into the violence affecting communities. The lived experiences shared by participants mirror the realities faced by many Hondurans affected by similar circumstances.

3.4. Quantitative component

The primary objective of the quantitative component consisted in collecting information directly from displaced households to obtain representative and reliable statistical estimates of the magnitude and patterns of internal displacement, the characteristics of those affected, the violent events that provoked displacement, the main assistance and protection needs, knowledge and practices in terms of filing reports, and future intentions for residence and durable solutions. This component also sought to compare the situations of displaced households with those of households in the vicinity whose members had not been displaced (“non-displaced households”).

Data collection for the quantitative component of the study was designed and carried out by the National Institute for Statistics (INE in Spanish) of Honduras with support from the technical working group. The survey was conducted with

displaced households as well as a sample of the non-displaced households. The sample was designed and selected based on probabilistic sampling by stages and strata.

In the absence of a sampling frame for displaced people in Honduras, and given the need for a large enough sample to estimate the proportion of displaced households nationwide, the first stage consisted in the enumeration of households from a sample of census enumeration areas. Because the displaced population is geographically concentrated in certain areas of the country, in order to increase the precision of estimates and ensure representativeness, enumeration areas were divided into four strata..

Taking into account a high design effect given the stratified sampling approach, and foreseeing an elevated non-response rate¹⁹, **the sample size was calculated to allow for 95% confidence levels and a 5% margin of error**, and to enable estimations of low incidence indicators²⁰.

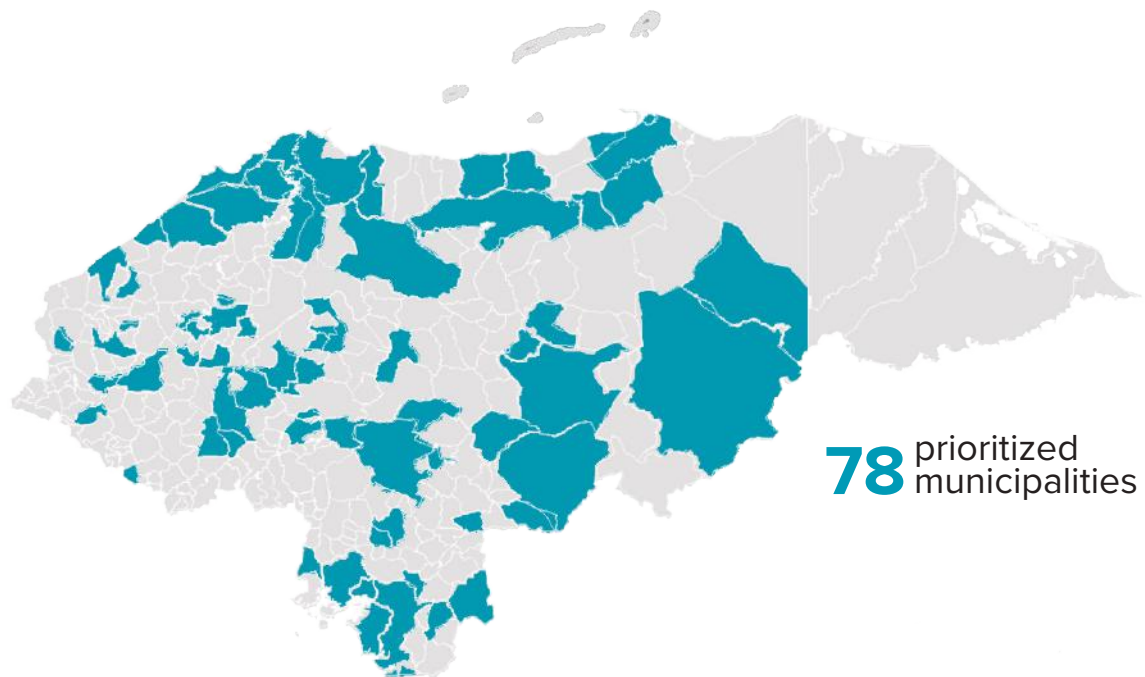
Annex 1 describes in more detail the methodology of the sample design.

The final sample encompassed 480 enumeration areas, covering 78 municipalities of the country distributed in 16 departments (see Map 1).

19 CIPPDV (2015). Op. Cit. The non-response rate in the 2015 study amounted to about 50%.

20 CIPPDV (2015). Op. cit. The average proportion of study households / total households was 4%.

Map 1. Coverage of the 2018 Profiling of Internal Displacement



Fieldwork design included a piloting phase in three enumeration areas located in San Pedro Sula and Villanueva, after which the tools and timetable were adjusted. Ahead of data collection, a detailed training was given to all field staff, including 16 field groups each composed of a supervisor, three enumerators and a driver. Data collection was monitored by three technical supervisors from INE. In order to reduce security risks for field teams, the enumeration and survey were carried out simultaneously. The information was collected between August and September 2018.

As a result of the exercise, **28,794** households were enumerated, enabling the identification of **849 displaced households**. The non-response rate for the enumeration was 25%, significantly lower than the expected rate of 50%. From this total, **836 survey interviews** were conducted in displaced households and **837** in non-displaced households, obtaining a non-response rate for the survey of only 2%.

Using the INE's projected national population for 2018 (9,012,229 people) as reference, the results obtained from the sample design of the survey were extrapolated to the national level. The expansion factors were independently calculated for each strata according to the probabilities of selection in the sample design (size of the sample over total size of each strata). Adjustments for non-responses were made based on the assumption that the proportions of displaced and non-displaced households among households which did not take part in the enumeration would be equivalent to the proportions found among enumerated households. For non-displaced households, which were sampled after the enumeration, the probability of selection was also taken into account (number of non-displaced households surveyed divided by the total number of enumerated non-displaced households).

Table 1. Results of the Collection of Information

RESULT	Strata 1	Strata 2	Strata 3	Strata 4	TOTAL
Enumerated areas	103	259	29	100	491
Displaced households identified	153	493	62	141	849
Non-displaced households identified	5,079	14,133	2,110	6,623	27,945
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS ENUMERATED	5,232	14,626	2,172	6,764	28,794
Households with no information	3,203	5,106	380	1,109	9,798
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE ENUMERATION AREA	8,435	19,732	2,552	7,873	38,592
<i>Non-response rate</i>	38%	26%	15%	14%	25%

3.5. Processing and analysis of results

After reviewing qualitative data, cleaning the quantitative dataset, and producing the first descriptive statistics, a series of joint analysis workshops and meetings were carried out with the members of the CIPPDV and the support and consultation group. This enabled participants to discuss and contextualise initial results, establish connections

between qualitative and quantitative findings, and agree on potential interpretations. Based on the discussions and agreements reached during the workshops and bilateral meetings, the principle findings which form the basis of this report were identified, in line with the main components of the draft legislation.

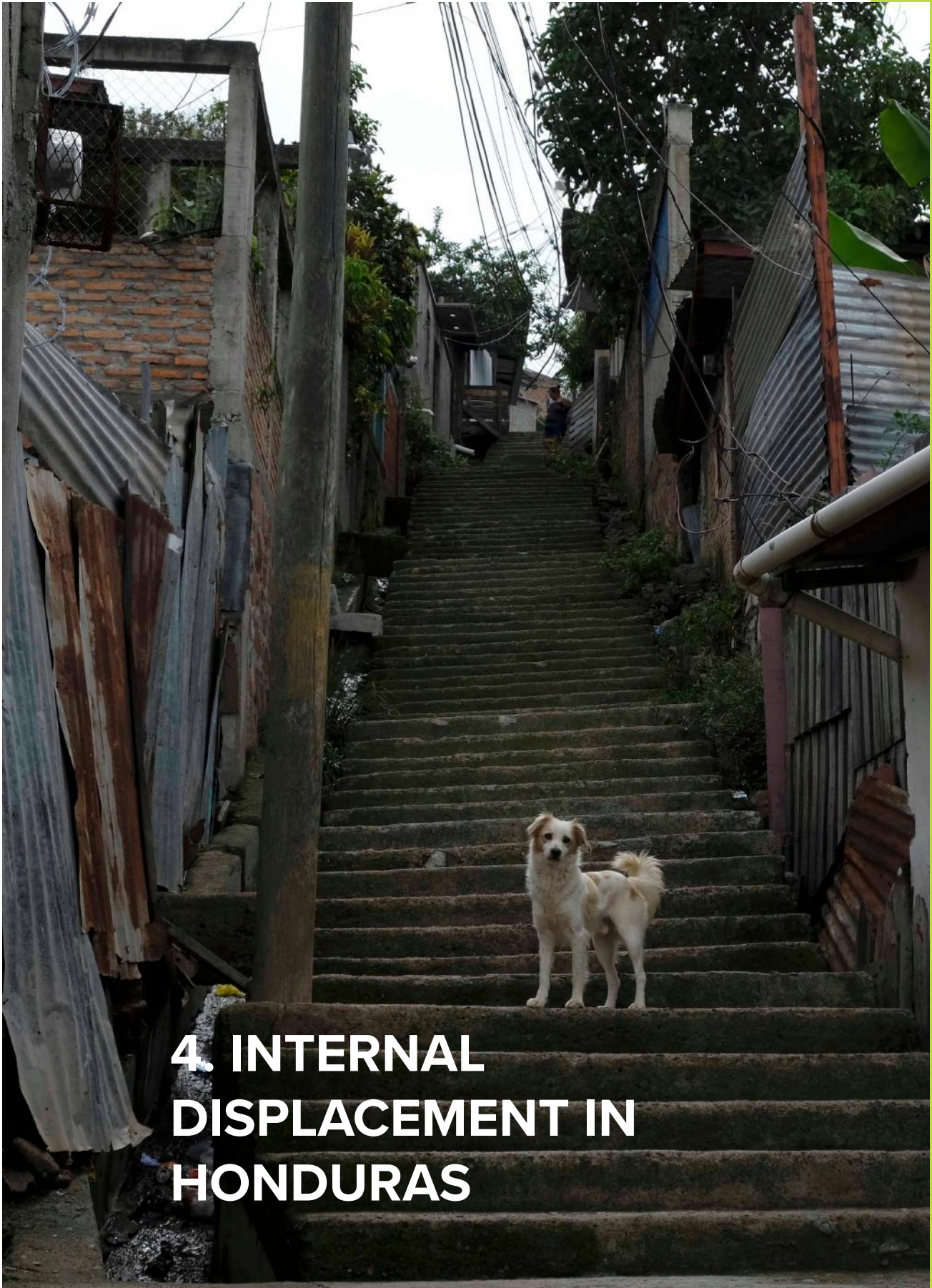
3.6. Scope and limitations of the study

When interpreting and utilising the results of this study, the end user of this report should keep in mind the scope and limitations of the findings:

- The sample design was developed to gain precision and reliability in the estimates of the magnitude and the characteristics of internal displacement on a national level, not for specific departments or municipalities. As such, the results of the survey cannot be compared at the departmental or municipal level.
- The figures correspond to estimates based on a sample and are as such subject to a margin of error, in line with INE's accepted statistical criteria.
- The study provides insight into the situation of the population at the time of data collection. The results can be used as a baseline for future updates, and as data to populate information systems. The collection of quantitative data was carried out between July and August 2018; estimates of magnitude correspond to the situation at that particular time, and not at year's end.
- Given the sensitivity and complexity surrounding the issue of displacement in the country, and the fear and mistrust among victims of violence, the enumerators reported some reticence on behalf of household members when undertaking the enumeration. This could result in an underestimate of the true magnitude of the phenomenon. Still, the lower than expected non-response rate increases confidence in the results.

Additionally, it is worth noting that the results of this study are not directly comparable to those of the 2015 study, although similar data collection tools and methods were used. The previous study offered a snapshot of the situation until the end of 2014 in urban zones of 20 of the country's municipalities. This latest study reflects the situation up until September 2018 at the national level. This study also has a more complex design (with four strata), seeking higher precision and representativeness in the results. The current location of displaced households identified in the 2015 study is unknown.

Since the figures are not directly comparable, subtracting the number of households estimated to have been living in displacement in the 2015 study (40,469 households) to the latest estimate provided in this latest study (58,550 households) does not result in the total number of new displacements since 2015.



4. INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN HONDURAS

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In order to develop new public policies that respond to and prevent the impacts of internal displacement, and to expand, improve and adapt institutional services in the face of the challenge, it is imperative to understand the magnitude of displacement. This chapter provides information about the number of people affected by internal displacement, their main characteristics, the dynamics of displacement and its geographic distribution in the country.

4.1. Magnitude and characteristics

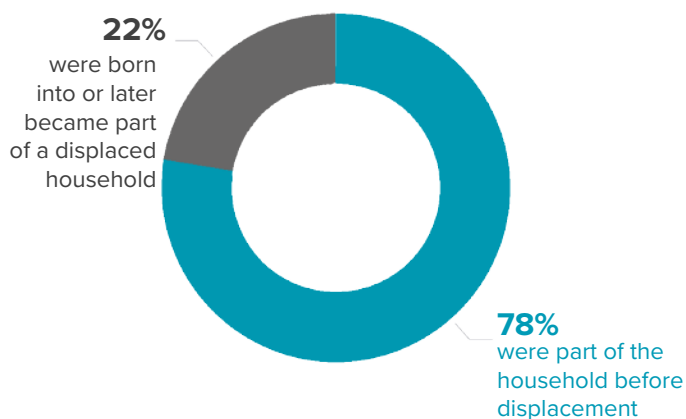
The study estimates that there are approximately 58,550 households in which at least one member was displaced by violence between 2004 and 2018. In total, this represents 247,090 people (2.7% of the population of Honduras) suffering from the effects of internal displacement. Of these, 191,000 people (77% of the current household members) were directly displaced by violence or other human rights violations, while almost 56,000 were born into or later became part of a displaced household.

More than half of these displacements took place during the last five years, after 2014; because of the potential existence of a recall bias, however, it should not be concluded that the problem is worsening.

Although the majority of households were only forcibly displaced once, at least 8% (equivalent to 4,841 households) were forced to move multiple times in search of safety, which at times remains elusive. To this should be added the number of people who opted to seek international protection outside Honduras following a new threat to their life or physical integrity.

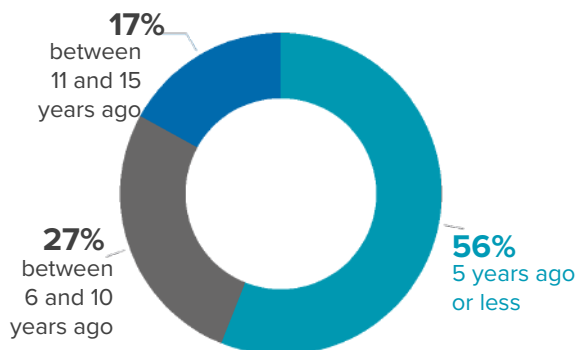
The proportion of the 58,550 households who have been able to overcome internal displacement and enjoy their

Graph 1. Distribution of people in displaced households according to their situation at the time of displacement



human rights with no specific assistance or protection needs is unknown. Achieving durable solutions is a complex and lengthy process that requires addressing the causes of displacement, the progressive recovery of economic self-reliance, access to remedies and justice, and the restoration of property, among other factors that will be addressed in the next chapters of this report.

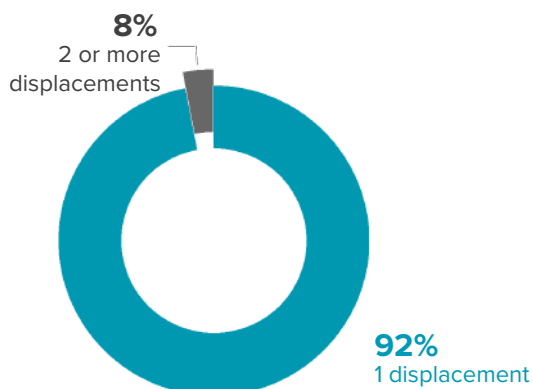
Graph 2. Distribution of displaced households according to the period in which displacement occurred*



*The data corresponds to the first displacement of the household.

*The survey identified households who had been displaced up until August 2018.

Graph 3. Distribution of displaced households according to the number of displacements in the last 15 years

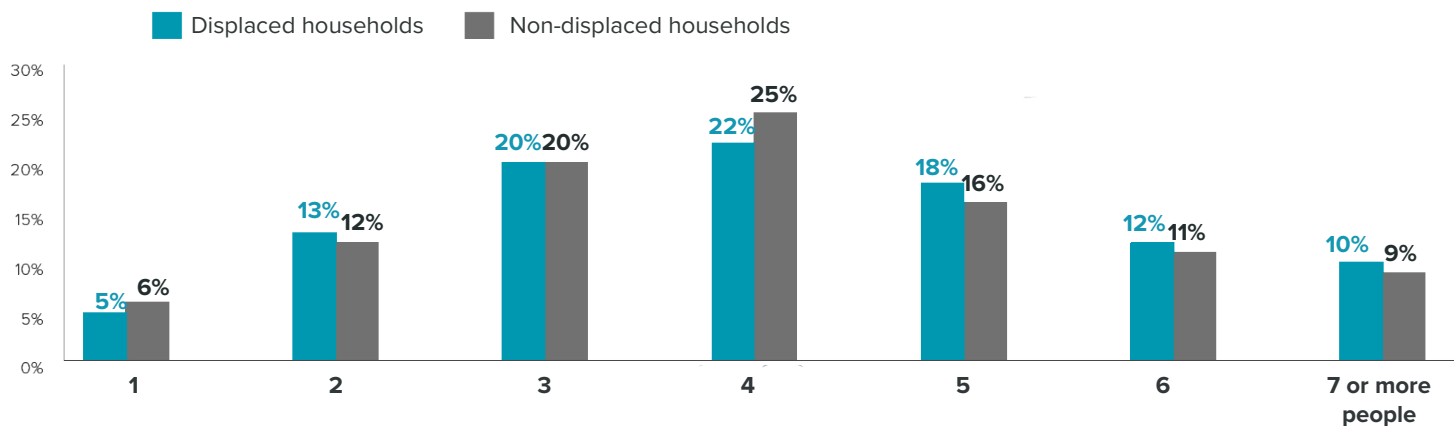


4.2. Who are Honduras' internally displaced people?

One of the main challenges in providing assistance to people affected by internal displacement is identifying them. Often, persons who flee from violence try to go unnoticed and avoid reporting their situation as a self-protection mechanism. This hinders the provision of assistance or protection. Perhaps the most common feature of the displaced population in

Honduras is that most of them live in zones with high rates of violence, which increases their exposure and risk of being victims of acts of violence. This study reveals that there are vulnerabilities in other aspects, beyond those generated by criminal activities. These include vulnerabilities that arise from gender-based violence, low levels of confidence in the capacity of state security forces or the judicial institutions in

Graph 4. Distribution of households according to number of people, by type of household



providing effective protection²¹, as well as the absence of formal property titles.

When comparing the demographics of the displaced population with those of non-displaced households (people who reside in their places of origin and have not been displaced), it is possible to identify both differences and similarities. The study revealed that household size is similar for both groups, with an average of three and four, generally first-degree relatives.

With 43% of children under 18, displaced households are composed of higher numbers of children than non-displaced households for whom the percentage is only 35%. This could

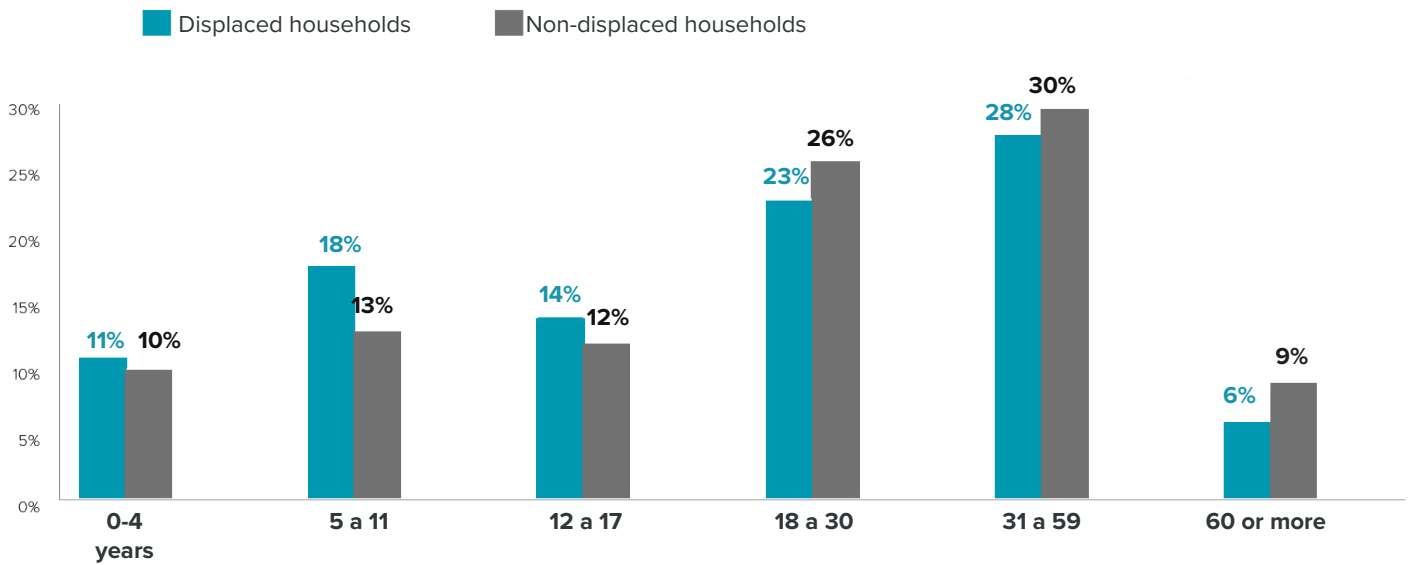
indicate that households with children and youth face a higher risk of displacement, perhaps due to the threats experienced by this age group, such as forced recruitment, involvement in criminal groups or sexual harassment.

Qualitative research participants indicated that young people between eight and 21 years of age exposed to protection risks are more susceptible to being recruited by gangs, due to lack of attention from parents or guardians, abuse or harassment in the home or educational centres, or scarce resources and lack of employment opportunities²².

21 IUDPAS-Perception (2018), Report on Citizen Perceptions about Insecurity and Victimisation in Honduras, 2018 (in Spanish only). University Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security, National Autonomous University of Honduras. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

22 Information extracted from qualitative interviews and focus groups carried out in affected communities; an adult woman member of the parents' group and a young man who was a resident of the community.

Graph 5. Distribution of household members according to age group, by type of household*

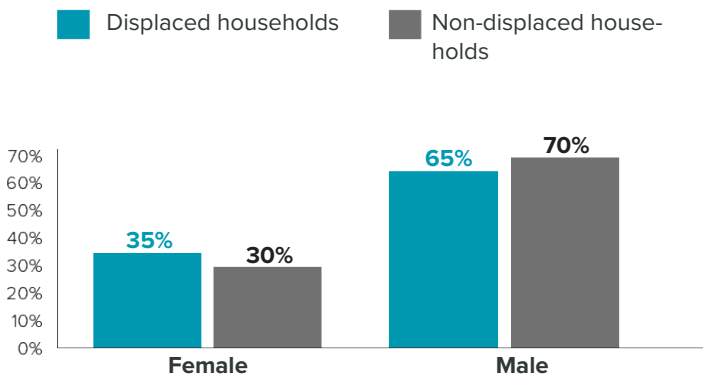


* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Reflecting the national average of 51.4%²³, 55% of displaced household members are women. Displaced households are however five percentage points more likely than non-displaced households to be headed by women.

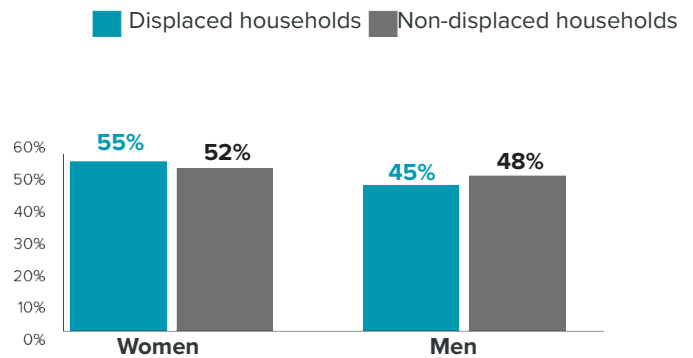
The proportion of single-parent families is also higher among displaced households, at 11% compared to 7% of non-displaced households²⁴. Female-headed households may be more vulnerable to displacement in situations of risk or insecurity due to a real or perceived lack of protection; in some instances, forced displacement may also result in the separation of the family unit.

Graph 6. Distribution of households according to head of household, by type of household*



* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Graph 7. Distribution of household members according to sex, by type of household*



* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

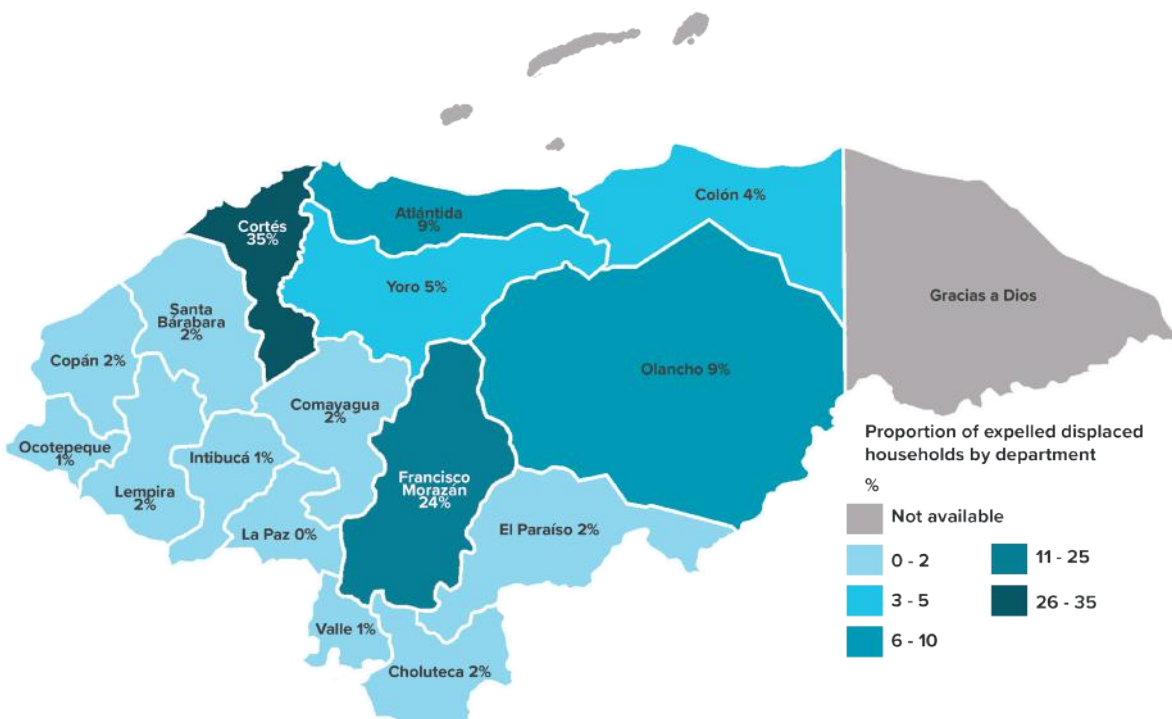
23 INE (2018). Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey, 2018 (in Spanish only). National Institute for Statistics. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

24 The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level.

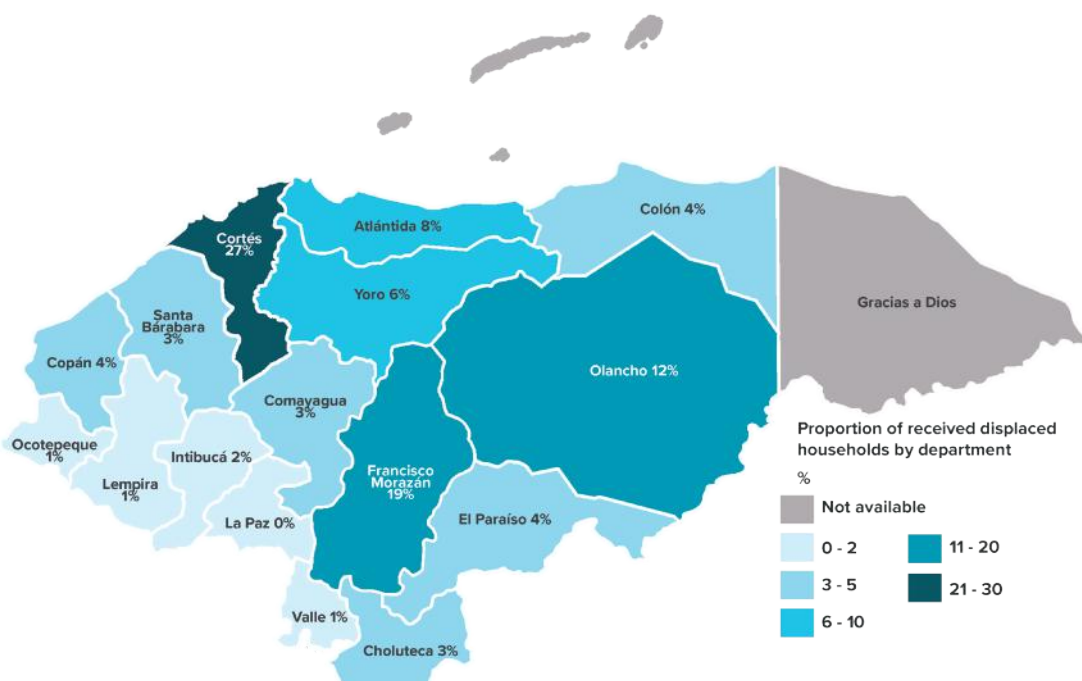
4.3. Patterns of displacement and geographical distribution

The maps of the distribution of displaced households show the overlap between main departments of origin and departments of destination. Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Olancho and Atlántida account for 76% of expelled households and 67% of received households.

Map 2. Proportion of internally displaced households by department of origin



Map 3. Proportion of displaced households by department of destination

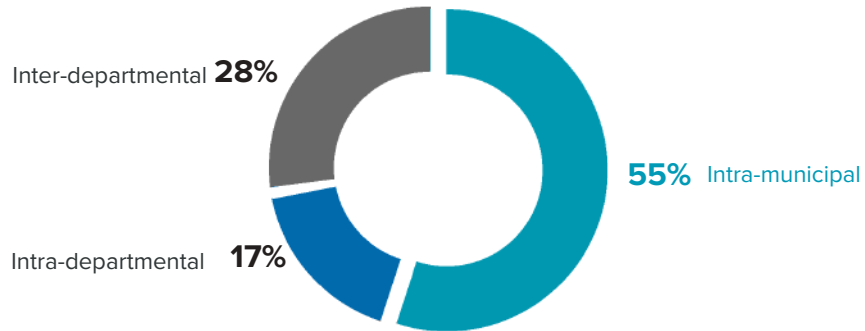


More than half of internally displaced people (55%) were displaced within their own municipality. A further 17% sought protection in other municipalities within the same department, and only 28% sought refuge in the municipality of another department. The fact that more than half of displaced people remain in their municipality suggests that they flee from the settlements or neighbourhoods where they are most exposed

to violent events, and are able to find safety in close proximity to their place of origin. However, as will be seen later, 17% of people who were displaced within their own municipality noted that no other options were available to them.

There are nonetheless some significant differences in

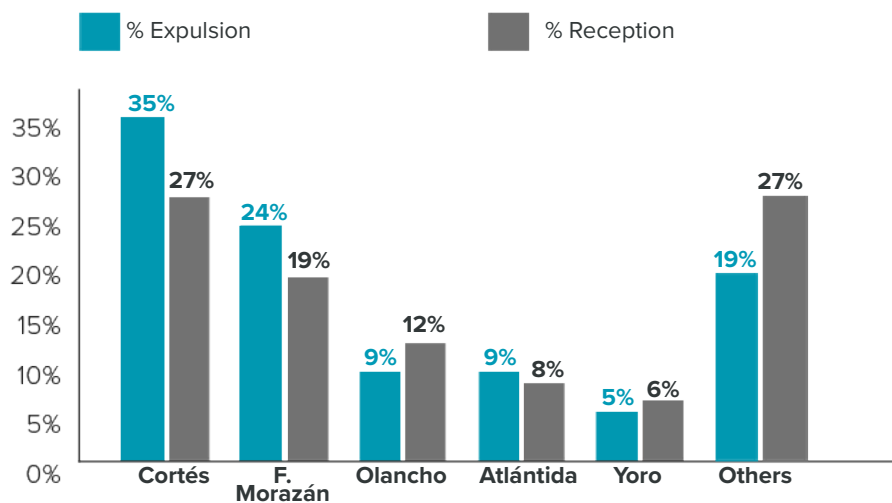
Graph 8. Distribution of displaced households according to displacement patterns



displacement patterns according to places of origin and destination. The departments of Cortés, Francisco Morazán and Atlántida were characterised by having greater rates of expulsion than reception, unlike other departments where to

opposite was true. The department of Olancho, in particular, produced 9% of displacements and welcomed 12% of internally displaced people.

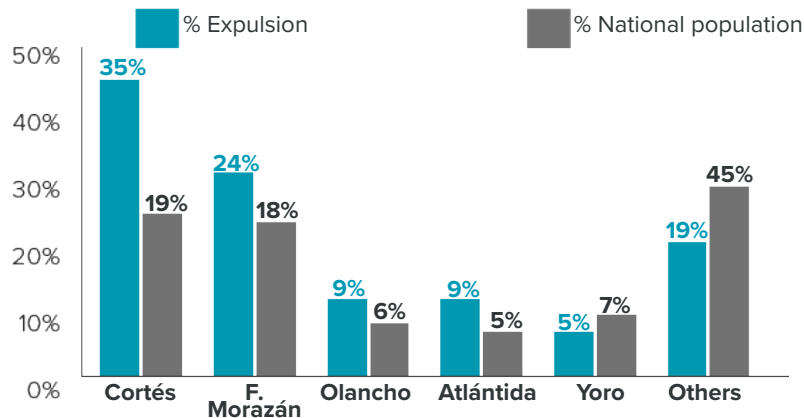
Graph 9. Distribution of displaced households by departments: expulsion vs reception



The departments of Cortés and Francisco Morazán have the highest numbers both in absolute terms and relative to population size, respectively generating 35% and 24% of displacements while accounting for only 19% and 18% of the population.

Although they are the most populated departments, internal displacement is especially intense in these areas.

Graph 10. Distribution of displaced households according to departments of expulsion relative to population size

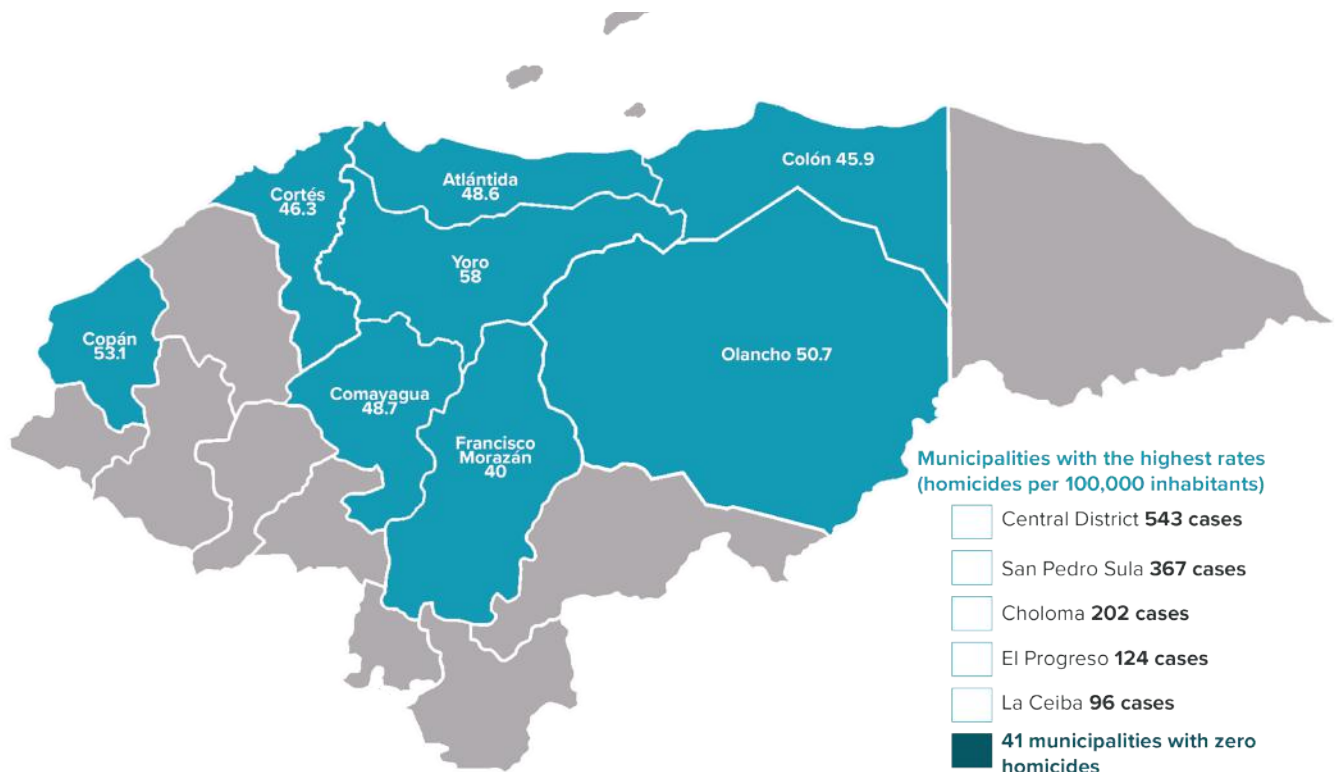


Whether in the form of expulsion or reception, the impacts of displacement are most highly felt in the most populated and economically developed departments, which also have the highest homicide rates in the country.

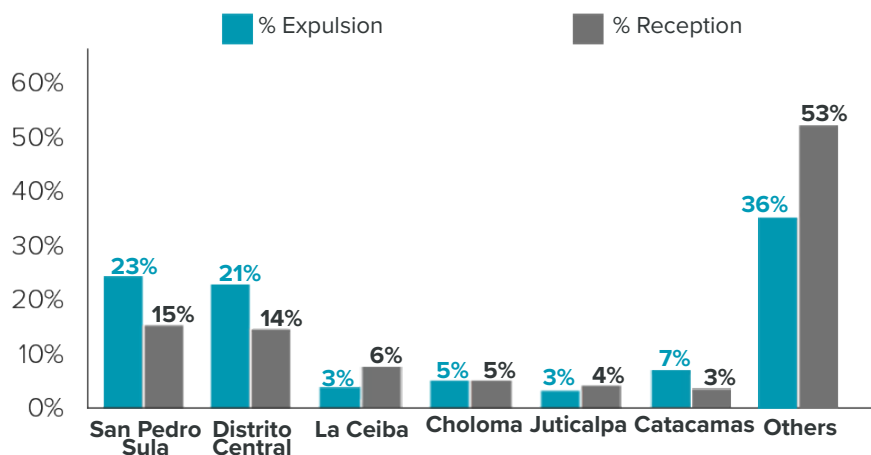
Francisco Morazán achieved a rate lower than 40 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, while Cortés (46.3), Olancho (50.7), Atlántida (48.6) and Yoro (58) exceeded the national average. Displacement is often a measure of last resort in the face of an impending threat. Areas of destination are equally affected by generalised violence.

Although in 2018 the national homicide rate decreased to 41.4 per 100,000 inhabitants, only the department of

Map 4. Homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants by department



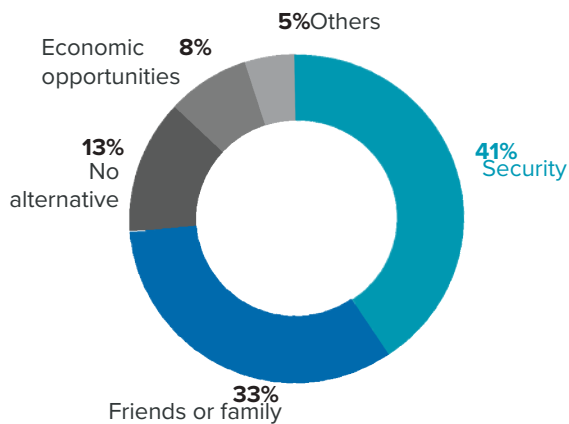
Graph 11. Distribution of displaced households in the main municipalities: expulsion vs reception



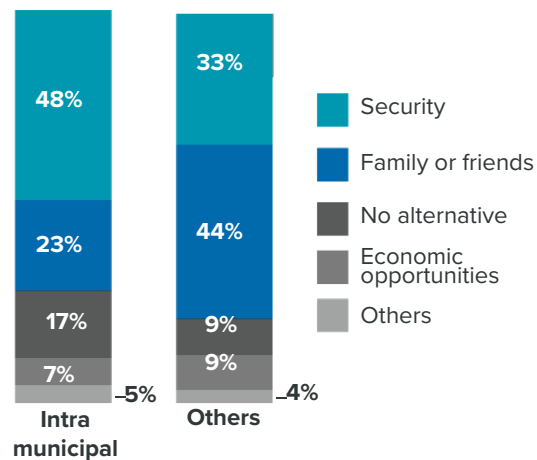
Choice of destination is influenced by various factors. 48% of those displaced within their municipality of origin considered security as a priority in their choice of destination. Conversely, 44% of those who moved to other municipalities within the

same department or to a municipality in another department noted that the presence of family and/or friends was a determining factor.

Graph 12. Distribution of displaced households according to primary factor in choice of destination



Graph 13. Distribution of displaced households according to primary factor in choice of destination, by pattern of displacement*



* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Due to the specific circumstances triggering displacement or the absence of alternatives, 13% of the people interviewed felt they had no option in their choice of destination (17% in the case of intra-urban displacement). In contrast, 8% were influenced primarily by the presence of economic opportunities in their selected area of destination, which suggests that the decision to move is not always sudden or unexpected, and that opportunities for employment can influence decision-making. The forced nature of displacement, however, cannot be understated: displaced households' decision to abandon their place of residence is driven not by economic aspirations, but by violence and serious human rights violations.

The results provide valuable information on the behaviour of households with regards to choice of destination, facilitating projections. It is also clear from the findings that the municipalities and departments with high rates of violence generate the most forced displacement, and that the majority of those affected remain relatively close to their places of origin, in areas where violence persists. Knowledge of these dynamics will support the development of targeted programmes in the areas with the highest incidence of displacement.

4.4. Key findings on the magnitude and distribution of forced displacement in Honduras

1. Between January 2004 and August 2018, 58,550 households composed of 247,090 people were internally displaced in Honduras, meaning that nearly three out of every hundred Hondurans are living in a displaced household.

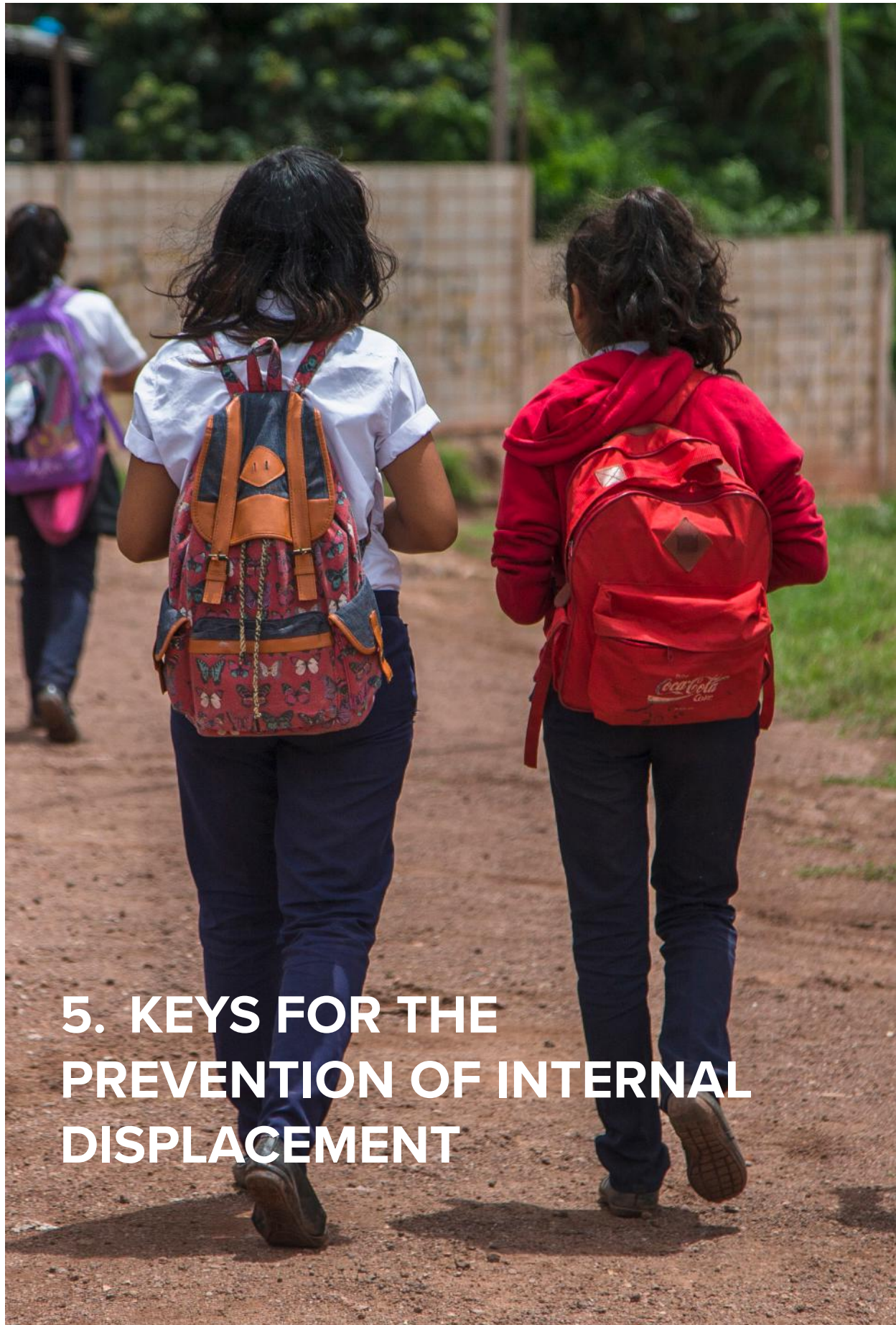
2. Female-headed households and households with higher numbers of children could be more vulnerable to internal displacement.

3. Two thirds of displacements took place within the same municipality or department.

4. Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Olancho and Atlántida experienced the highest numbers of expulsions and receptions of displaced households.

5. San Pedro Sula, Distrito Central, La Ceiba and Choloma are the four municipalities most affected by internal displacement, and the municipalities with the greatest number of homicides registered over the last five years.

6. The majority of households that were displaced within their municipalities of origin chose their destination based on security considerations, while those who moved to other municipalities within or outside their department selected their location because of the presence of family or friends.



5. KEYS FOR THE PREVENTION OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

A comprehensive response to internal displacement requires addressing its structural causes. Prevention should be central to policy. Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras recognises that “nobody should be obliged to move from their domicile or residence”, except in exceptional cases established by law. Rather than countering displacement, which constitutes a self-protection strategy of last resort, state action should target its causes. This requires identifying the populations most exposed and vulnerable to internal displacement, understanding the main threats experienced by these groups, and unpicking the dynamics of violence that precede displacement.

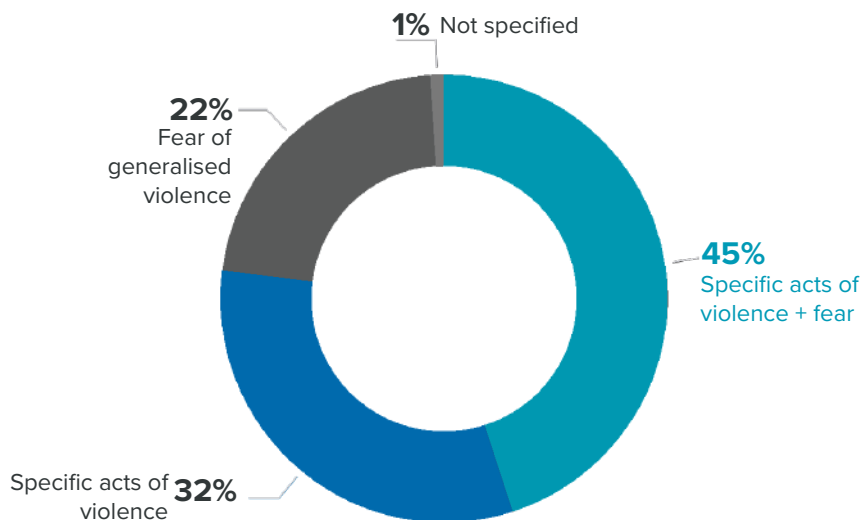
The combined analysis of survey and qualitative data provides valuable information about the profiles of people most at risk of internal displacement, and the events that generate displacement in Honduras. The data also provides insight into the many different ways in which these events take place, the relationship between different types of violence affecting the population, and the strategies they adopt to respond to or adapt to these events.

5.1. Events causing internal displacement

Understanding the causes of internal displacement helps develop prevention mechanisms. Although the main triggers of internal displacement are threats to life, physical integrity, security, and the exercise of rights and liberties, underlying drivers include dynamics of violence, armed groups, and patterns of behaviour fueling coercion, fear and control over the population. Preventing displacement means responding both to its immediate and structural causes, by transforming them or mitigating their impact.

The household survey collected information about the violent events that forced household members to flee. The results show that 77% of displaced households had been victims of specific acts of violence, while one fifth chose to move as a self-protection strategy in the face of generalised violence. In 45% of cases, specific acts of violence combined with fear over high levels of violence in the community

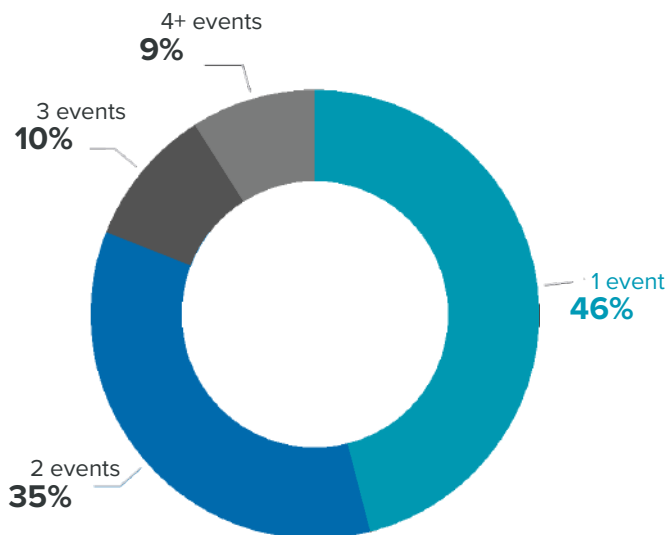
Graph 14. **Distribution of displaced households according to the type of event that led to displacement**



In cases where displacement occurred in response to acts of violence, 54% of respondents indicated that the household had experienced more than one violent event, with 19% suffering from three or more events. Even though the fear instilled by generalised violence is sufficiently severe to force

people to flee their homes, the majority of displaced people move after having been directly exposed to specific and repeated acts of violence.

Graph 15. **Distribution of displaced households according to the number of specific events that caused displacement***



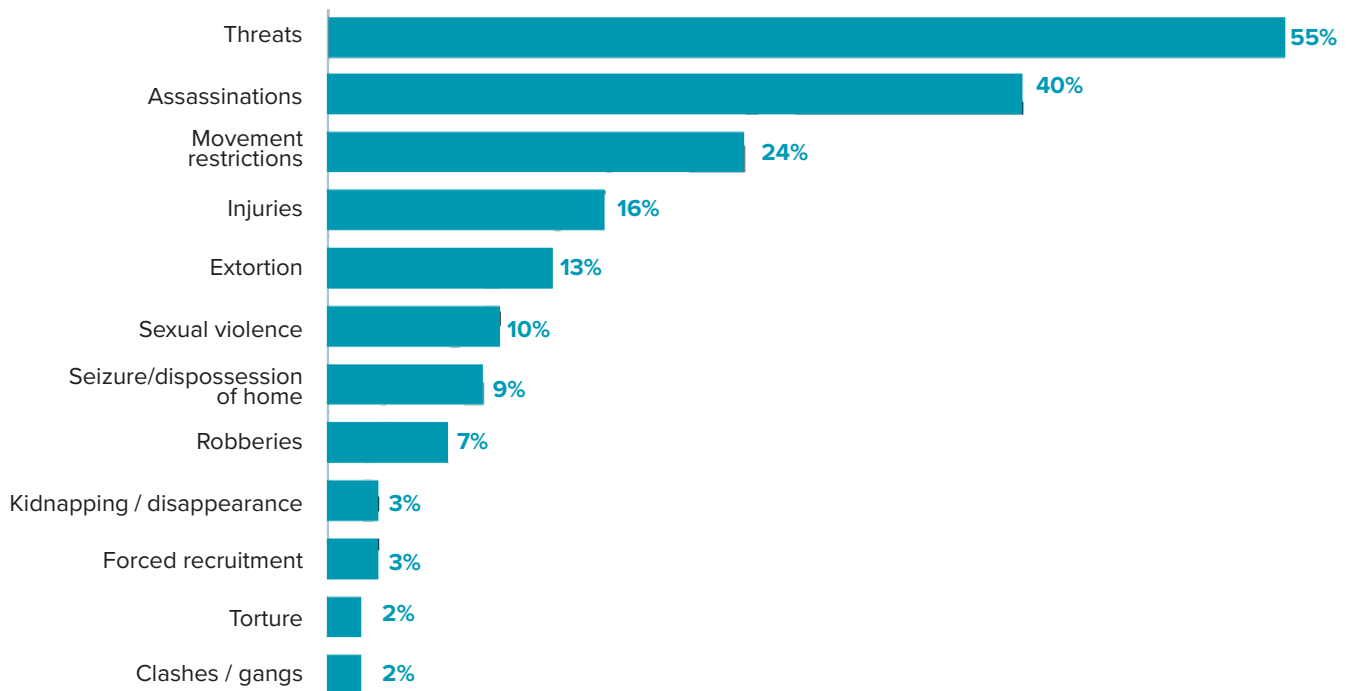
*The percentages are calculated based on the number of households that reported at least one specific act of violence as a cause of displacement (77% of the total sample of displaced households)

Most commonly reported acts of violence were threats (55%) and assassinations (40%), followed by restrictions on free movement (24%), injuries (16%), extortion (13%), and violence and/or sexual harassment (10%)²⁵.

Although the term “threat” can be vague, the correlation with other acts of violence shows that it is frequently associated with assassinations, movement restrictions, injuries or other possible unspecified circumstances.

²⁵ Proportions based on the total number of households that reported that one of its members had been a direct victim of acts of violence. The percentages add up to more than 100% because the participants could report more than one event.

Graph 16. **Proportion of displaced households per specific acts of violence***



* The percentages correspond to the incidence of each specific act of violence over the total number of displaced households who reported at least one event (77% of the total sample of displaced households). The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have suffered more than 1 event

Table 3. **Proportion of displaced households by combination of events that caused their displacement***

Events that caused displacement	Fear	Threats	Assassinations	Movement restrictions	Injuries	Extortion	Sexual violence	Seizure/dispossession of home	Robberies	Kidnapping / disappearance	Forced recruitment	Torture	Clashes / gangs
Fear	22%												
Threats	21%	13%											
Assassinations	20%	14%	10%										
Movement restrictions	17%	9%	6%	5%									
Injuries	4%	8%	4%	2%	1%								
Extortion	7%	6%	3%	2%	1%	3%							
Sexual violence	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%						
Seizure/dispossession of home	4%	5%	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%					
Robberies	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%				
Kidnapping / disappearance	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%			
Forced recruitment	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Torture	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Clashes / gangs	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%

* The percentages correspond to the proportion of displaced households that reported each combination of events. The percentages in diagonal show the proportion of households that reported only one specific event as a cause of displacement. The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have suffered more than 1 event

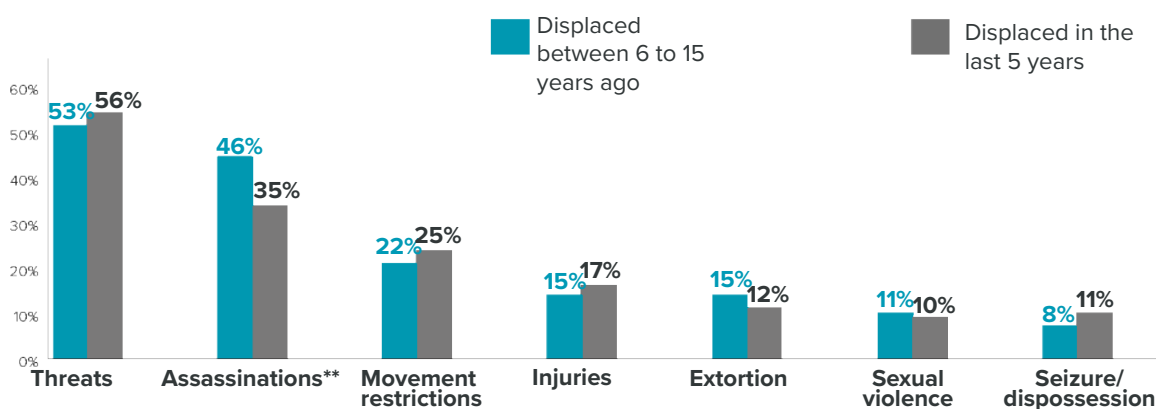
Regardless of the period examined or the percentage variations, the five main acts of violence leading to displacement retain the same order of importance. Threats and assassinations have the highest incidence, followed by restrictions on free movement, injuries and extortion.

Examining the evolution of triggers over time (Graph 17) shows that, although threats and assassinations remain the most common causes of displacement, the latter has decreased in frequency: 35% of people displaced in the last five years reported assassinations as a cause of displacement, compared to 46% of those displaced between 2004 and 2013. Conversely, other violent events such as threats, movement restrictions and dispossession of property and land are more frequently reported among people displaced in the last five years. The decreasing homicide rate in Honduras since 2012, therefore, does not seem to be associated with an overall decrease in violence; violence is manifesting itself in other ways, and continuing to generate internal displacement in the country²⁶.

Analysing triggers of displacement according to the head of household reveals some differences between men and women. For example, cases of assassination and extortion appear more common in male-headed households, while injuries, sexual violence, and dispossession of land and property were more than twice as frequent in female-headed households.

These differences were also highlighted by qualitative research participants, who emphasised the greater exposure of women to sexual and gender-based violence, and perceived that female heads of household lacked protection in contexts of conflict over land²⁷. These discrepancies highlight the need for targeted policies for the prevention of displacement that take into account differentiated causes and underlying factors. Also needed is the provision of legal assistance to prevent land-grabbing and home seizures, in particular for women victims of violence.

Graph 17. Proportion of households displaced by specific acts of violence, per period of displacement*



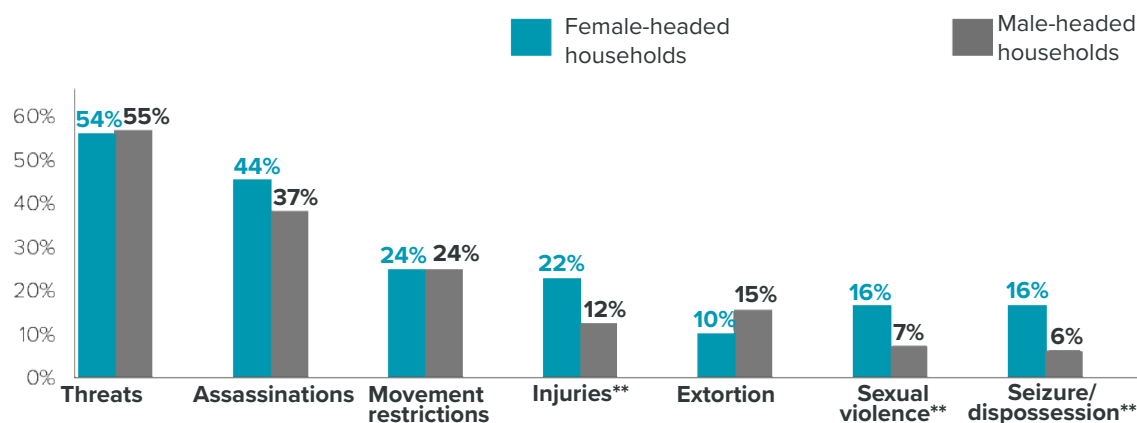
*The percentages correspond to the incidence of each specific violent event over the total number of households in each sub-sample (households displaced during the last 5 years that reported at least 1 event = 44% of the sample of displaced households / Households displaced between 6 and 15 years ago who reported at least 1 event = 33% of the sample). The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household may have suffered more than 1 event

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

²⁶ Since 2012 the rate of intentional homicides in the country has fallen from 84.32 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants to 41.3 in 2018. Despite the significant reduction in the incidence of this type of violence, Honduras continues to have a high rate of homicides, according to data offered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The 2018 data was collected by the National Observatory for Violence of the University Institute of Democracy, Peace and Security (IUDPAS).

²⁷ Information extracted from the qualitative interviews and focus groups carried out in affected communities, and an adult woman who was a resident in the community.

Graph 18. **Proportion of households displaced by specific acts of violence, per head of household***



* The percentages correspond to the incidence of each specific act of violence over the total number of households in each sub sample (Displaced female-headed households who reported at least 1 event = 28% of the sample of displaced households / Displaced male-headed households men who reported at least 1 event = 49% of the sample). The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have suffered more than 1 event

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Contrary to expectations, forced recruitment does not appear to be one of the main causes of displacement in the study. This could be explained by the strategies used by gangs to attract new members, which according to qualitative research participants often include the offer of protection, friendship, money, drugs and gifts of all sorts. Those affected may not perceive recruitment as a violent or forced act, since people would only find themselves threatened if they resisted recruitment.

Property seizure also features quite low among causes of displacement. Focus group participants described property seizure as the end result of a process of extortion, or a consequence of having violated a gang's codes; it rarely has for sole objective to deprive people of their homes. Houses can nonetheless be seized by coercion or violence if they are located in strategic locations that allows gangs or criminal groups to control community activities or escape in the event of clashes or raids. In any case, occurrences

Table 4. **Gang strategies for the recruitment, use and involvement of children and youth***

Identified Strategy	Conditions of vulnerability and risk factors
Camaraderie, friendship and relationships of affection	-Domestic violence -Lack of care by fathers, mothers and guardians -Lack of affection generated by ill treatment in the home
Protection and acceptance	-Victims of school bullying -Victims of abuse or ill treatment -Need for belonging and identify forging
Seduction and deceit through money, work or gifts	-Poverty -Lack of employment and opportunities for personal and professional development -Lack of education
Incitement to drug use	-Domestic violence -Lack of care by fathers, mothers or guardians -Lack of alternatives for leisure and recreation
Threats to life or physical integrity of individual or family	-Girls and youth attractive to gangs -Absence of parents due to work-life balance challenges and migration -Strong presence of gangs and absence of mechanisms for protection and security

* Information extracted from the qualitative component of interviews and focus groups carried out in affected communities

of forced recruitment and property seizure may also have been recorded as other categories of the survey, such as fear, threats, movement restrictions, extortion and even assassinations or injuries.

Focus group participants pointed out that gender-based violence, domestic violence, bullying, or poverty generate conditions conducive to recruitment, as indicated by one youth participating in a focus group, ***“We had a friend who got a girl pregnant, he was underage- he was like 15 years old and couldn’t find a job- so he became a member of a gang. They got him to kill for them. He was there making money for his family, but after three months he was killed himself”.***

Gender-based violence, from social control to rape, is used by gangs as a mechanism to recruit young women. Likewise, fear, threats, movement restrictions, injuries or assassinations could also be the result of extortionary processes, failed recruitment or lack of compliance with codes and norms imposed by gangs in communities. In the worse cases, cycles of violence result in victims becoming perpetrators. A young man who participated in a focus group indicated that, ***“if a youth is suffering from bullying, gangs offer protection [...] a youth that was defended by a gang feels indebted to it and obliged to carry out the jobs they assign to him”.***

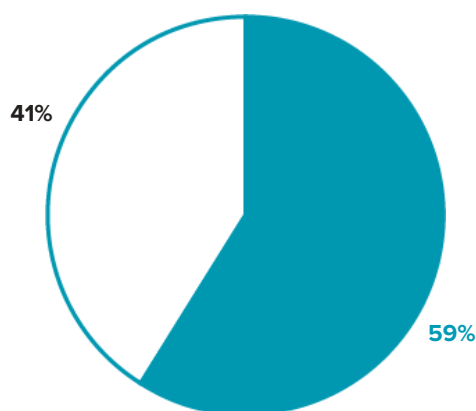
It is necessary to understand the dynamics that generate displacement in order to counter the factors that lead to it. Qualitative findings show that sexual violence is often silenced or invisibilised in communities. Sexual violence is one of the many manifestations of violence against women, used as a mechanism to exert absolute control over their bodies, and as a means to harm their male relatives (partners or family). Often, it is considered a private problem, and it is frequently justified by blaming the victim and judging her behaviour as provocative. These justifications constitute further forms of violence against women and deepen inequality in access to protection mechanisms.

These structural vulnerabilities and inequalities, alongside poverty and social exclusion in certain segments of the population, contribute to internal displacement caused by violence in Honduras. These vulnerabilities exacerbate the impact of displacement and hinder protection and the exercise of rights. Lacking property titles, for example, limits the possibility of accessing justice to gain protection and property restitution. The absence of an effective institutional response could be considered another cause of displacement, as will be discussed in the protection section. Internal displacement is rooted in structural and cultural violence; acts of violence are just the most direct and visible symptom.

5.2. Víctimas y perpetradores del desplazamiento interno forzado

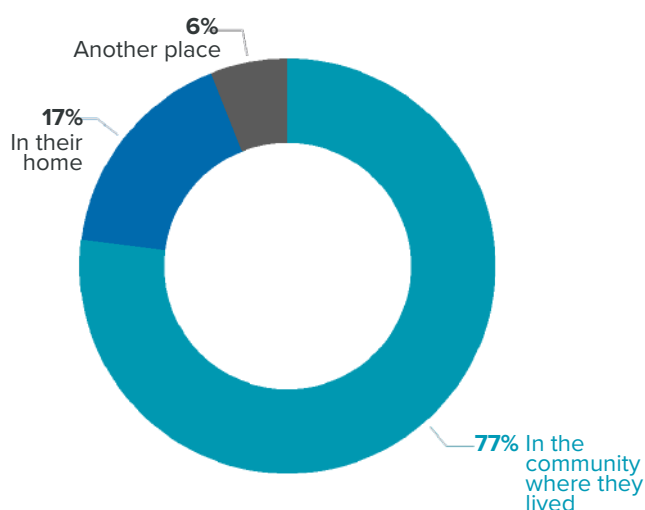
Among people who were part of households ahead of displacement, at least 59% were direct victims of the events that led to their flight. Most events took place within their community of origin, and in 17% of cases the event occurred in their home.

Graph 19. Proportion of displaced people who were direct victims of events that caused their displacement*



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of household members at the time of displacement (77% of the total sample of people in displaced households)

Graph 20. Distribution of displaced people who were direct victims of events that caused their displacement, by the location in which the events occurred*



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of household members at the time of displacement who were direct victims (46% of the total sample of people in displaced households)

Qualitative data provides insight into the circumstances that exacerbate people's vulnerability to certain acts of violence that cause displacement. Children and youth between eight and 21 years of age are reported to be more vulnerable to recruitment, especially if they are victims of domestic abuse, live in poverty, or lack work or education. Financially-dependent women, the LGBTI population and school-age women coveted by gangs are at particular risk of gender-based violence. People suffering from extortion or who live

in places considered strategic for the gang's activities are more likely to see their property seized. Extortion, finally, is a particular risk for people working in transportation, merchandise suppliers, small and medium-size business owners, and civil servants.

Table 5. **Vulnerable people by trigger***

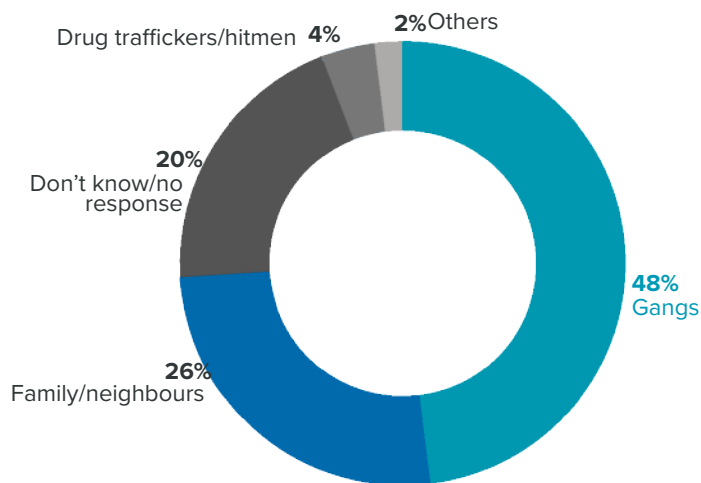
Trigger	Vulnerable profiles
Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children and young people between the ages of eight and 21 years - Underage people, without support from fathers, mothers or guardians - Underage people, victims of abuse at school or in the home - Poor, unemployed, and uneducated adolescents and youth
Land dispossession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People without formal land ownership - Women heads of household
Home seizure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims of extortion - People with homes in strategic areas for criminal activities - People who break codes imposed by gangs
Gender-based violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women who are socio-economically dependent on their partners - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual and intersex (LGTBI) people - Young school-age women coveted by gangs
Extortion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carriers, merchandise suppliers, small and medium business owners, civil servants

*Information extracted from qualitative interviews and focus groups conducted in communities affected by recruitment of gangs

In almost half the cases, gangs were identified as the main perpetrators of the events that led to displacement, while family, neighbours and friends were identified as responsible in 26% of the cases. A considerable portion of displaced

people (20%) were unwilling or unable to identify the perpetrator, underscoring the widespread fear of reporting events and naming perpetrators.

Graph 21. **Distribution of displaced people who had been direct victims of the events leading to their displacement, by perpetrators of the events***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of household members at the time of displacement who were direct victims (46% of the total sample of people in displaced households)

Government forces were not identified by displaced households as directly responsible for the events that forced them to flee²⁸. However, qualitative research participants

mentioned that some members of the state security forces are thought to be part of criminal groups²⁹.

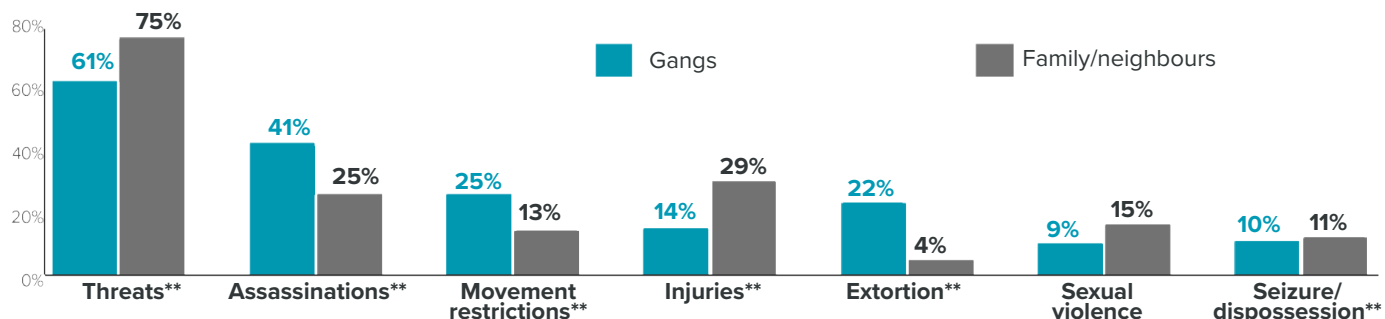
²⁸ In the survey, only 0.5% of households identified the national police as the perpetrator.

²⁹ Information extracted from the qualitative interviews and focus groups carried out in affected communities.

Significant differences are observed when comparing the acts of violence associated with the two main perpetrators: gangs on the one hand, and family, friends and neighbours on the other³⁰. The most notable events attributed to gangs are threats (61%), assassinations (41%), restrictions on free movement (25%) and extortion (22%).

In the case of family, friends and neighbours, main acts of violence include threats (75%), injury (29%), assassinations (25%) and violence or sexual harassment (15%).

Graph 22. Proportion of households displaced by specific acts of violence, by perpetrator*



* The percentages correspond to the incidence of each specific act of violence over the total number of households in each sub-sample. (Households displaced by family/neighbors who reported at least 1 event = 21% of the sample of displaced households / Households displaced by gangs that reported at least 1 event = 32% of the sample). The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have suffered more than 1 event

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

30 The victim's partner is included in the "family" variable. According to the data obtained, the partner would be responsible for 4% of the incidents that led to the displacement.

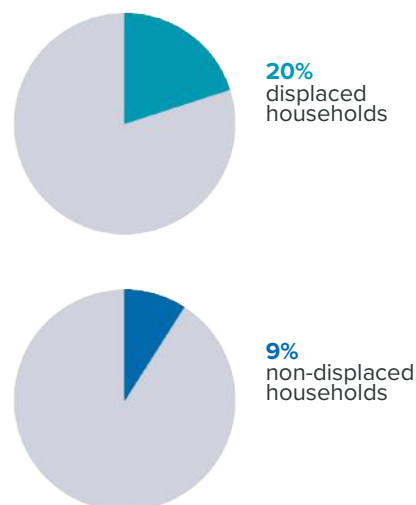
5.3. Community risk profile

Internal displacement results from a combination of risks, acts of violence, and vulnerabilities of people, households and communities. Although the main objective of displacement is to seek safety, displaced people can find themselves once again threatened in their host community since a majority of people remain within their municipalities of origin, which are among the most violent in the country.

Non-displaced households who have not experienced displacement also are also exposed daily to risk, and could be forced to abandon their homes. Indeed, the household survey indicates that 9% of non-displaced households and 20% of displaced households in host communities were direct victims of violence in the past year.

Contrary to what could be expected, recruitment and use are not among the main causes of displacement. This could be explained on the basis of the strategies used by gangs to attract new member who, according to reflections and information provided during the interviews of the qualitative component, are offered protection, friendship, money, drugs and gifts of all types. Because of this modality, it may not be identified by the affected population as a violent or coerced act. Only when the person refuses to become a members is when threats would be used to force their membership.

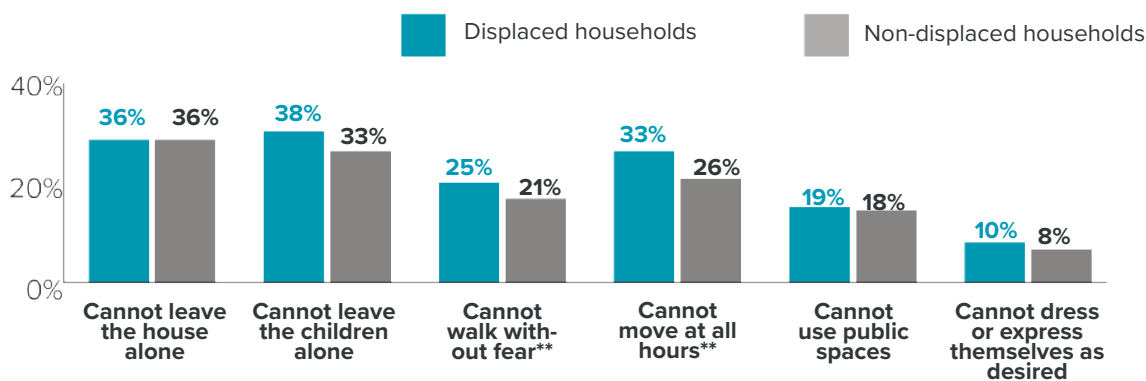
Graph 23. Proportion of households who have been victims of acts of violence within the last 12 months, by type of household*



* For displaced households, this does not include those who were displaced in 2018 (11% of the sample), to avoid confusion with crimes suffered in the community of origin

* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Graph 24. Proportion of households who find their movement and freedom restricted in their current communities, by type of household*



* For displaced households, this does not include those who were displaced in 2018 (11% of the sample), to avoid confusion with crimes suffered in the community of expulsion. The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have reported more than 1 situation

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

The impact of these threats to everyday peace goes beyond the individual and the household, modifying the community's behaviour and turning it into a space of risk. Qualitative research suggests that fear has a profound impact leading to a breakdown of social cohesion and a reduction in collective action. Fear also limits the emergence of alternative role models for youth which could counter the attractiveness of gangs, and leads to the stigmatisation of the community as a whole. These circumstances limit social and economic development of communities and reduce opportunities for social mobility³¹.

Closure of businesses due to extortion or to forced displacement affects the community by reducing economic activity and opportunities for employment. Abandoned property runs the risk of being taken over by criminal groups, who could thereby extend their control over the territory and

population. The presence of gangs also appears to increase criminality and drug use, restricting access to recreational spaces, and contributing to the lack of confidence in institutions given their lack of response and perceived absence in affected communities.

Continued exposure to risk can in certain cases lead to a progressive desensitisation to violence. This was documented in violence-affected communities that took part in qualitative research and tended to relativise the impact of violence. Residents in these areas develop coping strategies to minimise their exposure to risk. Detecting these types of behaviours, though complex in some cases, could help identify people at risk of displacement early on.

Coping strategies and community protection mechanisms

When planning prevention programmes for internal displacement it is important to identify and bear in mind the coping strategies and community protection mechanisms developed by people at risk of displacement to protect themselves from the many threats that could force them to flee. Some of these individual and collective strategies can become invisible given their local and contextual nature, but they could form the basis for more extensive actions through institutional backing, or serve as an example to other communities confronted with similar situations.

Qualitative research identified relevant strategies that have produced some limited positive results. For example, the board of trustees of a community affected by seizure of property had an informal registry of homes abandoned due to extortion. In another location where conflict over land was an issue, the board of trustees had created a registry of dispossessions, with a map of numbered lots and a list of those affected. These strategies could facilitate the creation of a registry of abandoned or seized homes and assets, as well as complement processes for land, housing or property restitution. These strategies could also be used to generate a compensation programme for loss of property resulting from internal displacement.

In a similar manner, educational centres and churches offer counseling and create spaces for training in values, mediation and conflict resolution in communities affected by recruitment, extortion and gender-based violence, in order to support victims and prevent new cases. These spaces should be provided with resources to expand the scope of their activities, as well as tools for evaluating their impact in order to improve their programmes.

The majority of coping strategies mentioned were negative, having harmful impacts on people's daily lives or contributing to further insecurity. Strategies used by people to avoid becoming victims of violence and/or forced displacement include a reduction in social interactions, reclusion, silence, movement restrictions, business closure, the purchase of weapons for self defense or the dismantling of property to prevent its occupation after displacement.

Key among positive coping strategies are the search for support and counselling from churches, municipal boards or teaching staff, and the creation of groups of fathers, mothers or youth to share their problems. Indifference, fear and lack of institutional support undermine these initiatives.

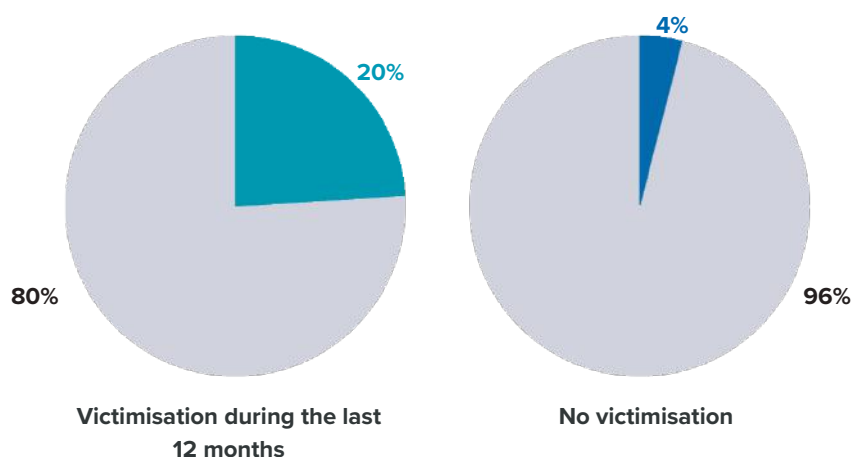
Detecting these behaviours and initiatives, and establishing alliances with community organisations, could serve as an early warning system for institutions to take actions to avoid displacement.

³¹ Information extracted from qualitative interviews and focus groups carried out in affected communities. The participants noted that youth in particular are stigmatised for living in communities controlled by gangs, affecting their opportunities to obtain employment and turning them into suspects.

According to qualitative data, residents of communities affected by violence do not feel they have access to safe spaces, even within their own homes, which increase their desire to flee. Suffering from acts of violence can be an indicator of displacement intentions. For example, 24% of non-displaced households who had suffered from acts of violence had concrete plans to leave the community, compared to

4% of those who had not been affected. In total, 6% of non-displaced households were planning to change residence soon – something that should also be considered when developing proposals for the prevention of displacement, since it could be indicative of the population’s mobility, a possible feeling of diminished belonging and low support for collective action.

Graph 25. **Proportion of non-displaced households that have taken steps to change residence, by victimisation during the last 12 months***



* The percentages correspond to the intention to change residence in each sub-sample (non-displaced households who were victims of crimes = 9% of the sample of non-displaced households / non-displaced households who were not victims of crime = 91% of the sample)

* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

5.4. Key findings on the prevention of forced displacement

1. 77% of displaced households were direct victims of one or several acts of violence prior to internal displacement.

2. Threats, assassination and movement restrictions are the main acts of violence that generate internal displacement, followed by injuries and extortion.

3. Male-headed households were more affected by extortion, while female-headed households suffered more injuries, twice as much sexual violence as male-headed households, and almost three times more dispossessions.

4. The causes of internal displacement are interrelated, which progressively increases people's vulnerability.

5. The absence of preventive measures and appropriate protection by institutions prevent an effective response from countering the causes of displacement.

6. Gangs are the main perpetrators of internal displacement, followed by family, friends and neighbours. However, 20% of those surveyed were unwilling or unable to identify the perpetrator.

7. Violence impacts the entire community, transforming it into a space of risk, reducing collective action and economic activity, and increasing stigmatisation.

8. Experiencing acts of violence is an important predictor of displacement intentions. 77% of displaced households fled after having being affected by one or several acts of violence, and 24% of non-displaced households who had been victims of violence in the last year had concrete plans to leave the community.



6. ASSISTANCE NEEDS DURING INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



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Herrera

Internal displacement has a direct and immediate impact on the quality of life of those affected, and their capacity to confront the situation. These disruptive impacts can be avoided and reduced if affected people receive humanitarian assistance and support from the outset, mitigating the impact on their basic needs and safeguarding the exercise of their rights. Emergency response requires a coordinated and effective strategy on behalf of State authorities responsible for providing assistance to the population, alongside support of civil society organisations and the international community when needed³².

This chapter describes the immediate impacts of internal displacement and resulting needs prioritised by the population during displacement.

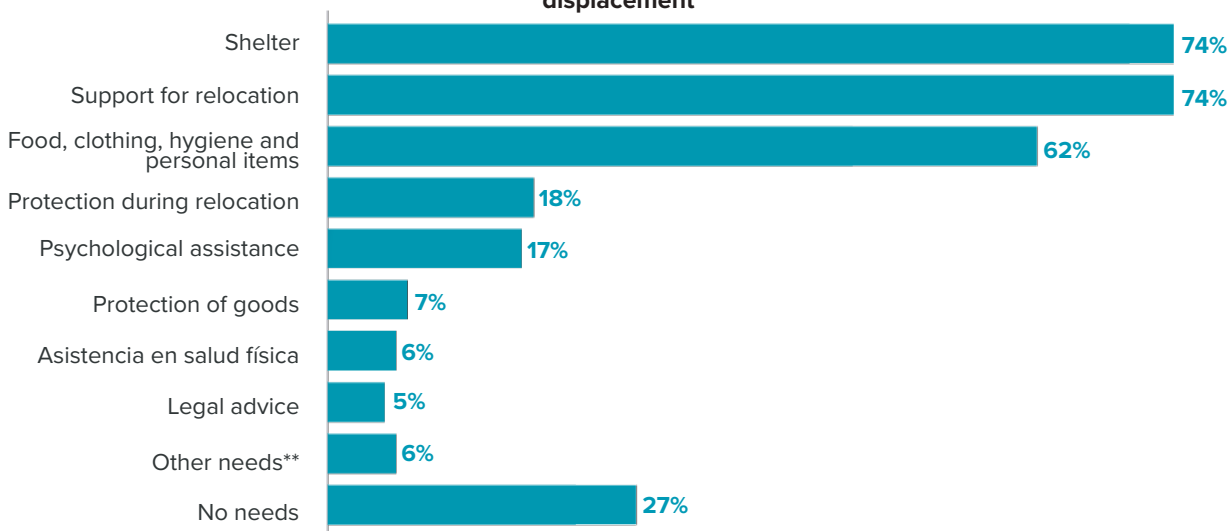
32 IASC (2010). Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Brookings Institution-University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Washington D.C.

6.1. Needs during displacement

Identifying the differentiated needs and impacts of displacement on the population according to gender, age and ethnic origin is the best way to design an effective emergency response. Assistance to the population is not limited to the initial emergency phase. Because needs evolve over time, ongoing needs assessments are necessary to facilitate the subsequent achievement of durable solutions. When designing the response, efforts should be made to ensure that assistance for displaced people strengthens the relationship with the host community, facilitating integration and a quick recovery and taking into account the needs of host communities.

The study provides a first estimate of the magnitude of these needs. The three main priorities at the time of displacement were support for the relocation of people and belongings, access to shelter, and the provision of food and non-food items such as clothing, hygiene products and other personal items. Once basic needs are covered, displaced households also mention the need for accompaniment and protection during relocation, as well as early psychological assistance.

Graph 26. Proportion of displaced households according to needs prioritised during displacement*



* The percentages correspond to the incidence of each need over the total number of displaced households. The percentages do not add up to 100% because each household could report up to 3 priority needs

** Includes documentation, work, and education, among other needs

6.2. Immediate impacts

Emergency assistance is designed to ensure that the basic needs of displaced people are met based on a prior needs assessment. The provision of assistance for displaced populations must respect the humanitarian principles of impartiality and humanity, taking into account the specific needs of those affected and the evolution of needs during displacement.

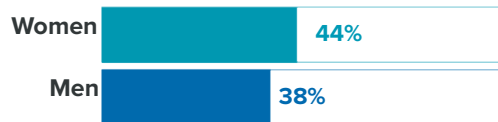
Assistance must respond to the immediate impacts of displacement, such as the impacts on health, education, employment and shelter³³.

33 The data refers to the situation of people who were part of the household when the displacement occurred.

6.2.1. Health

41% of displaced people surveyed suffered health impacts as a consequence of displacement.

Graph 27. **Proportion of displaced people with a health impact due to displacement, by sex***

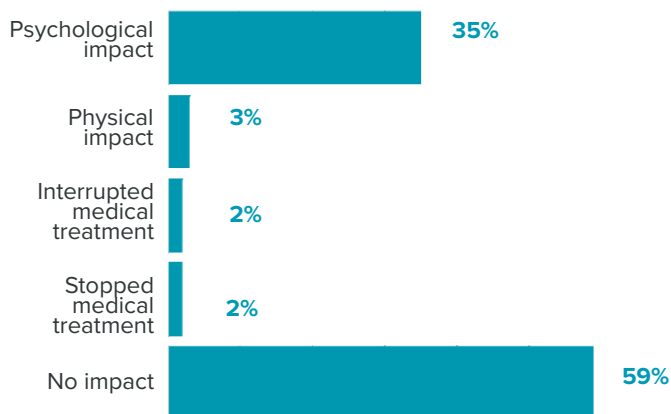


* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (female members of household before displacement = 42% of the sample of people in displaced households / male members of household before displacement = 35% of the sample)

* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Mental health is particularly impacted by displacement, with 35% of the displaced population reporting a negative psychological effect. Other impacts are related to the end or interruption of medical treatment (4%) and physical health problems (3%). The results confirm the need to

Graph 29. **Proportion of displaced people according to the immediate health impact of displacement***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people who made up the household at the time of displacement (77% of the total sample of people in displaced households). The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have reported more of one impact

Women were six percentage points more likely than men to experience health problems. The likelihood of health impacts also increases with age: 33% of respondents who were under the age of eighteen at the time of displacement suffered from health impacts, compared to 50% of older respondents.

Graph 28. **Proportion of displaced people with a health impact due to displacement, by age at the time of displacement***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (Children who were household members before displacement = 34% of the sample of people in displaced households / Adults who were household members before displacement = 42% of the sample)

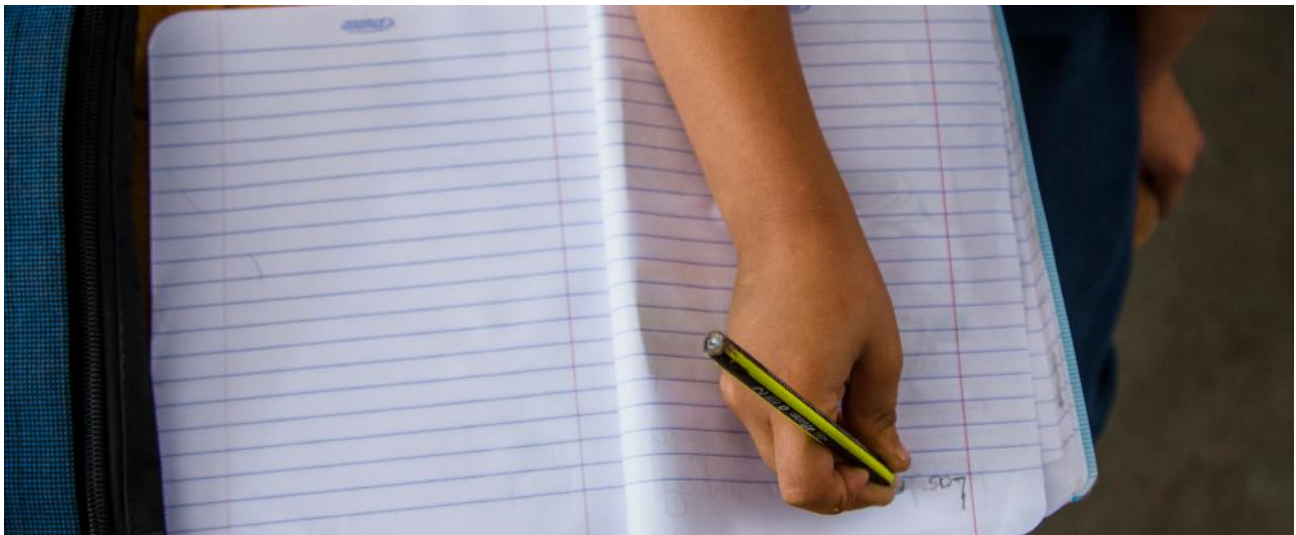
* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

provide preferential, differentiated and early psychological assistance, especially keeping in mind that mental health issues can seriously affect other areas such as education and employment, undermining recovery.

The origins of health impacts can be related to the feelings of anxiety and distress resulting from displacement, but could also be a consequence of the harassment and/or violence experienced ahead of displacement.

Data from the qualitative component shows that stress, depression, anxiety, intrusive thoughts, being on constant high alert, low self-esteem, anger and uncertainty are common among victims of forced recruitment, home seizure, land dispossession, gender-based violence and extortion. This coincides with the impact of displacement in other contexts. The Global Protection Cluster Working Group's handbook for the protection of internally displaced people notes that *“Exposure to violence or disaster, loss of, or separation from, family members and friends, deterioration in living conditions, the inability to provide for one’s self and family, and lack of access to services” involved in internal displacement, “can all have immediate and long-term consequences [...] including post-traumatic stress disorders, psychosomatic illness, depression, anxiety and even violence”³⁴.*

34 Global Protection Cluster Working Group (2010). Handbook for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Pg. 427. Available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4790cbc02.html>

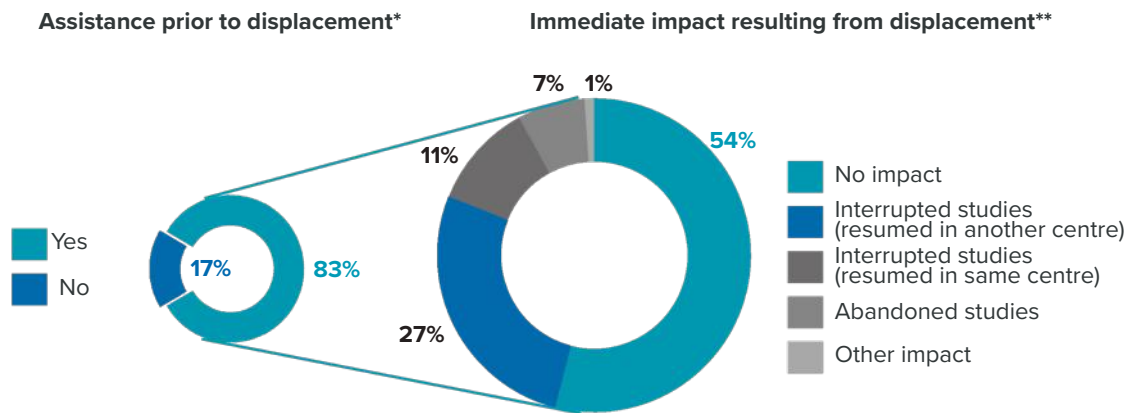


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6.2.2. Education

With regards to the impact on education, 84% of children were enrolled in some kind of educational programme at the time of displacement. Of these, 46% suffered some type of impact in terms of their access to education, highlighting the need to quickly restore enjoyment of this right.

Graph 30. Distribution of displaced people (6-17 years old) according to education assistance prior to displacement and immediate impacts resulting from displacement



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of household members age 6 to 17 at the time of displacement (22% of the total sample of people in displaced households)

** The percentages are calculated based on the total number of household members age 6 to 17 at the time of displacement who were studying (18% of the total sample of people in displaced households)

38% of respondents had to temporarily suspend their studies and 7% were forced to abandon them completely. Of those who temporarily suspended their studies, 27% resumed classes in another educational centre and 11% returned to the same institution, although any potential impact on the quality or continuity of their studies as a result of having fallen behind is unknown.

Although the possibility of returning to the same educational centre suggests the space was unaffected by the events that caused displacement, schools are not always immune to the dynamics of violence affecting the communities in which they are located³⁵. Events such as forced recruitment, sexual and gender-based violence and extortion do take place in educational centres.

Neither are teaching staff exempt of these risks. Some teachers have been forced to request transfers to escape extortion for example, and some students stop attending school to avoid being victims of extortion during their commute. Participants also noted that pregnancy, which is sometimes the result of sexual violence, prompts some children to drop out of school. Given the many ways in which schools are being affected, greater efforts are needed to ensure that educational centres remain violence-free spaces.



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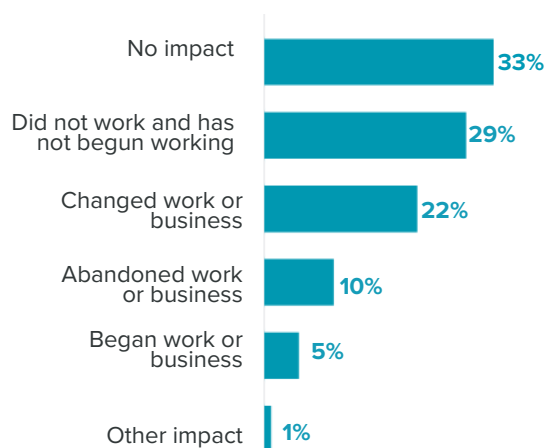
6.2.3. Employment

Displacement has a moderate impact on the employment of displaced people. Although 33% of respondents did not suffer any changes to their employment and were able to continue their work after displacement, 38% of those surveyed suffered some type of disruption. Most common impacts included having to change business or employment (22%), or finding themselves unemployed after having been forced to abandon their previous job (10%). 5% of respondents did not work prior to displacement but started a job or a business after becoming displaced.

The fact that 33% of respondents did not suffer any disruption to their employment can in part be explained by the fact that they remained within the same municipality and were able to maintain their livelihood. It can also be explained by the level of unemployment prior to displacement: only 66% of respondents worked before abandoning their community.

³⁵ NRC (2016), *To Hide or Flee? Education and the Humanitarian Situation in Honduras, 2016*, and NRC (2019) *A Generation out of School, Results of the Census on Education in Honduras 2015-2018* (in Spanish only). Norwegian Council for Refugees. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Graph 31. **Distribution of displaced people (18 years or older) according to the immediate impact on employment resulting from displacement***

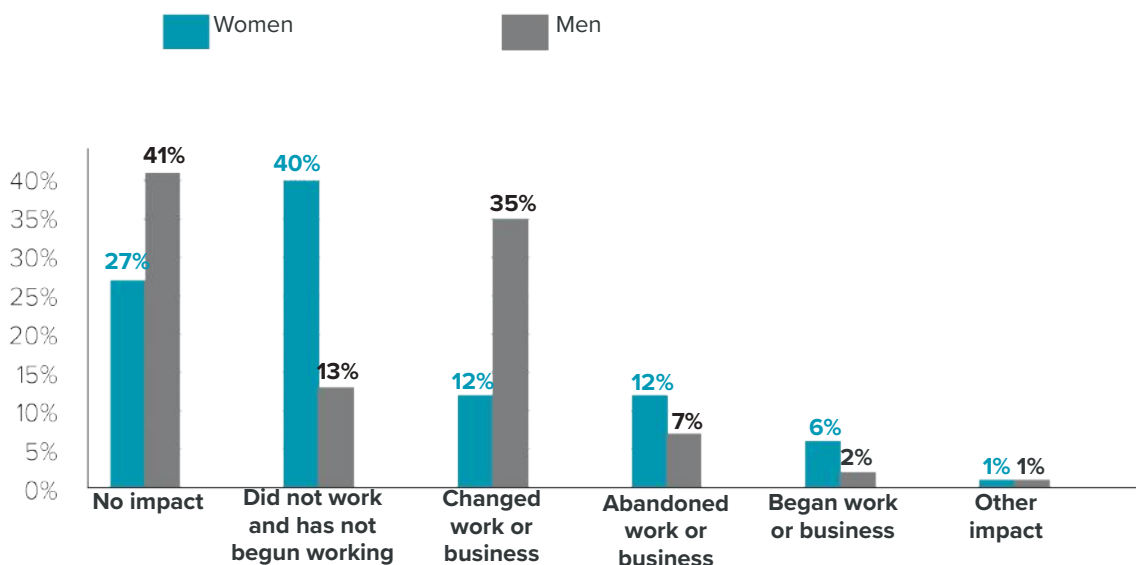


* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of household members over the age of 17 at the time of displacement (42% of the total sample of people in displaced households)

In total, the livelihoods of at least a third of internally displaced people were disrupted, impacting their income and their family's economic situation. This impact increases according to the time it takes to secure new employment, as well as the resulting contract, salary and working conditions. Likewise, the fact that 5% of respondents had to start working after displacement could be due to a loss in purchasing power resulting from the event.

Men and women experienced the impacts of displacement on employment in different ways. Men suffered the greatest impact: 35% had to change employment or business, compared to 12% of women. However, women were five percentage points more likely to have abandoned their work or business. 6% of women took on a new role as a consequence of displacement, starting a job or another economic activity, which shows changes in household dynamics.

Graph 32. **Distribution of displaced people (18 years or older) according to the immediate impact on employment resulting from displacement, by sex***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (Adult female household members before displacement = 24% of the sample of people in displaced households / Adult male household members before displacement = 17% of the sample)

* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

The differentiated impacts on employment must be considered when designing policies for assistance, considering how these events affect working conditions for women and men.

Barriers to employment, lack of employment opportunities and underemployment experienced by the economically active population should also be addressed.



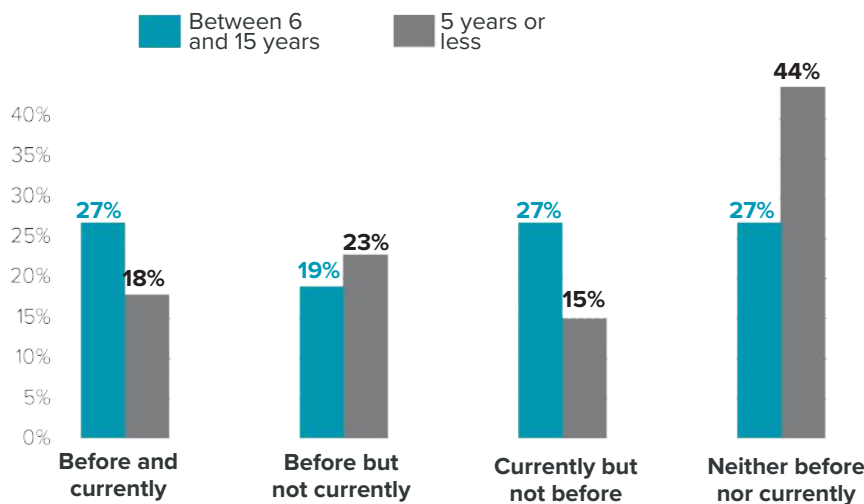
6.2.4. Shelter

By virtue of having to forcibly relocate and abandon their former place of residence, all internally displaced people experience the impact of internal displacement on shelter, be they owners, holders or occupants. Housing assistance should take into consideration i) the urgent need for safe shelter and ii) the evolution of displaced people's needs, which peak during displacement and evolve over time. Shelter response should aim to provide the conditions and actions needed for displaced people to adopt mechanisms

to address the impacts of displacement and recover living conditions which are equal or superior to those preceding displacement.

The study gathers information about home ownership of internally displaced households. Graph 33 shows the changes in property of displaced households disaggregated into two groups: households that have been displaced for five years or less, and households who have been living in displacement between 6 and 15 years.

Graph 33. **Distribution of displaced households according to changes in home ownership after displacement***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (Households displaced between 6 and 15 years ago = 44% of the sample of displaced households / Households displaced 5 years ago or less = 55% of the sample)

* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

41% of households displaced five years ago or less were homeowners before displacement. At the time of the research (up until August 2018), only 33% were owners.

One in two displaced households who owned property before displacement lost ownership of their property. The probability of acquiring a new home decreases among those who lose ownership of their former home during displacement.

The results show that the impacts of displacement on housing are more noticeable during the first years of displacement and reduce property ownership. The strong impact in the short and medium terms and high costs borne by displacement make it difficult for displaced households to acquire housing.

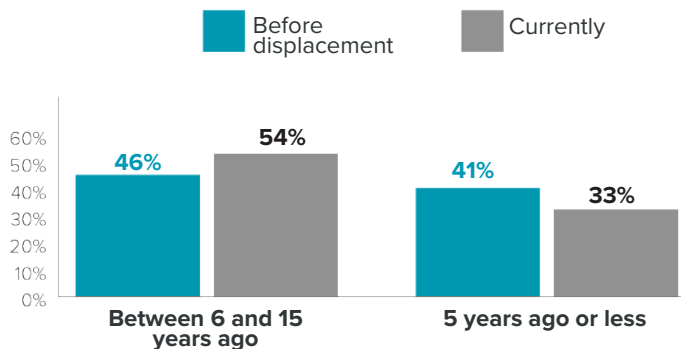
46% of the households displaced between six and 15 years ago owned a home prior to displacement. At the time of the

study, 54% of them owned property. This includes people who managed to improve their conditions (27%) and those who kept their home following displacement (27%).

The remaining 46% of households displaced between 6 and 15 years ago do not currently own property. This includes households who never owned a home (27%) as well as former

property owners (19%). Displacement affected the ownership of 40% of previous property owners. In fact, two out of every five households lost their ownership after displacement and were unable to become owners.

Graph 34. **Distribution of displaced households according to home ownership by displacement period: before displacement vs currently**



Regardless of the duration of displacement, only 42% of internally displaced households are currently property owners, which is far below non-displaced households.

The study also gathered data on other forms of property such as land, crops, businesses, vehicles, cattle and household goods. This information is further explored in the section on protection of property and abandoned goods.

6.3. Key findings on assistance for internally displaced people

1. The priorities for humanitarian assistance at the time of displacement are support with relocation, shelter, and assistance with food, clothing and hygiene.

2. Internal displacement has strong impacts on health, education, housing and, to a lesser extent, employment.

3. The need for psychological assistance was highlighted as a priority given the strong impacts of violence and displacement on the mental health of those affected.

4. Practically half of displaced students found their education impacted to a certain degree, mainly through the temporary interruption of their studies. Critically, at least 7% of students were obliged to abandon their studies indefinitely.

5. At least a third of displaced people experienced some form of impact on their employment, such as seeing themselves forced to change business or employment (22%) or finding themselves unemployed after abandoning their previous activities (10%).

6. Men and women experienced differentiated impacts on employment. 35% of working men were forced to change business or employment, and 12% of working women were unemployed as a consequence of displacement.

7. All internally displaced people suffer impacts on housing as a result of having to forcibly relocate and abandon their former residence. Forced internal displacement results in loss of property and causes delays in securing new housing.



7. PROTECTION NEEDS OF THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED POPULATION



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The protection of people affected by internal displacement aims to uphold respect of their rights in accordance with national and international legislation³⁶. Efforts to protect internally displaced people must be targeted towards preventing and responding to human rights violations, guaranteeing people's access to justice and promoting the creation of safe environments that enable the free exercise of their rights.

To achieve these goals, it is necessary both to create specific protection programmes and to mainstream protection as a cross-cutting issue in the provision of assistance to affected people and communities³⁷.

Assistance programmes must respect the principles of confidentiality and do no harm to avoid causing additional risks to the life, integrity and liberties of internally displaced people.

Whenever possible, protection programmes should identify strategies devised by communities to cope with displacement or mitigate its impact. This helps strengthen existing networks, increases ownership of projects and avoids harming these initiatives or duplicating efforts.

This study identifies internally displaced people's main concerns regarding protection in Honduras, including access to justice and protection mechanisms, family reunification, the protection of abandoned property and assets, and the exercise of the right to education. Similarly, some of the dynamics and strategies for protection developed by the communities are presented, providing insight into their perception of the principle protection agents in their area.

36 Global Protection Cluster Working Group. (2010). Ibidem. Pg. 540, protection concept.

37 Global Protection Cluster (2019). Brief on Protection Mainstreaming. Protection mainstreaming is the process of incorporating protection principles and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity in humanitarian aid. This includes the prioritisation of the safety and dignity of people in accessing assistance without barriers, with measures for evaluation by receivers as well as the addressing of concerns and complaints, and supporting people's capacity to demand the fulfilment of their rights. Available at: http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/_assets/files/aors/protection_mainstreaming/brief_on_protection_mainstreaming.pdf

7.1. Access to justice and protection mechanisms

A key factor for the protection of internally displaced and at-risk people is accessing justice for the protection of their rights. Although justice should not be reduced to investigating displacement and its associated crimes, displaced people who wish to do so should be able to file a report without fear of retaliation. Victims of crimes must be able to access protection mechanisms when needed while facts are being clarified and responsibilities determined.

The new Penal Code of Honduras classifies forced displacement as a crime in line with international standards³⁸. The criminalisation of displacement protects rights to free movement, choice of place of residence, freedom from arbitrary interference in the home, and the right to adequate housing, with tenure security representing an essential safeguard against the risks of dispossession and usurpation.

7.1.1. Reporting

Despite the severity of the events preceding internal displacement, only 22% of households reported them to the authorities. Main explanations for the low number of reports are the fear of retaliation (47%), warnings and threats not to report the events (5%), and the perception of low efficiency of the justice system (33%).

Silence is used as a coping strategy to avoid further exacerbating the situation, as noted in cases of seizure of property, gender-based violence and extortion. During one of the testimonies about gender-based violence, one community organisation representative revealed that **“people remain silent because of our authorities’ lack of credibility; so they keep quiet, and make the decision to move to another municipality or department or even to leave the country to flee the situations from which they suffer.”** With regards to seizure of property, one person noted that **“People don’t speak out of fear, so us neighbours don’t realise anything until the people are already gone; they leave without notifying anybody or saying anything.”** Only 4% of people interviewed said they did not know to whom they could report the events. This may be because some causes of displacement, such as forced recruitment into gangs³⁹, are not included in the Penal Code.

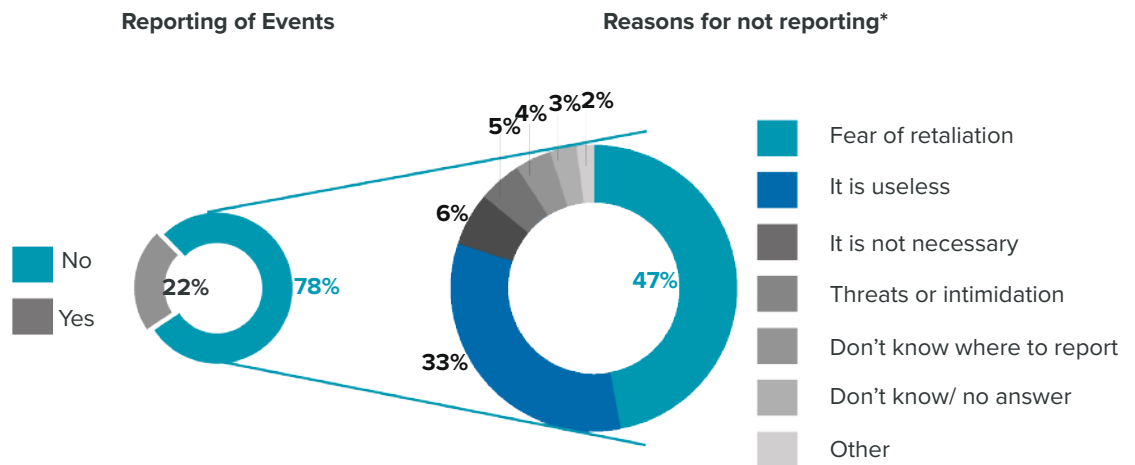
The prevalence of sexual violence and harassment as causes of internal displacement may suggest a higher risk for women, adolescents and girls. Between 2015 and 2017, an average of 2,700 crimes of sexual violence against women were registered. In addition, the rate of femicide in Honduras is the second highest in the continent after El Salvador. This data underscores the need to take measures to better protect women from this type of violence⁴⁰.

38 Legislative Decree No. 130-2017. Penal Code of Honduras, art. 248. Currently in vacation legis.

39 Although the Penal Code expressly mentions the prohibition of recruiting children into the armed forces or for use in hostilities against the state, it does so within article 146 that deals with the “prohibited means and methods of war”; therefore, it does not apply in cases of criminal groups.

40 CEPAL (2017). Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The country registered 235 femicides in 2017, a rate of 5.1 women for every 100,000 women, according to data extracted from statistics on femicide. Available at: <https://oig.cepal.org/en/indicators/femicide-or-feminicide>

Graph 35. **Distribution of displaced households according to reporting of events that caused displacement and reasons for not reporting**



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households that did not report the events (78% of the total sample of displaced households)



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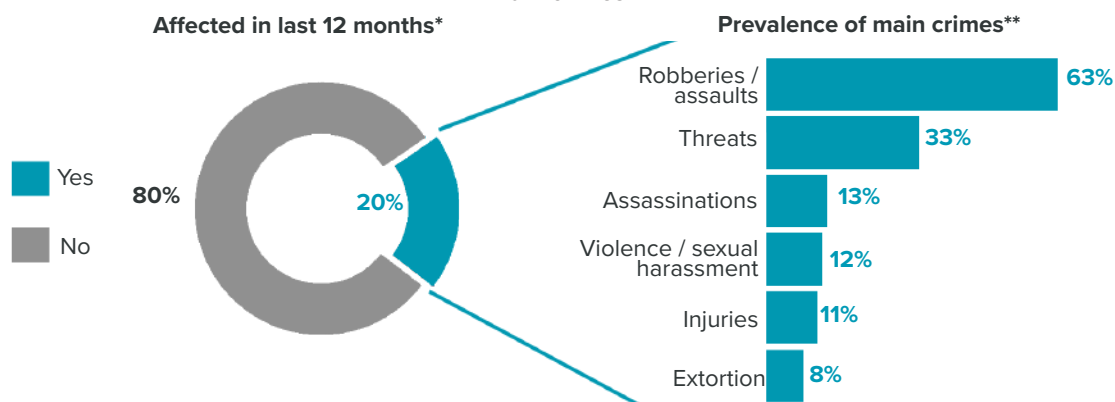
7.1.2. State institutions and community associations

One of the challenges of achieving effective protection of internally displaced people is establishing a coordinated and comprehensive institutional response. The CIPPDV and the DIPPDI have made progress in the development of protocols for psychosocial assistance, but these require adequate coordination with other assistance and protection mechanisms. Existing policies and programmes for security and justice are focused on prosecution rather than protection and assistance for victims, which creates a gap and undermines the capacity of state response. For example, the National Anti-Extortion Force persecutes perpetrators of this type of crime without offering complementary programmes for prevention, protection or assistance for victims, which limits the state's capacity to provide protection. Qualitative data reveals some of the gaps in institutional response,

and the lack of coordination among state institutions. This highlights the shortcomings of a principally punitive approach which fails to effectively consider other types of measures to address protection needs resulting from internal displacement or situations of risk prior to displacement.

During an in-depth interview about the state's capacity to respond to internal displacement, a government representative noted that the absence of a specific legal framework for internal displacement impedes the development of clear institutional roles and competencies in prevention and assistance programmes, which results in a lack of coordination. In addition, the low level of reporting of events that provoke displacement hampers the identification of cases and affected people.

Graph 36. Distribution of displaced households affected by crimes in the last 12 months and prevalence of main crimes



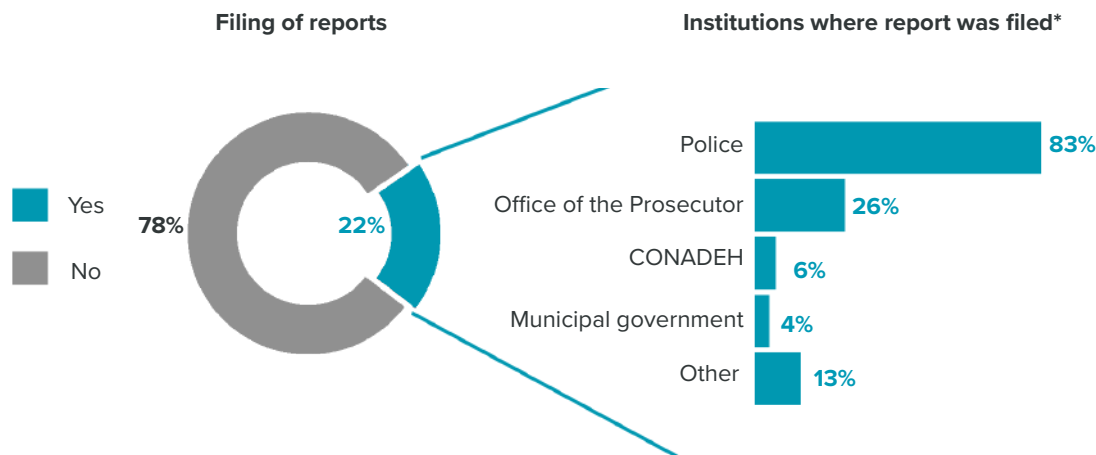
* For displaced households, this does not include those who moved in 2018 (11% of the sample), to avoid confusion with crimes suffered in the community of expulsion

** The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households that were victims of crimes (18% of the total sample of displaced households). The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have reported more than 1 crime

Only 22% of internally displaced people reported the events that caused their displacement. Of these, 54% of households received no response to their report, while 25% received legal assistance and only 11% confirmed having benefited from specific protection measures or support for relocation. The low rates of response and the absence of a legal framework undermines the credibility of government institutions and shows the gaps in institutional assistance and response, leading many citizens not to file reports.

Of the 22% who did file a report, 83% did so to the national police, 26% to the office of the prosecutor, and a lower proportion to CONADEH and the municipal government. Focus group participants positively recognised the deterrent effects of greater patrolling and increased presence by the police. However, the low reporting rate and limited response underscore the need to increase confidence in the Honduran security forces and establish a solid protective relationship between the state and its population.

Graph 37. **Distribution of internally displaced households according to filing of reports that caused displacement and institutions where the reports were filed**

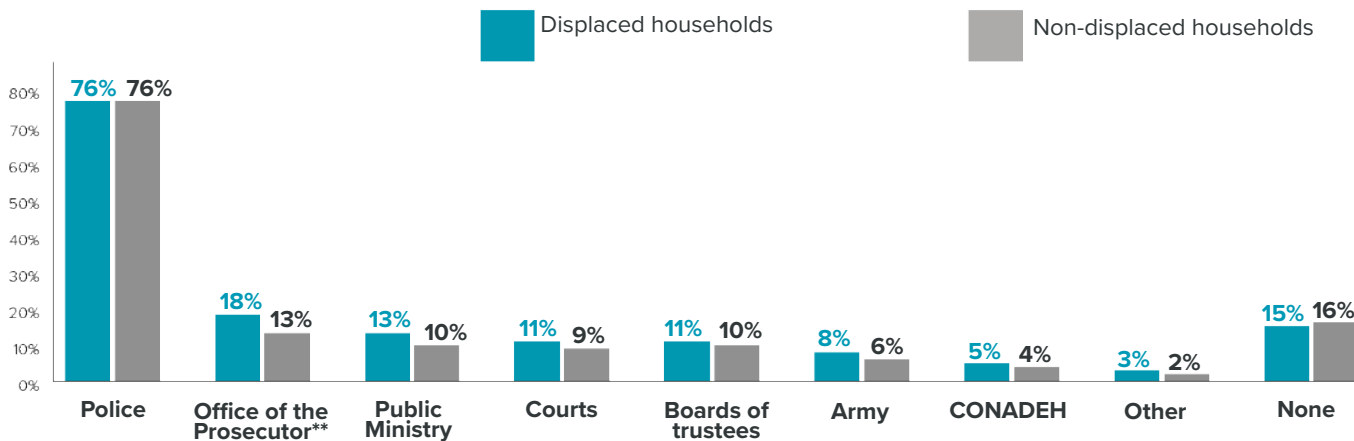


* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households who reported the events (22% of the total sample of displaced households). The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have reported to more than 1 institution

The lack of trust in institutions is illustrated in the difference between the knowledge of State entities that offer protection and the use of these entities in the event of exposure to risk or acts of violence. Although 76% of displaced and non-displaced households recognised that they could go to the national police, few actually made reports. Around 15% of both groups of households felt they could not turn to an institution for support. Qualitative data further reveals widespread lack

of awareness about institutions other than security forces that can provide assistance in situations of risk. This highlights the need to disseminate information and educate the population about the alternatives for assistance while acknowledging that awareness-raising and sensitisation activities may themselves be constrained by the causes of displacement⁴¹.

Graph 38. **Proportion of households according to State institutions where they feel able to request help during situations of risk or violence, per type of household***



* The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have reported more than 1 institution

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

41 Information extracted from qualitative interviews and focus groups carried out in affected communities; the National Programme for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Social Reinsertion (PNPRRS) admitted that, due to security concerns, its technicians in the communities do not address human rights issues or how to file a report. Likewise, a young community leader who participated in a focus group said they were unable to address issues such as pregnancy prevention or drug use, because it goes against gang interests.



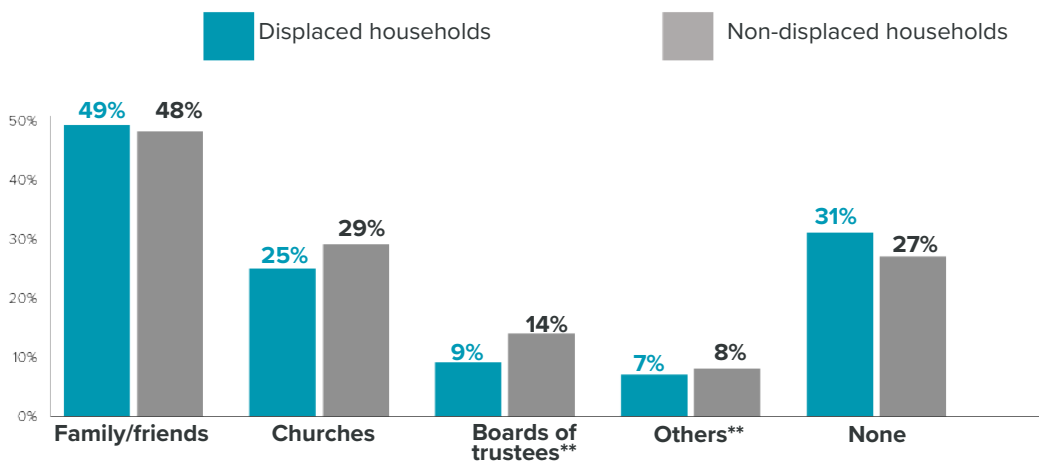
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Apart from state entities, there are multiple civil organisations in communities - some more formal than others - that were autonomously created in response to challenges affecting them. In the event of acts of violence, residents, whether displaced or not, tend to exclusively inform their family and close friends, as well as churches and boards of trustees which receive the most requests for support. Although they lack the means to address internal displacement, qualitative research participants emphasised the confidence that many people have in such actors, especially church representatives, due to their work in mediation, awareness raising and protection

during violent events and recruitment⁴².

Churches are generally perceived as neutral entities which sometimes enables them to foster dialogue with gangs. As with boards of trustees, water control boards or protection committees, their degree of involvement and their ability to operate varies according to the community in which they are located and the severity of violence to which they are exposed.

Graph 39. **Proportion of households according to community organisations where people can request help during situations of risk or violence, per type of household***



* The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have reported more than 1 organisation

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

42 Information extracted from qualitative interviews and focus groups carried out in affected communities, as well as an adult man who was a religious representative.



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In some contexts, gangs fulfill de facto roles of authority. Several focus group participants indicated that gangs protect the community against theft and crime, and that people turn to them to impart justice, even if it is of an arbitrary nature. Some testimonies highlighted that **“Now that the gangsters are there, there is no robbery, there is nobody making a ruckus”**⁴³; **“They decrease crime, so to speak, because if someone steals anything they cut take their hands off and that’s it, [...] because the gang takes care of us, takes care of the people of the community”**⁴⁴; **“the authorities are not present; sometimes it is these very groups who take on the role of the police; they beat up people who are hitting their wives.”**⁴⁵.

Gangs could be filling existing gaps in the communities. The fact that gangs are offering protection to young people suffering from bullying, children living on the street, or children from broken families shows how the gaps in social assistance are filled by these criminal organisations⁴⁶. Therefore, it is necessary to improve existing protection mechanisms and create new instruments to expand the presence and protective action of the state in these areas, beyond police actions. This should also include other types of services that respond to protection needs generated by violence.

43 Op, Cit., interview with an adult man representative of the education sector.

44 OP, Cit., interview with young man who resided in the community.

45 Op, Cit., interview with person who resided in the community.

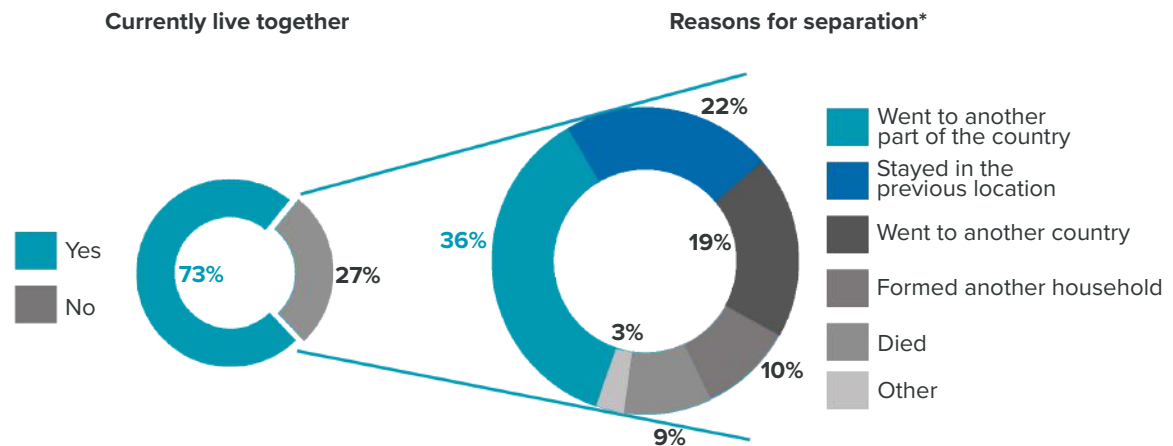
46 Information extracted from qualitative interviews and focus groups carried out in affected communities. “If a youth is suffering from bullying, gangs protect them. They do this in a manner of friendship, to win the trust and loyalty of youth,” said a young man resident of the community participating in the focus group.

7.2. Family reunification

Principle 17 of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement refers to the human right to family and stipulates that the reunification of family members separated by internal displacement must be carried out as soon as

possible, according to people's wishes. The results of this study show that 27% of households found their composition altered as a result of displacement. In other words, over a quarter of households were separated from at least one household member after displacement.

Graph 40. **Distribution of displaced households according to whether former household members still live together following displacement, and reasons for separation**



*The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households whose composition was altered following displacement (27% of the total sample of displaced households)

Family disintegration is predominantly due to diverging displacement patterns. Although 22% of former household members stayed in their previous residence when the rest of the household was displaced, 36% went to other parts of the country and 19% left Honduras altogether.

The decision of one household member to remain in their area of origin could be due to several reasons. The person may not have been threatened, or may have stayed to protect their possessions and businesses; that person may also have been responsible for the violence that instigated the displacement (26% of the events that led to displacement were perpetrated by family or neighbours; see Graph 21). For example, focus group participants recounted how gangs may force youth to cut ties with their families, at times even forcing them to attack their own family members to prove their loyalty or as a rite of initiation⁴⁷.

Protection strategies should take into account that household separation is another impact of internal displacement, and take measures to prevent family disintegration⁴⁸, and facilitate family reunification if members want it, especially for unaccompanied children. However, since the data indicates that 14% of perpetrators were relatives who may be members of the displaced household, special care should be taken when conducting consultations for reunification to avoid putting displaced people at further risk.

47 Op. Cit., interview with adult male representative of a board of trustees in a community affected by recruitment.

48 The obligation to protect the family, respect family life and the principle of family unity are found in numerous instruments of international human rights law such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 16), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (art. 16) or the International Convention for the protection of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (art. 44), among others.



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7.3. Protection of abandoned property

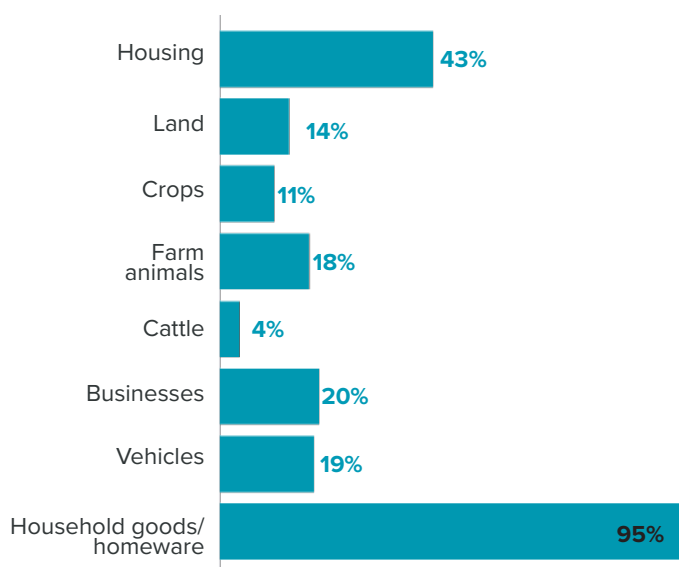
The dispossession of land, housing and other property can be both a cause and a consequence of internal displacement. When fleeing in search of security after violent events and human rights violations, people are often obliged to abandon their land and other property. In many cases, this property is damaged, destroyed or appropriated by the perpetrators.

Safeguarding rights to land, housing and property must be part of the protection strategy before, during and after displacement, as well as part of the subsequent recovery strategy. These rights make up an integral part of every effort to provide remedies and justice. If internally displaced people can enjoy these rights, they will be more likely to make a living, be less dependent on humanitarian assistance and be less exposed to other human rights violations.

Keeping or recovering property can be a difficult task for internally displaced households, particularly if they do not have documents to prove ownership of said good, or if the abandoned belonging is under control of the perpetrators of displacement.

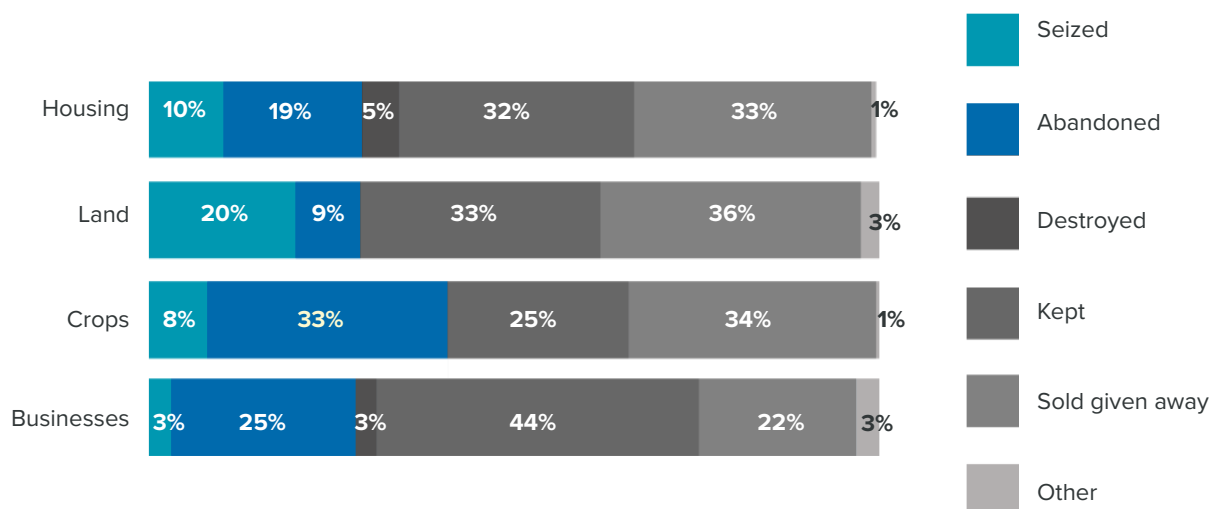
This study focused on the impact of displacement on households with regards to housing and land, as well as crops and businesses. However, the results show that these are not the only assets that make up the property of the population: 95% of households had homeware, 19% had vehicles, 18% had farm animals and 4% had cattle.

Graph 41. **Proportion of displaced households according to property owned before displacement***



*The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have possessed more than 1 asset

Graph 42. **Distribution of households that owned property before displacement, according to current situation of the property***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households that owned each type of property before the displacement (Housing = 43% of the sample of displaced households / Land = 14% of the sample / Crops = 11% / Businesses = 20%)

Housing

43% of internally displaced households owned their home before displacement. Of these, only 32% managed to retain their property, but the remaining 67% suffered the following impacts as a consequence of internal displacement: 19% said their property was abandoned, 10% seized, 5% destroyed, and 33% sold.

Although the income generated from the sale of housing is unknown, it is possible that people sold their houses below market price in order to leave the community as soon as possible or gather the necessary resources to reorganise their lives in their area of destination. Sales in situations of stress result in decapitalisation of housing and increase vulnerability.

Land

14% of displaced households had land before displacement. Of these, only one third was able to keep it. 20% saw their land seized, 9% were forced to abandon it, and 36% decided to sell the land as a result of displacement. Of the different types of property, land is the one that is most often seized. Those causing displacement sometimes seek to take advantage of the land's strategic location; others seek to profit directly from it, or benefit a third party.

Crops

11% of internally displaced households had crops before displacement, either through ownership or on loan with a harvest quota for the owner. Agriculture represents the most common source of employment among the internally displaced population (see Table No. 6, chapter 8) and

constitutes an important livelihood that can be complemented with other economic activities which are usually linked with extensive crops. Of those who had crops, 34% sold them, 33% abandoned them, 25% managed to keep them and 8% said they were seized. The loss of crops has economic and cultural impacts, and increases the vulnerability of affected families. Many families find themselves obliged to seek new employment to compensate for the loss of income.

Businesses

20% of internally displaced households had businesses before displacement. Of this percentage, 44% managed to keep them, 25% abandoned them, 33% sold them and 3% saw their businesses seized. Compared to other types property owned by the internally displaced population, businesses and homeware were the assets that were most likely to be kept following displacement.

This chapter has demonstrated the multiple impacts of displacement on the property of those displaced. Some of the impacts are more visible than others, such as families temporarily without shelter, more vulnerable households, and delays in overcoming poverty. Some of these impacts persist and worsen with time.

Displaced people do not have the capacity to recover their belonging, especially since they do not have credit. Before displacement, only 2% had purchased homes or businesses on credit, which highlights the challenges in accessing this tool after displacement.

The lack of mechanism for the registration of abandoned property hinders recovery. Since there is no system that identifies property ownership, there are limited possibilities

of preventing the occurrence of forced sales of property or other transactions, the use of false ownership titles, and other issues that can harm third parties acting in good faith.

The Property Institute (IP in Spanish) and the National Agrarian Institute (INA in Spanish) noted that they do not have internal protocols to protect the property of internally displaced people. The IP's Unified Registry System does not document the existence of disputes over registered land and property. The only applicable measure in the case of seizure of property is for the affected party to request an annotation in the IP file specifying that their home is occupied by another person. However, the current procedure to settle these types of disputes may expose the displaced person to increased risk, since the complainant may be obliged to face the occupier during the conciliation hearing.

Another option is to engage in a contentious process through the judicial system, but this is burdensome for the victims given the costs and lengths of litigation, as well as the fact that the burden of proof falls on the plaintiff, contradicting the principles of victim protection. In these cases, internally displaced households would be required demonstrate ownership over the assets and confront the perpetrators of violence who displaced them. In the case of real estate, such as land and housing, the Honduran legal framework requires a formally registered title to initiate any type of legal procedure.

According to the World Bank, approximately 80% of privately owned land in rural areas and 30% of land in urban areas do not have property titles or are improperly titled⁴⁹. The figures demonstrate the need to increase ownership security and strengthen property rights, particularly among people affected by displacement since only 67% of displaced households who own housing currently have formal documents (see Graph 54, chapter 8). This would facilitate the registration of land titles, but also make it possible to initiate processes in the absence of such titles.

Authorities should support internally displaced households in recovering their property, and develop practical institutional mechanisms in accordance with the national context, taking into account security considerations to avoid increasing risk. According to qualitative findings, the absence of such mechanisms is impeding the recovery of property.

Communities have developed protection measures or strategies that seek to ensure that property remains occupied with the permission of the displaced owner. Community structures may for example request permission from the owner through churches in order to utilise the property for community use, either for services or prayer groups. This gives the impression that the home is being lived in. At an individual level, before abandoning their home many families try to leave a person in charge, or dismantle the house entirely so that it is not habitable.

7.4. Right to education

Educational centres were described as protection spaces where the teaching community strives to keep children and youth away from the influence of gangs. For this purpose, activities are organised to educate students about the dangers, and families are informed whenever any risk is detected.

Despite these efforts, qualitative research participants expressed that educational centres are sometimes spaces of forced recruitment, gender-based violence or extortion. Both students and teachers are affected, and the perpetrators are predominantly members of gangs. Young women also flagged that attending evening classes exposed many of them to sexual violence; as a result, some of them had to interrupt their education because they were unable to combine it with domestic chores or employment. Keeping schools free of violence remains a challenge.

49 WB (2016), Honduras- Unlocking economic potential for greater opportunities: systematic country diagnostic, World Bank, Washington DC, pg. 63.

7.5. Key findings on protection for internally displaced people

1. The institutional response to internal displacement is partial and insufficiently coordinated. There is an urgent need to develop mechanisms that respond comprehensively to the protection needs of the displaced population.

2. Fear and lack of confidence in institutions explain why only 22% of internally displaced households reported the events that forced them to flee.

3. Among those who did report the crimes resulting in displacement, 83% did so to the national police. However, this proportion represents only 19% of all displaced households.

4. Displaced people frequently turn to churches and community organisations to request help, and positively value their work in mediation, awareness raising and protection.

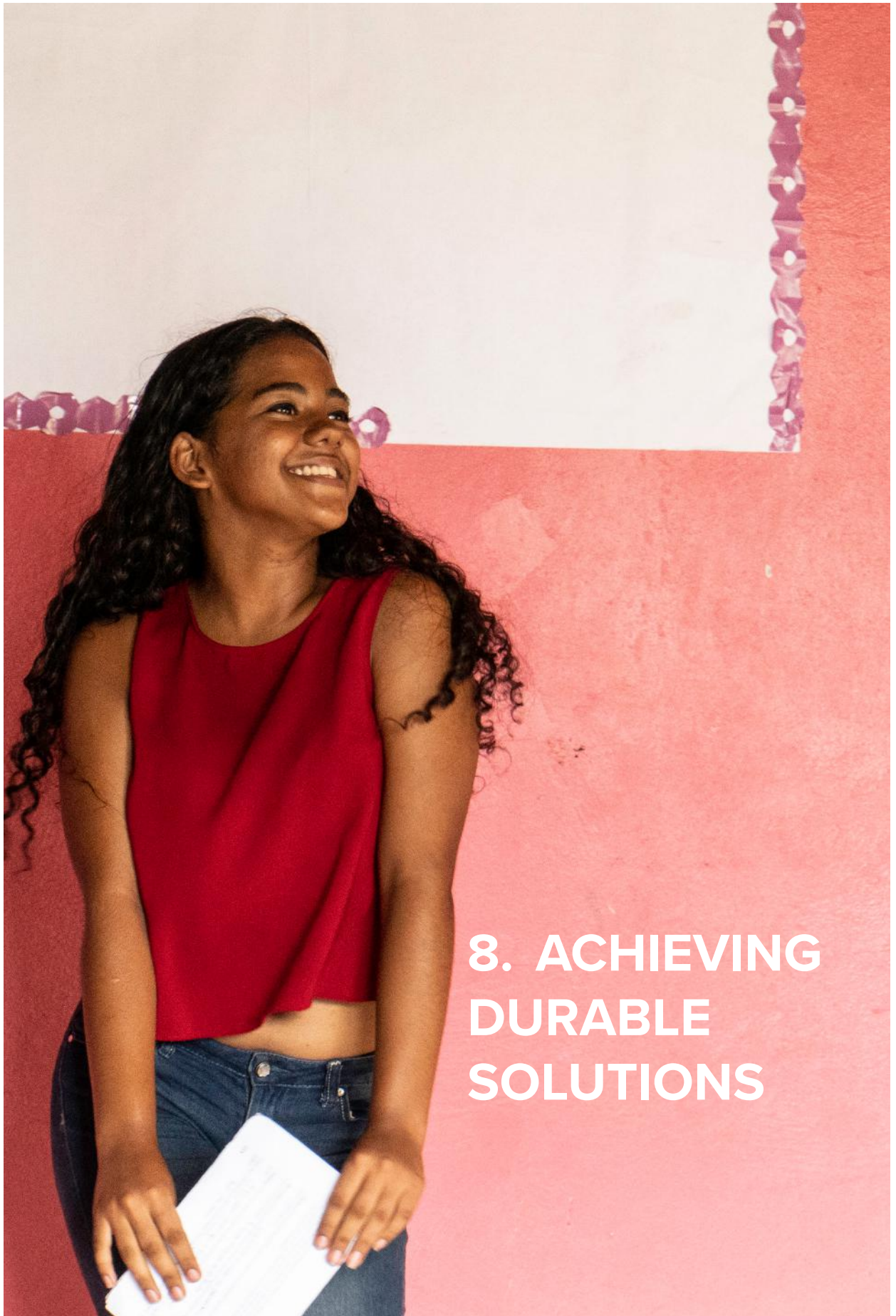
5. 20% of displaced households became victims of acts of violence in their host community once again, which highlights the need for accompaniment, prolonged monitoring and implementation of protection measures.

6. Forced displacement results in the fragmentation of 27% of affected households.

7. One third of displaced households who formerly owned housing, land, crops or businesses were affected by loss of property due to displacement.

8. Requiring property titles to initiate restitution processes is a barrier to recovering abandoned or seized property.

9. Educational centers are ambivalently described as spaces of risk and protection, due to the incidence of recruitment, abuse and extortion. Institutions and teaching staff need to be supported in their efforts to protect these centers from violence.



8. ACHIEVING DURABLE SOLUTIONS



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Internal displacement should not last any longer than required by the circumstances (Guiding Principle 6.3). The question of when displacement ends has emerged alongside attention to internally displaced people. Walter Kälin (2010), at the time Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, outlined in his report on durable solutions a number of criteria to assess whether displacement has been successfully overcome: people are considered to have reached a durable solution to their situation of displacement when they *“no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and such persons can enjoy their human rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement”*⁵⁰. This is the final objective of assistance and protection: to ensure that people can resume their lives in conditions of equality with the rest of the population, free from threats and the impact of displacement.

The keys to bringing an end to displacement are stipulated in the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, which identifies the principal responsibility of national authorities to respond to the assistance and protection needs of those affected⁵¹. The framework is a reference and guiding tool for states in their task of ending internal displacement, outlining eight criteria for the achievement of durable solutions: i) long-term safety and security; ii) an adequate standard of living; iii) access to livelihoods and employment; iv) access to mechanisms for the restoration of housing, land and property; v) access or replacement of documentation lost during displacement; vi) voluntary family reunification; vii) participation in public affairs; and viii) access to effective remedies and justice for the human rights violations that generated displacement.

50 UNGA (2010). Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Walter Kälin, Addendum Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. United Nations General Assembly, doc. A/HRC/13/21/Add.4

51 *Ib. Idem.*

Progress towards achieving durable solutions is understood as a medium-term process that is based on the guarantee and protection of human rights. The needs, rights and legitimate interests of internally displaced people should be at the centre of all policies and programmes destined to assist and protect them, without ignoring the comparable needs of host communities.

Having discussed access to justice and mechanisms for

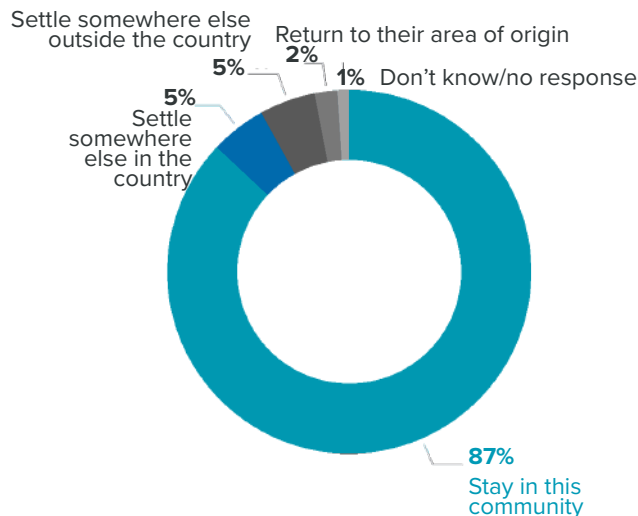
property restitution in the section on protection, this section will analyse displaced households' future residence intentions, and evaluate their participation in community organisations as a part of their integration process. Indicators on access to health, education, housing and livelihoods, which serve to assess internally displaced people's current living conditions, will also be examined. These will be contrasted with the situations faced by their non-displaced neighbours.

8.1. Residence intentions

The state must guarantee the right of internally displaced people to freely choose between returning to their place of origin, integrating in their host community, or resettling in a third place, without this interfering with their right to seek asylum in another country. Under no circumstances should people be forced to return or stay in a location against their will, especially if these areas remain affected by the risks which originally triggered displacement⁵².

87% of people surveyed reported having concrete plans to stay in their current community, while 10% hoped to resettle somewhere else either inside or outside the country. Only 2% planned to return to their area of origin. This limited intention to return contrasts with that observed in countries affected by armed conflict, where the majority of people hope to return to their area of origin regardless of time spent in displacement, despite the gap between aspirations and concrete measures to facilitate them⁵³. If a displaced person decides to return to their area of origin in the future, however, their right to return is inalienable, regardless of whether they received assistance to settle in another community.

Graph 43. **Distribution of displaced households according to current residence plans**



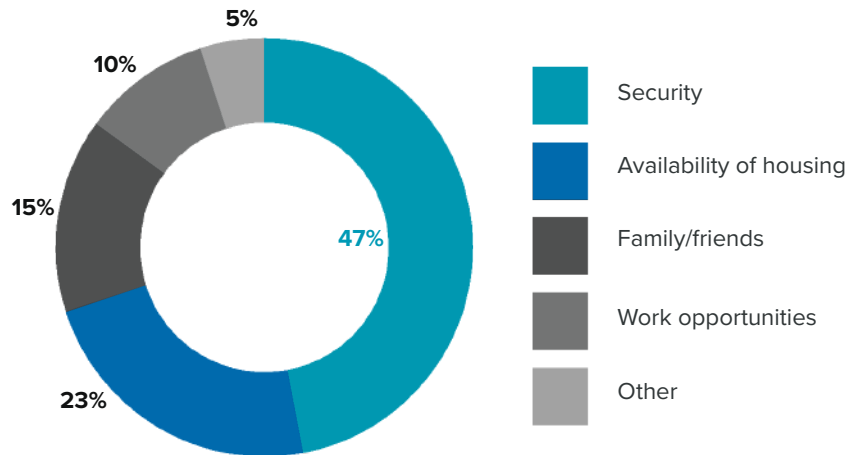
⁵³ In a study carried out by UNHCR and others in Iraqi Kurdistan, between 75% and 93% of internally displaced people wanted to return to their places of origin, depending on their place of origin. Similarly, an average of 53% of internally displaced Somalis in Mogadishu hoped to return to their communities of origin. UNHCR, JIPS (2016), Displacement as Challenge and Opportunity, Urban Profile: Refugees, internally displaced persons, and Host Community in Erbil Governorate, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Available at: <https://www.jips.org/jips-publication/profilingreport-erbil-iraq-2016/>; JIPS (2016), Internal Displacement Profiling in Mogadishu. Joint IDP Profiling Service 2016. Available at: <https://www.jips.org/jips-publication/profiling-report-mogadishusomalia-2016/>

⁵² UNGA (2010), Op Cit., Par. 24-33

Some of the reasons cited by internally displaced people for opting to integrate in the current community are security (47%), housing (23%), and the presence of family and/or friends (15%). The low interest in return could be explained

by the lack of hope for short-term security improvements, or the impact of violence on the relationship between people and place.

Graph 44. Distribution of displaced households planning to locally integrate, by motivation*

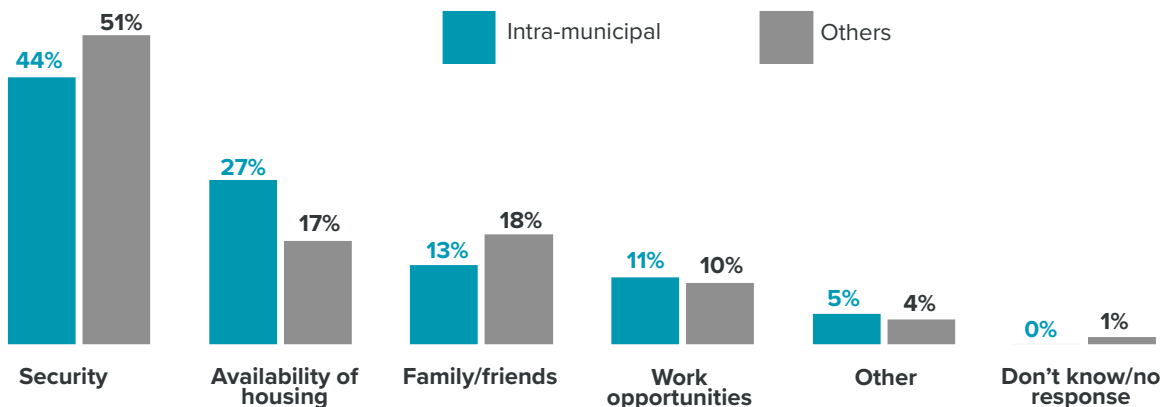


* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households that plan to remain in their current community (87% of the sample of displaced households)

Analysis reveals differences in motivations for local integration based on patterns of displacement. Although security is the main factor influencing the decision to locally integrate, it is considered a more important factor for households that were displaced outside of their municipality of origin. Similarly, the presence of family and friends has a greater influence

among those who abandoned their municipality. In contrast, for those who were displaced within the same municipality, the availability of housing was a determinant factor in the decision to integrate locally.

Graph 45. Distribution of displaced households that plan to integrate locally according to motivation, by displacement pattern*



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (households displaced within their municipality who plan to stay = 47% of the sample of displaced households / displaced households with other patterns of displacement that plan to stay = 40% of the sample)

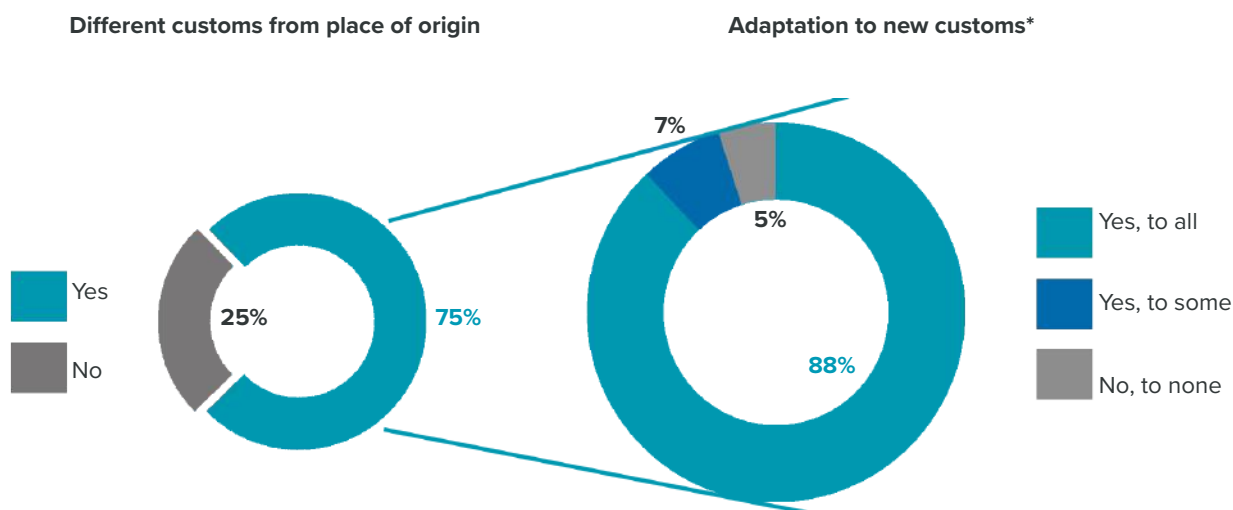
* The differences between the groups are significant at a 90% confidence level

8.2. Social and cultural integration

The local integration of internally displaced people is facilitated by the absence of discrimination and by displaced people's capacity to adapt to possible social or cultural

differences found in the areas to which they relocate. Although 75% of displaced households noted that customs in their new community were different from those of their place of origin, 88% affirmed that all the family members had satisfactorily adapted. Only five 5% felt that none of their family members had been able to adapt to their new surroundings.

Graph 46. **Distribution of displaced households according to perceptions of socio-cultural differences in the host community, and adaptation of family members in the current location**



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households that reported different socio-cultural practices (75% of the total sample of displaced households)

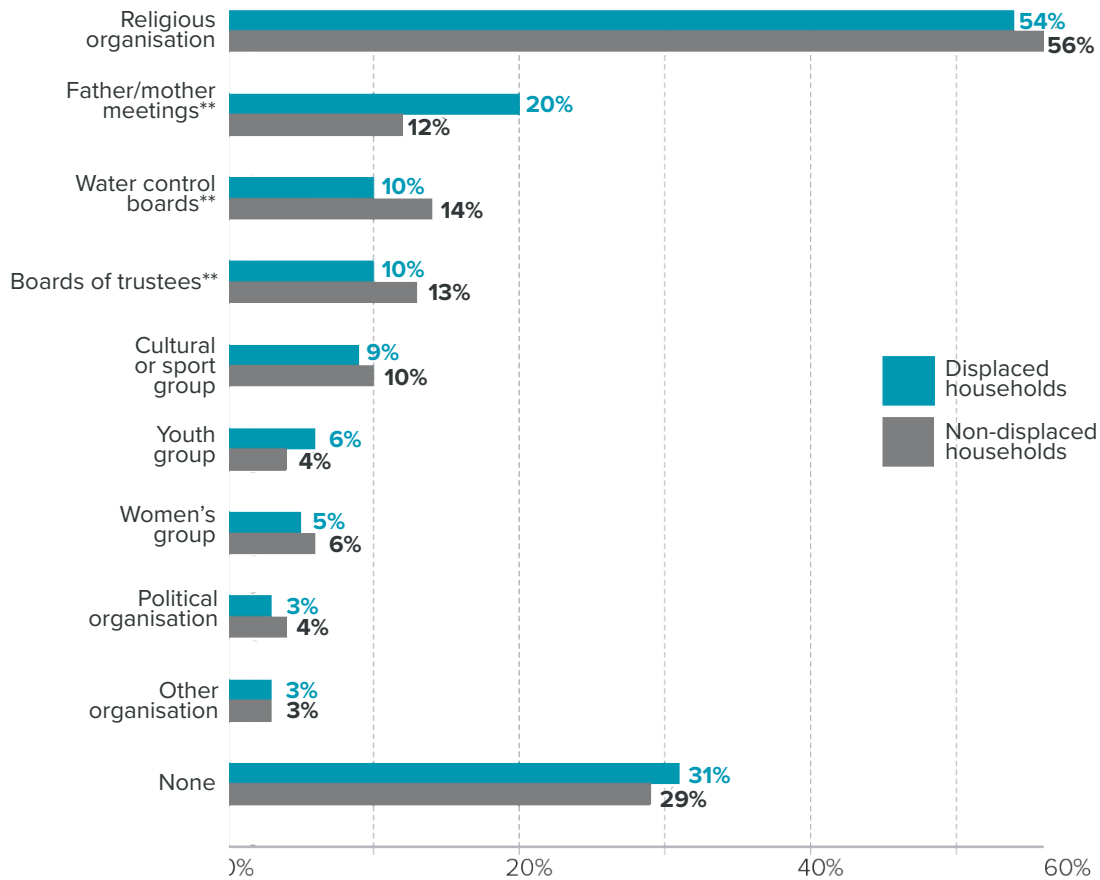
One way of measuring adaptation and progress towards local integration is to analyse displaced people's participation or membership in community-based organisations in relation to non-displaced households.

The analysis reveals that both groups have similar levels of participation: around 70% of people participate in at least one group or community organisation, in particular religious organisations. Displaced households are often involved in parent groups, perhaps because there is a bigger presence of children and youth in displaced families or because

of greater concern for the wellbeing of their children in educational centres. Conversely, displaced households appear to be less involved in decision-making spaces such as boards of trustees or water control boards⁵⁴. This could be due to barriers to participation, or the need among displaced people to go unnoticed as a security strategy, limiting their participation in group activities or actions that could make their presence in the new community conspicuous.

54 AHJASA (n.d.), Community water management: effort and support of communities in contribution to the development of Honduras. Honduran Association of Water Systems Management Boards-Alliance for Water-AECID. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Graph 47. **Proportion of households according to participation in community organisations, by type of household***



* The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have reported more than 1 organisation

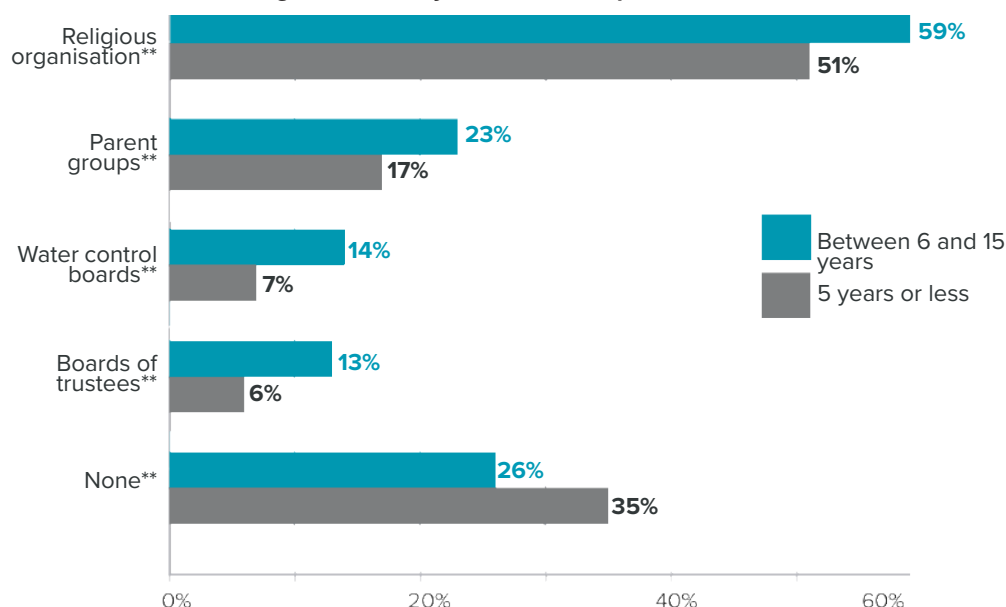
** The differences between the groups are significant at a 90% confidence level

Similar levels of participation in both types of households could be a sign of progress towards integration. Only 31% of displaced households were not members of any organisation, a percentage similar to non-displaced households.

When excluding participation in religious organisations, only 15% participated in other types of community groups. This could be due to the loss of social cohesion generated by the perpetrators of displacement, who sow distrust, undermine social norms and foster indifference through fear and coercion.

Qualitative research demonstrated that communities encounter difficulties in designing joint strategies to confront situations of violence. For example, focus group participants expressed mistrust of people living in abandoned or seized property; the same occurred in cases of conflict over lands. This could contribute to slowing down social integration of displaced people in the host communities.

Graph 48. Proportion of households according to participation in community organisations, by duration of displacement*



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (Households displaced during the last 5 years = 55% of the sample of displaced households / households displaced between 6 and 15 years = 44% of the sample). The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household may have reported more than 1 organisation

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 90% confidence level

Social cohesion in communities suffering from the effects of violence

When households are displaced because of violence they are likely to lose their property, livelihood and access to services. The social ties uniting them to their place of origin will also be affected. In many cases, these ties were previously weakened by the effect of violence on community life, which damages social cohesion, increasing the vulnerability of people who, individually, cannot cope with threats against their physical and psychological integrity.

According to the qualitative data, gangs often try to break up the family ties of their new recruits. Concern that a neighbor may be a member of such a group can hinder efforts for prevention, protection and reporting within the communities. Similarly, conflicts over land generate division between parties attempting to establish legitimate ownership of property, while fear of violent attacks prevents people from organising themselves. Spaces for social interaction start to be perceived as unsafe, and fear of suffering from extortion, gender-based violence or recruitment leads to confinement, social isolation and the inability to coordinate joint responses. On the contrary, communities where there is greater social cohesion fostered by community strategies and programmes have a lower incidence of violence⁵⁵. However, it is not possible to determine whether the existence of such strategies and programmes limits the impacts of violence, or whether it is a lower incidence of violence which provides communities with the opportunity to organise themselves.

Because displaced households usually relocate to places also affected by high levels of crime due to their limited resources preventing them from residing in safer communities, social cohesion in host communities can be very weak, affecting prospects for local integration. Beyond participation in community organisations, a trusting environment that facilitates dialogue between neighbors and fosters the use of common spaces becomes central for the achievement of durable solutions.

When comparing the participation of households displaced between 6 and 15 years ago with those displaced over the last 5 years, there is greater participation among the former, particularly in decision-making spaces of the community, such as boards of trustees or water control boards.

⁵⁵ With regards to community mechanisms, it is worth noting that the community least affected by extortion has youth programmes and sensitisation activities led by the church. The communities most affected by extortion do not report any community mechanisms, since fear prevents people from getting involved with the board of trustees or church. Another community suffering from medium levels of extortion also reported weak community mechanisms due to fear, but emphasised actions taken by the water control board. A representative of the group explained that he preferred to report extortion cases not to the police but to people who he trusted, such as the mayor, who then contacts members of the military or reliable police officers to carry out the relevant investigations.

8.3. Living conditions in host locations

In its efforts to mitigate the impacts of internal displacement in the short and medium term, the state must promote an adequate standard of living for displaced people, ensuring at the very least access to adequate food, water, housing, health, education and employment or livelihood⁵⁶.

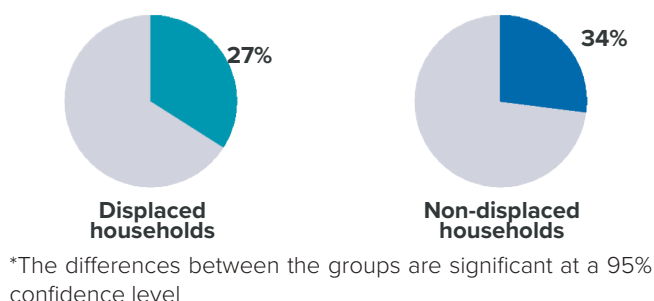
Given that internal displacement often occurs in contexts with high levels of poverty where basic needs are not met, authorities must ensure, at a minimum, that internal displacement does not generate a greater disadvantage in the exercise of these rights and that current regulations do not discriminate against displaced people for being away from their places of origin when exercising their rights and accessing goods and services.

8.3.1. Health

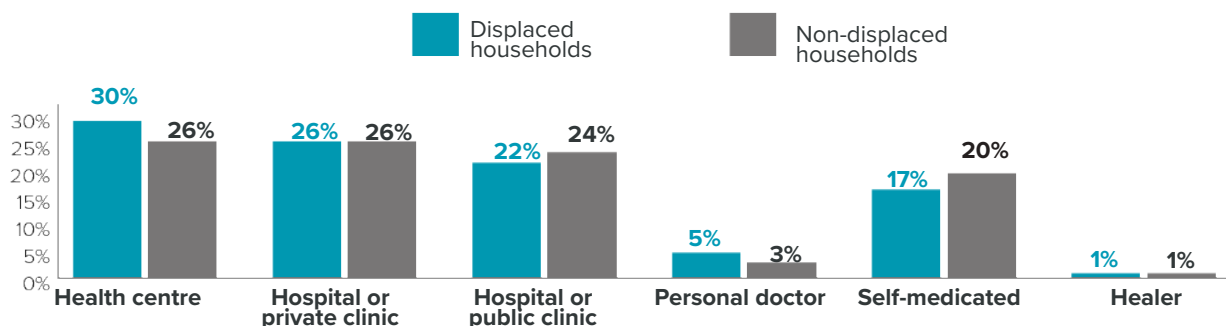
Morbidity in displaced households in the six months preceding the survey was slightly higher than that registered in non-displaced households, with 34% of displaced households experiencing health issues compared to 27% of non-displaced households. Nevertheless, access to healthcare facilities among both groups was very similar: 78% of displaced

households and 76% of non-displaced households accessed healthcare centres, clinics or hospitals. This information can be complemented with estimates of healthcare expenditure in the month preceding the study: a majority of both groups noted they had spent less than 2,000 Lempira on healthcare (see Graph 71).

Graph 49. **Proportion of household members who had health problems or illnesses in the past 6 months, by type of household***



Graph 50. **Distribution of household members who had health problems or illnesses in the past 6 months according to type of healthcare facility visited, by type of household***



*The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (Displaced households with health problems = 34% of the sample of displaced households / Non-displaced households with health problems = 27% of the sample of non-displaced households)

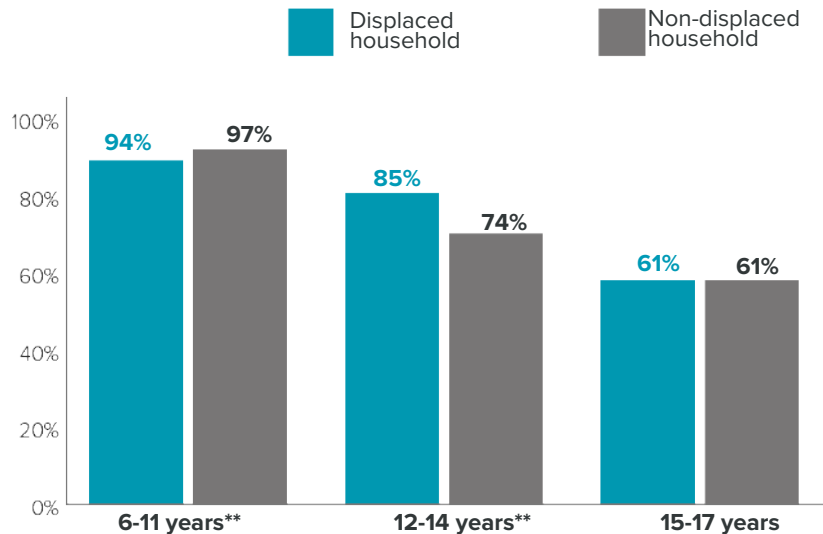
⁵⁶ IASC (2010). Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Brookings Institution- University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Washington D.C.

8.3.2. Education

The proportion of children currently studying is similar among displaced and non-displaced households, with more than 80% of currently attending educational centers. When examining this data by age group, a difference of 11 percentage points is observed among children aged 12 to

14, with displaced children of this age group more likely to be attending educational centers than their peers from non-displaced households. The proportion of youth between the ages of 15 and 17 who study is much lower, at 61%. This figure reflects national rates of secondary education attendance, and may be explained by factors including lack of resources to complete secondary education and the need to enter the labour market at an early age.

Graph 51. **Proportion of household members (6-17 years old) who currently study by age group and type of household***



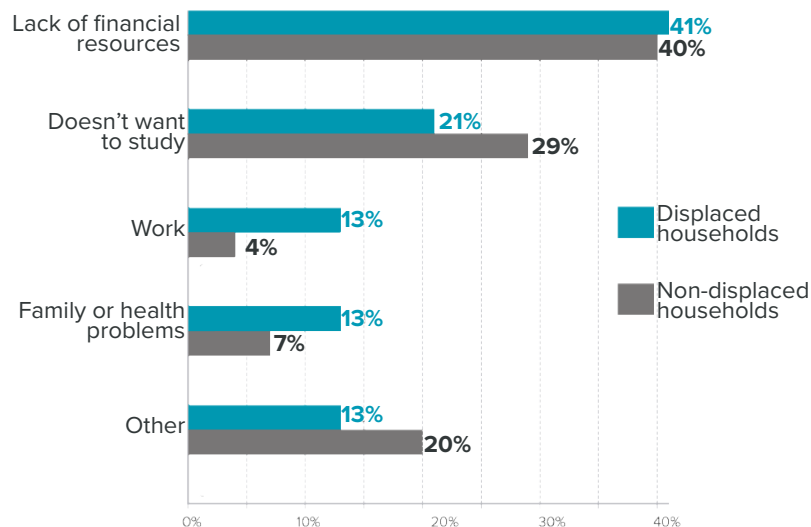
* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (People in displaced households age 6-11 = 15% of the sample of people in displaced households; 12 to 14 = 7% of the sample; 15 to 17 = 7% of the sample / People in non-displaced households age 6-11 = 11% of the sample of people in non-displaced households; 12 to 14 = 6% of the sample; 15 to 17 = 6% of the sample)

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 90% confidence level

Among reasons for not studying, lack of financial resources is the main barrier to education for both groups. The proportion of people who had to abandon their studies in order to work is nonetheless higher among the displaced population, as

is the proportion of those who referred to family or health problems. Among non-displaced households, the desire to stop studying was the most prevalent reason cited.

Graph 52. **Distribution of household members who are not currently studying according to the barrier to education***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (People in displaced households age 6-17 years who do not study = 17% of the sample of people in displaced households / Persons in non-displaced households age 6-17 years who do not study = 18% of the sample of people in non-displaced households)

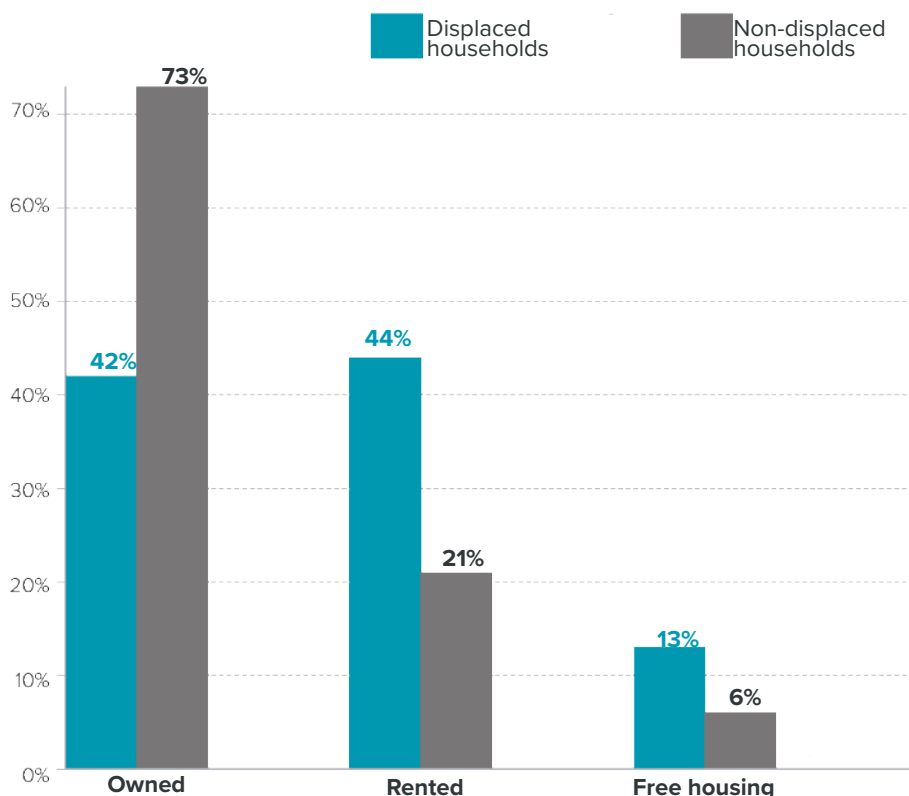
* The differences between the groups are significant at a 90% confidence level

8.3.3. Housing

The effects of displacement are particularly apparent in the case of housing: only 42% of displaced households own their own home, 31 percentage points less than non-displaced households. Section 7.3 regarding the protection of property described how households lost their housing as a result of displacement.

44% of displaced households must pay rent, compared to 21% of non-displaced households. The percentage of displaced households that are renting their housing is more than double the national average of 18%⁵⁷. The higher propensity of displaced households to rent has a cost, since the monthly payment of rent could affect the family's budget, reducing their capacity to save or leading to sacrifices in other basic expenses such as food, health, education, etc.

Graph 53. Distribution of households according to current form of tenure, by type of household*



* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

57 INE. (2017). Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey, 2017 (in Spanish only). National Institute for Statistics. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

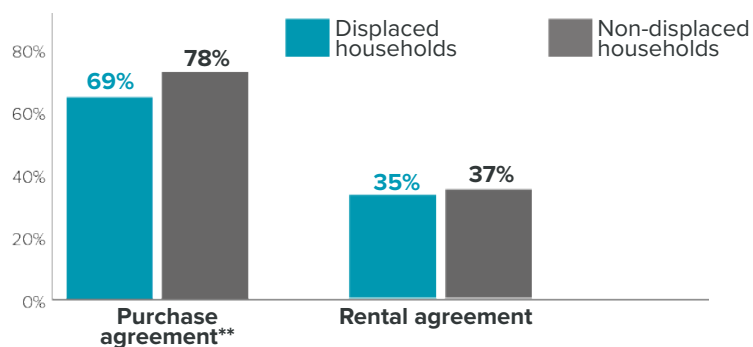
Security of tenure is another important aspect of the right to housing, since people who do not have official documents proving their ownership or a valid purchase agreement run the risk of being evicted or suffering abuses by third parties. Lack of documentation puts displaced households in an unfavourable condition and could result in a setback in the process of recovery. Study findings indicate that 69% of displaced households who own property have registered ownership deeds compared to 78% of non-displaced households. Among those with rented housing, only 35% have rental agreements or leases.

Although displaced households are more likely to rent housing, the cost of rent is lower than for non-displaced households. Rent represents on average 41% of displaced households' total monthly expenses, compared to 46% among non-displaced households. This could indicate that they are renting smaller homes with fewer rooms; more displaced households are living in overcrowded housing (see Graph 57).

Income allocated towards home rental, combined with the loss of property generated by displacement, means that adjustments must be made to satisfy other needs, reducing capacity and opportunities to achieve durable solutions in the long-term.

Displaced and non-displaced households share similar gaps in relation to basic services. In general, 9% of households lack safe drinking water and electricity. The biggest gaps are in terms of sewage networks and garbage collection, at 50% and 43% respectively.

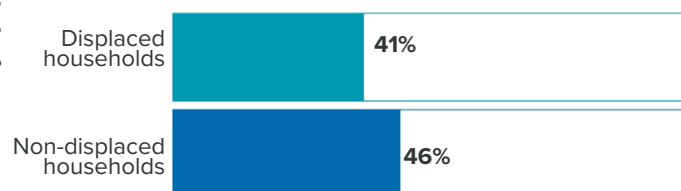
Graph 54. Proportion of households with formal ownership documents for current housing*



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (Displaced households who own their housing = 42% of the sample of displaced households; with rented housing = 44% of the sample / Non-displaced households who own their housing = 73% of the sample of non-displaced households; with rented housing = 21% of the sample)

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

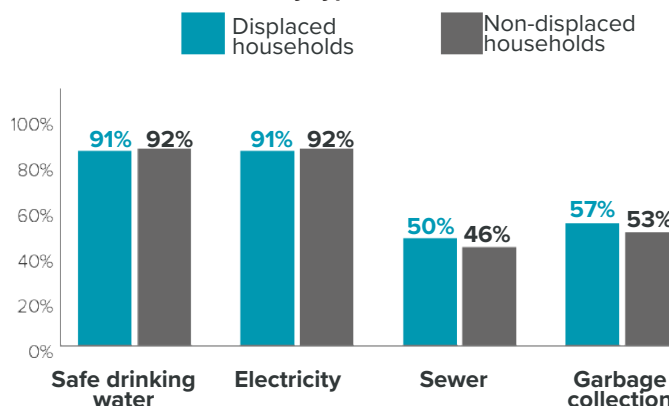
Graph 55. Proportion of total monthly expenses spent on housing (rent or housing credit), by type of household*



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (Households displaced with rented housing = 44% of the sample of displaced households / Non-displaced households with rented housing = 21% of the sample of non-displaced households)

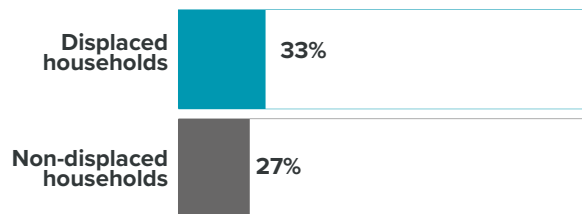
* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Graph 56. Proportion of households with access to basic services, by type of household



Overcrowding was calculated based on the presence of three or more people per bedroom in a home. The indicator measures the basic need for adequate, livable and sanitary housing, or the deterioration of the entire household's welfare due to inadequate housing. On average, 4.2 people inhabit each displaced home. Five or more people live in 40% of displaced households. 33% of displaced households are in overcrowded conditions versus 27% of non-displaced households.

Graph 57. **Proportion of households with overcrowding (3 or more persons per room), by type of household***



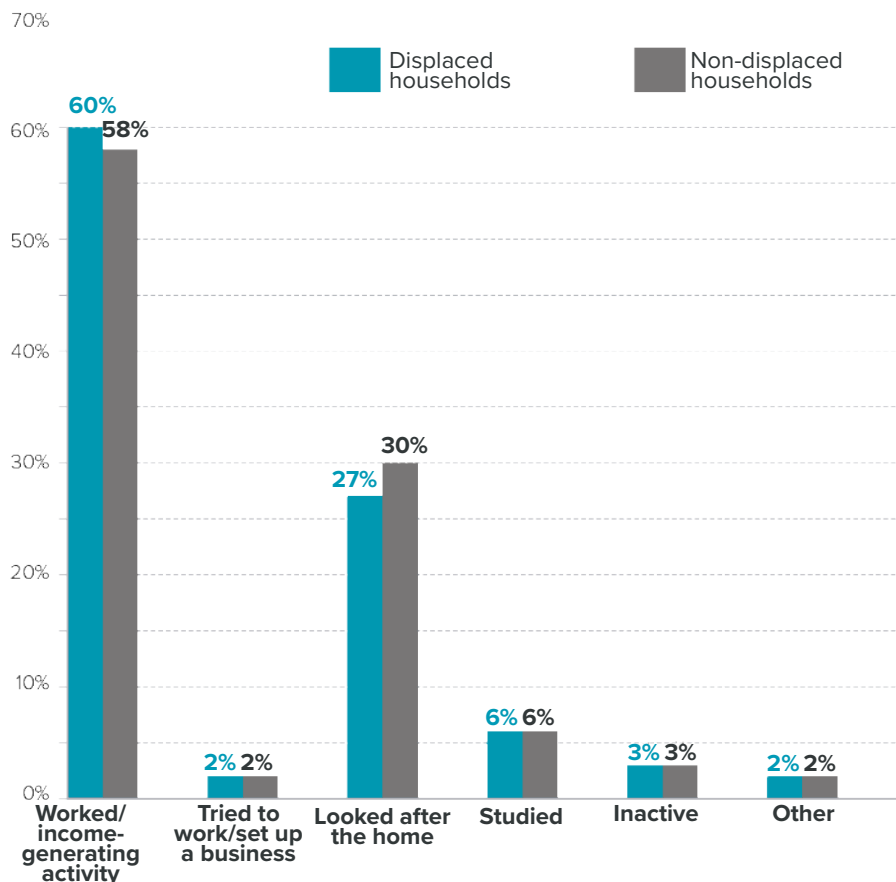
* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

8.3.4. Livelihoods

The Framework for Durable Solutions states that the objective is to ensure that internally displaced people access livelihoods which enable them to meet their basic socioeconomic needs. Although their integration often takes place in economically fragile contexts with high rates of unemployment and informal

economies, these problems should not disproportionately affect internally displaced people compared to the rest of the population⁵⁸. Analysing the current rates of employment, the data shows that around 60% of the displaced and non-displaced population older than 18 years of age worked during the month prior to the interview.

Graph 58. **Distribution of household members (18 years or older) according to main activity over the past month, by type of household***

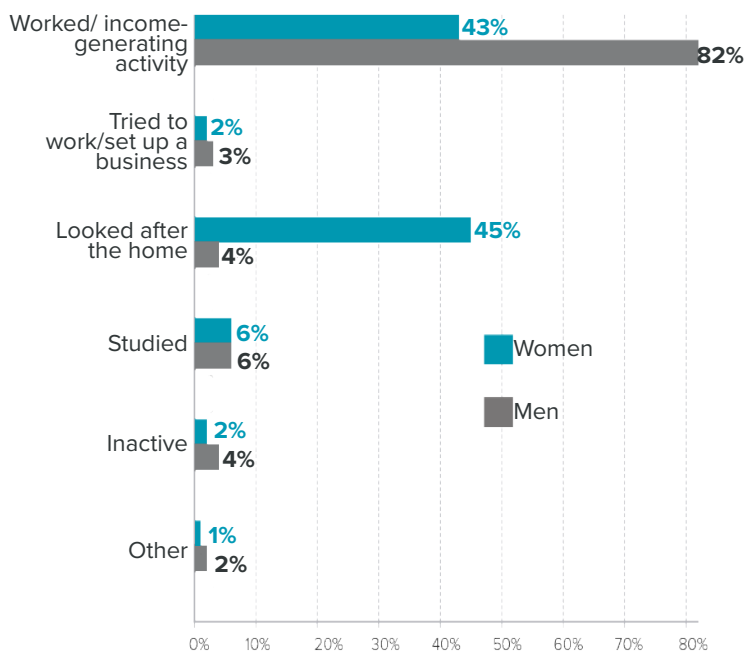


* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (People age 18 years or more in displaced households = 57% of the sample of people in displaced households / People age 18 years or more in non-displaced households = 65% of the sample of people in non-displaced households)

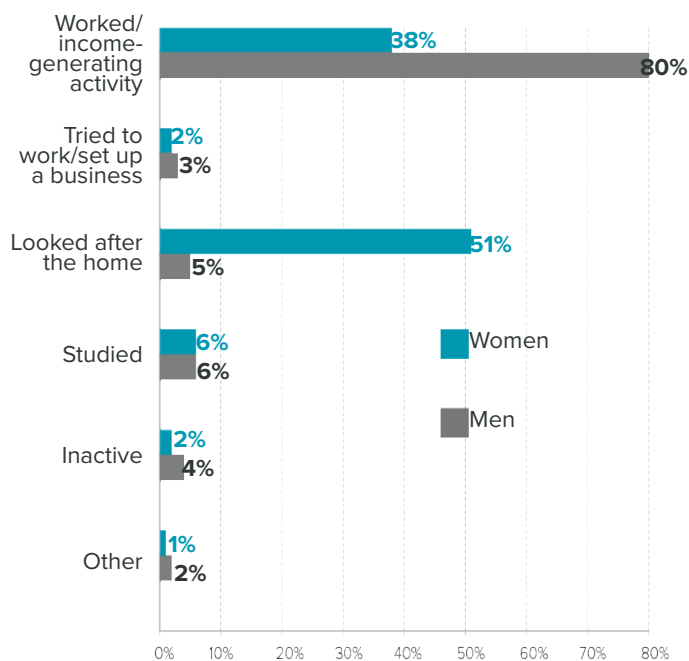
58 IASC (2010). Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Brookings Institution-University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Washington D.C.

The division of labour within families reflects gender roles traditionally imposed upon men and women. As such, there is a higher percentage of women looking after the home, although this does not rule out that some may alternate these functions with jobs or economic activities outside the home.

Graph 59. **Distribution of household members (18 years or older) of displaced households according to main activity, by gender***



Graph 60. **Distribution of household members (18 years or older) of non-displaced households according to main activity, by gender***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (Women age 18 or more in displaced households = 32% of the sample of people in displaced households / Men age 18 or more in displaced households = 25% of the sample)

* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (Women age 18 or more in non-displaced households = 35% of the sample of people in non-displaced households / Men age 18 or more in non-displaced households = 31% of the sample)

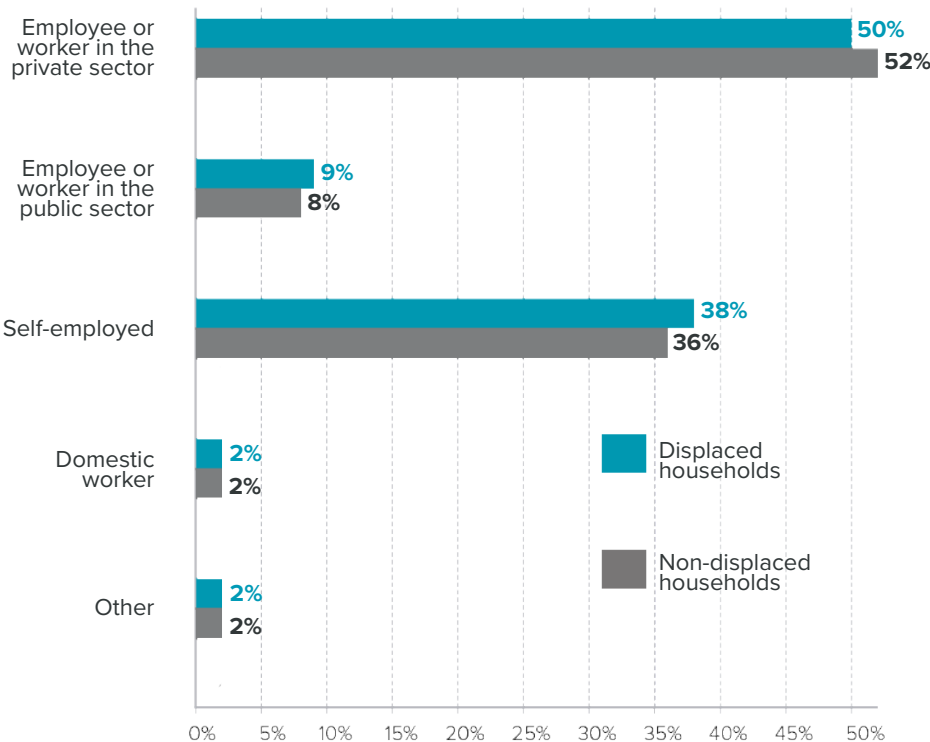
* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Displaced women have higher levels of participation in the job market, with a lower percentage dedicated to housework.

Among those who worked during the previous month, the majority did so as employees in the private sector, a third

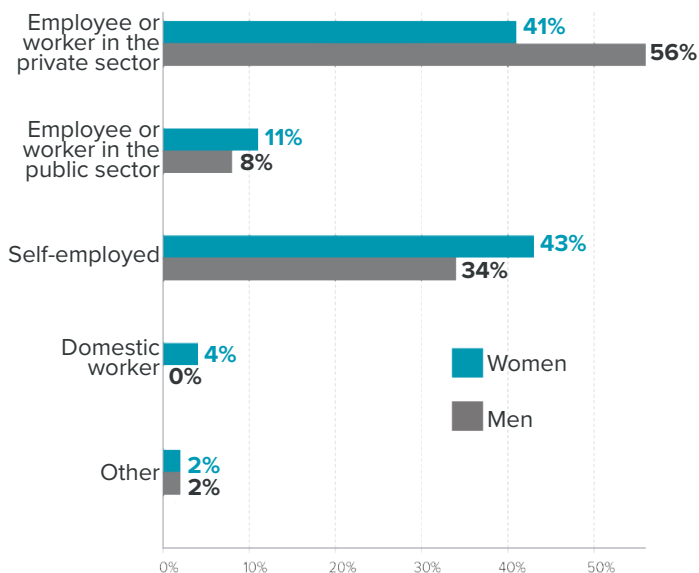
were self-employed workers and 8% were public sector employees. Displaced women made up the majority of self-employed workers, while men in both types of households were mostly employed by private companies.

Graph 61. **Distribution of household members (18 years or older) who were employed in the previous month according to type of employment, by type of household***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (Employed people age 18 or more in displaced households = 34% of the sample of people in displaced households / Employed people age 18 or more in non-displaced households = 38% of the sample of people in non-displaced households)

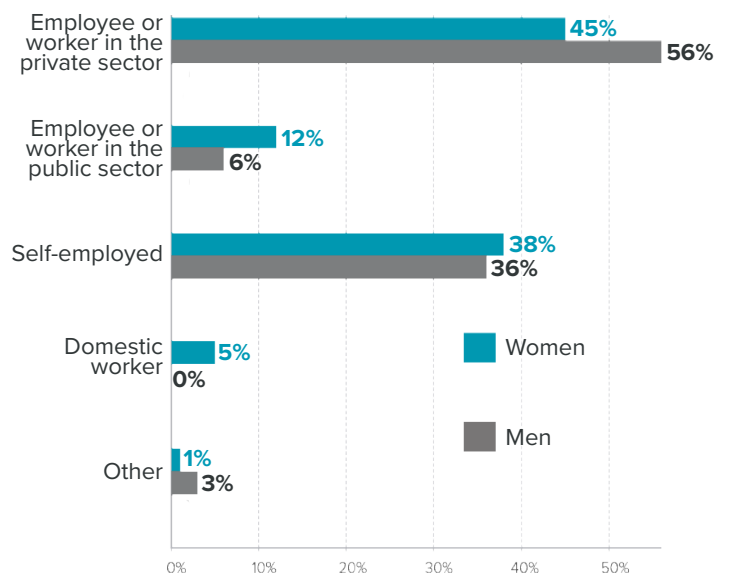
Graph 62. **Distribution of household members (18 years or older) in displaced households who were employed according to employment status, by sex***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total of people in each sub-sample (Employed women age 18 or more in displaced households=14% of the sample of people in displaced households / Employed men age 18 or more in displaced households = 20% of the sample)

* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Graph 63. **Distribution of household members (18 years or older) in non-displaced households who were employed according to employment status, by sex***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total of people in each sub-sample (Employed women age 18 or more in non-displaced households= 13% of the sample of people in non-displaced households/ Employed men age 18 or more in non-displaced households= 24% of the sample)

* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Based on the livelihood activities carried out by people at the time of the interviews, the main types of employment are those related to agriculture, construction, commerce and services. Disaggregating occupations by sex reveals that women work in roles traditionally related to the home such as cooking, sewing, and housekeeping. This gender-based division of labour is found among both displaced and non-displaced people.

The study also identified displaced people whose principal

occupations were related to sectors traditionally vulnerable to violence: commerce (merchants and shop and store assistants), which is common among both displaced and non-displaced men and women; transportation (car, taxi, van and heavy truck drivers), which features among the top ten occupations of displaced men; and activities in the security and justice sector (lawyers, police, members of the armed forces), which do not feature among the top ten occupations but become a representative group in the sample when examined jointly.

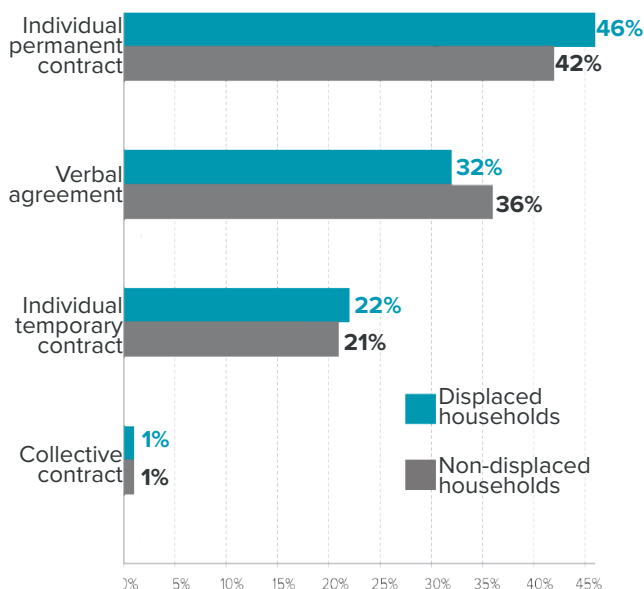
Table 6. **The 10 main occupations of displaced people by sex**

	Women	Men
1	Shopkeepers	Farm workers
2	Cooks	Farmers and skilled workers of large crops
3	Cleaners and domestic help	Building construction labourers
4	Handwashing and ironing	Bricklayers
5	Shop and store assistants	Shopkeepers
6	Bakers, pastry makers and confectioners	Security guards
7	Elementary, primary school teachers (middle level)	Shop and store assistants
8	Tailors, dressmakers, and hat makers	Heavy truck drivers
9	Cleaners and assistants in offices, hotels, and other establishments	Car, taxi and van drivers
10	Hairdressers	Welders and flamecutters

There are few differences between both populations in terms of working conditions based on types of employment contract, although it is worth highlighting the high number of workers who do not have a contract and work informally, exposed to labor exploitation. This is particularly the case for men, who in both types of households are more affected by employment informality than women; women, conversely, seem to benefit to a greater extent from formal and permanent contracts⁵⁹

⁵⁹ 37% of men versus 47.68% of women; percentage taken from the total number of men and women working.

Graph 64. **Distribution of household members (18 years or older) who were salaried employees in the past month according to type of contract and household***

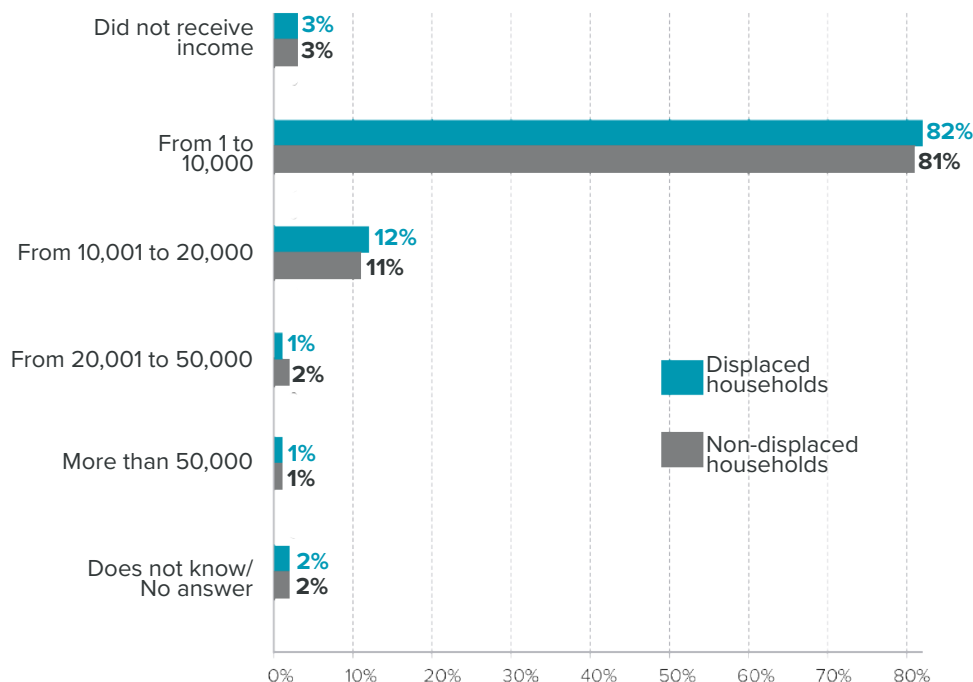


* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (Employed people age 18 or more in displaced households = 34% of the sample of people in displaced households / Employed people age 18 or more in non-displaced households = 38% of the sample of people in non-displaced households)

The majority of workers in both types of households received a monthly wage of below 10,000 lempiras; only 11% received between 10,000 and 20,000 lempiras. In addition to these wages, displaced and non-displaced households had other

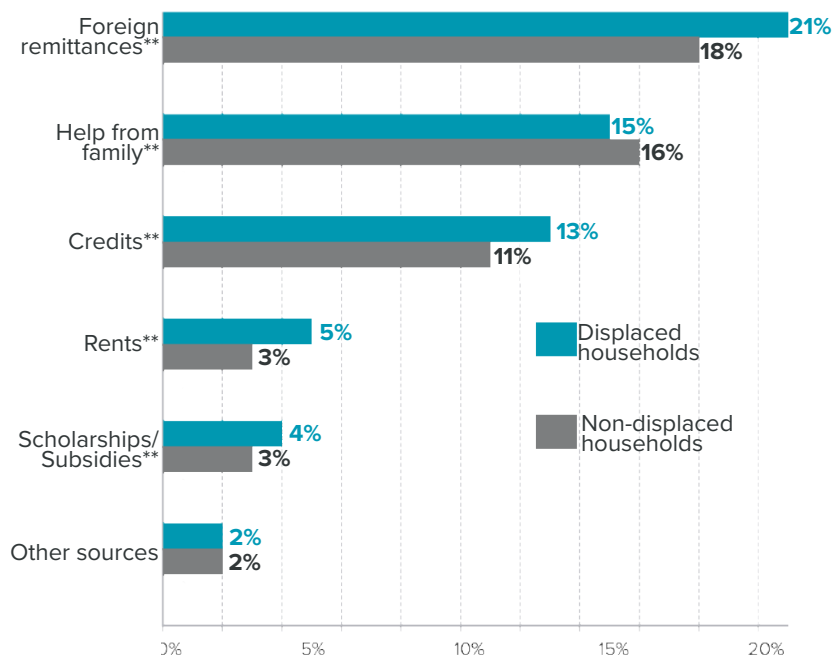
sources of income, with foreign remittances being the most frequent, followed by help from other family members in Honduras and loans or credits (in similar percentages among both groups).

Graph 65. **Distribution of employed people according to average income, per type of household***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of people in each sub-sample (Employed people age 18 or more in displaced households = 34% of the sample of people in displaced households / Employed people age 18 or more in non-displaced households = 38% of the sample of people in non-displaced households)

Graph 66. **Proportion of households according to additional sources of income, per type of household***



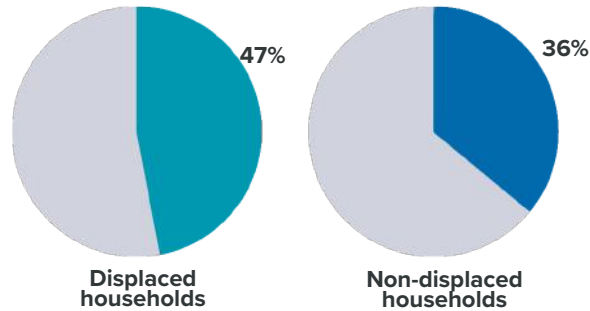
* The percentages do not add up to 100% because the same household could have reported more than 1 source

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Understanding expenditures and the extent to which displaced households are able to meet their basic needs on the same terms as their neighbours is more important than knowing their levels of income. Survey questions asking about possible challenges in terms of food expenditures in the week immediately preceding the study provided particularly revealing data. 47% of displaced households reported having difficulties, compared to 36% of non-displaced households. In the face of this challenge, both groups reported purchasing

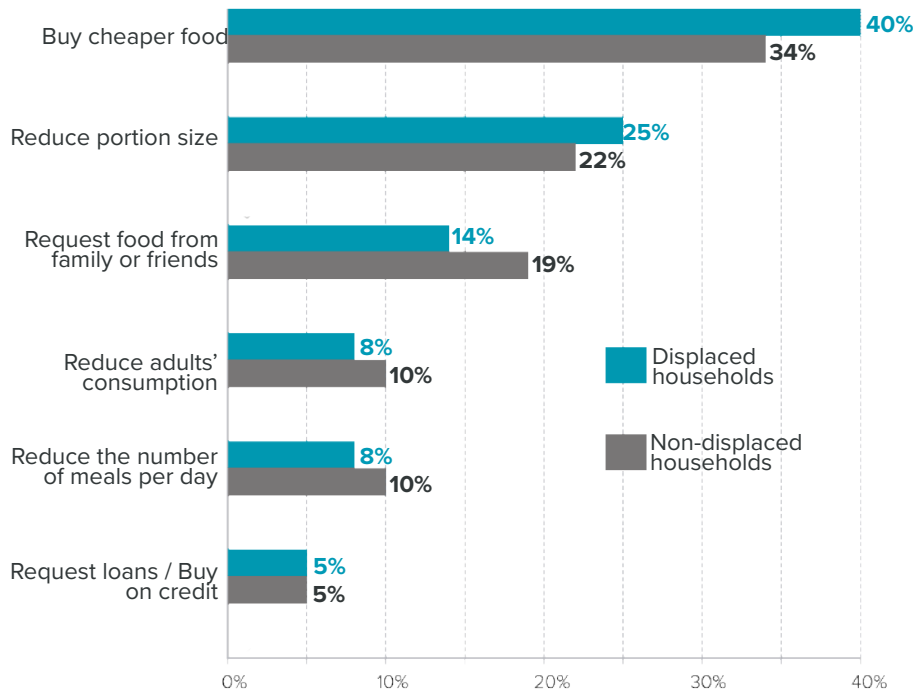
cheaper products or reducing the size of portions. A larger proportion of non-displaced households sought help from family or friends, which could reflect the disruption of support networks following displacement. These findings reveal greater vulnerability among displaced people despite similar access to employment and income. The data also highlights, once again, the possible impact of greater housing costs among displaced households.

Graph 67. Proportion of households suffering from lack of food or money during the previous week, by type of household*



* The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Graph 68. Proportion of households suffering from lack of food or money according to coping strategy, by type of household*

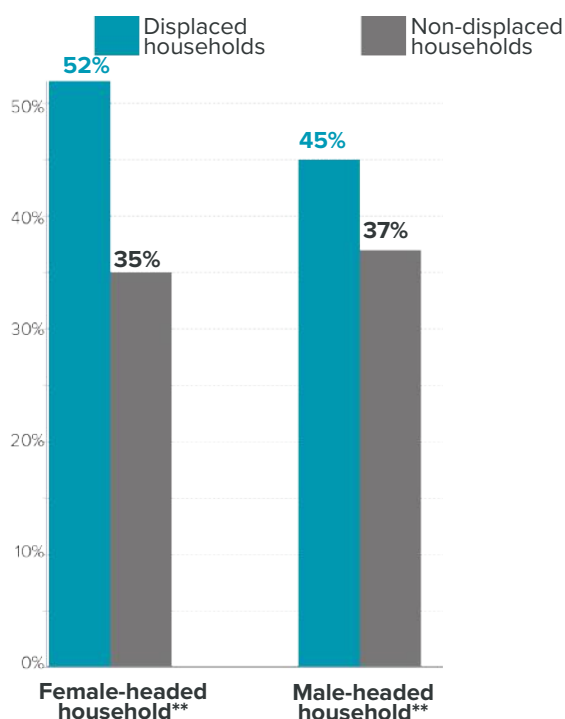


*The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (Displaced household with difficulties = 47% of the sample of displaced households / non-displaced households with difficulties = 36% of the sample of non-displaced households)

Not all households, however, were affected by these difficulties in the same way. Data disaggregated by head of household and type of household shows that female-headed displaced

households and displaced households with children face greater problems accessing food for their families.

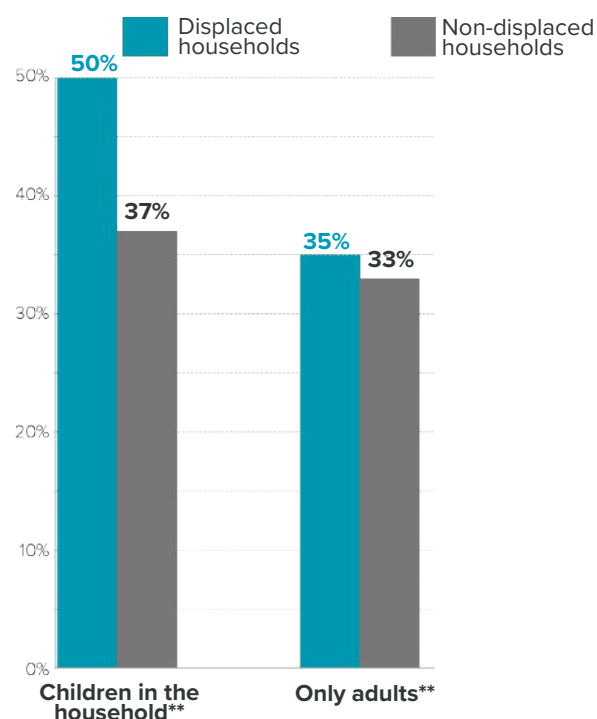
Graph 69. **Proportion of households suffering from lack of food or money, according to head and type of household***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (Displaced households headed by women = 35% of the sample of displaced households; male-headed households = 65% / Comparison homes headed by women = 30% of the sample of non-displaced households; male-headed households = 70% of the sample)

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

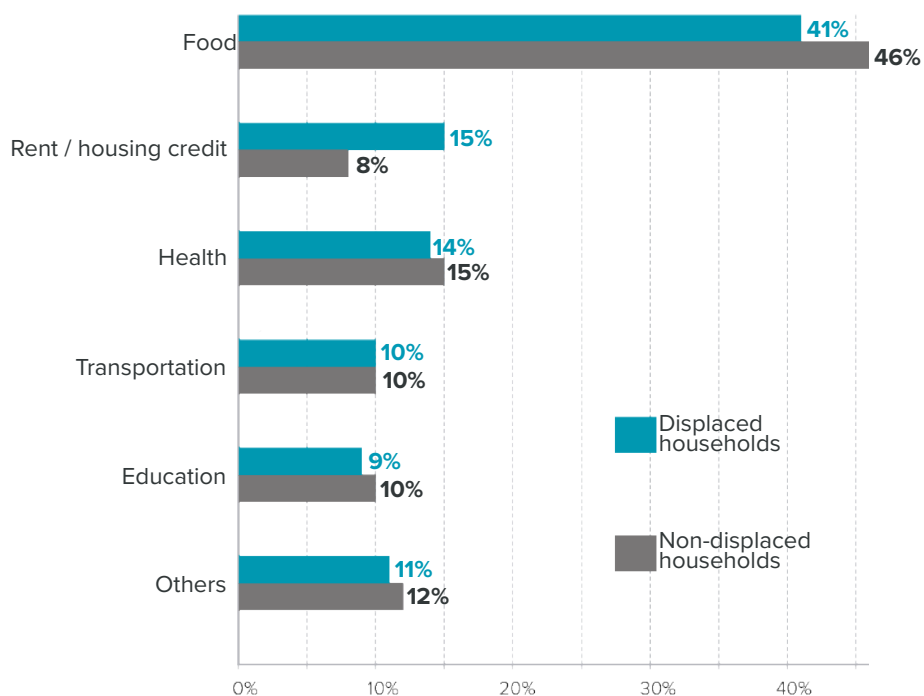
Graph 70. **Proportion of households suffering from lack of food or money, according to the presence of children and type of household***



* The percentages are calculated based on the total number of households in each sub-sample (Displaced households with children = 79% of the sample of displaced households; with only adults = 21% of the sample / Non-displaced households with children = 71% of the Non-displaced household sample; with adults only = 29% of the sample)

** The differences between the groups are significant at a 95% confidence level

Graph 71. **Distribution of average monthly expenditure, by type of household***



* 100% of the sample of displaced and non-displaced households

8.4. Key findings on durable solutions for internally displaced persons

1. 87% of displaced households want to settle in their host communities, principally for matters related to security, access to housing and the presence of family and friends.

2. No significant differences between displaced and non-displaced households were detected in terms of access to healthcare, educations and employment. However, displaced people were more likely to report having experienced a health issue, illness or injury in the past six months.

3. In terms of housing, greater expenditures on rent, combined with the loss of property, could limit internally displaced people's capacity to recover and impact long-term perspectives for the achievement of durable solutions.

4. A higher rate of overcrowding was detected in displaced households, which calls for housing solutions which minimise impacts on health and ensure people's wellbeing.

5. Insufficient resources to feed household members is a particular challenge among female-headed households and households with children.



9. CONCLUSIONS



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This profiling exercise of internal displacement in Honduras allows us to draw a series of conclusions to guide the development of public policies for prevention, assistance and protection, in order to avoid or mitigate the impact of displacement and achieve durable solutions that contribute to displaced people's full enjoyment of human rights.

En primer lugar, proporciona una cifra representativa del First, the study provides a figure which is representative of the scope of this phenomenon at a national level, revealing that 58,550 households made up of 247,090 people (three in every 100 Hondurans) have suffered from the impacts of displacement over the last 15 years. This magnitude alone merits a concrete and comprehensive institutional response.

The geographic distribution and dynamics of displacement allow us to identify the most affected areas. Forced internal displacement takes place in areas with the highest levels of economic development and population density, but also in areas with the highest rates of violence. The departments of Cortés, Francisco Morazán, Olancho and Atlántida account for a majority of displacements, with 55% of cases of displacement being intra-municipal. The data shows that choice of destination is mainly determined by security and proximity to locations of origin, and to a lesser extent the presence of family or friends able to offer support on arrival.

The findings also provide insights into the characteristics of people most vulnerable to violence and displacement.

Households in which at least one member has suffered the impact of acts of violence are more likely to abandon their communities, especially if the acts of violence are repeated.

Indeed, 77% of displaced households decided to abandon their community as a consequence of one or several acts of violence that affected members of their family. Similarly, 24% of non-displaced households who have been victims of violence have concrete plans to abandon their community. Single-parent families and female-headed households are more frequent within displaced households, which reflects a higher probability of displacement among these types of families. The effects of displacement on the family unit are also evident: 27% of households experienced separation as a consequence of displacement.

Although it is not possible to identify the exact personal characteristics that make some people more vulnerable to displacement than others in a situation of generalised violence, some factors that increase the exposure of households to violence and that could potentially force their displacement were identified.

Children and young adults are targeted by gangs' recruitment strategies; women are more exposed to gender-based violence; people without formal land titles are more likely to suffer from dispossession (since the absence of titles hinders the protection and recovery of property); people with housing in areas which are strategic for criminal activities, or

who refuse to comply with gangs' orders or codes, can suffer from seizure of housing; people who work as employees or businesspersons in the sectors of transportation, merchandise distribution, and the public sector are more vulnerable to extortion.

This reality underscores the importance of creating early warning systems that can detect zones at risk of displacement through reliable indicators, and developing strategies that connect local initiatives with state programmes to detect cases of displacement and reinforce protection of internally displaced people.

Findings show that direct threats were the main trigger of displacement, followed by homicides and movement restrictions. 47% of acts of violence are perpetrated by gangs, with family, friends or acquaintances being responsible for another 26% of acts of violence. Added to this is the 20% of study participants who were unwilling or unable to identify the perpetrator. These acts are the most visible and direct features of the multi-causal phenomenon that is internal displacement – a symptom of deep structural causes such as criminality, inequality, impunity and the violation of human rights, among others.

The multiple causes of displacement are often inter-related, resulting in increasing vulnerability. Situations of domestic or gender-based violence or bullying at school are often exploited by gangs as part of their recruitment strategies. Similarly, the seizure of property, coupled with extortion and recruitment, is sometimes related to strategies of control over the territory and its residents, ultimately resulting in displacement. Finally, the gaps or limitations in institutional protection in communities are another cause of displacement. This transforms communities into spaces of risk where fear, stigmatisation, destruction of social fabric and economic crises fester.

With regards to the impacts of internal displacement, the study shows that it had a negative effect on the health of 41% of members of displaced households. Mental health was particularly affected, highlighting the importance of early psychosocial support. In addition, 38% of displaced people studying prior to displacement had to temporarily suspend their education and 7% were unable to resume their education after displacement. In terms of employment, 37% of internally displaced people were impacted in different ways: 22% were forced to change jobs or business, and 10% were left unemployed as a result of displacement. Women were especially affected by unemployment. Finally, at least one third of displaced households who owned property before displacement were unable to recover their housing, land or business after displacement, impacting their capacity for socioeconomic recovery.

These immediate impacts of displacement require a rapid response to prevent them from deteriorating and becoming chronic, which would affect the achievement of durable

solutions. In a first instance, the needs detected among displaced households are centred around basic assistance related to transportation, shelter, food and basic care items, psychological assistance and physical protection, in addition to education and employment support to resume activities that have been suspended. There is moreover a need to be protected by the justice system, and to recover property abandoned during displacement or be compensated for losses. To prevent potential revictimization, it is also vital to set up long-term accompaniment and monitoring of these households. The impacts of displacement can vary according to people's age and gender; these differences should consequently be taken into account in order to improve assistance for the whole household.

Despite the magnitude of the needs detected, the institutional response is weak and uncoordinated. Comprehensive protocols and adequate budgets are required to respond to protection needs. The study reveals low levels of confidence among displaced households and citizens in general in the capacity of public institutions to respond effectively to the situations to which they find themselves confronted. Only 22% of displaced households decided to report the events that forced them to leave their homes; practically half of those who did not file a report said they feared retaliation, while one third thought there would be no use in doing it. All this highlights the need to rebuild confidence and a protective relationship between the state and displaced people, restoring ties with institutions through effective public services and protection for affected people and communities.

Beyond a punitive response to displacement, institutions should strengthen or create adequate mechanisms for prevention, humanitarian assistance and protection that help identify and address the roots of displacement caused by violence. Tackling institutional gaps should be a priority; gangs are filling the vacuum by becoming de facto security and justice providers in certain contexts, legitimising themselves to the population who may become more permissive of their actions, including expulsions from the community and resulting forced displacement. In this respect, the work carried out by community organisations gains even more importance. This is especially true for churches, boards of trustees and water control boards, which regularly provide different types of assistance to people threatened by displacement, effectively becoming first responders. As a result, their work should be reinforced and integrated into the design of an effective strategy to respond to internal displacement.

With regards to the achievement of durable solutions, it is worth noting that displaced households spend a greater proportion of their resources on housing than non-displaced households, and are more likely to live in overcrowded conditions. Faced with greater difficulties than their non-displaced neighbours in terms of providing sufficient food for their family, these expenses could also affect displaced people's wellbeing and savings capacity. Despite the multiple challenges in achieving durable solutions, the degree of



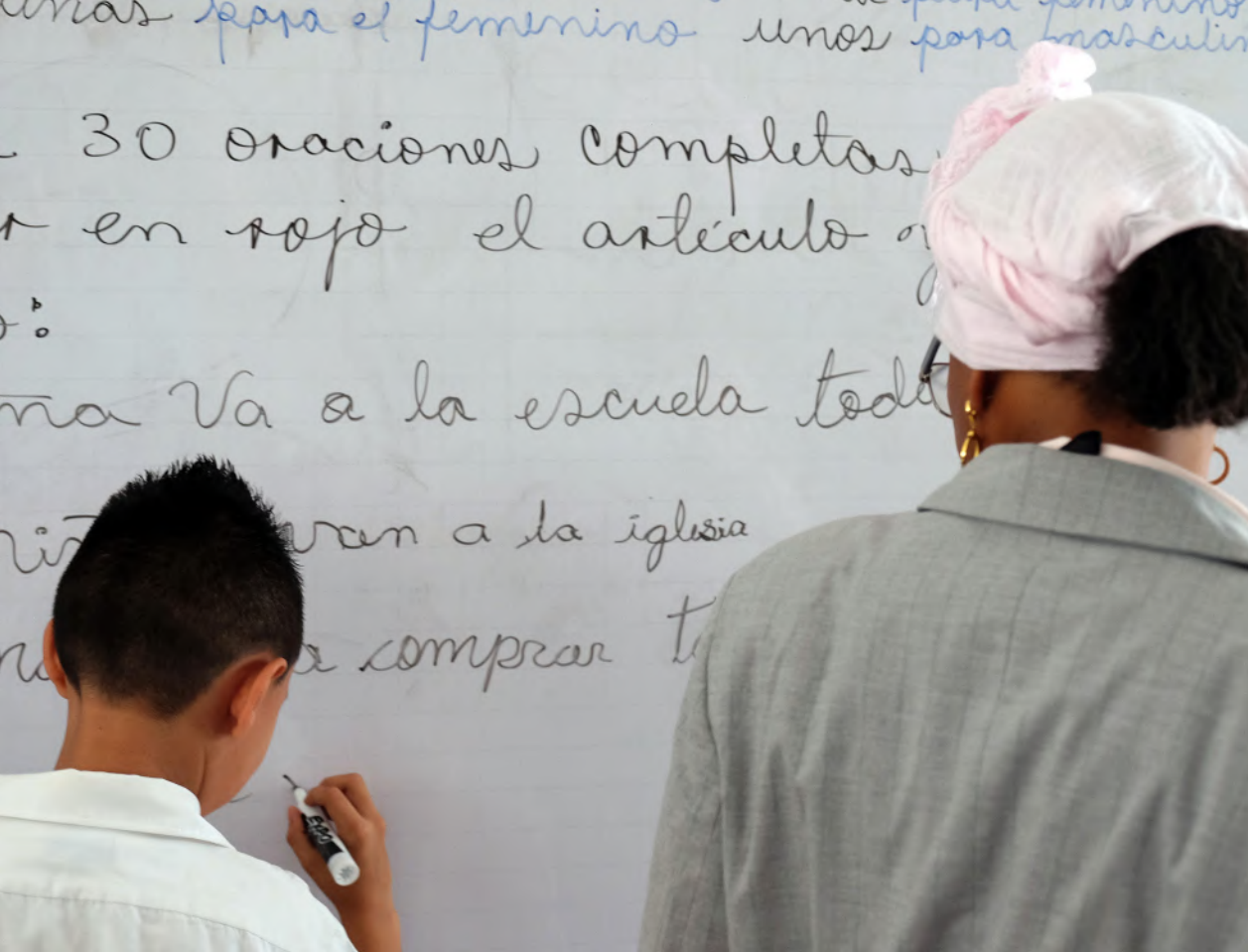
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integration of displaced households was reflected in their explicit desire to remain in their host communities; no particular barriers to integration were detected. Perceptions around the integration process may nonetheless vary according to the duration of displacement and people's ability to resume their previous activities.

The passing of the law for prevention, assistance and protection of forcibly displaced people will offer a great opportunity to build an effective response that prevents internal displacement and protects people from its effects. This study provides a series of insights that point towards intervention areas and priorities for response as an essential step for the implementation of policies, programmes and strategies that ensure the free exercise of human rights for all people in Honduras without fear of displacement.



10. RECOMMENDATIONS



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As this study shows, the limited scope or lack of protocols and coordination mechanisms in institutional response directly impact internally displaced people's access to and exercise of fundamental rights. There is therefore an urgent need for the development of a specific legal and institutional framework for the prevention, assistance and protection of people internally displaced by violence in Honduras. This framework should be attuned to international human rights and international humanitarian law standards, in particular those of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. Regardless of whether new measures are developed within this framework, effective coordination will be needed with existing policies and programmes for violence prevention and social protection in the country to ensure consistency in interventions and impacts in the medium and long-term.

In particular, the institutional response framework to internal displacement should consider the following aspects:

1. A public policy for the prevention of internal displacement should be designed and implemented through extensive consultations with populations most exposed to violence and its impacts, taking into account that domestic violence, school bullying and gender-based violence can give birth to other types of violence and displacement.
 - a. The response should be adapted according

to different factors, such as proportion of children in the household, single-parent households, the vulnerability of people living in strategic areas for criminal activity, and the vulnerability of people working in the sectors of transportation, merchandise distribution, or the public sector.

- i. Create a targeted programme with a focus on human rights to fight the recruitment of children and youth by criminal groups, prioritising the best interest of the child. This should include a social and economic component to offer an alternative for children and adolescents in communities affected by generalised violence in the country. While certain areas may need to be prioritised in the early stages of the intervention, the programme should progressively be expanded to all the areas affected by violence in the country in order to achieve universal coverage.
- ii. Review current regulations with regards to education to guarantee that it is sensitive to conflict and situations of violence, and goes beyond the promotion of a culture of peace. In

particular, useful tools for teachers should be developed to help them manage situations of violence in educational centres, handle conflict, and contribute to preventing situations that lead to displacement. This does not imply a militarised approach to security, which on some occasions can represent another type of risk for students and teachers.

b. Protection measures should aim to reclaim and re-establish educational centres as protective spaces for children, youth and the communities where they are located. To this effect, targeted intervention strategies should prioritise educational centres with highest school dropout rates and/or constant turnover of teachers, as well as those located in areas with high rates of violence. A protection and relocation mechanism for students and teachers internally displaced or at risk of being displaced should also be designed and implemented. The administrative system of educational centres should facilitate the reincorporation of displaced students at any point of the school year. Consultations with teachers, parents, mothers and students should take place as part of the development of these protection measures to ensure none of the activities are harmful.

c. The policy should include early warning systems based on robust indicators able to detect areas at risk of displacement and connect local initiatives with state programmes for the protection of internally displaced people. In particular, these mechanisms should take into account the characteristics of people most vulnerable to displacement, as presented in this report.

d. The policy should also consider existing protection mechanisms implemented by communities to address situations of violence and insecurity, both to facilitate early warning and to inform the response. For this purpose, the following should be taken into account:

i. In situations of risk, a quarter of displaced households noted having sought help from community organisations such as churches and/or boards of trustees.

ii. In response to violence, citizens resort to silence, seclusion, restriction

of movement and a reduction in social interaction, which dismantles community networks. Public institutions and community organisations present in these areas can raise awareness about these situations.

2. One of the immediate effects of displacement is the loss of people's means of minimum subsistence. Government institutions lack the coordination and resources needed to provide emergency humanitarian assistance in these situations. It is therefore necessary to design and implement a mechanism for humanitarian assistance that has the required technical and financial resources to mitigate the impact of displacement on the access and enjoyment of the fundamental rights of those affected. This assistance should be provided in conformity with the humanitarian principles of humanity and impartiality, and under the terms established by the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. As detailed in this report, in addition to the immediate needs in terms of transportation, shelter, food and basic necessities, psychological care should also be provided to the displaced population.

a. As a first step in the provision of assistance, a single information system for internally displaced people should be established to facilitate the identification, assistance and monitoring of cases of individual and collective displacement at a national level. This system should establish the basis for inter-institutional coordination and response to the assistance and protection needs of internally displaced people. In order to identify cases, a unique worksheet should be designed for use by public entities, civil society organisations and international organisations that provide attention and protection to the displaced community in the country. The management and administration of this system should be performed by one institution with the capacity to guarantee data protection.

b. The mechanism will also need to establish procedures for regular monitoring, in order to remove from the system those who have been able to overcome internal displacement and are once more enjoying their human rights, having resolved the needs generated by internal displacement.

3. The study describes the challenges faced by the population with regards to their property and belongings. As a result, there is a need to design a mechanism for the protection of property and belongings abandoned by internally displaced people in order to prevent its seizure, occupation or destruction by third parties. Protection should include legal and material measures to mitigate the impact of displacement on displaced people's right to property. For this purpose, relevant institutions and municipalities should coordinate to verify ownership of assets reported by internally displaced people, and include these assets in the resulting protection mechanism.

4. Lastly, a national strategy for durable solutions that considers the impacts and needs of people during and after displacement should be designed, with a psychosocial lens and differentiated approach. This requires broad and participative consultations with internally displaced people and people most vulnerable to displacement. Including these groups will ensure that they can participate in an effective manner in the planning and management of programmes and strategies that affect them. The participation of academia, civil society, humanitarian agents and the private sector should also be secured to provide conditions necessary to overcome displacement.

GLOSSARY

People internally displaced by violence	Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border.
Household	Composed of one or more people, not necessarily united by family ties, who joined together to reside in the entirety or part of a private home, and jointly provide the budget for the satisfaction of their food or other needs ⁶⁰ .
Displaced households in Honduras	A household where at least one member has been forced to escape or flee from their home or their habitual place of residence in Honduras between 2004 and 2018, because their life, their freedom and/or personal integrity were threatened or directly affected as a result, or to avoid the consequences, of situations of generalised violence and/or human rights violations, and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border. Displaced households in Honduras include displaced people, their sons and daughters born after displacement and other people who host them and/or live in the same household ⁶¹ .
Non-displaced households	Households in areas where displaced people also reside in Honduras, but in which no household members have had to change their place of habitual residence in Honduras between 2004 and 2018 as a result or to avoid the consequences of situations of generalised violence and / or human rights violations.
Acts of violence	Acts that potentially generate displacement and that are analysed in this study: forced recruitment, use, or involvement; extortion; murders; threats; injuries; sexual violence; sexual harassment; kidnapping; forced disappearance; torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; discrimination; coercion; arbitrary detentions; dispossession and/or seizure of land and housing; and hate crimes; among others that threaten the life, freedom and physical and mental integrity of persons.
Effects	Acts of violence identified as causes of internal displacement within the analytical framework of the qualitative component, including forced recruitment, home seizure, conflict over land, gender-based violence and extortion.
Coping strategies	Actions or measures undertaken by people with the objective of responding to or recovering from a threat against their survival or their livelihoods.
Durable solutions	A durable solution is achieved when internally displaced people no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.
	A durable solution can be achieved through: 1) Sustainable reintegration in the place of origin (referred to as return); 2) Sustainable local integration in areas where internally displaced people take refuge (local integration); 3) Sustainable integration in another part of the country (settlement elsewhere in the country).

60 INE. (2016), Methodology of the Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey, Honduras (in Spanish only). Available at: <http://www.ine.gob.hn/images/Productos%20ine/encuesta%20de%20hogares/EPHPM%202016/Metodologia%20junio%202016.pdf>

61 Because the collection of information was done at the household level and not individually, and since the displacement of at least one person from the household affects the lives of all household members, the information collected in this study addresses the effects of displacement on displaced households and members of these households, not only of people who were individually displaced.

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