Protection and Assistance for Migrant Women in Honduras









The Contexts of Returned Migrants, 17 November 2017



A general decrease of 35.1% is observed in the period that ends on 17 November 2017, compared to the same period in 2016. This equals to 22, 866 Honduran citizens in the CAMR. 6,111 women and girls; 14.45 % of them are Honduran nationals.





Driving Factors with a Gender Approach

- Family reunification;
- Improving living conditions for themselves and/or their families;
- Lack of employment opportunities;
- Violence: domestic, gender-based or generated by organized criminal groups.







Law on Protection of Human Migrants and their Families

• Article 1.6 establishes as the objective of the law:

Paying special attention to expanding the protection actions of the Honduran State to include Hondurans abroad that are in a situation of calamity, especially if they are under-age, **women**, older adults, disabled or persons with difficulties in terms of social or labour integration;

• Article 5 establishes:

Special attention shall be paid to [...] boys, girls and adolescents, **women**, older adults, disabled persons and persons deceased while abroad, in accordance with this Law and its Bylaws.

• Articles 12.9 & 12.15 establish the following in the framework of the law:

Invoke compliance with agreements, conventions and declarations on the protection of Honduran children, youth and **migrant women**;

Combat the sexual exploitation of migrant Honduran boys, girls and adolescents and **women** and sign treaties, conventions or agreements with governments and private institutions that make the fight against these crimes effective.



Protection Actions of the Honduran Consular Network



The protection actions carried out by the Consular Network of Honduras abroad are framed within the Law on Protection of Honduran Migrants and their Families:

- 1. Voluntary return of women and boys, girls and adolescents that are in a situation of calamity or vulnerability;
- 2. Visits to centres and shelters for migrant boys, girls and adolescents;
- 3. Seeking their families to promote family reunification;
- 4. Document issuance for reunification with their families or guardians;
- 5. Visits and financial support for Hondurans who are in hospitals abroad;
- 6. Purchasing prescription drugs for Hondurans who need them and who do not have the financial resources to buy them;
- 7. Legal aid with pro bono lawyers for criminal, labour and migration matters.





Consular Registration Card

The consular registration card, which became available on 25 September 2017, was created based on Article, 4, No. 5 of the Law on Protection of Honduran Migrants and their Families "for personal identification purposes in their country of residence and based on the information from the National Registry of Persons (RNP). In addition, Honduran consulates may issue a card to certify the **CONSULAR REGISTRATION** of Hondurans living in the country where the card is issued, after payment of the corresponding fee established by the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs".

The consular registration card facilitates personal procedures requiring an official national identity document, in a sustainable manner. To date, 5,753 registration cards have been issued at the 11 Consulates of Honduras in the United States.







Identifying Persons in Vulnerable Situations

A consular protection interview has been implemented. The interview is conducted before the person is returned to Honduras. This enables us to identify if a Honduran national is or has been in a vulnerable situation. High priority is given to cases of victims of violence, displacement, trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, etc.

While the percentage of men victims of trafficking has increased in recent years, women and girls together account for 71% of the victims, according to UNODC. The majority of them are victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.





A Law against Trafficking in Persons Exists in Honduras



Establishes the principle of non-refoulement:

When a person states that he or she is a victim of trafficking in persons, the humanitarian principle of non-refoulement to the State of origin or a third State shall be applied for persons that express fear of returning. This without detriment to the right that this law grants them to stay in national territory, in accordance with the immigration legislation.

- The return of these populations is supported through the Solidarity Fund for Honduran Migrants (FOSMIH).
- The Consular Network of Honduras provides assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, through reports filed or through identifying them in an interview. The actions of the Consular Network are framed within the Law against Trafficking in Persons in Honduras. Upon the return of the victims, special assistance, protection and follow-up is provided by the Inter-institutional Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (CICESCT).





Reception of Migrant Women

Upon returning to the country, migrant women are received at centres for assistance to returned migrants and the following services are provided:

- A hygiene kit;
- Psychological assistance;
- Telephone calls to call their families;
- Shelter for up to 48 hours;
- Meeting basic needs;
- Health care;
- Transportation to their communities of origin.

Each woman is assisted in accordance with the identified profile; that is, migrated due to domestic or gender-based violence or violence generated by organized criminal groups; victim of trafficking in persons; victim of a crime along the migration route; disabled, etc.





"Ciudad Mujer"

Two facilities of "Ciudad Mujer" are in place in Honduras: one in Tegucigalpa and one in Choloma, where 15 public institutions provide assistance and services, with warmth and quality, for the comprehensive development of Honduran women in an environment of trust and hope. Additional centres are expected to be opened in San Pedro Sula, Juticalpa and La Ceiba.

The returned migrant women have the right to go to "Ciudad Mujer" and benefit from the programme, which includes the following services:

- Financial autonomy;
- Assistance for women victims of violence;
- Sexual and reproductive health;
- Assistance for adolescents;
- Assistance for children;
- Collective education.





The mission of the UMAR units is to ensure comprehensive assistance at the local level for boys, girls and adolescents and families who have returned to the country, to promote effective reintegration in the social, economic and education spheres. The UMAR benefit the population through the following services:

- Comprehensive assistance;
- Community reintegration;
- Differentiated accompaniment in accordance with the needs of returned migrants and their families;
- Psychosocial assistance;
- Awareness-raising in entrepreneurship.

Sixteen UMAR will be operational in national territory by the end of 2017.





MAP OF UMAR IN HONDURAN TERRITORY









Reintegration Projects for Returned Migrants

Description	Institution	Beneficiaries	Approved Project Budget, in Lempira
Developing entrepreneurship and psychosocial support programmes to promote and improve the quality of life of the families of missing migrants, fostering the establishment of sustainable micro-enterprises	SRECI/FONAMIH	18 families of migrants	894,670.01
Meeting specific needs relating to the physical and psychological health of returned migrants with disabilities	SRECI/CONAMIREDIS	30 returned migrants	1,876,650.50





Delivering a module of a prefabricated house that is easy to transport and build, for returned migrants in situations of poverty and extreme poverty	SRECI/TECHO	25 houses	1,581,867.13
Improving the competencies and skills of returned migrant women in matters relating to entrepreneurship and the establishment of sustainable and competitive rural micro-enterprises	SRECI/PODER	100 women	3,420,000.00
Developing workshops to strengthen entrepreneurship skills for young returned migrants	SRECI/Mennonite Social Action Commission	15 young returned migrants	567,000.00





Thank you