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INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION  
FOR MIGRATION



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## PANEL FORUM

# **WOMEN, MIGRATION, AND DEVELOPMENT: A STRATEGIC CHALLENGE FOR THE REGION**

San Salvador, 27 November, 2017

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## Panel I : Migrant women: Labour migration realities, family, and remittances

### *Factores de riesgo y necesidades de atención para las mujeres migrantes en la región centroamericana*

(Risk factors and attention needs for migrant women in Central America)

# Previous considerations

- The *Factores de riesgo y necesidades de atención para las mujeres migrantes en Centroamérica (IOM/SICA)* study, published in 2016, was part of Component B. Violence Prevention of the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA);
- The data analysis based on the **risks faced by migrant women throughout their migratory experience (on exit, during the journey, at destination and on return)** presented in this Panel are based on the study's main findings;
- Additionally, certain **challenges on public policy articulation** at the local, national, and regional level that promote safe, orderly, and regular female labour migration with a human development approach are presented;
- Human development is the expansion of people's freedoms to live long, healthy and creative lives (Amartya Sen, 1994). Ergo, a *dignifying life*. The development and social and economic well-being within the region will be achieved **once** women are safe – including their safe and orderly migration. Only in this way can migration be beneficial for all.
- The stake of the Sustainable Human Development implies then that “no-one [gets] left behind”, specifically not migrant women

5 IGUALDAD  
DE GÉNERO

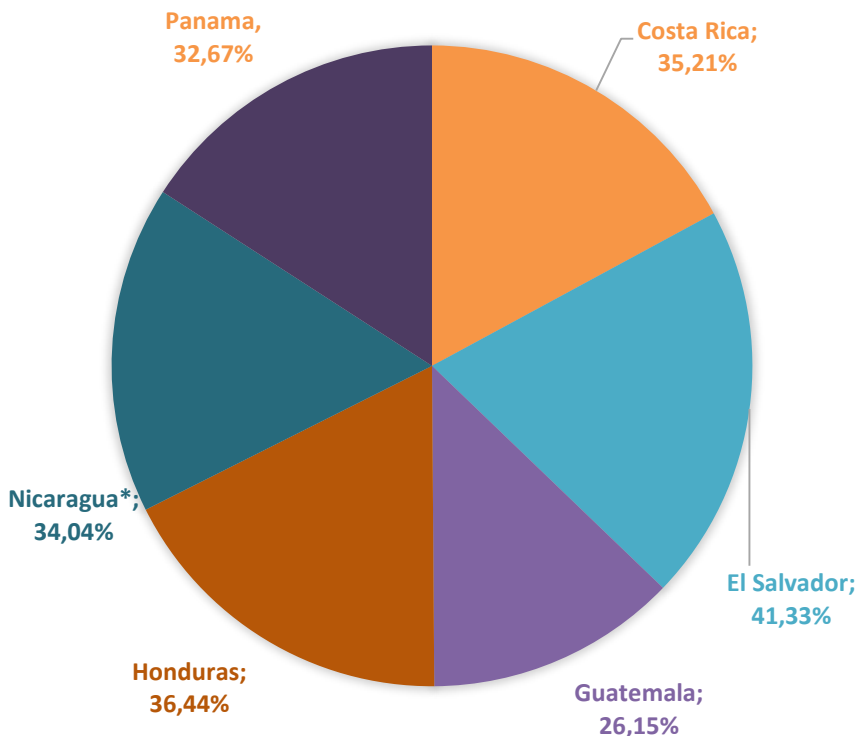


10 REDUCCIÓN DE LAS  
DESIGUALDADES



# Centroamérica

Percentage of female-headed households in Central American countries, 2012 and 2014



N.B. Own preparation based on *IDB*, 2016.

\* The data for Nicaragua corresponds to 2012.

\*The IDB Database does not have information available for Belize.

- Population of 48.8 million inhabitants: 50.6% are women (ECLAC, 2015);
- Transformation from the demographic point of view in relation to its population structure / Demographic bonus (productive age / dependency rate);
- According to IDB data (2016), in the region more than 30% of household heads are women, with the exception of Guatemala (20.70%);
- High levels of insecurity and violence;
- Region with a diversity of migratory flows and dynamics (origin, transit, destination, and return);
- % Remittances / GDP: Honduras with 17.3%, 16.7% in El Salvador, 12.5 in Guatemala, and 9.6% in the case of Nicaragua.

## Female migration from and within the Centra American region



Stock de mujeres migrantes centroamericanas por país de origen y país de destino, 2015

	Belice	Costa Rica	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua	Panamá
Canadá	1129	2581	24075	8559	3639	5371	1412
EE.UU.	29215	51583	632554	440248	305995	135,386	55056
México	1690	1344	5262	28086	7375	2876	901

Fuente: Elaboración propia.

Nota: Elaborado a partir de insumos del taller de socialización y retroalimentación con representaciones técnicas de OCAM, 01- 02 de junio, Panamá, 2016.

- According to the census data of the Central American countries (IMILA-ECLAC, 2000-2010), the migrant population born in the region was estimated at 459, 353 people, of which **53.05% were migrant women**. The flow of Nicaraguans to Costa Rica stood out.
- Women migrate as heads of household to provide sustenance to families, but they also do so as a strategy to improve their physical and emotional security conditions when faced with situations of violence.
- Social violence and specific violence against women constitute a factor that causes migration and, at the same time, a risk factor during the migratory process.
- The main displays of violence faced by women during migration are: physical violence; sexual abuse; rape; kidnapping; extortion; exploitation; trafficking in persons; illicit activities linked to drug trafficking; amongst others.



- ❖ During 2012-2013, at least **9.9 per cent of the homicide (femicide) cases in Central America were committed against women.** (Anuario Estadístico Regional, 2015).
- ❖ **6 out of 10 migrant women are victims of rape on their way to the United States.** (Amnesty International, 2010).
- ❖ In **89 per cent** of the complaints of domestic violence, the victims were women in the region. (Datos Estadísticos Policiales, Anuario Regional 2012).
- ❖ In 2011-2012, **9 990 complaints were registered for rape** in the region, of which **75 per cent** of the victims were women.

# Main risk factors faced by female migrants

Lack of information;  
Limited access to travel documents;  
Domestic violence;  
Exit permit;  
Structural factors;  
Sexual violence/ rape;  
Economic violence;  
Social and/ or generalised violence;  
Stigma and ostracism based on  
(presumed) gender expression/  
identity and sexual orientation.

Stigma and ostracism based on  
(presumed) gender expression/  
identity and sexual orientation;  
Precariousness in social and labour  
insertion;  
Gender-based violence;  
Lack of information;  
Sexual violence/ rape;  
Trafficking in persons networks;  
Inhumane and inadequate  
transportation.



**Origin**

**Transit**

**Destination**

**Return**

Irregular migration;  
Limited institutionality to provide  
protection;  
Social and/ or generalised violence;  
Trafficking in persons networks;  
Lack of information;  
Limited health services;  
Sexual violence/ rape;  
Economic violence;  
Stigma and ostracism based on  
(presumed) gender expression/ identity  
and sexual orientation;  
Inhumane and inadequate  
transportation.

Return mode;  
Stigma and ostracism based on  
(presumed) gender expression/  
identity and sexual orientation;  
Prevalence of the factors that  
triggered migration;  
Discrimination;  
Revictimisation;  
Economic violence;  
Lack of opportunities.





## Aportes de la CRM en materia de protección frente a los riesgos asociados a la migración irregular (CRM)

Memorándum de Entendimiento entre los Gobiernos de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, de la República de El Salvador, de la República de Guatemala, de la República de Honduras y de la República de Nicaragua, para la repatriación digna, ordenada, ágil y segura de nacionales centroamericanos migrantes vía terrestre.  
( CRM, XI Conferencia, 2006)

It establishes regional cooperation mechanisms that guarantee the repatriation of Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Nicaraguan nationals.

Lineamientos Regionales para la protección especial en casos de repatriación de niños, niñas y adolescentes víctimas de trata de personas.  
( CRM, XII Conferencia, 2007)

Its objective is to encourage collaboration and present guides from the identification or detection of girls, boys or adolescents victims, as well as actions for their repatriation if it is determined in accordance with their best interests.

Lineamientos Regionales para la atención de niños, niñas y adolescentes migrantes no acompañados en casos de repatriación.  
(CRM, Conferencia XIV, 2009)

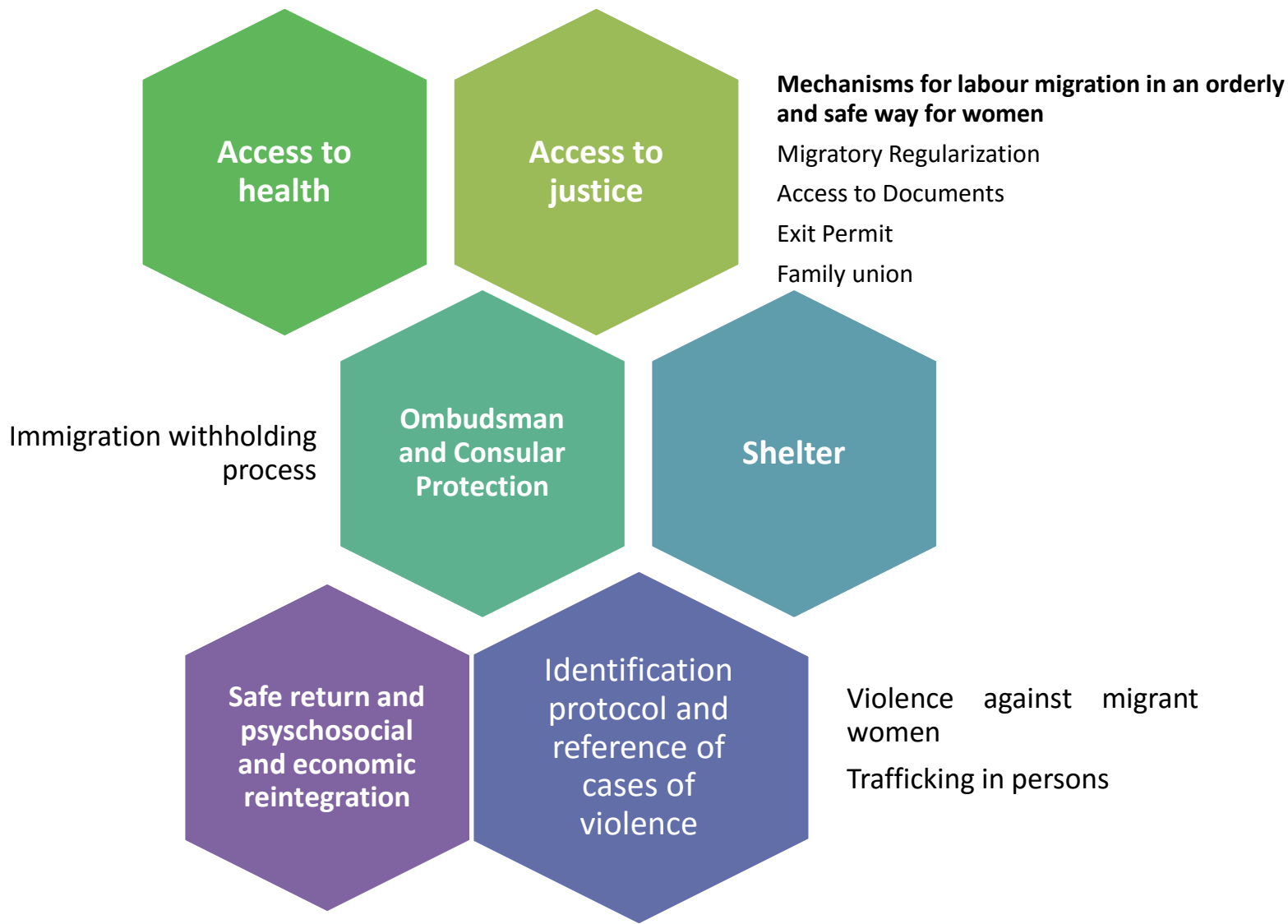
Its objective is to promote collaboration in the protection and repatriation of children and adolescents amongst the member countries, and to serve as a guide, from the moment of detection to the repatriation, always safeguarding their rights and their best interests.

Lineamientos Regionales para la Identificación Preliminar de Perfiles y Mecanismos de Referencia de Poblaciones Migrantes en Condiciones de Vulnerabilidad.  
(CRM XVIII, 2014)

The purpose is to provide member countries with general guidelines for the construction and implementation of preliminary mechanisms for the identification of profiles and reference of migrant populations in conditions of vulnerability.



# Necesidades de atención de las mujeres migrantes identificadas en el estudio



## Policy and regulatory framework challenges

- Migration policies and regulations also present challenges in terms of including within the migration protection and management mechanisms specific measures to identify and refer cases of migrant women who have suffered any type of violence in any of the migratory stages;
- In the area of the Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and Trafficking of Migrants, efforts have focused on the comprehensive approach to the crime of trafficking in persons, which particularly affects women – migrant women being particularly vulnerable;
- Strengthen the legislation of countries and the areas of public policies on migration with special policies for the protection of children and those that address the situation of violence against women;
- Regularisation programmes within the region and search for dialogue with the countries of destination.
- Protocols with attention and care models for migrant women victims of violence against women/ gender-based violence.

# Challenges

- Conceptualisation, linkage, and addressing the phenomena of violence against women and generalised violence.
- Promote the standardisation of statistical data related to migration and violence against women including a gender approach.
- Strengthen the **protection networks at a local level in the areas with the greatest influx of migrant population and transit routes**, where there is a greater risk of being victims of trafficking in persons, as well as in areas that have reported a high number of kidnapping, homicide and rape cases.
- Develop programmes or incorporate initiatives in the existing ones on economic and social autonomy aimed at migrant women in their destination or in the countries of return.
- Strengthen the legislation of countries and the areas of public policies on migration with special policies for the protection of children or those that address violence against women.
- Regularisation programmes within the region and search for dialogue with the countries of destination.
- Protocols for the attention of cases of migrant women victims of violence
- Articulate regional efforts (SICA / COMMCA / OCAM ...)

*Thank you!*



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