



Prevention, Mitigation and Response to Violence against Women and Girls

55%

of people who have experienced internal displacement at least once in their lifetime are women and girls¹.

61%

of people displaced internally within the last four years are women².

52%

of complaints related to internal forced displacement due to violence registered by the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH) in 2025 were filed by women.



What is the situation of internally displaced women in Honduras?

Honduras records one of the highest rates of femicides and violent deaths of women in Latin America, with approximately **six deaths per 100,000 women**, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). **Violence against women is one of the main drivers of forced displacement, compelling many women to flee their homes to protect themselves and their families.** Death threats, domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual violence, extortion and other forms of violence perpetrated by both individuals within their immediate surroundings and criminal groups create conditions that significantly increase the risk of forced displacement.

Forced displacement affects women in distinct ways. In addition to losing their homes and livelihoods, many flee to protect their children from forced recruitment, sexual violence or murder by criminal groups, while taking on additional caregiving and protection responsibilities. Following displacement, they **face greater barriers to accessing protection**, healthcare, employment, housing and justice, particularly when they are heads of household or live in rural areas.

Data from CONADEH show that **women face multiple risks** in both **private and public spaces**, with the most frequent perpetrators being individuals known to them, including current and former intimate partners, family members and neighbors, as well as individuals linked to criminal groups. These patterns demonstrate that **forced displacement is driven by violence occurring both within households and across communities.**

Although Honduras has strengthened its legal framework through the adoption of the Law on the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons and the Law on Shelters for Women Survivors of Violence, **challenges remain in ensuring timely prevention and protection responses, as well as access to durable solutions** for women affected by violence and forced displacement.

¹ National Institute of Statistics (INE). (2024). *Internally Displaced Population in Honduras: Results of the 2024 Permanent Multi-Purpose Household Survey (EPHPM)*. INE: <https://ine.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Estudio-Poblacion-Desplazada-Internamente-EPHPM-2024.pdf>

² Ibid



Access to protection, livelihoods, and specialized support strengthens the resilience of women and girls affected by forced displacement.

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Progress in the Legal and Institutional Framework

Law on the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons: Recognizes violence against women as one of the main causes of forced displacement and establishes specific measures to address sexual violence and discrimination.

Law on Shelters for Women Survivors of Violence: Strengthens the institutional response for women survivors of violence through the establishment of specialized protection mechanisms, temporary shelter and comprehensive support services for women and their children.

Reforms to the Legal Framework on Violence against Women: In 2026, the National Congress approved legislative

reforms to increase penalties for femicide and strengthen the sanctions established under the Law Against Domestic Violence, reinforcing legal protection against the various forms of violence affecting women.

Despite these important legal advances, **challenges remain in ensuring a comprehensive response to violence and forced displacement affecting women.** Continued efforts are needed to strengthen inter-institutional coordination, expand the coverage of specialized protection services, and ensure timely access to justice for women who have survived violence and forced displacement.

UNHCR's Response

UNHCR works alongside the Government of Honduras, civil society organizations and communities to prevent, mitigate and respond to violence against women and girls by strengthening protection mechanisms for internally displaced, refugee, asylum-seeking and returned women and girls with protection needs through actions such as:

- **Strengthening the national response system to gender-based violence:** Providing technical assistance to national institutions to strengthen inter-institutional coordination, case management and protection pathways for women with protection needs.
- **Protection and specialized assistance for internally displaced and returned women with protection needs:** Supporting the delivery of specialized services, including case management, legal assistance, psychosocial support, cash assistance, and referrals to protection services.

- **Community-based violence prevention:** Implementing community-based initiatives that strengthen protective factors, women's empowerment, community networks and local prevention mechanisms in communities most affected by violence.
- **Protection of refugee and asylum-seeking women:** Strengthening access to asylum procedures, documentation, essential services, livelihoods and local integration for women with international protection needs.
- **Strengthening self-reliance and promoting durable solutions:** Supporting access to livelihoods, socio-economic inclusion and durable solutions that help reduce the risks of re-victimization and repeated displacement.

What is needed to prevent violence and protect women forced to flee their homes?

Women who are forced to flee their homes require comprehensive responses that ensure their protection, reduce the risk of further violence, and enable them to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. This requires strengthening both institutional systems and community capacities to provide timely, survivor-centred responses.

Key priorities include:

- **Strengthened specialized protection systems**, with institutions and community actors equipped to identify risks, provide comprehensive support and coordinate timely responses for women with protection needs.
- **Accessible, quality specialized services**, including case management, psychosocial support, legal assistance, safe spaces and protection mechanisms for women survivors of violence.
- **Access to rights and durable solutions**, ensuring access to documentation, justice, education, healthcare, livelihoods and opportunities that support recovery and integration.
- **Protective communities and violence prevention**, by strengthening community networks, women's leadership and initiatives that reduce the risks of violence and re-victimization.
- **Inter-institutional coordination and evidence generation**, by strengthening protection pathways, referral mechanisms and the evidence needed to inform public policies and evidence-based responses.



UNHCR strengthens women's leadership and community networks as pillars of protection, social cohesion, and violence prevention.

Opportunities for Collaboration

- **Strengthen response capacity:** Every year, more women and girls are forced to flee their homes in search of safety. This underscores the need to expand and sustain funding for safe spaces and protection programmes to ensure that the response keeps pace with growing protection need.
- **Enhance visibility and access to protection:** Many women and girls forced to flee are unable to report incidents or access available protection mechanisms. Strengthening registration systems, building trust in institutions, and improving access to protection pathways will generate more comprehensive data to inform public policies and evidence-based responses.
- **Advance the implementation of the legal framework:** Honduras has made significant progress in strengthening its legal framework, including through the Law on the Prevention, Assistance and Protection of Internally Displaced Persons and the Law on Shelters for Women Survivors of Violence. The timely adoption and implementation of their implementing regulations are essential to translating these legal frameworks into effective protection and assistance mechanisms for women.

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For more information: Danielle Alvarez / External Relations Officer alvareza@unhcr.org



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