



**Redressing Gendered Health
Inequalities of Displaced
Women and Girls**

Preliminary results: ReGHID
Survey- Honduras.

Discrimination and Violence during Displacement

Sarahí Rueda-Salazar, Amos Andrew
Channon, Pía Riggirozzi

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Principal Investigator: Pía Riggiozzi

Co-Investigator: Amos Andrew Channon

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RESEARCH TEAM

Principal Investigator

Prof. Pía Riggiozzi

Principal Investigator (PI) of the “Redressing Gendered Health Inequalities of Displaced Women and Girls in contexts of Protracted Crisis in Central and South America” Project (ReGHID)

Professor of Global Politics, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

International Organisation for Migration- Northern Central America

Nicola Graviano

Chief of Mission for Honduras and El Salvador

Andrea Rivera Ayala

National Project officer

INVESTIGATORS

Prof. Andrew Amos Channon

Co-Investigator on the ReGHID Project, quantitative study coordinator for Central America.

Professor of Global Health and Demography, Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

Dr. Sarahí Rueda-Salazar

Researcher, Department of Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

Quantitative study coordinator for Honduras and El Salvador, study protocol and data gathering resource design, fieldwork coordination in both countries and technical assistance, interviewer training, data analysis. Writing of infographic, survey preliminary summary report and research reports.



Nicéforo Garnelo

Consultant- International Organisation for Migration -Northern Triangle (IOM)

Digitalisation of the ReGHID questionnaire (KoBO), training in KoBO tool. Data analysis and writing survey preliminary summary report.

[Data Collection](#)

Liz Ramos

Honduras fieldwork coordinator (IOM/Honduras)

Guadalupe Grimaldi

El Salvador fieldwork coordinator (IOM/El Salvador)

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Preliminary results: ReGHID Survey-Honduras

A study of the sexual and reproductive health of returnee migrant women

Discrimination and violence during Displacement

Migratory journey in Central America corridor is characterised by high rates of violence and discrimination of different nature¹. Situations that potentially trigger quite complex situations of vulnerability during the displacement of migrant women and adolescent girls to the detriment of their wellbeing and health status. In this context, ReGHID survey explores key information that make visible discrimination and violence experiences that women make through displacement, their implications and long-term consequences at their return home countries. Key information for monitoring and design fearer and timely policies in social protection during migration journeys.

Discrimination

From all women interviewed², 30% (N=368) reported that they had experienced discrimination during the migratory journey (Tab. 1). This data show that a third of returnee women experienced at least a discrimination event during the displacement from their home country.

Table 1. Incidence of discrimination and its effect during the migratory journey

Did you experience discrimination during your journey ¹	Total	%
Yes	368	30.3
No	847	69.7
Do you feel that you were denied basic rights due to discrimination ²		
Yes	150	40.9
No	217	59.1

Note:

¹ 1215 interviewees answered this question. The remainder (N=20) left it blank

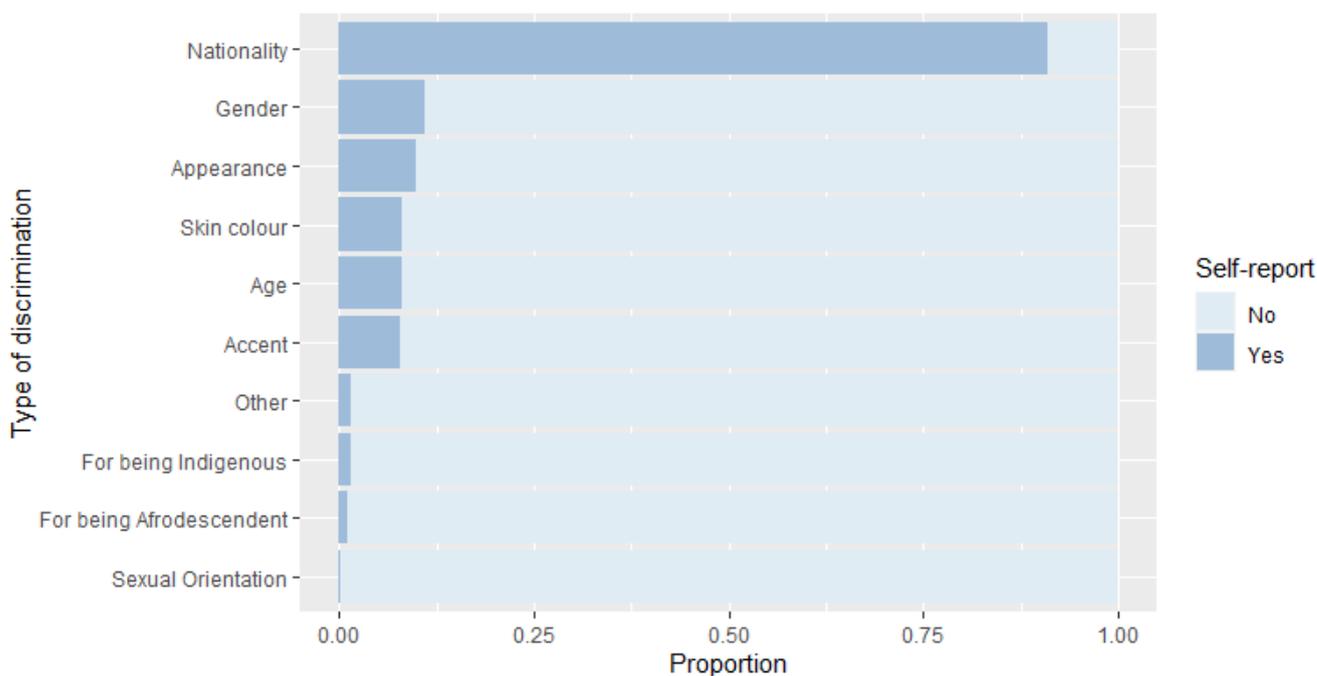
² This question was asked of N=368 interviewees who had stated that they had experienced discrimination at some point during their migratory journey. All provided an answer.

Among them, 41% (N=150) of migrant women perceived that they had been denied basic services as a result of discrimination. Additionally, the nationality was the most frequently reported reason for the interviewees' sense that they had experienced discrimination (90%). Value that reflects that nine out ten migrant women is discriminated due to their birth country during displacement conditions.

¹ See report about main results of the Survey about aggression and abuse against migrants: The vicissitudes of transiting through Mexican territory (2015)

² Survey implemented in collaboration with International Organisation for Migration (IOM/Northern Triangle), during June and July 2022. Sample size was 1,235 returnee woman and adolescent girls in Returnee Migrant Reception Centres in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. See infographic and preliminary report of ReGHID survey in the following link <https://gcrf-reghid.com/publications/>

Figure 1. Reasons given by interviewees who experienced discrimination.



Notes: 1) The graph was created using answers to multiple choice questions where the percentage of answers given is calculated for each option provided to the interviewee. The percentage by option should not be totalled, rather they should be calculated independently; 2) These options were only given to the 368 interviewees who had stated that they had experienced discrimination at some point during their migratory journey; 3) The percentage was calculated by dividing the number of interviewees who had answered “Yes” (or who had selected that answer) to the question, by the total number of people who had chosen at least one option (without leaving the question blank).

Female returnees indicated that gender was the second cause of discrimination (see Fig. 1) at approximately 18%, followed by appearance, skin colour, age and accent when speaking in similar values.

Violence

Regarding situations of violence experienced by women returnees during their migratory journey from their home country (Honduras) and their transit through Mexico and the United States, the results of the survey indicated (Tab. 2) that 8.4% of those interviewed (N=102) suffered some form of violence (including verbal, physical and sexual violence).

Table 2. Report on violence and its consequences

Did you experience violence / abuse during the journey? ¹	Total	%
Yes	102	8.4
No	1111	91.6
Did the violence have repercussions ²		
Yes	48	47.1
No	54	52.9
Did the violence you experienced cause a change of plan during your migratory journey ³		
Had to return home	6	12.8
No, no change of plan	37	78.7
Other	4	8.5
Did you seek help to solve any of the issues caused by the violence ²		
Yes	7	6.9
No	95	93.1

¹ 1215 interviewees answered this question. The remainder (N=20) left it blank.

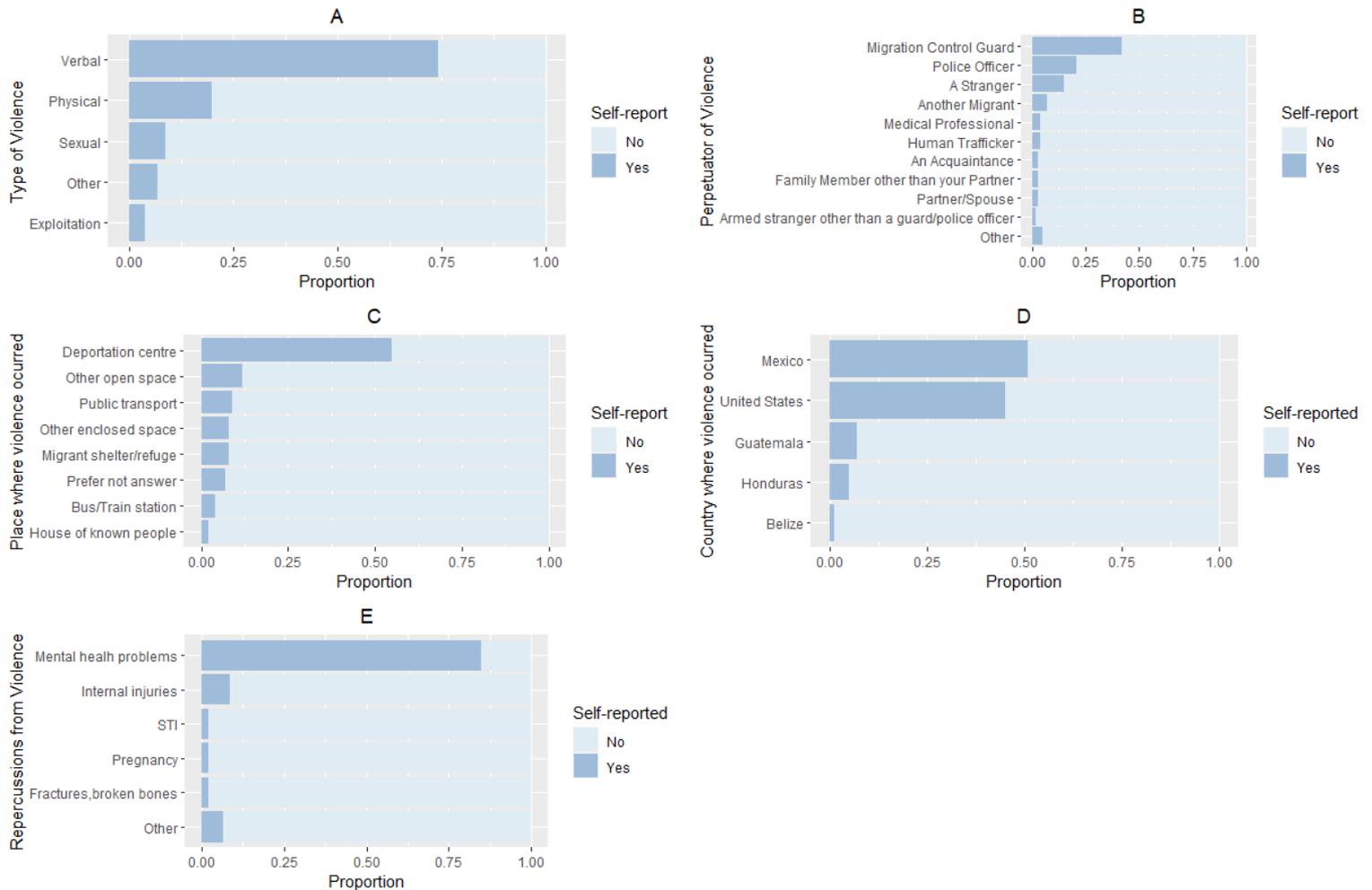
² Question asked of the N=102 interviewees who had stated that they had experienced violence / abuse during at some point during their migratory journey. All answered the question.

³ Question asked of the N=48 interviewees who had stated that they had experienced lasting effects from violence / abuse suffered at some point during their migratory journey. N=1 left the question blank.

The most relevant outputs in section are listed below

- Three of every four mentioned that they had suffered verbal violence, 20% physical violence and 9% reported sexual violence (Panel A, Figure 2).
- Over 42% mentioned that migration patrol officials had perpetrated the abuse, followed by police officers (20.5%) and strangers (15%) (Panel B, Figure 2).
- Over half mentioned that they had experienced violence in a deportation centre, and 11% mentioned that they had suffered violence in open public spaces. Approximately 8% of returnee women mentioned that they had suffered abuse on public transport, shelters or other closed spaces. (Panel C, Figure 2).
- Mexico and the United States were reported as the countries where interviewees most frequently suffered situations of violence. Whilst other transit countries (Guatemala and Belize) had quite low percentages (Panel D, Figure 2).

Figure 2. Features of the violence / abuse experienced during the migratory journey.



Notes: 1) **Panel A:** Type of abuse. **Panel B:** Identifying the perpetrator of the violence. **Panel C:** Place where the violence occurred. **Panel D:** Country where the violence occurred. **Panel E:** Repercussion of having experienced violence; 2) The graph was created using answers to multiple choice questions where the given percentage of answers is calculated for each option provided to the interviewee. The percentage by option should not be summarise, rather they should be calculated independently; 3) Questions in panels **A-D** include 102 interviewees who stated they had experienced violence during their migratory journey. Questions in panel **E** include 48 interviewees who reported they had experienced repercussions from violence suffered at some point during their migratory journey; 4) The percentage was calculated by dividing the number of interviewees who had answered “Yes” (or who had selected that answer) to the question, by the total number of people who had chosen at least one option (without leaving the question blank); 5) In panel **A**, physical violence could mean blows, kicks, slaps, cuts, bruising. Verbal abuse could imply humiliation, ridicule or belittling. Sexual abuse could imply unwanted kissing, touching, exposing parts of the body, or forced sexual relations; 6) On Panel **E**, STI means “Sexually Transmitted Infection”.

Approximately half of the women (N=48, 47.1%) reported that the violence they had experienced caused negative repercussions. Among these repercussions, mental health problems were most frequently mentioned (85%), followed by internal injuries (9%).

Furthermore, one interviewee stated that she got pregnant after the abuse and another developed sexually transmitted infection (Panel E, Figure 2). It should be noted that most of the interviewees who reported having suffered abuse, did not seek help afterwards (N=95, 93%).

Recommendations

Violence during the migration route was mainly committed by staff of migration institutions. Returnee women identified migration control authorities as the perpetrators of the discrimination and violence experienced during displacement. This situation reflects the urgent need for the design of protocols and educational initiatives to sensitise workers who provide services and interact with the migrant population. Protocols that include training on the human rights approach to the migrant population with a gender perspective, considering their diverse characteristics and specific needs during displacement. In addition, it is also important to inform and train service providers about basic concepts on the conditions of migrant in the current framework of forced migration (causes and consequences of migration, health, risks, violence and re-victimisation, and vulnerable groups).

It is recommended that monitoring and registration points for situations of violence be set up along the routes of greatest migratory displacement, with special attention to women and vulnerable groups (e.g., minors, mothers accompanied by infants). Spaces that allow for:

- Monitoring and registration of situations of vulnerability.
- Register complaints about risk situations occurring along the migratory route.
- Provide the necessary attention in case of social protection, legal assistance, medical and/or psychosocial assistance.
- Follow-up and referral of cases to bodies that provide services to survivors of violence (gender-based violence).