



Rapid Gender Analysis: Challenges for women and girls in the face of a sustained health and environmental crisis.

In 2020, the effects of the health and environmental crises highlighted the impacts pre-existing structural gaps had for Hondurans in terms of security and inequality, especially the deepening of gender inequality. It also reinforced the shortcomings and weaknesses of the essential health and social protection service systems, the weaknesses of the productive-business system, and the fragility of the country's economic processes; and highlighted existing weaknesses in aspects related to infrastructure, risk management strategies, and the capacity to respond to natural phenomena. This has led to a regression in aspects related to access to livelihoods, economic and social rights, and fundamental human rights. However, it should be emphasized that although both crises directly and indirectly affected the entire Honduran population, their impact is unequal. Impacts were consistently more adverse for the most vulnerable groups and population, especially women and girls. This is of particular concern since Honduras is ranked as one of the most unequal countries in Latin America.

The RGA sought to provide practical recommendations for designing strategies to provide a differentiated response to the main humanitarian needs and gaps identified and to identify those factors affected by both crises that have a negative impact on the protection of fundamental human rights and the quality of life of the most vulnerable groups in the country.

Key Findings:

- **Poverty has increased by 13.8%** compared to 2019 (59.2% vs 45.4%). 2 out of 3 Hondurans will live in extreme poverty and 3 out of 4 will be poor by the end of 2021. **Up to 75% of households will live in poverty in 2021.**
- There is a weakening in the business sector, in the labor market, and in participation in the informal sector. At the same time, the gaps faced by women in terms of labor market income have increased **as poverty is feminized. The female labor participation gap increased in 2021 to 33.7% in comparison to 2019-2020 (25.5%).**
- **47.5% of international migrants are women.**
- **In 2021, remittances represent 12.2% and 7.5% of total household per capita income** in urban areas. **Most of these transactions are sent by women** (67.6% in the banking system and 63.3% in money remittance companies).

- **51% of the *maquilas*¹ personnel are women in situations of social and labor vulnerability.**
- Increase in school desertion and decrease in the quality of education due to the total or partial suspension of classes. **40% of students dropped out of school in 2020 due to COVID-19.**
- **There has been a setback in the coverage of essential health services for Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), non-communicable diseases and child health.** The use of contraceptive methods decreased by 17.4% from 2019 to 2021, and likewise family planning care by 34.8% and assisted deliveries by 7%.
- **23.14% of the population needs drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services.**
- **Increase in food insecurity** in the most vulnerable municipalities, **especially those households headed by women.** 2.34 million more people in severe acute food insecurity compared to the .096 million in 2019.
- **There are 1.5 million more people in humanitarian need compared to 2019.**
- In 2021, **11% of women suffered intimate partner violence** in the last 12 months.
- **There are 0.62 psychologists and 0.66 psychiatrists in the public sector per 100,000 inhabitants.**

Recommendations:

- **Implement policies that address social protection, economic reactivation, sustainable reconstruction, and early recovery with a holistic, gender and human rights approach.** The implementation of these policies should directly address the effects that negatively affect the drivers of migration and forced internal displacement.
- Reactivate the productive and entrepreneurial framework, generate decent employment options, and **establish measures to reduce the impact on the intensification of poverty, especially the feminization of poverty.**
- **Establish strategies to reactivate and ensure access to essential services** as a guarantee of fundamental human rights, specifically health, education, food security, drinking water and sanitation.
- Implement protocols, affirmative actions and mechanisms that contribute to prevention, ensure timely and quality care, and **guarantee protection and access to justice for women and girls who are survivors or victims of violence.**
- Incorporate in the humanitarian response actions that ensure the implementation on the ground of a gender, human rights, and adequate crisis management approach. This is to **ensure that emergency management prevents violence against vulnerable groups** and avoids the suspension of essential health rights, especially sexual and reproductive health.

This brief summarizes the RGA <https://www.careevaluations.org/evaluation/analisis-rapido-de-genero-arg-honduras-2021-desafios-para-las-mujeres-y-ninas-ante-una-sostenida-crisis-sanitaria-y-ambiental/>, written by CARE Honduras, 2021.

¹ Low-cost factories that are owned by a foreign corporation.