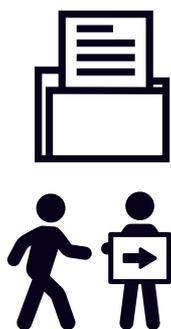


REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF FORCED INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT ON SALVADORAN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

OCTOBER 17 - FEBRUARY 19



134
files

20
counseling
sessions

Context of violence and forced internal displacement

According to the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDDH), the most frequently reported crimes were threats (37.1%), homicide of family members (15.0%), and extortion (8.5%). Although in a lesser proportion, forced recruitment by gangs appeared (1.3%) this implies the vulnerability of children and adolescents to these groups.

The main aggressors mentioned by the denouncers and people who were oriented by the PDDH, were the gangs. To a lesser extent, the state security forces (National Civilian Police, PNC and the Salvadoran Armed Forces, FAES) were associated with violence that causes displacement.

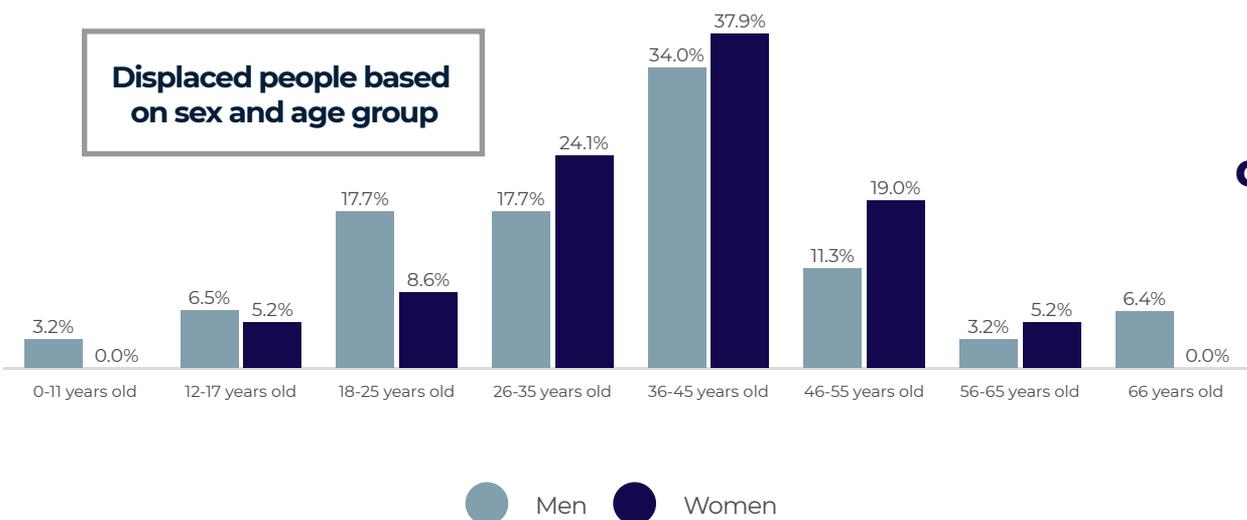


Gangs
85.8%



**National Civil
Police and Army**
7.2%

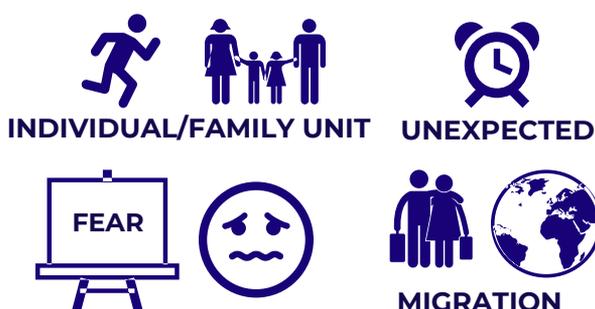
In total, the PDDH registered 170 people who were affected in the period under review, including children and adolescents.



50
at risk of
displacement

120
Displaced

Source: own elaboration from data of the PDDH



Movement within the country can be individually and/or as a family, they do not allow time to take belongings, and due to the fear, sharing testimonies is difficult and limited. There is also a link between forced internal displacement and international migration since many of the people who end up leaving the country for reasons of violence had previously been forced to mobilize internally.



Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDDH)

Impacts of forced internal displacement due to violence

Family disintegration is one of the most evident effects, communication is also weakened and both situations impact the relationships between family members.



PROTECTION



AFFECTION



TRUST

TRUST, DISPLAYS OF LOVE AND AFFECTION ARE ESSENTIAL AS FORMS OF REASSURANCE AND ACCOMPANIMENT

Adults who are in charge of children and adolescents who are displaced must provide them with protection, close accompaniment and support. It is important to maintain a positive and motivating attitude that generates feelings of certainty that the situation can improve. This requires that they also have their own process with psychological care to understand the situation they are in and find meaning in it.

Adolescents are more affected by displacement than children, because of the stage of development in which they find themselves. Among the psychological effects, it stands out that children and adolescents can present difficulties of adaptation and integration to new spaces, and shyness, as well as post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression and aggressive behaviors.



The stress generated by the experience of displacement can generate new health problems or aggravate pre-existing conditions. Among the health problems identified are migraines, diabetes, cardiovascular problems, and it was even said that it can contribute to the appearance of diseases for which there was already a genetic predisposition such as cancer.

Adults lose their jobs or leave their businesses and therefore their sources of income, affecting the lifestyle of children and adolescents. Because of the suddenness of the mobilization, families are not prepared to absorb the new expenses they will have to face and even if they have savings, these could run out before the family can stabilize.



170 people registered



82 had access to some form of income prior to being displaced



44% lost their source of income

Home community

- Vulnerability to criminal acts due to population reduction
- Social fabric affected due to mobilization of people with a long history in the community

- Overpopulation that can cause resource shortages and environmental pollution
- Uncertainty about change and whether support will be found
- Mistrust of newcomers and possible conflict with former residents

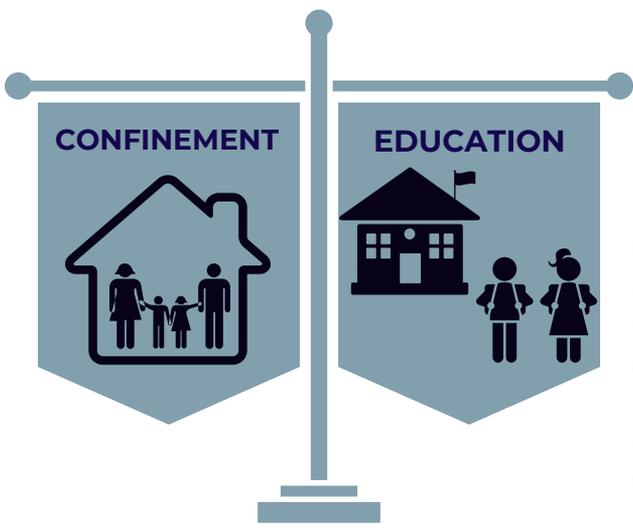
Relocation community



Impacts of forced internal displacement by violence

Staying at home for safety reasons, affects the development of children and adolescents

They have difficulties interacting like their peers, limiting their opportunity to relate and integrate. Due to the need to stay at home, most of their relationships are sustained via digital platforms.



One of the biggest impacts on the underage population is school dropout

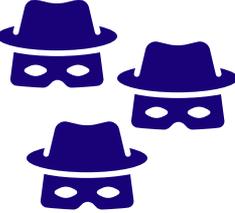
Other effects:

- Harassment at school
- Drop in academic performance and attendance
- Relationship problems with peers
- Frustration, demotivation, loss of goals, etc.

Trust in institutions and state response to displacement

Victims of forced internal displacement do not know where to go for help, they are also afraid to report situations of violence they have experienced due to:

GANG INFILTRATION IN STATE SECURITY AUTHORITY



LEAKAGE OF INFORMATION

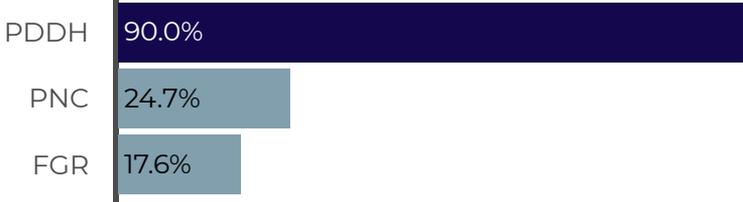


FEAR OF REPRISALS



According to data from the PDDH, the majority of the population who made a complaint preferred to do so at an entity such as the PDDH due to mistrust towards other institutions, fear of approaching security forces due to possible reprisals, as well as the desire to obtain humanitarian aid.

Institutions approached to file a report



Source: own elaboration from data of the PDDH

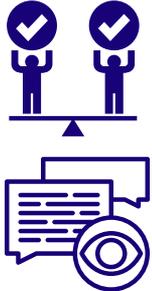
Prevention of forced internal displacement

Design and implementation of informational projects that share relevant information about the institutions that can provide support and the kind of assistance available.



Raising awareness among the forcibly displaced population through traditional and digital means of communication.

Ensure the professionalism of State security forces so their actions are in accordance with the law. Inform the population of their rights and the laws that protect them, as well as the power and limits of the members of the police and the military.



Forced internal displacement affects the life project of children and adolescents in various ways. The State must seek to protect and assist these population groups, but the role of accompaniment, affection and care played by adults is also of particular importance, as is their assistance in the development of their experiences. This will ensure that many of the consequences of the situation of displacement can be overcome and life projects reconstructed.

This report had the technical accompaniment of Cristosal, a civil society organization that works in defense and promotion of human rights.

