

Safe Cities for Women in Honduras

Country Statistics

Honduras

Population (millions) – 7.2

Surface Area (sq. km.) – 112,088

GDP per capita (PPP US\$) – 3,488

Life expectancy at birth (years) –
Women – 72.47
Men – 69.03

Human Development Index Rank 1-187 (1 is highest) – 121

Seats held by women in national parliament (%) – 18

Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) – 110

Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) – 25

Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) – 66.9

Contraceptive prevalence rate (%) – 65.2

Female enrollment in primary education (%) – 98.3

Internet users (per 100 people) – 11.1

Population below \$1 (PPP) per day (%) – 23.3

Country statistics were taken from The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011.



a project in cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Zonta International has supported the Safe Cities Program in Guatemala and El Salvador since 2008. This biennium, Zonta will direct its support to the Safe Cities for Women project in Honduras.

2012-2014 Funding: US\$250,000 from the ZISVAW Fund

The administration fee for UN Women is 7 percent.

BACKGROUND

More than 50% of the world's population – approximately 3.4 billion people – lives in cities today, and this number is projected to increase to 69% by 2015. With this rapid urbanization come increased risks for citizens of urban areas, especially women and children. Many face sexual assault or harassment on streets, public transportation or in their own neighborhoods. The Safe Cities Program addresses the issue of urban violence by working with local authorities and organizations on the ground to build awareness and solutions.

The Republic of Honduras is located in Central America. It is a lower middle-income country with a huge wealth gap and a population of more than 7 million people, the majority of whom live in four main cities – Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca and Puerto Cortes. Since the 2009 coup d'état in Honduras, women's human rights violations and insecurity have grown at an alarming rate. According to women's rights groups, violence against women has increased more than 20% between 2010 and 2011, and the incidence of crimes committed through hired killers has grown as well, with at least 30 murders of women directly related to hired killers.

The Safe Cities Program will focus its efforts in two neighborhoods of Tegucigalpa – Colonias Villanueva (27,000 inhabitants) and Nueva Suyapa (26,000 inhabitants). Both neighborhoods lack basic resources (water, sanitation, public lighting and police security) with rising crime with drug-related violence, youth gangs and criminal groups.

Safe Cities – Zonta's Impact

Zonta International has supported the Safe Cities Program in Guatemala and El Salvador since 2008, implementing practical measures to increase women's safety in urban spaces and prevent violence against women. Those measures include, among others:

- Training of local women to serve as program advocates and suggest improvements in their communities
- Mapping of unsafe spaces in San Salvador and Guatemala City which led to cleaning and recovery of public spaces (improved infrastructures, landscaping, trash cans for garbage, fencing and security)
- Advocacy with local police and government officials to raise awareness of issue of gender-based violence and include a gender perspective in municipal plans and procedures

Women in communities where projects were undertaken have reported improvements with increased reporting to police and increased commitment from local authorities to train civil servants on gender and the prevention of violence against women.

GOAL

UN Women will replicate the successful initiatives of the Safe Cities Program in Guatemala and El Salvador, a program Zonta International has funded for the last two biennia, to strengthen the rights, citizenship and participation of women in Tegucigalpa in order to reduce public and private violence against women. The project will leverage local women who are often more willing to participate in activities to promote the development of their communities, with an emphasis on activities that improve the lives of their children and the community as a whole.

The goal of this project also aligns with Zonta's 2012-2014 Biennial goals, specifically the goal to increase Zonta's credibility and visibility through continued advocacy to prevent violence against

women by drawing on Zonta's membership, networks and ZISVAW projects to increase the visibility of the issue of violence against women globally and locally.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 2010, UN Women implemented a component of the Safe Cities Program – Women in the City – in Tegucigalpa to raise awareness on how urban violence affects women and men differently. The campaign had four objectives:

1. Raise public awareness on the rights of women to live in a safe city without violence
2. Raise awareness of urban violence that is experienced as a natural part of daily life and highlight the violence experienced by women in Latin American cities
3. Raise awareness of how insecurity does not permit an equal use and enjoyment of the cities by women and men
4. Promote women's active citizenship and civil society organizations

The Safe Cities Program will build on the successes of the Women in the City campaign and the successful initiatives in Guatemala and El Salvador to help local women recover public spaces for women, children and their communities.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Women will directly benefit from this project.

- With enhanced capacity-building for local women and women's organizations and improved urban planning and infrastructure development, the project will involve 600 families in each neighborhood, reaching a total population of 3,500 people.
- It will also provide comprehensive and coordinated actions on violence prevention for:
 - ◊ 248 families in Nueva Suyapa and 99 families in Villanueva who are currently working with community gardens, supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 - ◊ 250 families in Nueva Suyapa and 200 families in Villanueva that work with CPTRT in violence prevention
 - ◊ More than 100 women victims of sexual violence in these communities



Above: Twenty meter long wall painting in Guatemala City's "Parque Navidad", a former place for drugs, robberies and violence against women, including rape, now one of the safe parts of the city recovered by the Safe Cities Program. The butterfly illustrates a strong women, able to climb mountains. In the mountain, wishes for a life without violence: family in harmony, play grounds for children, street lights, schools and appropriate laws that guarantee a life without violence.



Above two photos: Recovered public spaces for women and their communities in Tegucigalpa