Profile of women in mobility at Venezuela border states: main findings
(2019-2021-2022)

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Preliminary considerations:

✓ These studies were carried out within the framework of the implementation of the Venezuela humanitarian agenda, between 2019 and 2022.

✓ Efforts have been oriented towards generating quantitative and qualitative information, thereby generating a useful information base to identify care needs and justify advocacy actions on key issues,

✓ They are not intended to be representative studies from a statistical point of view.

✓ For instrumental reasons, information was collected from the beneficiary population, specifically women beneficiaries of GBV prevention and response interventions in emergencies.

✓ The studies complement each other, add value to their respective findings and propose new ways to strengthen research areas. They are not intended to be comparable.

✓ For ethical reasons, the information provided should be considered sensitive.
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Methodological aspects:

- The information was captured through the Dignity Kits distribution forms provided to women in mobility;
- The main criteria used for the differentiation and construction of profiles for women in mobility was women's mobility types, namely:
  - Swing mobility: refers to the round trip from the place of residence to border areas;
  - Permanent mobility: referring to the definitive departure either to a destination country or to a state other than the country of origin;
- Diversity criteria such as disability and ethnicity [indigenous people and Afro-descendant population] was also integrated.
- The information was obtained through the facilitation of GBV awareness activities on with a focus on sexual violence and its links with sexual and reproductive health in the 4 border states;
- In both surveys, 10,000 women were approached, the remaining number varying according to the goals of the projects. The needs and risks of GBV were raised incorporating other local actors and the beneficiaries themselves.
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Mobility profiles: Overview

Characteristics of women in mobility

- 30% of beneficiary women in mobility were young women aged between 20 and 29 years;
- 87% were in swing mobility, while 13% were in permanent mobility;
- Bolívar represents the state with higher number of women both in swing and permanent mobility;
- 16% of the women belong to indigenous ethnic groups; 2% had some type of disability;
- 42% of women travel alone and around 10% of them were under 19 years of age;
- 91% of women migrate to improve their income and economic situation;
- 1 in 3 women under the age of 20 had at least 1 child;
- Of the women who are not expected at their destination, 15% were under 19 years of age.
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Women in permanent mobility: trends

- They represent the 13% of women interviewed;
- 40% of women in mobility were in between 20 and 29 years, with a higher representation of women aged between 20 and 24 years;
- Most of them were married (57.4%);
- 65% had an average of 2 children;
- 1 in 3 completed their basic education;
- 2% were indigenous women;
- There is no representation of older adult women in the study;
- 43% are self-employed;
- Those who travel accompanied (70%) do so with their family nucleus (sons-daughters-partner);
- 55% of them are expected at their destination, generally by the primary and/or extended family network;
- Among the main reasons of women´s mobility: improving income, family reunification and sending money remittances and medical cares.
Women in swing mobility: trends

- 18% were indigenous women;
- Most of women in swing mobility were in between 15 and 39 years old, not finding significant differences between specific age groups;
- The majority of women were single (56%);
- 61% reported having an average of 2 children;
- 30% of them completed secondary education
- 38% reported being Housewives as their main occupation
- Most of them traveled with member from their family nucleus (sons-daughters-partner);
- Reason of women’s mobility: improving income and sending money remittances as the most important reasons;
- Most of them were not expected at their destination, in which cases these occurred motivated by non-family networks.
- The presence of elderly women in this type of mobility stands out.
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Some relevant findings:

- Swing mobility is the most frequent type of mobility;
- It also turns out to be the most common type of displacement in indigenous women and older adults;
- Regardless of the type of mobility, we could refer to a type of migration that is more of an associative nature (those where the woman is part of a family movement) than autonomous (individual), since they are usually accompanied, generally by a member of their family nucleus;
- The number of children by each type of mobility does not show significant differences. In either case, the average number of children was between 0 and 2 children;
- In case they are expected at their destination, the Networks play a very important role. If the mobility is definitive, primary and/or extended family networks usually operate; in the swing mobility case of trafficking in a network not defined by family ties;
- The economic variable show a greater incidence in the mobility ratio, regardless of the type of mobility reported by women;
- Permanent mobility is more common among young women; as the age increases, with a much higher incidence of swing mobility cases.
- As the origin is more distant from the border, the probability of definitive mobility increases; The more away from the border women are, the higher is their likelihood to migrate permanently.
International permanent mobility trends in 2019
Mobility dynamics in the context of crisis and pandemic

- During the first months of the pandemic, there was a significant decrease in mobility dynamics at the border due to transit restrictions and fuel shortages, as a result of the Venezuelan economic crisis;

- Women who remained migrating during the hardest moments of the confinement faced a significant increase in the GBV risks associated with migration;

- While the official crossings are closed, women must resort to irregular routes that pose significant risks to their lives and integrity (presence of armed groups, organized crime gangs and/or harsh natural conditions during this process;

- With the normalization of life in a pandemic, commuting has been reactivating in most states at rates similar to those before it;
Impact on women:

- The Venezuela crisis had a deafferented impact of women according to their particular conditions, ethnicity origins, or the time of their life trajectory in which they find themselves;

- Evidence has shown that women faced a major impact of the new dynamics and responsibilities derived from the crisis and pandemic situation;

- Main impacts of the Venezuela crisis on women’s lives, increase in unpaid workload and/or upbringing and care; increase in physical and psychological violence mainly by their partners or ex-partners; deterioration of their health conditions and personal hygiene; deterioration their sexual and reproductive health, deterioration of their physical and mental health; Increased barriers to access GBV reporting and response services.
Some relevant details:
This study introduces new elements in the migratory dynamics, such as return migration and the generational issue.

- A profile such as the one presented is estimated;
- Women of productive age with children, residents of the periphery of the capital regions;
- They are currently part of the second or third generation of internal migration processes;
- More than 50% single, who have reached a low or medium level of education;
- Likewise, more than half have never earned a salary and are dedicated to care and reproduction work. Those with paid jobs refer to precarious, domestic and personal service jobs.
- The presence of adolescents with children stands out, in a situation of equally early and predictably forced and violent marital unions, who have abandoned their studies and have been confined to domestic work.
**Final considerations**

**Major challenges in terms of information needs:**

✓ This study is part of an effort to know the reality of a tremendously emerging trend in our country;

✓ A country that has historically been a recipient of migration destination country, and not the opposite;

✓ The generation and timely data about population in mobility is a subject of high political sensitivity;

✓ The information in destination countries is a very highly valued source, but it lacks the **official character**;

✓ There is no official data that provides an in-depth analysis of the characteristics, trends and trigger of mobility in the country;

✓ It is required to **strengthen efforts** are required by different actors, such as international cooperation, civil society and academia to advance in this regard.

✓ **Promote spaces like these to learn about experiences and methodologies for the study and approach of these processes is key, at a time when more than ever information has become a strategic instrument for decision-making and public politics.**
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Thank you very much!

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