

**Profile
at a glance**

A stylized map of Honduras is shown in a light orange color. The word "Honduras" is written in a large, bold, dark grey font across the center of the map. The background of the map is a light yellow gradient, and there is a dark blue horizontal bar at the top of the page.

Honduras

“At the beginning of my mission to Honduras the profiling was launched... By the end of my mission, the Government committed to enact legislation on IDPs.”

Dr Chaloka Beyani, UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of IDPs

Overview

In recent years, insecurity and violence caused by organized crime and other situations of violence in Honduras, have forced the population to move within the country and across borders. The humanitarian impact of this crisis has however been unknown due to the lack of reliable sources of information on the magnitude and characteristics of forced displacement in the country.

In 2014, the Honduran Inter-Agency Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence (CIPPDV) conducted a profiling exercise to explore the phenomenon of internal displacement in Honduras. An inter-agency coordination body oversaw the exercise, including representatives and experts from civil society organizations, academia, international bodies and the United Nations System. Data collection was conducted by the Jesuit Reflection, the Investigation and Communication Team (ERIC-SJ) and the National Statistics Institute (INE). UNHCR and JIPS provided comprehensive support throughout the process.

The data from this profiling exercise is available on JIPS' Dynamic Analysis and Reporting Tool (DART) www.dart.jips.org.

What methods were used?

The profiling in Honduras was designed to provide a snapshot of the displacement situation identifying areas of origin and arrival, and to gather information on living conditions, vulnerabilities and future intentions.

The profiling study used a **mixed methods approach**. Secondary data was used to pre-select the departments and municipalities to be covered (20 identified), while a qualitative mapping process (through visits, interviews and focus groups discussions) helped to identify the communities and neighbourhoods with the highest concentration of displaced persons to be targeted.

Primary data was collected through quantitative methods: an **enumeration of 650 census segments** selected by stratified sampling was followed by a **household survey** carried out through cluster sampling, which included displaced and non-displaced households. This allowed the exercise to obtain an estimate of the magnitude of internal displacement in the selected municipalities and characterize the displaced population.

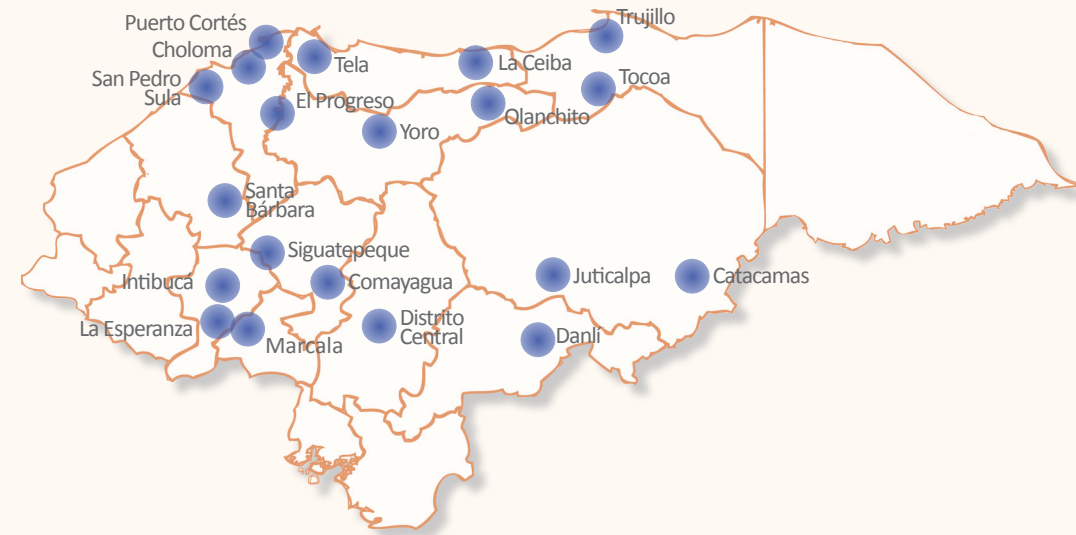
The **target/displaced population** was defined as persons and households who reported to have changed their place of residence within Honduras between 2004 and 2014 for specific reasons relating to violence or insecurity (extortion, threats, etc.).

2,138 household surveys

1,300 displaced households

838 non-displaced households

Map: Municipalities covered



**Data was collected
in 20 municipalities
located in 11 departments**

What was the impact?

- The profiling helped to **make visible the internal displacement situation in the country** and to engage actors interested in the topic. More specifically, the CIPPDV's leadership and the creation of the Advisory Group helped to raise interest from other actors and position internal displacement in the public agenda.
- In addition to providing a **better understanding of the scale of displacement and a profile of the displaced population**, the exercise has provided concrete input for planned policy analysis and development on the subject.
- Government bodies, civil society and international organisations have used the profiling results in their planning for 2016. Further use of the profiling results will depend on the CIPPDV's recommendations based on its findings, but the data gathered can **inform concrete proposals to address internal displacement** in the country.
- The profiling will serve as a reference point for the study of internal displacement in other parts of the country, **promoting further research** on causes and consequences of displacement. It is also being used to advocate for similar initiatives to be replicated in other countries in the region facing displacement crises.

What were the findings?

In addition to providing reliable information on the existence of internal displacement due to violence and crime in Honduras, the profiling provides population estimates of IDPs and information on their living conditions and intentions for the future in the geographic areas covered.

Within the 20 municipalities, an estimated **41,000 households experienced internal displacement** due to violence or insecurity between 2004 and 2014. These households comprise **174,000 displaced persons** (including children born after displacement) and 8,000 host persons (non-displaced members of the household who currently host displaced persons).

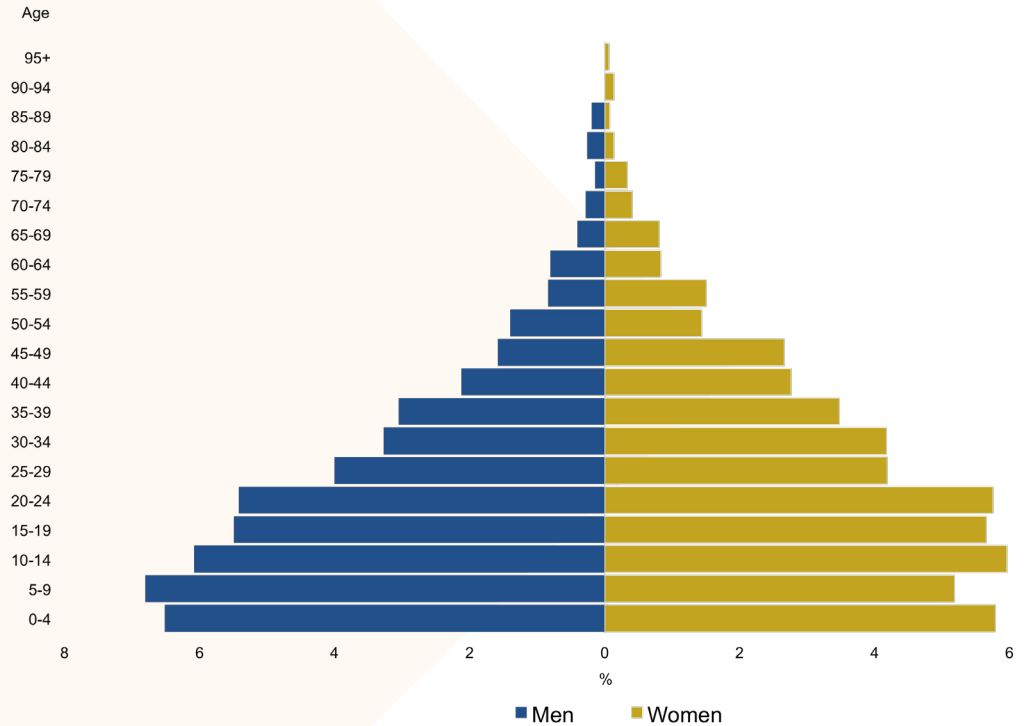
Demographic characteristics

Displaced households are on average younger than non-displaced households and include a larger proportion of minors.

In displaced households, men are more likely to be heads of households than women (65% vs. 60%). The women who are the heads of the displaced households are on average around six years younger than those leading non-displaced households.

Displaced households include more minors than non-displaced households

Figure 1: Population pyramid - displaced population



Causes of displacement

For a large majority of those displaced (68%), the decision to move was influenced solely by violence and insecurity, without considering other factors that usually determine migration (e.g. better employment and living conditions, family reunification, access to health care and education).

The type of violence or insecurity most commonly cited by displaced households is “unsafe community”, followed by threats, murder, injuries and extortion. Despite the fact that 46% of interviewees did not wish to, or could not identify the perpetrator, the main aggressors identified were maras (28%) and ordinary criminals (18%).

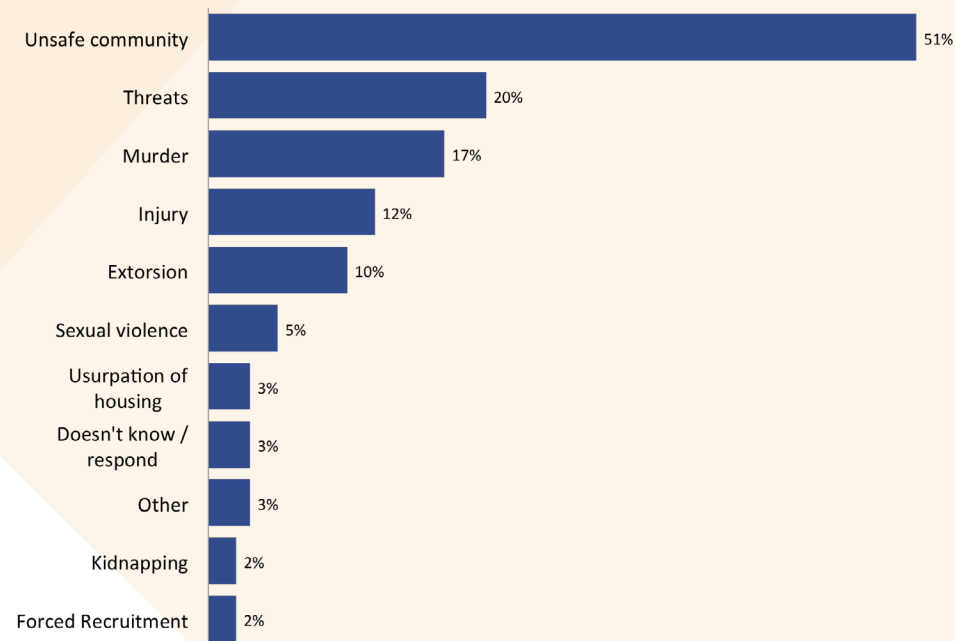
Geographic distribution

Prior to displacement, 68% of the households resided in the departments of Cortés and Francisco Morazán. At the municipal level, the main cities of origin are Distrito Central (32%), San Pedro Sula (22%), La Ceiba (10%) and Choloma (9%).

In most cases, municipalities and departments of origin are also the municipalities and departments of destination, highlighting the intra-urban and intra-departmental aspect of internal displacement in the country.

68% of IDPs are fleeing solely because of violence and insecurity

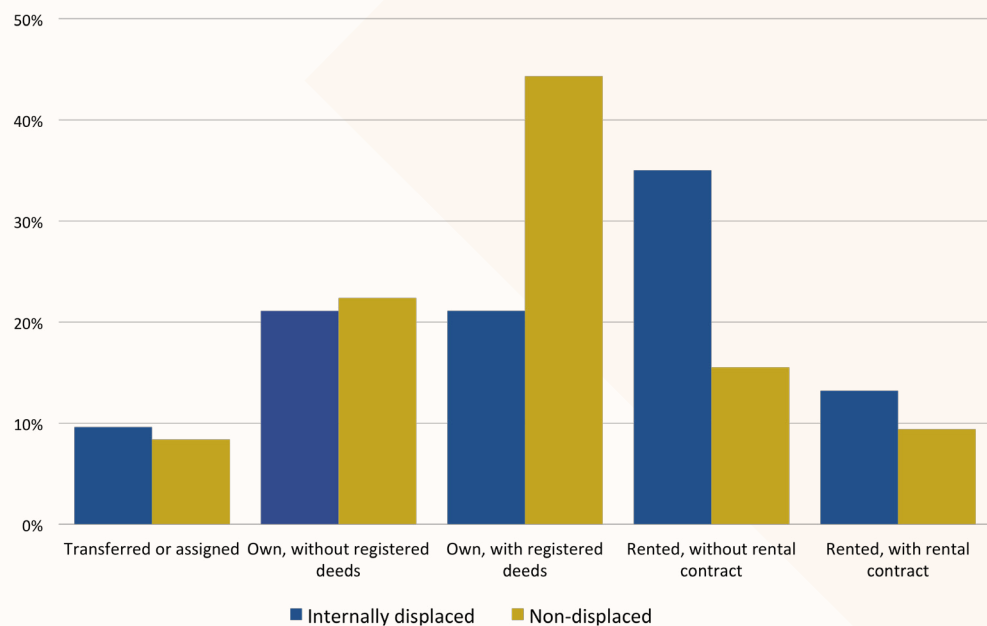
Figure 2: Type of violence/insecurity IDP households suffered from



Housing

Overall, the displaced and non-displaced households live in similar conditions. However, the situation of displaced households is more precarious. After the loss of their homes, the majority of the displaced are renting their homes and have to use part of their already low income to pay rent. Additionally, the percentage renting without a contract is significantly higher for displaced households.

Figure 3: Type of housing tenancy



Basic living conditions

Displaced households have lower access to basic services than the non-displaced population, for example sewage facilities (54% vs. 73%) and piped water (89% vs. 92%).

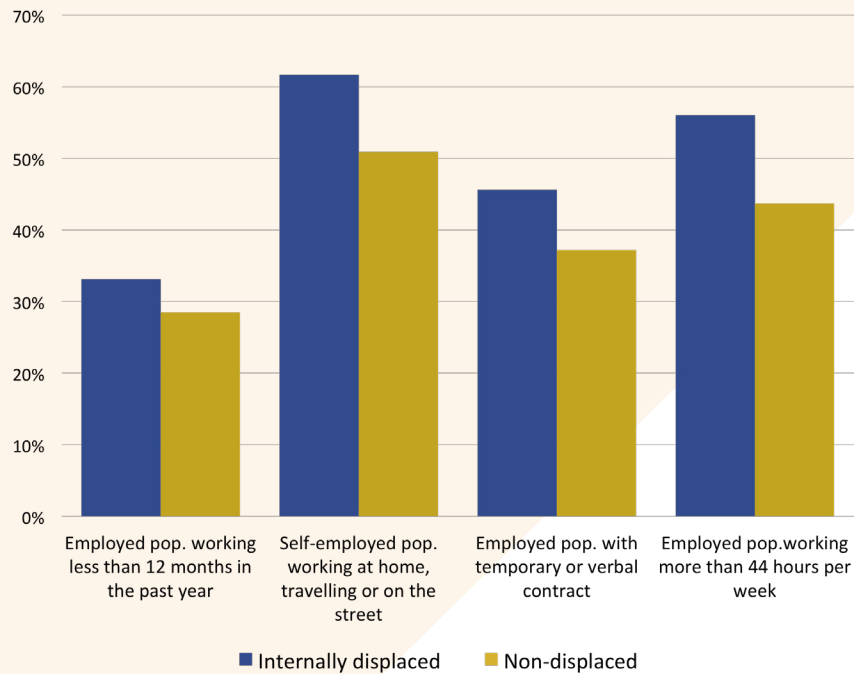
Displaced persons suffer from health problems more frequently than non-displaced persons (38% vs. 28%) however they were more likely not to seek medical treatment or self-medicate than the non-displaced group (26% vs. 16%). Displaced households are more likely to experience significant economic insecurity, not being able to completely cover their basic needs and/or provide sufficient food for each of their members (32% vs. 29%).

Displaced households are more economically insecure than non-displaced households

Employment

Displaced persons experience higher rates of unemployment than the non-displaced population (9% vs. 6%), and those who are working hold more unstable and informal jobs. Fewer are employed in the private sector and the percentage of self-employed, or those working on the streets, is higher.

Figure 4: Working conditions



“We went from having no information to having a comprehensive picture of the displacement situation.”

Iván Cardona, JIPS

Local integration

The perception of local integration by the displaced population is positive, with 93% feeling totally or moderately integrated in the community. This could be related to the fact that some stay in host households with family or friends.

In spite of this positive perception, displaced persons cite insecurity and crime among the difficulties encountered in their host neighbourhood or community. Many reported fearing that they could be reached by their former persecutors even if they live in a relatively safe community.

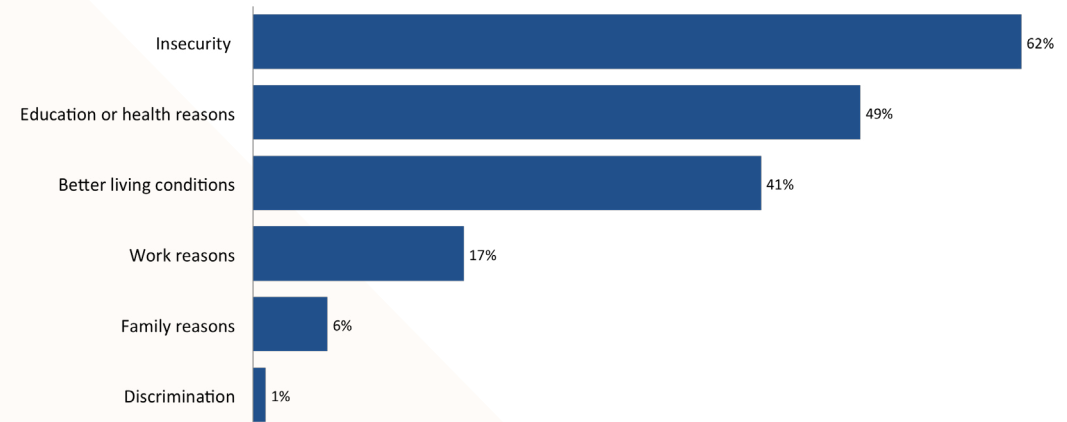
95% of displaced do not intend to return

Future intentions

95% of displaced households do not intend to return to where they previously lived. Approximately one half would prefer to remain in their current place of residence, while the other half would prefer to live in another country or elsewhere in Honduras.

The main reason for cited for the former was safety, and for the latter persisting insecurity, demonstrating how fear of persecution can cause further displacement and that improving security is the key to any solution.

Figure 5: Reasons for IDPs wanting to live somewhere else



What were the profiling lessons?

- In Honduras, the political acknowledgment of internal displacement and the creation of the CIPPDV successfully supported advocacy and appropriation of the exercise and its results, showing the **importance of government leadership in a profiling study**.
- **Involving the National Statistics Institute** in data collection process ensured credibility and enabled access in high-risk areas, thanks to its in-depth local knowledge and its reputation.
- Previous studies based on secondary data analysis of migration and protection needs in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador helped to shed light on the subject and highlight the need for in-depth research on the characteristics of displaced populations, indicating the **value of secondary data analysis** to identify the need and advocate for profiling.
- The lack of a proper baseline or sampling frame and the low density of the target population posed a significant challenge to establish population estimates. This was overcome by **mixing qualitative mapping, enumeration and a household survey into a single methodology**.

“The study allows for us to talk about IDPs in non-abstract terms for the first time.”

Russel Garay, UNHCR

- The language of the questionnaire was adapted to reduce security risks by not asking direct questions on displacement and instead asking about migration history more broadly and using a range of verification questions. **Adaptation based on the context** is a recommended approach for profiling studies.
- Due to time and budget constraints, Focus Group Discussions could not be included in the exercise. Sufficient resources should be allocated to **ensure that qualitative data complement quantitative results**, enriching the analysis.

This summary provides a glimpse into a collaborative profiling exercise of the internal displacement situation in Honduras. Governmental, non-governmental, international and national actors contributed to the process, working together to provide reliable and agreed upon information on internal displacement in the country.

JIPS supported these actors through technical missions to Honduras, contributing to the design of the survey methodology and tools, training and piloting activities, and in the analysis and reporting phases.

This glance into the profiling exercise in Honduras seeks to generate interest in both the specific findings of this exercise and profiling of displacement situations in general.



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PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DE PERSONAS
DESPLAZADAS POR LA VIOLENCIA



info@jips.org
www.jips.org

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