

GENDER ANALYSIS USAID/HONDURAS 2013



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AACID	International Cooperation Andalusia Agency for Development
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
ACHR	American Convention on Human Rights
CEB	Basic Education Centers
CCEPREB	Community Center Preschool Education
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CEDOH	Honduras Documentation Center
CEDAW	Convention on Eradication of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CESAMO	Medical & Dental Health Centers
CESAR	Rural Health Centers
CLIPER	Peripheral Health Clinics
MCC	Maternal & Child Clinics
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
CIPRODEH	Center of Investigation and Promotion of Human Rights
CVR	Commission of Truth and Reconciliation
NBC	National Basic Curriculum
COMMCA	The Council of Ministers of Central American Women
CONASIDA	National AIDS Care Committee
CVR	Commission of Truth and Reconciliation
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ENAPREAH	National Strategy for the Prevention of Pregnancy in Adolescents
ENDESA	National Demography and Health Survey
ENESF	National Survey of Epidemiology and Family Health
EOC	Emergency Oral Contraception
EPHPM	Permanent Household Multipurpose Survey
TSE	Supreme Electoral Tribunal
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
GE&WE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IHNFA	Honduran Institute for Children and Families
IHSS	Honduran Social Security Institute
INAM	National Women's Institute



INE	National Statistics Institute
INMER	Mortality Research of Childbearing Age Women and Maternal Mortality
ITS	Sexually Transmitted Infections
LEB	Life Expectancy at Birth
LGBTII	Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, And Bisexual
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NMS	National Micronutrients Survey
PAIA	Program for Integral Care to Adolescents
II PIEGH	Honduras II Equality and Equity Gender Plan
EAP	Economically Active Population
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
PEGAH	Honduras the Agricultural Sector Gender Equity Policy
PENSIDA	National Strategic Plan
SAG	Secretary of Agriculture
SANAA	National Autonomous Service of Aqueducts and Sewers
SECPLAN	Secretary of Planning
SEFIN	Secretary of Finance
SISNAM	System of Social Indicators of Children, Adolescence, and Women
SESAL	Secretary of Health
UNAH	National Autonomous University of Honduras
UNDP/PNUD	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UPNFM	National Pedagogic University Francisco Morazán
WAP	Working-Age Population



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this gender analysis is to provide information about gender equity in Honduras to be included in USAID's 2014-2019 Country Development and Cooperation Strategy and to facilitate the inclusion of gender-equity as a cross-cutting theme in all of USAID/Honduras's programs. USAID's 2012 Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment Policy states that gender equality and women's empowerment are core development objectives, fundamental for the fulfillment of human rights and effective and sustainable development.¹ This document provides information on gender equity issues in Honduras, analysis on recent gender equity legislation, and weaknesses and progress in its implementation in order to help USAID/Honduras fulfill these core objectives.

With its severe levels of poverty, Honduras has considerable gender inequalities in obtaining employment, with women and ethnic minorities disproportionately represented. Honduras ranks 120 out of 186 countries listed in the 2012 UNDP Human Development Index, above Haiti, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.² According 2011 INE data, 64 percent of households headed by women live in poverty, compared to 58.8 percent of households headed by men.³ Both unemployment and underemployment are higher for women than men, and women earn approximately two-thirds as their male counterparts in similar occupations⁴.

Violence and crime, which includes gender-based violence, is the most destructive social problem in Honduras today. Honduras exceeds the region in terms of having one of the highest murder rates in the world, with on average 86 deaths per every 100,000 people. This rate is more than ten times the world average. Honduras' neighbors also have high rates of violence, especially El Salvador (72) and Guatemala (39). The United Nations Organization (UN) reports that 1 of every 50 Central American youth under 20 years will be murdered before the age of 32.⁵

The country also has one of the highest femicide rates in Latin America. According to the Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), from 2005 to 2012 femicide continues to be a growing trend, from 175 deaths in 2005 to 606 women deaths in 2012, a 246.3 percent increase in the last seven years. This translates to 51 women murdered each month in 2012, or a death approximately every 15 hours.⁶

¹ USAID POLICY, March 2012. Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy.

² UNDP 2012 Human Development Index; <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>

³ National Statistics Institute (INE) 2011. Systems for Social Indicators for Children, Adolescents and Women in Honduras www.ine.gob.hn/sisnam.htm

⁴ Idem

⁵ Paredes, Maritza. 2011. How You Weave the Threads of Impunity. Femicides in Honduras. National Campaign Against Femicides. OXFAM, UN-WOMEN.

⁶ UNAH, Violence Observatory, 2012. Special bulletin on violent deaths of women. College of Social Sciences, University Institute for Democracy, Special Edition No. 9.



After much support from civil society and international donors over the last decade, Honduras is to be commended for having a legal framework and public policies to promote gender equality and human rights. However, the Government of Honduras' (GOH) weak implementation of these policies and laws is a continuing weakness in Honduras' social development. This is especially evident in areas such as prevention and enforcement against violent aggression specifically targeted against women or minorities.

Furthering complicating the implementation of gender equity and human rights was the 2009 constitutional crisis in Honduras. In June 2009, President Zelaya was abruptly removed from office and the ensuing aftermath deepened further decades-long mistrust between various political and economic factions in the country. Civil society organizations (CSOs) protested against the breakdown of the constitutional order and were subsequently suppressed by the military. The suspension of civil freedom and prohibition of political mobilization, strongly impacted on civil organizations and human rights activism, mainly women's organizations, feminist groups, and lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual groups.

Despite elections and a successful transition to the Lobo administration, disagreement, mistrust, and governance problems stemming from the crisis remain. Women and LGBTII CSOs continue to have weak relationships with GOH agencies which hinder LGBTII ability to dialogue, cooperate, and negotiate on gender inequality issues in the country. Likewise, USAID's role is weakened by continuing ill-will among some CSOs for U.S. perceived role in 2009 constitutional crisis.

The GOH's new development strategies have included mentions of gender equity as a cross-cutting issue, yet do not address it specifically. The two strategies are *The National Plan (2010-2022)*⁷ and *Country Vision (2010-2038)*, and through these tools the Honduran Government aimed to sustainably reduce poverty, improve equitable economic growth, and develop and enhance human capital. Unfortunately, these documents lacked gender-sensitive indicators and in-depth analysis, so CSOs question whether the GOH will track progress in gender equity initiatives. An example of the GOH's shortsightedness is found in the agricultural section of the National Plan (2010-2022) and Country Vision (2010-2038). While agriculture is vital to Honduras because it is one of the most important revenue sources for GDP growth and impacts the lives of many below the poverty line. Even though women play an important role in the chain of production, the section lacks specific actions to mitigate existing disparities and long-term actions to create sustainability and gender equity.

Honduras has made progress in increasing the percentage of women in political and economic leadership positions, but there are still significant obstacles to women's actual participation. Progress at the municipal level has been slower than at the national level, partly

⁷ Observatory System for Monitoring Millennium Goals/United Nations Development Program (UNDP). 2010. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.



because women face additional burdens when trying to participate in political processes. Women's groups continue to advocate for greater women representation.

After conducting a desk review and assessment of USAID/Honduras' implementation of GE&WE policy in its programs, the following are recommendations to inform the 2014-2018 CDCS:

- **RFA/RFPs.** Ensure that RFA/RFPs include: a) gender analysis in the preparation phase; b) clear, gender-sensitive indicators; c) requests to disaggregated data by sex and analysis of data.
- **Program requirements.** Ensure that programs have: a) baselines with gender-sensitive variables; b) staff trained and specialized to promote gender equity and women's empowerment in all initiatives; c) budget allocations to develop internal and external capabilities with implementing partners.
- **Project design.** New programs promote a more democratic, gender-sensitive culture so that men and women on equal terms can actively participate in decision-making, especially in the political arena, and enforce accountability.
- **Institution building.** Strengthen the National Women's Institute's capacity to govern the *Policy of Gender Equity and Equality* in the country and *II Gender Equity and Equality Plan*.
- **Civil society.** Strengthen the participation of civil society organizations that advocate or work directly in promoting human rights, specifically women and men in all its diversity.
- **International guidelines.** Use the recommendations in the Stockholm Declaration, the Paris Declaration, and the MDGs to identifying strategic opportunities to incorporate strategies and affirmative actions for women and to reduce gender inequality and inequity gaps.
- **Training.** Strengthen gender-sensitive training processes for USAID/Honduras staff and its strategic partners. Build staff's capacity to effectively integrate gender mainstreaming in all programs and facilitate decision-making processes.

II. INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is responsible for managing cooperation and assistance programs in more than 100 countries. USAID supports economic growth, health, education, democracy, agriculture, conflict prevention, and provides humanitarian relief in cases of disasters. USAID formulated its *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (Gender) Policy* in 2012 and it "affirms the crucial role women play in accelerating progress in the development and advancement of global prosperity and security".⁸ It also states that gender equality and women's empowerment are core

⁸ At: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/spanish/article/2013/01/20130125141476.html#axzz2TmB2lMke>

development objectives, fundamental for the realization of human rights and effective and sustainable development.⁹

USAID’s approach to gender analysis is built on the idea that no society can develop sustainably without increasing and transforming the distribution of opportunities, resources, and options both for women and men to shape their own lives, and asks two key questions:¹⁰

1. How do different roles and status of women and men within the community, political sphere, work, and family (for example, the roles in decision-making and different access to and control over resources and services) affect the work done?
2. How do expected results of the work affect women and men differently?

Based on decades of experience, USAID’s policy states that women play critical roles to accelerate progress in the development and promotion of global prosperity and security. It gives particular importance to men and women marginalized or excluded due to ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and lack of income, disability or other factors¹¹. The policy’s vision is shown in Box 1.

Box 1 – Gender Policy Vision

USAID’s development vision is a world in which women and men, girls and boys enjoy the economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights, and are equally empowered to ensure a better life for themselves, their families, and communities, and are equally able to access quality education and healthcare, build and control their own assets and economic resources, exercise their own voice, and live free of intimidation, harassment, discrimination, and violence. That responsibilities for income-generation and care of family members are not limited by the roles and stereotypes defined by society for men and women. Women and men, girls and boys are treated with respect, dignity, freely and equally participating in decision-making at the national, regional, and local level of economic and social levels. That the unique experience, initiatives, leadership, and contribution of women and girls are recognized and supported by individuals and governments, leading to their economic, social, and political empowerment.¹

USAID Policy on Gender Equality and Female Empowerment. March 2012.

2.1. Methodology

This gender evaluation utilizes both qualitative and descriptive methodological techniques, involving primary and secondary sources. The inputs are based from a combination of a desk review and interviews with USAID/Honduras technical staff and implementers. These inputs are the basis of the gender analysis in both a national and programmatic context.

2.2. Objective of Consultancy

This analysis has a two-fold objective:

1. Provide a gender equity analysis of disparities between men and women in Honduras, including regional and international comparisons as context.

⁹ USAID POLICY, March 2012. Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy.

¹⁰ Guide to Gender Integration and Analysis. Additional Help for ADS Chapters 201 and 203 at: <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/201sab.pdf>

¹¹ At: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACW014.pdf

2. Analyze gender limitations for the participation and access of men and women to resources in the areas in which USAID/Honduras is currently working, including but not limited to: food security, economic development, the environment, climate change and adaptation, provision of basic health services, HIV/AIDS prevention, crime prevention, basic and technical/professional education, and promotion of civil society.

III. GENERAL CONTEXT

Based on demographic data, the typical Honduran, on average, is a woman from a rural area under the age of 18. Honduras has a slim percentage of more women than men, 51 percent versus 49.3 percent, for a population about 8.4 million in 2012. A slight majority of the population resides in rural areas (55 percent) and almost half of the population (48.7 percent) is under the age of 18.¹² Honduras' population has grown about two percent (2011 data).

Women have a higher expected life expectancy at birth than men in Honduras and in the region in general. According to the UN Population data (see Table 1), the general life expectancy at birth for Honduras is 73.1 years, and 75.6 for women and 71.0 for men.¹³ Honduras falls slightly below the average for the region (74.0), behind Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. For the region, women have higher life expectancy than men and Honduras' results are below the regional average for both sexes. Scholars cite several key factors for the differences between genders, such as the men's higher exposure to risk-factors faced by the men in a "macho" culture, including violence and alcohol and drug abuse.

The number of women headed households has increased in Honduras over the last decade. According to the 2012-2013 ENDESA, women headed households accounted for 28 percent of all households, an increase from 26 percent in the 2005-2006 survey and 21 percent in the 2001 National Epidemiology and Family Health Survey. These households are more commonly found in urban areas (34 percent vs. 22 percent).

The average Honduran household has decreased slightly in recent years, especially in rural areas. In urban areas, the number dropped slightly to 4.2 in 2012-2013 from 4.4 in 2005-2006. In rural areas, the drop was more considerable, falling from 5.2 to 4.7 during the same period.

Table No. 1
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years), by sex, Central America and Dominican Republic, 2010-2015.

Countries	Total	Male	Female
Belize	71.8	69.5	74.2
Costa Rica	79.4	77.0	81.9
El Salvador	72.9	69.8	76.0
Guatemala	71.4	67.9	75.0
Honduras	73.1	70.7	75.6
Nicaragua	74.5	71.5	77.7
Panama	76.3	73.7	79.1
Dominican Republic	73.2	70.2	76.5
AVERAGE	74.1	71.3	77.0

Source: ECLAC Demographic Observatory No. 3 Population Projection.

¹² National Statistics Institute (INE) 2011.

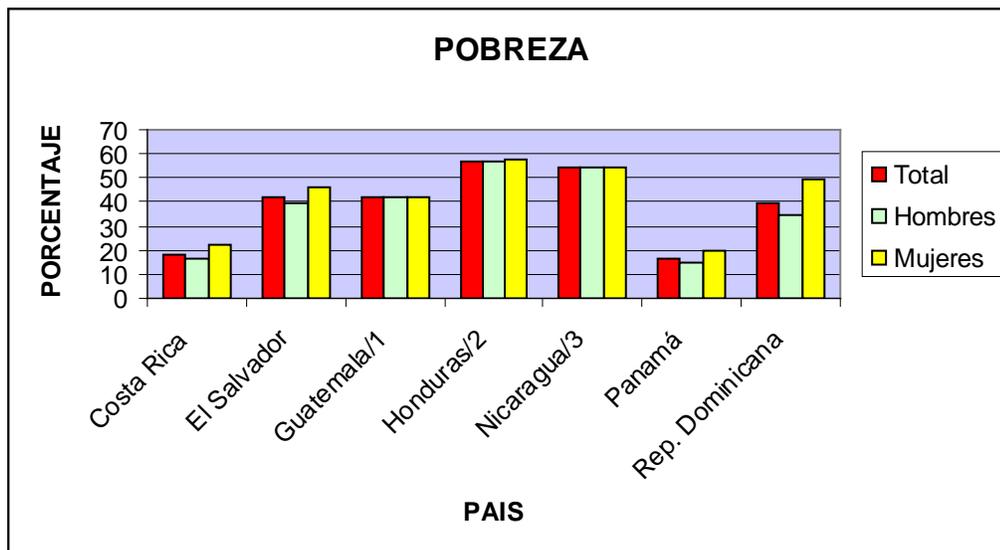
¹³ Gender, Health, and Development in the Americas, Basic Indicators, 2011. OPS, UNFPA, UN-Women, ECLA. At: <http://paho.org/gdr>

Most households (67 percent) have between three and six members, with rural areas more likely to have more than six members than urban areas (19 percent versus 12 percent).

3.1 Economic Context

Honduras' economic development is hindered by persistent poverty. Honduras ranks low in the region in terms of human development according to the UN Human Development Index. At 120 out of 182 countries, only Haiti, Nicaragua and Guatemala have lower ranks for the Latin American region. According to the 2012 INE household survey results, an estimated 51 percent of the population is living below the poverty line.¹⁴ As shown below in Graph 1, Honduras' poverty rates lead the region, with women slightly more poor than men, yet both higher than the others shown in the table.

Graph 1



Source: CEPAL (2010). Social Panorama for Latin America 2010

Note: 1/ 2006 data 2/ 2007 data 3/ 2005 data.

Women are particularly disadvantaged in the face of persistence poverty. According to the UN's composite Gender Development Index (GDI), Honduras ranked 100th among 148th countries in 2012. This low score is underscored by the following statistics. It is estimated that 100 women in the country die from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births, and the adolescent fertility rate is 85.9 births per 1,000 live births. Although about one-fifth (20.7 percent) of adult women have attained at least secondary education, as compared to 18.8

¹⁴ National Statistics Institute (INE) 2011.

percent of men, female participation in the labor market is half of men’s participation (42.3 vs. 82.8 percent for men).¹⁵

Women in Honduras are over-represented among the poor. According 2012 INE data, of the 1.8 million households, 31.9 percent are headed by women, an increase from 20.6 percent in 1988.¹⁶ Among the women-headed households, a larger proportion (almost two-thirds or 64 percent) are poor than is for men-headed households (58.5 percent). The Inter-American Development Bank also examined this issue for urban households and found similar trends. Of the total urban women-headed households in 2005-2007, one-third (34 percent) were extremely poor, another third (35 percent) were poor, and the remaining 34 percent were classified as non-poor.¹⁷

Table No. 2
Central America and Dominican Republic Households by Household Heads
By Gender (2009) in Poverty, Extreme Poverty, or Homeless.

Country	Poverty			Extreme Poverty / Indigent		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Costa Rica	18.5	16.7	22.5	5.4	3.9	8.6
El Salvador	42.3	39.9	46.5	12.8	12.1	14.0
Guatemala/1	42.0	42.1	41.7	14.8	14.9	14.5
Honduras/2	56.9	56.7	57.5	26.2	26.4	25.6
Nicaragua/3	54.4	54.5	54.1	20.8	20.1	21.8
Panama	16.3	14.7	19.8	4.6	3.5	7.2
Dominican Rep.	39.3	34.6	49.5	19.4	15.4	28.0

Source: ECLAC (2010). Social View Latin America 2010
 1/ 2006 data. 2/ 2007 data. 3/ 2005 data.

The UN ECLAC conducted a 2010 regional analysis of poverty in the Central America and examined the incidence of poverty on female-headed households (see Table 2). Based household data, Honduras had a higher poverty incidence rate than its neighbors at 56.9 percent. In contrast to other studies, the ECLAC study found that male-headed and female-headed households both comprised a similar percentage of poor and extremely poor households in their respective categories. Guatemala and Nicaragua also exhibited similar percentages, while the differences were most pronounced in El Salvador, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Several factors account for this situation including the wage gap, higher unemployment and female underemployment, and less time available to devote to paid work due to family responsibilities.¹⁸

¹⁵ 2013 Human Development Report - UNDP. At: www.undp.org/.../honduras/es/.../informe-sobre-desarrollo-humano-2013/

¹⁶ The Ministry of Health, recently released the 2012-2013 population survey (ENDESA). Data from this survey has slight differences from INE’s 2012 data. Head-of-Household definitions could mark the difference. Even though statistically different, both surveys show similar trends in women and poverty.

¹⁷ Gender, Health, and Development in the Americas, Basic Indicators, 2011. PAHO, UNFPA, UN-Women, ECLA. At: <http://paho.org/gdr>

¹⁸ Idem



Honduras' minority populations such as indigenous and afro-descendants have greater obstacles in advancing in the predominantly Spanish descendent culture. These populations have lower educational levels, more limited access to social protection, and work predominantly in the informal economy, and are more likely to have incomes below the poverty line. As a result, they usually experience inequality with respect to other groups of society, as well as endure living conditions which prevent them to live in dignity. Women belonging to minority groups face greater obstacles to overcome poverty and provide for their families.¹⁹

3.2 Political Context

In June 2009, President Zelaya was abruptly removed from office and the ensuing aftermath deepened further decades-long mistrust between various political and economic factions in the country. Civil society organizations (CSOs) protested against the breakdown of the constitutional order and were subsequently suppressed by the military. The suspension of civil freedom and prohibition of political mobilization, strongly impacted on civil organizations and human rights activism, mainly women's organizations, feminist groups, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) groups.

Despite elections and a successful transition to the Lobo administration, disagreement, mistrust, and governance problems stemming from the crisis remain. According to LAPOP 2013 citizen perception surveys, the results indicated a significant deterioration in the political system and democracy and a reduction in the satisfaction with the democratic system, since the 2009 political crisis.²⁰ Women and LGBT CSOs continue to have weak relationships with GOH agencies which hinder LGBT ability to dialogue, cooperate, and negotiate on gender inequality issues in the country. Likewise, USAID's role is weakened by continuing ill-will among some CSOs for U.S. perceived role in 2009 constitutional crisis.

In light of internal political crisis and the international economic crisis, post-crisis GOH administration adopted a policy of freedom and openness, accompanied by the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS),²¹ which was funded under a debt alleviation program and the result of a process of consultation between government, civil society, and international donors. The PRS would later be included in *The National Plan (2010-2012)*.

¹⁹ International Labor Office (ILO). Indigenous and Afro-descendants peoples in the region: Towards equal opportunities and decent work.

²⁰ Political culture of democracy in Honduras and in the Americas, 2012: towards equal opportunities.

At: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/honduras/Honduras-2012-Report.pdf>

²¹ The Project for the dissemination of objectives and goals of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) started in October of 2005 and ended in June of 2006 with the support of the Royal Embassy of Netherlands. It developed an intense dissemination campaign at the national level, in order to produce awareness and foster ownership of the PRS content in Honduran citizenship.



The GOH's new development strategies have included mentions of gender equity as a cross-cutting issue, yet do not address it specifically. The two strategies are *The National Plan (2010-2022)*²² and *Country Vision (2010-2038)*, and through these tools the Honduran Government aimed to sustainably reduce poverty, improve equitable economic growth, and develop and enhance human capital. Unfortunately, these documents lacked gender-sensitive indicators and in-depth analysis, so CSOs question whether the GOH will track progress in gender equity initiatives. An example of the GOH's shortsightedness is found in the agricultural section of the National Plan (2010-2022) and Country Vision (2010-2038). While agriculture is vital to Honduras because it is one of the most important revenue sources for GDP growth and impacts the lives of many below the poverty line. Even though women play an important role in the chain of production, the section lacks specific actions to mitigate existing disparities and long-term actions to create sustainability and gender equity.

Beginning in 2011, the National Women's Institute (INAM) and UN-Women have been working with the Secretary of Planning to incorporate gender-sensitive indicators into the National Plan. The International Cooperation Andalusia Agency for Development (AACID) has also provided technical assistance to promote gender equality as cross-cutting theme in projects funded by international donors.

Honduras has pledged to reach the 3rd Millennium Development Goal (MDG) "Promote gender equity and empower women." The 2010 MDG report indicated that Honduras could meet the MDG3 indicators related to women empowerment if adjustments were made prior to the 2015 deadline.²³ As of the writing of this report, the GOH has not made those adjustments. The report also indicates that Honduras is not collecting the necessary data to evaluate the progress related to MDG 5 for improving maternal health.²⁴

Honduras has also made progress in passing pro-women legislation. Beginning in the early 1990s, the GOH established policies and mechanisms to promote women's rights. These include increasing parity in elementary education attendance and literacy rates. Honduras has made progress in increasing the percentage of women in political and economic leadership positions, but there are still significant obstacles to women's actual participation. Women occupy approximately one-fifth (19.5 percent) of parliamentary seats. Progress at the municipal level has been slower than at the national level, partly because women face additional burdens when trying to participate in political processes. Women's groups continue to advocate for greater women representation.

3.3 Legal Context

²² Observatory System for Monitoring Millennium Goals/United Nations Development Program (UNDP). 2010. Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

²³ MDG report for Honduras 2010

http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Honduras/Honduras_MDGReport_2010_SP.pdf

²⁴ At: http://www.mdgmonitor.org/country_progress.cfm?c=HND&cd=340



Honduras has made considerable progress in devising a legal framework and relevant public policies on gender equality and equity. The challenge remains in their implementation. Honduras has a National Plan for Gender Equity (PIEG-II) which states gender-equity as a cross-cutting theme in all public ministries and offices. The following is list of existing pro-women legislation:²⁵

²⁵ Guillen Soto, Maritza, 2011. Country Gender Profile: Honduras. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Addressing Social and Political Participation:

- Creation of National Women’s Institute (INAM) Law (1999).
- Political parties and GOH agencies agree to have a thirty percent minimum quota of women in the list of political party’s candidates (2000).
- Law for Equality of Opportunities for Women (2000).
- Law for Access to Land and Agriculture: Honduran Gender Equity Agro Policy (2000).
- National Plan for Just Employment (2007).
- Policy of Gender Equality and Equity: II PIEGH: Honduras II Equality and Equity Gender Plan. National Women’s Policy 2010-2022.²⁶ (See Box 2 for the six components.)

Box 2 – II PIEGH Components

Axis 1 Promotion, protection, and guarantee to social and political participation, and exercise of women’s citizenship.

Axis 2 Promotion, protection, and guarantee of the rights of women, girls, and teenagers to peace and a life free of violence.

Axis 3 Promotion, protection, and guarantee of women’s health throughout their life cycle, and sexual and reproductive rights.

Axis 4 Promotion, protection, and guarantee of the right to education, cultural rights and inter-culturalism, and the right to information.

Axis 5 Promotion, protection, and guarantee of economic rights, work, employment, and access to, use and control of resources.

Axis 6 Gender, access, sustainable use, and control of biodiversity, natural resources, and risk management.

Addressing Violence Against Women:

- Family Code (1984, 1989, 2002).
- Creation of the Special Prosecutor for Women (1994).
- Law Against Domestic Violence and subsequent Amendments (1997; 2005).
- Inclusion of sexual violence crimes to the Penal Code Reform (1997).
- Inclusion of mental health and domestic violence reforms to the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (1999).
- Creation of the Court Specialized on Domestic Violence (2000).
- Reforms to the Penal Code, which includes crimes against women’s freedom, and physical, psychological, and sexual integrity of persons (2005).
- Reforms to Domestic Violence Law (2006, 2013).

International Agreements:

- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1980, 1982).
- International Population and Development Conference (1994).
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Sanction, and Eradicate Violence against Women, promoted by the Organization of American States (1995).

GOH Policies:

- Gender Equity Policy in the Honduran Agro (2000-2015).

²⁶ Honduras II Equity and Equality Gender Plan. National Women’s Policy 2010-2022



- Gender Policy of Natural Resources and Environment (2000-2015).
- Mental Health Policy (2005).

3.4 Cultural Context

Cultural beliefs on equality and the role of women in society also hinder development outcomes. Honduras is a predominantly conservative and patriarchal society which accepts the supremacy of men over women and its customs and traditions often invalidate rights granted to women and girls.

Cultural beliefs are prevalent in women's health issues. Social resistance by ultra-conservative religious groups towards the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights has had a direct impact on women's lives. Likewise, cultural rules that give men control of women's health and restrict women's ability to negotiate safe and responsible sex are significant factors behind Honduras' high rates of maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS in women and young adolescents. A 2008-2011 Red Cross study in Copan and Santa Barbara Districts found that the majority of women in the area believe that decisions about family size are their male-partner's sole responsibility.

Cultural beliefs can be linked to gender-based violence (GBV) and increased social and economic stress can aggravate incidence rates of GBV. Increased attention towards GBV has yielded a greater understanding of the severity of this issue in Honduras. Efforts to examine GBV in Honduras have been hampered by the difficulty in quantifying the magnitude, importance, and vulnerability of the problem in Honduras. Often existing data is not disaggregated by sex and crimes are either not reported or under-reported. Anecdotal and quantitative evidence at the community level suggest that higher incidences of intra-family violence and violence in workplaces, streets, communities, and schools. Sexual harassment is predominantly in schools and work and sexual assault by acquaintances and strangers is most common on the street.²⁷

Cultural definitions of masculinity are being re-evaluated in the traditional *machismo* Latino cultures in Honduras. Recent studies have stressed the need for new definitions of masculinity which combats traditional stereotypes, prejudices, and attitudes and identifies how traditional conventions have influenced human development. Masculinity is the construction of gender identity in men, through which they learn what it means to be a man, recognizing what society feels should be their roles and behaviors.²⁸ Social changes such as the increase of women in the country's productive structure, increased access of women to formal education, the recognition of political women's rights, and the reduction of the average number of children

²⁷ National Plan for Prevention, Detection and Care of Violence Against Women (2006- 2010) In: <http://pdba.georgetown.edu/security/citizenssecurity/honduras/documentos/4.pdf>

²⁸ Tovar Claudia y Delgado Carol (2010) Men Displaced: Changes in Masculinity, Colombia journal No. 36



per woman, change gender relations, challenges traditional roles of male dominance and can produce a crisis in the construction of gender identity in men.

The Secretary of Health through its *Program for Men* has promoted new definitions of masculinity through workshops and focal groups. The program addresses the psycho-social dynamic of men and seeks to reduce gender violence against women. This is a new option to create awareness on the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment.

IV. SECTOR ANALYSIS OF GENDER ISSUES IN HONDURAS

4.1. Women and the Workforce

Economists employ the term “economically active population” (EAP), which are those in the population of working age (16-65) who are either in work or are looking for work, in order to investigate the working population. Based on the EAP definition, Honduras has about 3.3 million in its economically active population.²⁹ In the case of Honduras, most of the working population resides in rural areas (52.9 vs. 47.1 percent) and about one-third (36.1 percent) are women.³⁰ In the urban areas, most are in the two departments, Francisco Morazan and Cortes, and the majority is young, only between the ages of 18 and 24. Women in Honduras also faces discrimination in the workplace. The 2011 INE Household Surveys found that women faced higher rates of unemployment and underemployment than their male counterparts. Women also earned on average about two-thirds as their counterparts in similar occupations.³¹

The 2012-2013 ENDESA provided a rich analysis of the types of occupations performed by men and women (see Table 3). In general, women in rural and urban areas work primarily in sales and services activities (50.5% urban and 40.8% urban) and men mainly work as non-skilled manual labor (34.4% in urban areas) and in agriculture (66% in rural areas).

²⁹ Labor Market Honduras, 2008. Secretary of Labor and Social Security, Directorate General of Employment. Observatory of the Labor Market. Page 11. At:

<http://www.trabajo.gob.hn/oml/oml/Informe%20del%20Mercado%20de%20Trabajo%20Honduras%202008.pdf> It is considered that the working-age population, 10 to 65 years, totals 6.3 million people, although the economically active population is only 3.3 million. The working-age population (WAP) is characterized by being young (12-30 years) representing 38.7% (2,976,918) of the total population, and 50.4% EAP. 45.6% of all people employed within the 12-30 age group, have primary education level. WAP is predominantly female as opposed to the EAP who is male.

³⁰ Thirty-ninth Permanent Household Survey, INE. 2010.

³¹ Honduran women in figures. EPHPM May 2011. At:

<http://www.proceso.hn/2012/01/24/Reportajes/Las.mujeres.hondure/47518.html>

Table No. 3
Percentage of women aged 15-49 who worked in the 12 months prior to the survey, by occupation and selected characteristics, Honduras 2011-2012

Residence	Professional/ Technical /Manager	Office Clerk	Sales and Services	Skilled Manual Labor	Non-skilled Manual Labor	Domestic Service	Agriculture
Female							
Urban	19.2	6.5	50.5	1.5	11.7	8.5	1.8
Rural	9.2	1.5	40.8	3.4	10.8	8.0	26.1
Male							
Urban	19.9	1.9	24.9	10.6	34.4	ND	8.2
Rural	4.3	0.5	8.3	7.2	13.3	ND	66.3

Source: ENDESA 2012-2013 ND: No Data

In the case of women’s occupations, at the national level, the most common is in sales and services (47 percent), a 13 percent increase from the previous 2005-2006 survey. Women also have increased in professional / managerial positions, from 11 percent to 15 percent. Unskilled manual labor and agriculture work both comprise about 11 percent each of the total. Women working in domestic services dropped by half to 8 percent in the latest survey. In rural areas, women in agricultural work comprise about one-quarter of type of jobs.³²

In the case of men’s employment, nationwide, most work either in agriculture (39 percent) and non-skilled manual labor (23 percent).³³ In urban areas, men are primarily engaged in non-skilled manual labor (34 percent), followed by sales and services (25 percent). In contrast, men work primarily in agriculture (66 percent) in rural areas, followed by unskilled manual labor (13 percent).

The ENDESA survey confirmed that the education level is crucial to the type of work they perform. Among women with no education, 41% works in sales and services and 37% in agriculture. Three-fourths of men with no education work in the agriculture sector, while 64 percent of men with higher education work as professionals/technicians/managers.

4.2 Women and Maternal Mortality

³² In the rural area, sales and services occupy 51 percent of women working, and 26% working in agriculture. Nine percent works as technical professional or manager. In the departments of Atlantida, Colon, Islas de la Bahia, Valle, and Yoro, the rate of women working in sales and services is 50, 55, 55, 53, and 53 percent respectively.

³³ In the departments of Copan, El Paraiso, Intibuca, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Olancho more than 50 percent of the men work in agriculture, compared to 27 percent in Atlantida and 1 percent in Islas de la Bahia. The lowest percentages are found in the work as office clerks in all departments.



Honduras has made positive steps over the last decade in reducing maternal mortality, but still falls behind in the region in other maternal indicators. Maternal mortality has fallen from 1.43 in 1990 to 0.8 in 2012³⁴, although Honduras still faces higher rates than others in the region.

Important for proper pregnancies and for reducing maternal mortality is for the mother to weigh above a certain weight and height standard of 145 centimeters and 40 kilograms. Based on these standards, the 1996 National Micronutrients Survey (NMS) found that 15 percent of women faced medium to high risk due to falling below these standards. Mothers in rural western areas on average weighed less than mothers in other areas, especially urban areas, and thus more likely to fall within medium and high-risk categories.³⁵ Anemia is also a potential risk factor for maternal mortality, premature births, and low birth weights. The 1996 NMS found that 32 percent of pregnant women were anemic. In a 2011-2012 ENDESA, the percentage had fallen to 15 percent to pregnant women.

Troubling has been the rate of teenage pregnancies in Honduras, since teen mothers face higher risk of maternal mortality during pregnancy. Honduras leads the region in teenage pregnancies with about 30 percent of total pregnancies, according to the UNFPA 2012 World Population Situation.³⁶ In 2011-2012 ENDESA 162 women died due to complications during and post-pregnancy.

Fueling the high rate of teenage pregnancies has been the increase in sexual activity among adolescent. According to 2011-2012 ENDESA, 21.5 percent of women aged 15-19 have been pregnant once. The 2011-2012 ENDESA reported that on a national level, the average onset of sexual activity for women is 18.4 years and 16 for men. However, education levels significantly impact these averages, with women with low levels of education beginning on average at 16.7 years, while women with high levels of education delaying until on average 22.7 years of age.

Complicating efforts to reduce teen pregnancy has been lack of health services in rural areas and conservative beliefs towards contraception. More than half (57.1 percent) of adolescents live in rural areas and lack open and broad access to sexual and reproductive health services.³⁷ In 2009 Congress passed a law which prohibits the use of emergency oral contraception in all situations including, rape. The law also makes it a criminal offense to provide counseling on or prescribe this type of contraception. Women's rights advocacy groups are seeking to overturn this law, declaring oral emergency contraception a non-negotiable right for women, yet have been unsuccessful.

³⁴ Ministry of Health Report on Reasons for Maternal Mortality 2010

³⁵ National Survey on Micronutrients, Honduras, 1996.

³⁶ UNFPA report "World Population Status 2012" UNFPA. At: <http://www.unfpa.or.cr/estado-de-la-poblacion-mundial-2012>

³⁷ Children in Honduras, Situation Analysis 2010. Tegucigalpa, MDC, May 2011 UNICEF Honduras. At: http://www.unicef.org/honduras/Sitan_-_Analisis_de_Situacion-_Honduras_2010_2.pdf



Given the high maternal mortality rates, the GOH has enacted rules and procedures to equip health clinics in reducing mortality. Enacted initially in 1991, the MOH's National Program for Women's Integral Care provides guidance for family planning, menstruation issues, and infertility care. The Program was updated in 2009 based on data from the 2005-2006 ENDESA and has been renamed as the Family Planning Methodological Strategy.³⁸ This program has provided better instruction and additional support towards making maternal mortality a nationwide health priority. The MOH also established the Municipal Program of Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, which established specialized health units that provide counseling services to prevent early pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and care for teenage mothers care.³⁹

The GOH's efforts have led to progress in encouraging women to seek prenatal care. According to 2011-2012 ENDESA 97 percent of women had sought prenatal care within the last five years of delivery.⁴⁰ This has increased by 5 percent as of 2006. Deliveries using health care services have also increased from 67 percent in 2005-2006 to 83 percent in 2010-2012.

However, the GOH has further work to address health issues post-pregnancy in the area of early child development. Chronic malnutrition among children under five is further complicated when mothers lack proper education. Among children under five, 14.6 percent in urban areas and 28.8 percent in rural areas suffer from chronic malnutrition. Almost half (48 percent) of all children suffering from stunting, or delayed growth in children due to malnutrition, have mothers with no education and 32 percent of them have mothers with chronic malnutrition themselves.⁴¹

4.3 Women and HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS rates in Honduras are on average similar to rates in the region. National HIV prevalence rate is .08 percent but specific high-risk groups are disproportionately affected by HIV, with group prevalence rates ranging from 4 to 15 percent.⁴² In 2011-2012 ENDESA reports there are about 31,000 living with HIV. The 2007 MOH report states that HIV is more commonly found among men (58.2 percent) than women (41.8 percent). About one-tenth (12.9 percent) were among those between 15 and 25 years of age. About 13 percent (12.9) were among those between 15 and 25.⁴³ However, the rates may be higher due to low testing rates for HIV. Almost three-fourths (72.4 percent) of women between 15 and 29 had not been

³⁸ ENDESA 2012-2013

³⁹ Ídem.

⁴⁰ ídem

⁴¹ ENDESA 2012-2013. The report, which also includes figures on fertility and its determinants; family planning, reproductive health, child health, breastfeeding and nutrition, and knowledge, attitudes, and practices in HIV/AIDS, was sponsored by the U.S. and other agencies as the United Nations and the Government of Honduras.

⁴² Global Fund draft analysis, March 2013

⁴³ Secretary of Health, 2007. UNFPA bulletin, Population and Reproductive Health, June 2010.



tested for HIV, and only 4.2 percent reported using condoms as a means of protection against HIV/AIDS.⁴⁴

The GOH’s response has been to coordinate its efforts with the National AIDS Care Committee (CONASIDA) through the National Strategic Plan PENSIDA III (2008-2012). PENSIDA III concentrates on eleven priority populations, which include adolescents, Garifuna. International donors, such as the United Nation agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP), and PAHO have provided technical and financial support through a joint program led by ONUSIDA. Similarly, USAID, the World Bank and various CSOs have coordinated their efforts with these other donors.

LGBTI organizations in Honduras have played an active role in the promotion and dissemination of information for HIV management and prevention. Organizations such as ONUSIDA, PAHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, along with the Secretary of Health have special programs within the National AIDS Care Committee (CONASIDA) framework to provide medical and psychological assistance and support. Honduras also has Sentinel Surveillance Clinics for Sexually Transmitted Infections (VICITS), which are clinics based in the major cities focused on the prevention and control of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and HIV for men who have sex with other men (MSM) and transgender populations. Eight LGBTI organizations are registered with GOH, which are as follows: Association Kukulcan, Association Colectivo Violeta, Association LGBT Arcoiris de Honduras, and APUVIMEH in Tegucigalpa; OPROUCE in La Ceiba; CEPRES, Gay Community Sampedrana, and Colectivo Unidad Color Rosa in San Pedro Sula.

4.4. Women and Education Teaching is predominantly a women’s occupation and has always been a culturally acceptable choice for women given that it’s a social activity linked to reproductive activity and care. As shown below in Table 4, women dominate teaching positions with more than 70.3 percent on average. The percentages are higher in the earlier education levels and no significant difference between rural and urban areas.

Table No. 4
Total Number of Positions per Sex, Location, and School, 2012.

DESCRIPTION	RURAL %		URBAN %		TOTAL %	
	F	M	F	M	F	M
PREBASIC-CCEPREB	82	18	82	18	82	18
PREBASIC-KINDERGARTENS	89	11	95	5	92	8
BASIC	79	21	67	33	73	27
MIDDLE	58	42	56	44	58	42
BASIC ADULTS	66	34	68	32	66	34
TOTAL GENERAL	70	30	70	30	70	30

Source: Secretary of Education Information System.

⁴⁴ ENDESA: National Demography and Health Survey. 2005-2006.

Honduras has made significant progress in reaching gender equity in national levels of education. As shown below, according to 2012 data, the ratio has been almost parity at the lower levels of education before exhibiting greater discrepancies at higher levels, especially at the middle school level. At the middle school level, female participation increased significantly from 49 percent to 54 percent, but returns to similar levels at the “basic adult” level. The greater participation level at middle school leads to an overall higher percentage of female enrollment over male enrollment overall, with 50.5 percent for female versus 49.5 percent for male.

Table No. 5
Summary of Statistics on Education, According to
Enrollment per Sex, 2012

Grade Level	Female %	Male %
PREBASIC-CCEPREB	49.9	50.1
PREBASIC-KINDERGARTENS	49.6	50.4
BASIC	49.0	51.0
MIDDLE	54.0	46.0
BASIC ADULTS	48.0	52.0
TOTAL GENERAL	50.5	49.5

Source: Secretary of Education Information System

Despite the parity at the early levels of education, researchers are considered that the ratio is not skewed more towards girls due to demographic data. As explained earlier, women outnumber men in overall population by 51 versus 49 percent. Upon further analysis of school enrollment at the primary levels (see Table 6 below), the statistics indicate that girls outnumber boys at very early ages (3-4 years) but that the ratio reverses rather dramatically soon afterwards at the later ages (5-8 years). This is troubling because early age education has significant long-term benefits on future education attainment. This reversal in enrollment needs to be examined further in order to determine if cultural and gender bias could possibly account for the reduced enrollment early into the education process. The analysis would need to factor in demographic changes and enrolment over the last five years.

Table 6
Total Student Population, 2012

PRE-BASIC					CCEPREB				
Age	Girls	%	Boys	%	Age	Girls	%	Boys	%
3	5,516	51.0	5,335	49.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	25,938	50.2	25,754	49.8	4	9,965	51.0	9,607	49.0
5	50,692	49.0	52,258	51.0	5	20,237	49.7	20,482	50.3
6	5,388	49.0	5,679	51.0	6	2,867	49.0	3,036	51.0
7	177	47.0	202	53.0	7	175	46.0	202	54.0
8	107	40.0	161	60.0	8	64	47.0	72	53.0
Total	87,818	49.6	89,389	50.4	Total	33,308	49.9	33,399	50.1

Source: Secretary of Education Information System



In general, the Ministry of Education lacks adequate reporting of gender equity in other areas outside of school enrollment rates. For example, data is not available of sex disaggregated data of teachers and staff at district and department levels as well as in school unions. Also unavailable is data about women's participation in education boards and in teacher associations and analysis of how gender issues are addressed by various levels of education authorities, parent and teacher organizations and unions.

In 2003, Honduras adopted a National Basic Curriculum (CNB), which formalized and outlined tools for improving student performance in math and Spanish for first through ninth grades. These tools included the adoption of education standards, use of monthly schedules, increased distribution of textbooks and creation of a nationwide standardized evaluation system. The evaluation system consisted of pre-term diagnostic tests, monthly training tests, and year-end tests, coupled with respective manuals and guidance.⁴⁵

Based on 2012 results on Spanish and math comprehension, schools in urban areas outperformed rural schools, earning higher percentages of students with satisfactory and advanced results.⁴⁶ Girls outperformed boys in almost all grade levels in Spanish, while there was no noticeable difference in performance in math. Females only outperformed men in math by a mere 0.05 percentage points in general, with no change shown for first, sixth and ninth grades.

School results vary due to several key factors: geographic location, the number of teachers servicing schools (one-teacher versus multi-teacher), and whether a basic education center (CEB) versus a secondary education institution (IEM). In general, CEBs at the 7th and 8th grade level outperformed IEMs at the same grade levels. Results show a higher percentage average in CEB in 7th and 8th grade than those obtained in high school, especially in mathematics.

Compared to the 2010 results, in general, both genders exhibited fewer numbers with unsatisfactory performances and improvements in those scoring satisfactory and advanced results in both subjects.⁴⁷

4.5. Women and Agriculture

Women in rural populations contribute significantly to the subsistence of families by working in activities that promote food security and rural economic development. The United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) report that women's work extend on average up to twelve hours a day, time in which they develop different activities such as care of the garden and animals, collecting, processing, and cooking food, care and education of their children, and eldercare, in addition to many other activities such as marketing of production in

⁴⁵Secretary of Education. MIDEH, 2012. Academic Performance Report. Honduras

⁴⁶Ídem.

⁴⁷Ídem.



nearby urban markets. Their jobs are precarious, poorly paid, and with limited training opportunities.

According to FAO study, in the Latin American region, of the 37 million rural women over 15 years old, about half (45.9 percent) are in the labor force and 4 million (or 10.8 percent) are agricultural producers. It is estimated that about one-quarter, or some 9 million are indigenous, speak their own language, and in the majority of cases are subject to double or triple discrimination by the fact of being a woman, poor, and indigenous.⁴⁸

In Honduras the agricultural sector contributes more than any sector, generating about one-fourth of the economy's income as measured by Gross Domestic Product, The agricultural sector is the most important of the Honduran economy, contributing approximately fourth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Yet, Honduras' agricultural production is limited to only 13 percent of its land. Despite being less suitable for production, farmers continue to expand into forest areas due to high demand from Honduras' population growth and weak land regulations. The vast majority (79 percent) of farms in Honduras are small subsistence producers (averaging only 2.4 hectares), yet they occupy less than one-fifth (17.6 percent) of existing arable farmland and often in low fertile soils with limited agricultural potential (SECPLAN 1993).⁴⁹ Other issues plaguing the sector are land tenure, low labor productive, poor rural roads, and limited access to financial resources, technology and markets.⁵⁰

Agricultural issues are found within the GOH's 2000-2015 Gender Policy and were later incorporated into the PIEG-II. The aim of the gender policy in agriculture was to reduce the inequality gaps found in rural agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors. For example, the policy identified ways in which women have been discriminated in obtaining benefits from government-supported projects. However, based on assessments in rural areas, the government is not monitoring its compliance of this policy and many existing government funded projects continue to target men exclusively, ignoring the role of women in supporting family incomes, or when targeting women, fail to adopt strategies which factor in the additional cultural obligations in maintaining the household (i.e., housekeeping, cooking, child-raising).⁵¹

4.6. Women and Citizen Security

Violence and crime, which includes gender-based violence, is the most destructive social problem in Honduras today. Honduras exceeds the region in terms of having one of the highest murder rates in the world, with on average 86 deaths per every 100,000 people. This

⁴⁸ Ballara, Marcela y Soledad Parada: "Rural women employment, what figures say", ECLA-FAO, Santiago de Chile, 2009.

⁴⁹ Idem

⁵⁰ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS RELATED TO NATURAL RESOURCES IN HONDURAS. Agenda XXI. En: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/honduras/natur.htm>

⁵¹ Gender Equity Policy for the Public Agricultural Sector 2000-2015.



rate is more than ten times the world average. Honduras' neighbors also have high rates of violence, especially El Salvador (72) and Guatemala (39). The United Nations Organization (UN) reports that 1 of every 50 Central American youth under 20 years will be murdered before the age of 32.⁵² The Observatory of the Rights of Children and Youth reports that from 1998 to March 2012, 7,315 Hondurans under the age of 23 were murdered or victims of extrajudicial executions. About 20% of this were women. The growth in violence is due to increased drug trafficking through Honduras, increased gang activity, worsening poverty levels and high gun ownership.⁵³

The country also has one of the highest femicide rates in Latin America. According to the Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), from 2005 to 2012 femicide continues to be a growing trend, from 175 deaths in 2005 to 606 women deaths in 2012, a 246.3 percent increase in the last seven years. This translates to 51 women murdered each month in 2012, or a death approximately every 15 hours.⁵⁴

Gender-Based Violence is also a growing problem in Honduras. The majority (90 percent) of victims were women in 2012 and 81 percent of sexual crime victims were women, most (90 percent) under the age of twenty. While domestic violence is punishable offense, police rarely enforce the law and most perpetrators are left unpunished. Violence against women rose particularly due and in the aftermath of the 2009 political crises due to the lack of law of order, with some estimates suggesting that the incidence rate doubled in 2009 alone. CSOs report that many of the perpetrators of this violence were the police, army and state officials.

Honduras has recently made considerable progress in addressing femicide.⁵⁵ In February 2013, Congress reformed the Penal Code by including femicide as a punishable crime, due to joint pressure from feminist/women organizations and the Secretary of Human Rights and Justice. Femicide is defined as murder of "a woman for reason of gender, with hatred and contempt for her womanhood" and the penalty was defined as incarceration of between 30 and 40 years.⁵⁶

The LGBT organizations in Honduras have protested against discrimination and violence suffered by their members. Activists from the LGBT community reported that more than 186 homosexuals were murdered in Honduras between 2009 and 2012.⁵⁷ They have become

⁵² Paredes, Maritza. 2011. How You Weave the Threads of Impunity. Femicides in Honduras. National Campaign Against Femicides. OXFAM, UN-WOMEN.

⁵³ Likewise in Honduras the Law on Control of Firearms, Ammunitions, Explosives, and other similar, in its article 17, allows a citizen to register up to 5 guns, a fact that contributes to prevailing country insecurity.

⁵⁴ UNAH, Violence Observatory, 2012. Special bulletin on violent deaths of women. College of Social Sciences, University Institute for Democracy, Special Edition No. 9.

⁵⁵ Addressing femicide was one of the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and those made by international agencies, such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

⁵⁶ Paredes, Maritza. 2011. How You Weave the Threads of Impunity. Femicides in Honduras. National Campaign against Femicides. OXFAM, UN-WOMEN.

⁵⁷ At: <http://www.crhoy.com/denuncian-186-asesinatos-de-homosexuales-en-honduras-entre-2009-y-2012/>



politically active, condemning the 2009 political crisis and participating in demonstrations led by the National Popular Resistance Front (FNRP).⁵⁸

4.7. Women and Governance / Political Participation

Feminist and women's organizations in Honduras have fallen short compared to their counterparts in the region in promoting their issues in the national political arena. Promotion activities include creating awareness among politicians and increasing opportunities for dialogue with the government at national and regional levels. The only apparent progress has been the link with the Council of Women Ministries in Central America (COMMCA), a connection which has had limited impact on domestic issues.⁵⁹

These organizations' role is particularly essential in light of the considerable socio-economic, political and cultural changes in Honduras over the last three decades. In particular, during the last two decades of the twentieth century, Honduras has been transformed through the impact of globalization and its related economic restructuring and significant democratic transition. Now, with more pluralistic lifestyles, multiple avenues of generating wealth and growth of new political actors, Honduras faces new forms of social conflict which require the input of women's and feminist organizations.⁶⁰ Some women's organizations such as CDM, CEM-H, Visitación Padilla, University Women, and Organizations of Peasant Women have taken a more belligerent tone, which at times has led to greater conflict rather than success. Likewise with the new forms of social conflict, CSOs have advocated for greater citizen participation and municipal decentralization.

Similar to other Latin American countries, Honduras has developed high-level pro-women ministries. Congress formed in 1999 the National Women's Institute (INAM), an autonomous institution and the Minister has the same rank of Secretary of State and is a member of the Cabinet.⁶¹ Despite the creation of INAM, the Institute has been ineffective due to lack of financial support which hampers improvements in technical and operational capacity. INAM is dependent on international donors for budget support and funding of specific projects. INAM also has lost key personnel after changes in the administrations, which sets back donors'

⁵⁸ LGBTII: Acronym used for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals, intersexual, a term inclusive of groups and identifies.

⁵⁹ The Council of Ministers of Central American Women (COMMCA), which receives the support of AECID since its creation, elaborates policy proposals at the regional level aimed to transform the situation of women in the region.

⁶⁰ ECLA. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the board of Directors of the Regional conference on Women of L.A. and the Caribbean, Santiago de Chile, September 5 & 6, 2002. At: <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/noticias/9/10639/vguzman.pdf>

⁶¹ Along with creating INAM, Congress has established over the last three decades other important pro-women and pro-human rights institutions, such as Secretary of Public Affairs and the National Commissioner for Human Rights. These institutions were pivotal in advocating for major institutional reforms such as the demilitarization of the police force and the severing the close links between the Armed Forces and GOH institutions. (Honduras Documentation Center. (CEDOH) Democracy and Governance: Evaluation and perspectives / Honduras Documentation Center (CEDOH). -- [Tegucigalpa]: [Lithopress], [2010].

At: <http://www.cedoh.org/resources/Publicaciones/Lo-que-publicamos/Libro-democracia-web.pdf>



efforts to invest in its personnel. When INAM failed to denounce the 2009 human rights violations on women during the political crisis, women's, feminist organizations community withdrew their support for INAM, which has not been restored to date. Women and feminist organizations have now broadened their mandate to human right issues.

The 2009 political crisis has weakened the two-party system, resulting in disillusioned voters and greater partisan volatility. In this post- crisis period, political parties have failed to promote greater citizen participation and instead have reverted to traditional practices of rigid and exclusionary governance structures and candidate selection processes that weaken their legitimacy.⁶² As will be explored in the next section, women have been excluded from key leadership roles in political parties.⁶³

Honduras has made progress in increasing the percentage of women in decision-making positions, but there are still significant obstacles for the effective participation of women. The number of women in Congress increased from 9 to 20 percent in the last 20 years, having its height in the 2006-2009 period with 25 percent of women elected for Congress. The rise is partly due to the Equal Opportunity Law passed in the year 2000 that set the quota of 30 percent female representation in political positions. Women's groups were successful in 2013 in increasing this percentage to 40 percent for the 2013 elections and 50 percent in 2016. There is also women representation in the in the judicial area; three out of the fifteen Supreme Court judges are women. According the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), following the November 2009 elections, only 17 of the country's 298 municipalities have female mayors (5.7 percent), a drop from eight percent in the previous election.⁶⁴ Likewise, women municipal members have fallen from 19.5 percent in 2009 from 25 percent in 2005.

Gender equality requires more than the equality of opportunities, but the participation of women in the reform and maturity of political parties and government institutions. Without their involvement, it is not certain that public institutions will recognize the unique concerns of women (and reverse traditional positions of subordination) and place a priority in training women to be as qualified as men for leadership positions within these institutions.

4.8. Women and Gender Advocacy

Women and feminists movements nowadays have become a dynamic part of civil society, especially in the period immediately following the 2009 political crisis, through the formation

⁶² Tabora, Rocío. Paper: GOVERNANCE, POLITICAL CULTURE, AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. Equity in the process of democratic construction and political governance. Honduras Documentation Center (CEDOH) Democracy and Governance: Evaluation and perspectives / Honduras Documentation Center (CEDOH).[Tegucigalpa]: [Lithopress], [2010] 266 p.

At: <http://www.cedoh.org/resources/Publicaciones/Lo-que-publicamos/Libro-democracia-web.pdf>

⁶³ Guzmán, Virginia, 2003. Democratic Governance and gender, una articulación posible. Serie Mujer y Desarrollo. ECLA. Unidad Mujer y Desarrollo S E R I E mujer y desarrollo 48 Santiago de Chile.

⁶⁴ UNICEF, MDG 3, Promoting Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment. At: www.unicef.org/honduras/ODM3.pdf

of a new network called “Feminists in Resistance.” In the aftermath of the crisis, women’s groups protested the restriction of freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and freedom of assembly. When the de facto regime attempted to install a new Minister in the National Women’s Institute, women protested in the front of the Ministry’s premises and were accosted by security forces. Through this protest and others, the Inter-American Human Rights Commission reported that “in the context of demonstrations, repression, and arrests by police officers and military members, women were particularly subject to acts of violence and humiliation because of their gender.”⁶⁵

Women’s groups have a wide range of issues still unresolved in eliminating discrimination against women in Honduras. Some of these issues can be found in the conclusions from the 2007 report documenting Honduras’ compliance of the Convention for Eradication of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). These are shown below in the Box 5:

Box 3

End Reviews of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

After reviewing the latest report of Honduras on the implementation of CEDAW in 2007, the Committee highlighted its concerns, including:

- The ability of women to bring cases of discrimination before the courts is limited by factors such as: poverty, lack of assistance in pursuit of their rights, and attitude of the police and judicial officers.
- The National Women’s Institute does not have the power and authority necessary or sufficient financial and human resources to implement its work.
- The effective implementation of plans and role of mechanisms to eradicate violence against women is hampered by the insufficient allocation of resources and continuity of impunity.
- The persistence of trafficking in women and girls.
- The continuity of the low levels of female representation in all areas of public and political life.
- The high rate of teenage pregnancy and complications to the health and education of girls.
- The persistence of patriarchal attitudes and accentuated stereotypes related to the role and responsibilities of women and men in family and society.
- Continuing discrimination against women in the labor market.
- Existing child labor, especially the exploitation and abuse of children working in domestic service and exploitation of women workers in “*maquilas*” [textile mills].
- Lack of statistical data on the situation of women, disaggregated by factors such as age, ethnicity, urban and rural areas.

Source: CEDAW Honduras Report, 2007.

Women’s groups will need to advocate for the GOH to finish strong in its efforts to fulfill Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goal “Promote gender equality and empower women” prior to the 2015 deadline. In order to do so, there are three key challenges to consider:

⁶⁵Programa de Honduras ACIDI. Dirección de América Marco de Programación de Desarrollo de País (CDPF) 2010-2015.



- 1. Creation of Social Protection Committee.** The purpose of a Social Protection Committee is to address the current disparity in institutional competencies within the government towards social protection issues. The various government stakeholders overlap with duplicate missions and lack sustainable strategies, implementation of gender equality policies, and accountability in wise resource management.
- 2. Redefinition of INAM’s Role in Ensuring Compliance with PIEG- II.** This includes greater consideration of the impact of poverty on gender inequalities.
- 3. 2001-2012 Gender Evaluation of GOH’s Programs.** The evaluation should include lessons learned and recommendation for adopting changes to improve the welfare of vulnerable populations and identify champions who have reduced gender inequities and inequalities and have empowered women. This evaluation can inform potential reforms to the National Plan – Country Vision (2010-2038) and II PIEG.



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ANNEX 2: Definitions⁶⁶:

- **Gender equity:** is the process of being fair to women and men. In order to ensure this justice, it is often necessary to have measures that compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent men and women act on equal terms. Equity leads to equality.⁶⁷
- **Gender equality:** it refers to women and men, and it deals with working with men, boys, women and girls to achieve changes in attitudes, behaviors, roles, and responsibilities at home, the workplace, and community. True equality means much more than parity in the numbers or the laws on the books; it means expanding freedoms and improving the quality of life in general, to achieve equality without sacrificing profit for men and women.
- **Empowerment:** means improving the ability of individuals to acquire the power to think and act freely, exercise choice and their potential as members of society with full rights.⁶⁸
- **Gender Integration:** involves the identification, and then address gender inequalities during the Project strategy and design, execution, monitoring, and evaluation. Since the roles and relations of power between men and women affect how an activity is implemented, it is essential that Project managers face these problems on an ongoing basis.
- **Discrimination:** is the special treatment of individuals or groups that violate the principles of justice that all people should be treated as equals⁶⁹.
- **Equality:** means that men and women have the same rights, freedoms, conditions, and opportunities to develop their full potential and to contribute and benefit from economic, social, cultural, and political development. This means that society values both men and women alike for their similarities and differences, and the diverse roles they play. It means the long-term outcomes that result from gender equity strategies and processes.
- **Equity Strategies:** refer to the processes used to achieve gender equality. Equity implies fairness in representation, participation, and benefits for men and women. The goal is that both groups have a fair chance of having their needs met, and that they have equal access to opportunities to develop their full potential as human beings.
- **Gender: is the social construction** that refers to relations between sexes, according to their respective roles. Gender roles are socially determined and include attributes, constraints, and opportunities associated with being male or females, economic, political, and socio-cultural. Gender roles may vary widely within and between cultures, and often evolve over time.
- **Gender aware / Gender sensitive:** are terms used to refer to policies and programs that take into account differences of inequalities between women and men.⁷⁰

⁶⁶ Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy, 2012. USAID POLICY.

⁶⁷ Gender/Based Analysis, 1996: Guide for Policy Making, Status of Women. ACDI, Canada.

⁶⁸ The Gender Manual DFIF 2007

⁶⁹ The Gender Manual DFIF 2007

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- **Gender-based constraints:** refer to different restrictions experienced by men and women in their access to opportunities and assets according to their gender roles. A constraint may be a measurable inequality identified in gender analysis of sex-disaggregated data, or may be a process that contributes to a specific condition of inequality.⁷¹
- **Gender blind:** is a term used to refer to policies and programs that fail to take into account the difference of inequalities between men and women.⁷²
- **Gender neutral:** is used to refer to policies and programs that will impact women and men in the same way. In fact, due to the gender gap is inherent to human life. No policy or program that affects people is gender-neutral.⁷³
- **Gender-disaggregated data:** is often confused with sex-disaggregated data. It refers to the findings of gender analysis conducted using sex-disaggregated data to understand differences and reveal how activities impact gender relations.⁷⁴
- **Gender Dynamics:** refer to the relationships and interactions between two or more children, women, and men. Gender dynamics are informed by socio-cultural ideas about gender and power relationships that define them. Depending on the way they manifest themselves, gender dynamics can reinforce or challenge existing parity. In education, it refers to equivalent percentages of men and women (relative to the population by age groups) in an education system. Parity is essential, but not sufficient, to achieve gender equality.
- **Gender Integration:** refers to taking into account both the differences and inequalities of men and women in planning, implementation, and evaluation. The roles and relations of power between men and women affect who does what in carrying out an activity, and who benefits. Taking into account the inequalities and the designing of programs to reduce them, should contribute not only to more effective development programs, but also to greater social equity. Experience has shown that sustainable changes are not made through activities focused on women alone.⁷⁵
- **Gender Cross-Cutting:** is the term adopted by the 1995 Fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing, to designate the methods and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equity. Gender mainstreaming goes beyond gender accounting programs. Rather than gender issues, they consider the special interests to be adopted separately. Gender mainstreaming is an approach that treats gender as a critical factor in policy formulation, planning, and evaluation, and decision-making procedures.⁷⁶
- **Gender mainstreaming:** involves the analysis of limitations and the effects of gender at all levels, and the incorporation of this information in policy-making, decision-making, budget, and programs design and implementations.⁷⁷
- **Sex:** refers to the biological differences between men and women. Sex differences are related to the physiology of men and women and usually remain constant across cultures and over time.

⁷¹ Promoting Gender Equitable Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains, USAID, 2009

⁷² The Gender Manual DFIF 2007

⁷³ The Gender Manual DFIF 2007

⁷⁴ Promoting Gender Equitable Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains, USAID, 2009

⁷⁵ Gender Assessment and Plan of Action for USAID/Honduras DevTech 2002

⁷⁶ Gender Assessment and Plan of Action for USAID/Honduras DevTech 2002

⁷⁷ Gender Assessment and Plan of Action for USAID/Honduras DevTech 2002



- **Sex-disaggregated data:** is data collected according to the physical characteristics of people (i.e., men and women). This allows for cross-country comparison of data because it provides measurable and comparable data.⁷⁸

⁷⁸ Promoting Gender Equitable Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains, USAID, 2009.

ANEXO 3

Relevant Statistical Information for Gender Mainstreaming in Honduras. Human Development Plans.

Indicator	Honduras	Source
Human Development Index	2012/ 0.632	UNDP- Human Development Report 2012 See: http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/indices/gdi_gem/
Gender-related Human Development Index ⁷⁹	95 de 155 countries	UNDP - Human Development Report - 2009 http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/
Measurement of Gender Empowerment	54 de 109 countries	UNDP - Human Development Report - 2009 http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/
ODM 3 – % of seats held by women in National Congress	23.4 18	2007 – MDG Monitor http://www.mdgmonitor.org/index.cfm Gender, Health, and Development in the Americas. Basic Indicators, 2011. www.paho.org/gdr
Proportion of Seats in Congress: women/men relation.	0.243	UNDP- Human Development Report 2012 See: http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/indices/gdi_gem/
MDG 5 – proportion of maternal mortality per every 100,000 live births	280 (2005)	2007 – MDG Monitor http://www.mdgmonitor.org/index.cfm
Global Gender Gap Index ⁸⁰	2009 – 62 (de 134 countries) 2008 – 47 (de 130 countries) 2007 – 68 (de 128 countries)	Report of Global Gender Gap 2009 Forum on Global Economy. http://www.weforum.org/pdf/gendergap/report2009.pdf
Participation rate in labor force (relation women rate-men rate)	0.511	UNDP- Human Development Report 2012 See: http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/indices/gdi_gem/

⁷⁹ For an explanation of GHD and MWE, see http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/indices/gdi_gem/

Participation rate in labor force (Relation women rate-men rate) 0.511 Gender Inequality Index 0.483

Maternal mortality rate (maternal deaths per every 100.000 live births) 100

⁸⁰ A composite index measuring variables related to 1) participation and economic opportunity, 2) educational achievement, 3) health and survival and 4) political empowerment. The country ranking in top as number 1.

Indicator	Honduras	Source
Births assisted by skilled health personnel (%)	67	Report on Global Gender Gap 2009 Forum on Global Economy. http://www.weforum.org/pdf/gendergap/report2009.pdf
Prevalence of contraceptives, married women (%) (1990-2008)	65,2	Report on Global Gender Gap 2009 Forum on Global Economy. http://www.weforum.org/pdf/gendergap/report2009.pdf
Total fertility rate (children/women) 2011	3,1	Gender, Health, and Development in the Americas. Basic Indicators, 2011. www.paho.org/gdr
Fertility rate among adolescents (women aged 15 to 19 year) (the number of births per every 1.000 women between 15 & 19 years)	93.1	UNDP- Human Development Report 2012 See: http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/indices/gdi_gem/
Population with at least secondary education complete, relation women/men (Relation women rate-men rate)	0.878	UNDP- Human Development Report 2012 See: http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/indices/gdi_gem/
Elementary school, female teachers (%)	75	Informe de la Brecha Global de Género 2009 Forum on Global Economy. http://www.weforum.org/pdf/gendergap/report2009.pdf
Participation rate in labor force (relation women rate-men rate)	0.511	
Estimated income earned by women (PPP US\$)	5,828	UNDP - Human Development Report 2009 http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/
Estimated income earned by men (PPP US\$)	9,835	UNDP - Human Development Report 2009 http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/

Source: Taken from several sources for purposes of this study.

ANNEX 4.

Tools and Results Obtained in Consultations to Program Staff.

1. Mention at least 3 requirements (elements) to develop by CDCS to ensure the inclusion of the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Approach:

	Economic Growth	Democracy and Governance	Education	Health
1	Return to the existing relevant experiences	Greater clarity on the use of the GE & WE Policy	Work at the community level / Vocational Centers	Consider the topic of Sexual Diversity in new programming
2	Harmonizing gender-related language	Gender-sensitive budget	Coordinate with other donors	Tools to implement gender mainstreaming
3	Ensure the provision of tools that facilitate the application of the approach in the program		Training and socialization of the GE & WE Policy (internally and with partners)	Clear Gender Indicators
4	Clear and easy to monitor indicators			Mission staff development and capacity building
5				Standardize gender-related language in the Mission

2. What areas have been identified in the work at the Agency that it is important to strengthen in the new CDCS with a focus on Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment?

	Economic Growth	Democracy and Governance	Education	Health
	Strengthening women for decision-making at the community level	Design of gender-sensitive budgets	Clearer vision of budget % which a program must use to address the issue of GE & WE	Design practical indicators to be measurable
	How to implement tools to translate them into affirmative results for women	Identifying how to incorporate women in actions of empowerment and political participation.	Incorporate men in school dynamics.	Baselines and gender-sensitive diagnostics
	Practical			Standardize



tools for a community approach			gender-related language
			Work on the topic social imaginary at the local level
			Promote sex-disaggregated information

3. What kind of support would HQs/Country Program request to improve their work and support in implementing the Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment Policy?

	Economic Growth	Democracy and Governance	Education	Health
	Design a Toolkit for the Honduras mission	Maintain updated information on the position and condition of women in Honduras	Clear guidelines to report progress on practice (programs & projects)	Get to handle concepts in a unified way in the mission
	Clear regulations to improve decision-making in the field of GE & WE	What are other donors doing? Where are they working?		Tools and clear specific and cross-cutting gender indicators.
	Work the theme of masculinity	Results framework clear on the expected GE and WE outcomes		
	More advice from specialists in GE & WE			
	Socialization of experiences and publication			