



Fund for Innovation and Transformation

Fonds pour l'innovation et la transformation



SOMBRILLA INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Equal Access to Justice for Women in Honduras

Context

Honduras has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence (GBV) in Latin America. Psychological, sexual, and physical violence are especially prevalent in rural areas. At the end of July 2022, over 22,000 complaints of domestic violence and 36,464 complaints of family abuse, formerly known as domestic violence, were reported.

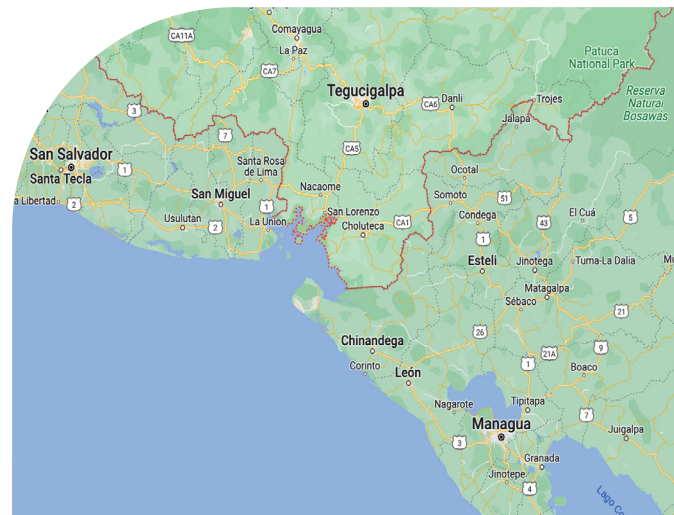
The Innovative Solution

Supported by FIT, Sombrilla International Development Society and their local partners OCDIH tested an innovative solution aimed at improving women's access to the judicial system, as well as raising awareness and increasing knowledge about gender-based violence, in Lepaera and Las Flores, Honduras. This was done through the provision of a mobile clinic that provided legal and psychological support services to women facing gender-based violence (GBV), capacity building for women in order to strengthen women's networks, a public awareness campaign, and the creation of self-help groups for women to share their stories and support each other.

Advancing Gender Equality

To respond to GBV by providing free legal and other social services near the affected women, this innovation collaborated with established women's networks and trusted community leaders, along with capacity building activities for local organizations and the community itself.

During the testing, women participants were accommodated. For example, childcare was provided to ensure they could participate fully. Women's organizations and other stakeholders were involved in project development to gain and enhance the trust of the community.



COUNTRY

Honduras

AMOUNT

\$234,500

TESTING PERIOD

15 months

Ended September 2022



GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE (GE3)

THEME: PRODUCT/SERVICE DELIVERY

Testing Framework

The testing framework used a pre-post intervention evaluation methodology and took gender-based constraints into account by ensuring data collection from victims of GBV was done in a sensitive and confidential way. In-person surveys and informal feedback sessions were used to collect data, which was conducted at a convenient time and location for women.

Data collected was participatory and holistic, bringing in the voices of women, men, local grassroots organizations, NGOs, municipal authorities, and members of the judicial system. Group discussions throughout testing provided valuable, first-hand information on the progress and challenges experienced.

Results and Impact

Endline data confirmed the achievement of several intended results. Mobile clinic legal services were provided to 54 clients (52 women and 2 men). Over 90% of participants reported greater empowerment in their ability to defend their rights in relation to GBV. Participants reported improved access to high quality services that respond to GBV by improving perception of confidentiality in case management by judicial officers (85% of participants relative to 39% in the baseline) and an improvement in perceptions of the quality of judicial officers' services. All participants in the new masculinities training reported that the training made them reflect on their own problematic behavior and attitudes toward gender. Women's networks were strengthened by the creation of 14 self-help groups with 177 participants with low attrition rates, indicating that most project beneficiaries participating in spaces that promote women's rights. By the end of the innovation, 25 legal cases were brought to court by the mobile clinic's lawyer.

Of note:

- At baseline only 7% of women and girls intended to report GBV cases, rising to 94% at endline.
- Only 26% of women and girls knew the complaint mechanisms to report GBV increasing to 95.2% of women (216/227) by endline.

Key Lessons

1. The safety of women participants and staff must be a priority. The mobile clinic was initially envisioned as a vehicle, but it was not discreet enough to protect the anonymity of women seeking services. Different organizations provided access to space in schools, health centres, and community centres and comprehensive safety plans were developed.
2. Using local people with real stories increases the relatability of the campaign and leverages trust within the community, making people more receptive. The public awareness campaign reached over 22,000 people in the communities.
3. Establishing relationships with public sector institutions and coordinating activities with them can help organizations testing an innovation to identify points of entry that can support their initiative's objectives. OCDIH spent several months before the start of the project building relationships with the public sector institutions including judicial officers, schools and health centres.

Women in the self-help groups have bonded significantly and have now become a resource for others in their community. Having the support from a group has given women confidence and reassurance that they are not alone. "We now know where to go if we want to report a case of GBV. We also know where to go if the service we receive is not what we deserve"

- Self-help group participant

PARTNER ORGANIZATION

OCDIH (Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras - Christian Organization for Integral Development of Honduras)

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

608 training and mobile clinic participants (539 women/girls, 69 men/boys) 95 mobile clinic psychological services participants (84 women/girls, 13 men/boys)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ABOUT FIT

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation supports Canadian small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) testing innovative solutions that advance gender equality in the Global South.



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