



SYSTEMATIZATION OF BEST PRACTICES

**STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL
CAPACITIES FOR THE PREVENTION
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN,
TRAFFICKING AND FEMICIDE IN
CENTRAL AMERICA**



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CREDITS AND DOCUMENT PROTOCOL

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ABBREVIATIONS

BP	Best Practice
CAI	Comprehensive Care Centers
CASC	Advisory, Monitoring and Coordination Committee
CNGP	National Project Management Commissions
ESCA	Central American Security Strategy
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
ICAP	Central American Institute of Public Administration
INAMU	National Women's Institute
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MESDECVI	Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention
SC	Steering Committee
SGD	Sustainable Development Goals

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BEST PRACTICE SUMMARY

Best Practice	Prevention of Violence against Women in Central America.
Description	This initiative supports strengthening institutional capacities in the prevention and response to violence against women, trafficking and femicide at a regional, national, and local level. Consolidating regional coordination efforts and establishing dialogue and decision-making spaces, articulating the inter-institutional work formed by National Commissions in order to achieve prevention and attention to violence.
Objective	Contribute to the reduction of violence against women, trafficking in women and femicide, by creating effective interventions on factors that promote these circumstances.
Location	Regionally executed covering the following countries: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.
Beneficiaries	Government institutions seeking to address violence against women of all ages.


MAIN ACTIONS

1.




Development of management mechanisms for the project Prevention of Violence against Women in Central America.

2.



Collaborative work and first steps in regional, national, and local coordination efforts.

3.



Work plans by country and follow-up on the implementation of the project Prevention of Violence against Women in Central America.

4.



Care Strengthening mechanisms implemented locally by the participating countries.

INTRODUCTION

The following Best Practices (BP) document was developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Nicaragua.

The initiative was developed within the framework of the Project B.A.1: *Prevention of Violence against Women in Central America* of the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA)¹, implemented along with the Secretary General of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA), the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Ministers for Women of Central America and the Dominican Republic (STMCOMMCA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), articulating approaches on this subject at regional, national and local levels, to provide a reference framework to all participating countries: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

The actions of this B.A.1 Project initiative contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda, focusing on goal 5 that states: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”; which indicates in its target 5.2 the importance of “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking² and sexual and other types of exploitation.” In reference to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the initiative contributes to Goal 7 which seeks to: “Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration”.

The documentation of this experience was made possible thanks to the support of Carmen Paola Zepeda and Elizabeth Membreño from the IOM Nicaragua office

CONTEXT

The inequality, discrimination, and impunity of violence against women, the systematic and systemic violation of their human rights³ is an often-highlighted obstacle to economic, social, and democratic development in all Central American countries. Attempts against the life, integrity, or estate a person, with crimes such as violence against women, impede the exercise of freedom, leading to citizen insecurity and denying the development of human rights⁴.

This type of violence has different manifestations, and, in the pursuit of justice, the official legal mechanisms face serious problems to

provide an expeditious response due to the: limited capacity of those responsible for operating justice, the difficulty of the system in meeting the demands for care, prevention and redress for the violations faced by the victims, in addition to the lack of sanctions and compliance with them, often leading to re-victimization.

In the Central American region, cases of violence against women have increased amongst indigenous ethnic groups and cultures of African descent, in many cases because of social isolation or the lack of family or community support networks⁵. Cultural factors, including the

¹ The violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and prevents women partially or completely to enjoying the rights of women, these rights, and freedoms. “Violence against women is one of the fundamental social mechanisms by which women are forced into a situation of subordination to men” (UN, 1993).

² The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. International Organization for Migration (2019). International Migration Law. IOM Glossary on Migration. Geneva, Switzerland. p. 217. www.iom.int.

³ Universal legal guarantees protecting individuals and groups against actions and omissions that interfere with fundamental freedoms, entitlements, and human dignity. International Organization for Migration (2019). International Migration Law. IOM Glossary on Migration. Geneva, Switzerland. p. 94

⁴ International Organization for Migration. 2014. Project B.A.1. Opportunities for Women in Central America. Systematization B.A.1. Prevention of Violence against Women in Central America. IOM. p.15 <http://www.sica.int>.

⁵ Reference Document: United Nations Development Programme. (2010). Human Development Report for Central America 2009-2010. Opening spaces for security. UNDP.

If you want to access to complete document of this good practice you can contact the mail:

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