



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under
article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women**

**Responses of Honduras to the list of issues and questions in
relation to its ninth periodic report***

[Date received: 29 November 2021]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. The Government of Honduras hereby submits its response to the list of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee), in accordance with document [CEDAW/C/HND/Q/9](#) of 16 July 2021 and the reporting guidelines.

2. The report was prepared by the National Institute for Women, which guides the Government's policy for women, and the Ministry of Human Rights,¹ which coordinates reporting to the treaty bodies of the universal system for the protection of human rights, with the support of the Special Response Group on Human Rights, made up of the focal points of the Honduran System for the Monitoring of Recommendations.²

3. With the present report, the Government reaffirms its commitment to women and girls and women's organizations. We are grateful to them for their efforts and collaboration in the current context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has led to a rise in violence against women and girls. This upsurge makes the adoption of timely measures to eliminate violence a high priority for the Government, which also reaffirms its commitment to Honduran society and international organizations to be accountable.

II. Visibility of the Convention and the Optional Protocol

4. **Paragraph 1 of the list of issues and questions.** In connection with ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention, please see the ninth report.

5. **Paragraph 2(a) of the list of issues and questions.** The measures taken to raise awareness among vulnerable women about their rights are described below:

(a) The National Institute for Women raises awareness of international and national regulations on women's human rights through its virtual campus³ which offers, inter alia, training courses, such as the course on the international and national legal framework for the implementation of policies to combat femicides and other forms of violence against women and girls, and organizes training for public officials and public servants responsible for planning and institutional gender mechanisms on commitments and recommendations regarding compliance with the Convention;

(b) The Human Rights and Migration Services Unit of the National Migration Institute provides training on the rights of migrant women for border officials, raises awareness of the guidelines for services for and the protection of migrant women and distributes and disseminates material⁴ informing migrants of the risks of migration, their rights and the resources available to them;

(c) The Ministry of Social Development and Inclusion raises awareness of women's rights, sexual health and the prevention of violence against older women and has partnered with the Ministry of Human Rights to support persons displaced internally by violence. With the support of aid agencies, it promotes the empowerment of women, adolescents and girls with disabilities who are victims of violence.

6. **Paragraph 2(b) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding decisions in which judges have referred to the provisions of the Convention, the judiciary bases its decisions on international human rights instruments, as exemplified in the decision

¹ Executive Decree No. PCM-055-2017.

² Executive Decree No. PCM-028-2017.

³ Available at bit.ly/3E8ffPv.

⁴ Donated by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

on the constitutional motion against article 45 of the National Registration Act, which made pre-eminence of the paternal surname over the maternal surname mandatory, violating the right to equality. The decision allowed for a free choice of the order of surnames at the moment of registering births.⁵

III. Women's rights and gender equality in relation to the pandemic

7. **Paragraph 3(a) of the list of issues and questions.** The measures implemented in the context of the COVID-19 crisis to effectively prevent domestic and gender-based violence against women and femicides include the following:

(i) In view of the increase in violence against women and girls, publicity and awareness-raising campaigns against all forms of violence were designed to promote implementation of the Emergency Act for Women in the time of COVID-19,⁶ including a spot on radio and television to provide information on the COVID-19 emergency;

(ii) The National Institute for Women introduced the *Conecta* (connect) platform⁷ to facilitate access to care in cases of violence against women and provide free and confidential general and psychological counselling services, assistance through social work and legal advice to women victims/survivors or women at risk of violence. Since December 2020, it has provided care in 3,692 cases and services in 4,100 cases;

(iii) In 2021, coverage of the “Women’s City” programme was expanded when the sixth Women’s City Centre opened in Choluteca with an investment of 136 million lempiras. The Centres include the Women’s Rights Support and Protection Module to provide care for women victims/survivors of violence;⁸

(iv) The Adolescent Care Modules at the Women’s City Centres allow the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family to provide psychological care and virtual counselling to adolescent victims of violence in areas that do not offer services in person. It organizes day-long training sessions on women’s empowerment and rights, life skills, health and hygiene measures and COVID-19 prevention, mental health and resilience. During the implementation of social distancing measures, it continued to offer face-to-face individual psychological care, sexual and reproductive health counselling and general and gynaecological medical care;

(v) The “Justice for Victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence” project of the Inter-agency Commission for the Monitoring of Investigations into Violent Deaths among Women and Femicides, aided by the Justice Education Society, includes training events such as the second and third editions of a seminar on criminal investigations and training modules for judges on access to justice for girls, women and persons of sexual diversity who are victims of crimes of sexual and gender-based violence;

(vi) The Ministry of Health continued to provide care services to victims of sexual violence through the 25 comprehensive care service centres, which have personnel trained in the clinical management of sexual violence, case history, physical examination, care-management plans and referral routes for

⁵ Available at bit.ly/3nPXyEF.

⁶ Legislative Decree No. 99-2020, Official Gazette No. 35,353.

⁷ Available at bit.ly/30UPTGr.

⁸ Accessed on 10 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3CTFRIN.

psychoemotional support for women and girls who are survivors of sexual violence, using a care flowchart that applies protocols in the 72 hours following exposure (prevention of sexually transmitted infections, immunization, psychological first aid and referrals to psychoemotional support);

(vii) The Ministry of Health, Médecins sans frontières (international), the National Institute for Women and the Office of the Public Prosecutor coordinate services that have been given priority in the municipalities of Distrito Central and Choloma for women victims/survivors of sexual violence that include medical treatment, post-exposure prophylaxis to prevent HIV and hepatitis B infections, treatment for sexually transmitted infections, counselling, group therapy and psychological first aid.

8. **Paragraph 3(b) of the list of issues and questions.** The following measures were taken to guarantee equal participation in public life, decision-making, economic empowerment and implementation of recovery programmes:

(i) The National Congress ratified the Emergency Act for Women in the time of COVID-19, which was introduced by the Gender Equity Commission, and the new Electoral Act of Honduras;⁹

(ii) By 2020, the financial autonomy units that work out of the Women's City Centres had assisted 77,458 women and provided 165,148 individual services, including business advice, business plan development, legal certification, financial facilitation services, business analyses, loans and training. These units registered 1,300 women with employment exchanges, approved 101 loans and provided 42 women with training in micro-business;

(iii) The Ministry of Labour and Social Security ensured greater stability in employment related to maternity leave, making such leave a right pursuant to legal provisions and biosecurity protocols so that pregnant women can telecommute;

(iv) The Reconstruction and Sustainable Development Plan 2020–2021 was designed with a gender approach and includes steps to recover physically, socially and productively from the effects and impacts of Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

9. Paragraph 3(c) of the list of issues and questions. As concerns financial support for unpaid care roles during the COVID-19 pandemic, such stimulus packages are not available.

10. Measures to ensure women's access during the pandemic restrictions include the following:

(i) In relation to education, the Ministry of Education and Culture implemented the "We Want You Studying at Home in the Time of COVID-19" strategy to prevent school dropout;

(ii) The Ministry of Health, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), conducted activities to save lives, protect health workers, curb the spread of diseases such as COVID-19 and promote sexual and reproductive health care, including maternal and neonatal health and family planning;

(iii) The Ministry expanded capacities to guarantee uninterrupted service provision during the emergency caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, prioritizing the municipalities of La Lima, Puerto Cortés, San Pedro Sula and Villanueva, in

⁹ Legislative Decree No. 35-2021, Official Gazette No. 35,610.

the Department of Cortés, and training 266 sexual and reproductive health service providers and 130 volunteer collaborators;

(iv) Priority was given to administering COVID-19 vaccines to persons in vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and new mothers, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons deprived of liberty;

(v) Sexual and reproductive health services are provided in three hospitals and 48 health facilities in the municipalities that have been given priority, including the three maternal and child service centres of Cortés. In these locations, 43 medical brigades were deployed, attending to 8,717 people and providing sexual and reproductive health services to 620 women and girls, family planning counselling to 377 women and girls, prenatal care to 32 women, long-acting contraceptive methods (intra-uterine devices and subdermal hormonal implants) to 131 women and short-acting contraceptive methods to 235 women (119 were new users); and 247 users changed from a short-acting to a long-acting contraceptive method after counselling allowed the women and girls to make informed decisions and give their consent;

(vi) There was a fall in the demand for hospital births owing to the COVID-19 emergency. Of the health facilities in the prioritized municipalities of the Department of Cortés, 88 per cent reported community births; in response, there was an urgent need to expand the technical capacities of volunteer collaborators, traditional midwives and logistical support managers to help attend to home births.

IV. Legislative framework and definition of discrimination

11. **Paragraph 4(a) of the list of issues and questions.** To ensure that women can participate in political and public life without discrimination, the new Electoral Act integrates the principle of parity and alternation into electoral processes, the composition of formulas, lists and slates of candidates for elected positions and for leadership roles in political parties.

12. **Paragraph 4(c) of the list of issues and questions.** The bill proposing a comprehensive Act against violence against women, prepared by the National Institute for Women and women's organizations, is currently under review and the shelters bill has already been approved.

13. **Paragraph 5 of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding the constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion, in June 2021 the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice admitted constitutional motions against article 67 of the Constitution and article 196 of the Penal Code, to decriminalize abortion on three grounds, in an appeal filed by civil society organizations.

14. To prevent maternal mortality, a Maternal Mortality Surveillance Committee was formed, which operates in 12 regions, 15 hospitals and 37 municipal committees that have a plan of action to reduce maternal mortality.

15. There are no specific statistics on the impact of restrictions on abortion.

V. Access to justice

16. Paragraph 6 of the list of issues and questions. The measures described below were implemented to accelerate prosecutions and ensure access to justice:

- (i) As part of steps to modernize the judiciary, seven new judicial offices were inaugurated in 2021 in municipalities¹⁰ that did not have courts and five more facilities are expected to be opened by the end of 2022;
- (ii) The judiciary included indicators for people living in vulnerable conditions to be able to measure the services it provided to vulnerable groups;¹¹
- (iii) Instruction in indigenous languages was authorized for the training and induction of judicial facilitators. Every year, Justices of the Peace provide training to facilitators on topics that include domestic and gender-based violence;
- (iv) The National Plan to Eliminate Judicial Delays was designed to progressively reduce judicial delays nationwide.¹²

17. Through its project to strengthen access to justice for indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities in Honduras, the Office of the Prosecutor-General is promoting respect, recognition, representation and the defence of the rights of indigenous and Afro-Honduran persons, including indigenous and Afro-Honduran women, and facilitates access to a differentiated justice system, with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation in Honduras.

18. Statistics on cases of violence against women for 2020 are presented below:

(a) The Office of the Public Prosecutor provided 19,569 direct services to women victims of domestic violence and issued 771 formal charges for crimes of intrafamily violence and contempt;

(b) There were 1,315 convictions, of which 1,109 were for domestic violence, 134 for intrafamily violence and contempt, and 72 for sexual offences.¹³ In addition, 657 awards of remedies were made to victims of domestic violence;

(c) Across the country, the courts of first instance received 15,125 cases of domestic violence and reached 9,770 decisions;

(d) Nationwide, 1,433 new cases of intrafamily violence were filed. One hundred and twelve convictions were reached through summary procedure and there were 130 provisional convictions, 754 convictions through dismissal, 19 convictions through suspension of criminal action, 796 convictions through conciliation and 104 orders to initiate proceedings, making a total of 1,940 decisions.

19. **Paragraph 6(c) of the list of issues and questions.** To provide protection and access to legal remedies to women victims/survivors of violence, the Office of the Public Prosecutor has specialized comprehensive support units and a mobile unit to provide comprehensive care to victims/survivors of violence, with services in the legal, health, clinical-forensic and psychological areas.

20. The Women's Rights Support and Protection Modules of the Women's City Centres provide comprehensive care to women victims/survivors of violence and information on legal remedies, legal counselling, health and psychological care, economic empowerment and education. Between 2017 and July 2021, 42,327 reports of complaints of gender-based violence were received and approximately 65,000 separate services were provided.

¹⁰ Located in: Lepaera, Lempira; Quimistán, Santa Bárbara; Corquín, Copán; Santa Ana, La Paz; Concepción, Ocotepeque; La Venta, Francisco Morazán; and Yamaranguila and Camasca, Intibucá.

¹¹ Accessed on 9 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/2ZFHQfn.

¹² Agreement No. PCSJ-8-2016. Available at bit.ly/3p3Kuoe.

¹³ Accessed on 12 October 2021. Available at bit.ly/32oN2FS.

21. **Paragraph 6(d) of the list of issues and questions.** The Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights has no record of complaints of gender discrimination made against women in recent years.

22. Between 2016 and 2020, the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights received 17,398 complaints filed by women, of which 2,822 are related to access to justice, due legal process or the filing of a complaint, delay in the admission of an appeal, abuse of authority, improper exercise of authority by a public servant, negligence in the preliminary investigation of a complaint, prevarication in a conviction, delay in the preliminary investigation of the report and unjustified delay of an order, decision, ruling or conviction.

VI. National machinery for the advancement of women

23. **Paragraph 7(a) of the list of issues and questions.** Mechanisms to ensure inter-institutional coordination include those described below:

(i) In 2020, the Gender Observatory, the *Conecta* (connect) platform and the Gender School were established. These are all attached to the National Institute for Women;¹⁴

(ii) Incorporation of the women's mechanism in the National Commission on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its inter-agency technical committee, to further mainstream the gender perspective in the planning and budget of public institutions;

(iii) There are 36 institutional gender mechanisms at the central level and 274 Municipal Women's Offices in local governments.

24. **Paragraph 7(b) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding human, technical and financial resources, the National Institute for Women has 101 employees working in the central and regional offices and the Women's City Centres and it was technically and financially upgraded through an increase in allocations from 22 million lempiras to 43 million lempiras to promote the Second Gender Equality and Equity Plan and the National Plan against Violence against Women.

25. **Paragraph 7(c) of the list of issues and questions.** In connection with the assessment of the Second Gender Equality and Equity Plan, 2010–2022, the Committee is hereby informed of the following:

(i) The National Institute for Women is currently carrying out nationwide assessment consultation campaigns, with the support of UNFPA;

(ii) The Gender Investment Index is implemented on an annual basis and technical and operational guidelines are formulated for the monitoring and assessment of public management in the matter of gender;

(iii) The Gender Unit of the Ministry of Social Development and Inclusion implements the Gender Unit Management System to ensure institutional accountability and to identify and systematize the delivery of benefits at the central, departmental and municipal levels. It also includes a gender indicator linked to the Directorate for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples.

26. **Paragraphs 7(d) and 7(e) of the lists of issues and questions.** The following progress has been made in regard to mechanisms to promote the participation of women and to mainstream gender equality across public policies:

¹⁴ Available at bit.ly/3CRV8TW.

- (i) With the assistance of the National Institute for Women, the public policy for indigenous women and women of African descent was prepared, to provide strategic guidelines to mainstream a policy aimed at indigenous and Afro-Honduran women across the public agenda;
- (ii) The Ministry of the General Coordination of Government promotes gender mainstreaming in the different levels of the national system of planning for development and is currently working to establish mechanisms to implement legislation and public policies on gender equality, including the drafting of a comprehensive strategy and methodological guidelines for gender mainstreaming.

VII. Temporary special measures

27. **Paragraph 8 of the list of issues and questions.** The following temporary special measures were taken to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality between women and men:

- (i) Faced with school closures owing to the social distancing measures implemented because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education and Culture adopted the “We Want You Studying at Home” strategy;
- (ii) The Act on Support for the Productive Sector and Its Workers Given the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic was passed to provide a temporary supportive measure. Under this law, the contributions of workers affiliated with the Private Contributions Regime in the maquila and tourism sectors are temporarily being paid for them. As of June 2020, benefits had been provided to 106,636 workers from 597 companies belonging to the Private Contribution Regime, 101 belonging to the Honduran Maquila Association and 60 belonging to the tourism sector, with an investment of 383,617,500 lempiras.

VIII. Stereotypes and harmful practices

28. **Paragraph 9 (a) of the list of issues and questions.** To eliminate patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes, the Justices of the Peace of 250 municipalities in the 18 departments of the country provide four training sessions per year to judicial facilitators who, in turn, pass on the training to villagers in their communities, on different topics including the prevention of violence and the elimination of patriarchal attitudes.

29. The following measures were taken in relation to harmful practices such as child marriage and in response to rates of teenage pregnancy:

- (a) In the context of COVID-19, the Outreach and Community Affairs Unit of the Office of the President of the Republic conducted more than 5,000 webinars for adolescents and young people on issues of prevention and youth violence;
- (b) Courses on masculinities, domestic violence and training on managing emotions in the time of COVID-19 were held to prevent dating violence and to encourage a culture of reporting physical and psychological intrafamily abuse;
- (c) In April 2021, the system for the prevention of teenage pregnancies, which is a virtual platform, was launched to provide information to children and adolescents about the services of the Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Programme;¹⁵

¹⁵ Accessed on 9 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3HSXBkK.

(d) The Women's City Programme, together with UNFPA, carried out a series of street cinema events on the theme "Leave no one behind", on the prevention of teenage pregnancy.¹⁶

30. **Paragraph 9(b) of the list of issues and questions.** The Ministry of Education and Culture took the following steps to incorporate equality in curricula through gender mainstreaming:

(i) In 2018, the Ministry established a gender mechanism at the central and decentralized levels in order to mainstream gender in the design, implementation and assessment of policies, plans and proposals for classroom, administrative and community management. The mechanism provides ongoing support and technical advice and promotes cooperative work between the various agencies and groups;¹⁷

(ii) A virtual gender portal was added to the Ministry's official webpage to ensure the professional development of civil servants in gender and human rights issues;

(iii) A strategic gender road map was introduced for gender mainstreaming, the review of instruments, documents, tools and educational materials with the support of the Programme of Support for the Decentralization of Education in Honduras, a diagnosis of the current status of gender, and a plan to follow up on implementation of the strategic gender route;

(iv) The change project on Rethinking Education with Gender Equity (2019–2020), to promote gender-based teaching practices that have been redesigned in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic.

31. The community education units of the Women's City Centres conduct training activities to eliminate stereotypes, norms, values, taboos, attitudes and harmful behaviours and to promote gender equality and positive cultural norms among adolescent girls. These processes target mothers, fathers and other adults who are role models for adolescent girls. From 2017 to the present, more than 21,000 services have been provided (85 per cent for women).

32. **Paragraph 10 of the list of issues and questions.** No information is available.

IX. Gender-based violence against women

33. **Paragraph 11 of the list of issues and questions.** In addition to the public policy for indigenous and Afro-Honduran women that is under development, a strategy to combat violence against indigenous and Afro-Honduran women and vulnerable women is being drafted.

34. **Paragraph 11(a) of the list of issues and questions.** Campaigns have been developed to prevent and raise awareness of all forms of violence against women, which increased during lockdown owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

(i) "I am a woman and I have the right to a life free of violence", to prevent human trafficking, domestic and intrafamily violence and femicide;

(ii) "The National Institute for Women is with you";

(iii) "Living together without violence";

(iv) "You are not alone";

¹⁶ Accessed on 9 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3p3t239.

¹⁷ Ministry of Education and Culture Agreement No. 0643-SE-2018, Official Gazette No. 34,862.

(v) With the Spotlight Initiative Honduras, the “Other Pandemic” communication campaign was launched in 2021;¹⁸

(vi) “Defending breastfeeding: a shared responsibility”;

(vii) The “What reasons do you have to be a better man?” masculinities campaign.

35. Between 2018 and 2019, legal facilitators conducted 675 training sessions on gender-based violence against indigenous and Afro-Honduran women, disabled persons and women human rights defenders.

36. **Paragraph 11(b) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding the prosecution of cases of violence against women and girls, see the response to paragraph 6(a) of the list of issues and questions.

37. **Paragraph 11(c) of the list of issues and questions.** To combat incest the Office of the Public Prosecutor trains teachers, students and parents on sexual crimes, including incest, promoting a culture of reporting. In addition, the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Children conducts workshops on sexual crimes.

38. **Paragraph 11(d) of the list of issues and questions.** The steps taken to prevent gender violence against women in detention centres and internment centres for children in conflict with the law are described below.

39. The National Prison Institute has a special intervention response team, trained in special penitentiary operations. Prison personnel are equipped with non-lethal weapons, personal protective clothing and body armour, which they can use in exceptional circumstances. Every year, between 70 and 80 searches for contraband are carried out in prisons and metal detectors are used.

40. In order to eliminate overcrowding, the National Institute for Juvenile Offenders provides adequate space in the dormitories of each educational internment centre, separates convicts from prisoners awaiting trial, groups inmates by age and has security protocols for fires, riots and escapes.

41. Staff members (in the technical area, special custodians and institutions that collaborate with the care process) receive specialized training in human rights, national and international regulations, security and the psychosocial development of adolescents, and training for children and adolescents is provided in compliance with custodial and non-custodial measures.

42. The Office of the Special Prosecutor for Children conducts periodic inspections of the Sacred Heart Psychopedagogical Centre to ensure that the children are in optimal conditions.

43. **Paragraph 11(e) of the list of issues and questions.** In connection with protection and legal remedies for women victims of violence, see the response to paragraph 6(c) of the list of issues and questions.

44. **Paragraph 11(f) of the list of issues and questions.** There are seven shelters in the main cities to protect women and children and adolescents who are victims of violence, including indigenous and Afro-Honduran women, who are referred by special domestic violence courts. These apply a Procedure and Care Protocol for shelters that is distributed and publicized through the municipal offices for women.

45. **Paragraph 11(g) of the list of issues and questions.** Between 2017 and June 2021, the Specialized Comprehensive Care Units attended to 51,926 vulnerable persons, provided counselling to 28,020 persons and received 23,906 complaints from

¹⁸ Accessed on 22 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3FRyhKn, bit.ly/3p3t239.

victims of violence (vulnerable women and other persons). Of these, 12,886 were related to domestic violence, 2,029 to sexual assault and 163 to harassment. The Units also ordered 7,260 security measures.

46. The National Gender Observatory provides national data and statistical information on the inequality between women and men.¹⁹

47. INTERPOL conducts investigations to search for missing children and adolescents, initiating 585 AMBER alerts and resolving 477 cases.

48. **Paragraph 11(j) of the list of issues and questions.** The State provides legal assistance and representation to women, children and adolescents with disabilities to defend their rights. This includes free legal assistance for women victims of gender-based violence and discrimination, and access to information on legal remedies available through the Office of the Public Defender. Between 2018 and 2021, there were 364 cases of assistance being provided to vulnerable women.

49. **Paragraph 11(k) of the list of issues and questions.** To expand the availability of shelters, in 2021 an allocation of 5 million lempiras from the security tax was incorporated into the General Provisions of the Budget of the Republic for the establishment and operation of a shelter.²⁰

X. Women human rights defenders

50. **Paragraph 12(a) of the list of issues and questions.** The Ministry of Human Rights and the National Council for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Workers issue press releases to raise awareness about the importance of the work performed by women human rights defenders and publicize the work and operations of the protection mechanism with various networks and civil society organizations.

51. They also provide training such as the course on the protection of human rights defenders developed in August 2021 in conjunction with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

52. **Paragraph 12(b) of the list of issues and questions.** The main components of prevention, early warning and risk assessment plans have been established with the participation of women community leaders and community and local social actors, as described below:

(i) The design of the prevention plans takes into account the actions and priorities identified as a result of the vision and social inclusion of the participating women in the component on economic, social, cultural and environmental rights;

(ii) The risk assessment components take into account the aggressor's intentions, based on work-related incidents of risk, the vulnerabilities that these people present in terms of their movements, place of residence and work, and takes the context of gender-based violence into account in the instrument with a gender focus on women;

(iii) When a risk situation is identified, the General Directorate for the Protection System takes steps to reduce the risk and prevent future aggressions. If necessary, other protection measures are provided in response to the specific circumstances of the risk (such as police contact information, police escorts,

¹⁹ Accessed on 10 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3raCMve.

²⁰ Article 67 of the General Provisions of the Budget. Available at bit.ly/3nS8oUl.

police patrols, ad hoc police escorts, security cameras, alarms, video intercommunication devices and outdoor lighting).

53. **Paragraph 12(c) of the list of issues and questions.** With the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the operational personnel of the General Directorate for the Protection System were trained in the manual on the application of gender-sensitive and intersectional approaches, to be referred to when handling cases involving women and lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual and intersex persons.

54. Applying the gender approach, female police escorts have been assigned when requested by those requiring protection. In exceptional cases, when there is an imminent risk to life, security and personal integrity, temporary relocation measures can be applied.

XI. Trafficking and sexual exploitation

55. Paragraph 13(a) of the list of issues and questions. To prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons, the Inter-agency Commission to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking conducts activities, including virtual campaigns, as described below:

- (i) “It’s about Stopping Trafficking”;
- (ii) Forum on the vulnerability of women and girls to the crime of human trafficking, with the participation of civil society organizations, reaching 242,008 people;
- (iii) “Knowing is Preventing, Reporting is Fighting”, with posts on social networks that are focused on the different forms of trafficking, reaching 131,075 people;
- (iv) Online educational workshops for parents and teachers, which were conducted a total of 968 times;
- (v) Five short films published on social networks, which were played 627 times and were seen by 1,612 viewers;
- (vi) Through the Local Committees in border areas, the Inter-agency Commission carries out awareness-raising actions on the border at Amatillo, Agua Caliente, El Poy and Corinto, to warn of the dangers of migration linked to human trafficking.

56. **Paragraph 13(b) of the list of issues and questions.** Between 2016 and 2020, the Inter-agency Commission for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents identified 490 new victims of human trafficking, 85 per cent of whom were women and girls. All the victims identified received direct protection and care services in line with the circumstances and needs of each case.

57. **Paragraph 13(c) of the list of issues and questions.** To improve international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of recruitment, transit and destination, coordination was expanded and synergies were achieved with organizations (the United Nations and the Organization of American States), and there is active participation in the international forums that promote cooperation in the prevention and prosecution of crime and the care and protection of victims, such as:

- (i) The Commission of Police Chiefs of Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean and Colombia, a forum for coordination between the National Police

and the Office of the Public Prosecutor (regional operations and joint investigations);

(ii) Regional network of prosecutors;

(iii) Regional Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.

58. As one of the countries of the Northern Triangle, coordination and joint actions to prevent and combat the crime of human trafficking linked to the smuggling of migrants and irregular migration were stepped up. There is also continuous coordination with Belize.

59. As described below, with technical and financial assistance from international aid partners, technical tools have been developed to guide the work to combat trafficking, with an emphasis on caring for victims; materials on prevention were adapted for persons with visual and hearing disabilities; and agreements were signed:

(a) The International Bureau for Children's Rights project on the comprehensive strengthening of children's rights, which will allow volunteers from different areas to join the Inter-agency team for seven years;

(b) The International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children;

(c) The Office of the Deputy Minister for Prevention of the Ministry of Security, to ensure inter-institutional coordination and financial cooperation;

(d) In November 2021, the prosecutors general of Honduras and Colombia held meetings to coordinate joint activities to combat organized crime, drug trafficking and migrant smuggling; to establish a binational agenda; and to exchange information in the framework of investigations of these crimes.²¹

XII. Participation in public life

60. **Paragraph 14(a) of the list of issues and questions.** The principle of parity and alternation in electoral processes is enshrined in article 74 of the new Electoral Act of Honduras. Lists of candidates for elected office at all levels must therefore be composed of 50 per cent women and 50 per cent men, as stipulated in the implementing regulations of the Act.

61. The aforementioned Act establishes the Gender Unit, which monitors compliance with parity and alternation by political parties and candidates for office at the three levels of government and for the Central American Parliament.

62. Slates of candidates that do not meet parity and alternation requirements will be rejected by the National Electoral Council.

63. **Paragraph 14(b) of the list of issues and questions.** The Virtual Classroom²² platform was launched to prepare women candidates for elected office by further building their capacity in the areas of women's political participation and the fight against gender-based political violence; training in democratic values; and training for polling station staff.

64. Ahead of the current electoral process, training was provided on the implementation of biosecurity measures, rules governing coexistence, general information on the electoral process, electoral crimes and the manual for polling stations.

²¹ Accessed on 11 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/315yDor.

²² Available at bit.ly/3CZjTOo.

65. Paragraph 15 of the list of issues and questions. Regarding the approval of a law to prevent political violence against women, on 5 November 2021, the National Electoral Council presented a bill on combating gender-based political violence.

66. It also approved the Protocol against gender-based political violence,²³ which will be applied in all phases of the electoral cycle, in order to raise public awareness of gender-based political violence, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and the European Union.

XIII. Nationality

67. **Paragraph 16 of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding the registration of migrant children and adolescents returning to the country, the National Registry Office is working to provide documentation to child and adolescent returnees at returning migrant support centres in San Pedro Sula, Omoa and La Lima.

68. The National Registry Office issues birth certificates through its 22 departmental civil registry offices, the consulates of Honduras, an office in the National Migration Institute, registry offices at the customs in Amatillo and Agua Caliente and in areas bordering Guatemala, and at the Women's City Centre office in Tegucigalpa, which issued 16,370 birth certificates and 1,410 identity cards between 2017 and 2020.

69. To facilitate the registration of children born in Guatemala and El Salvador to Honduran parents living in border areas, the National Registry Office signed a letter of understanding with the civil registries of those countries and established in the regulations to the National Registry of Persons Act a grace period of 90 days for birth registrations without the need for documentation to be authenticated and apostilled.

70. Since 2018, more than 7,000 girls and women aged 2 to 25 whose parents had not registered them have had replacement birth certificates issued, and registration data were corrected. As of June 2021, 291,270 girls were registered within the time frame established by law.

71. As at 23 November 2021, 5,464,979 citizens (2,846,784 women and 2,618,195 men) had been signed up in the "*Identificate* (Identify yourself)" project, 5,200,000 national identification documents had been printed and 4,822,339 national identification documents had been issued.²⁴

XIV. Education

72. Paragraph 17(a) of the list of issues and questions: in 2019, 1,964,000 children and adolescents enrolled in the national education system attended school and completed the school year. In 2020, 1,921,454 enrolled children and adolescents attended school and completed the school year. In 2021, 1,821,988 children and adolescents were enrolled at the beginning of the school year.

²³ Accessed on 11 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3162vKC.

²⁴ Accessed on 23 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3CP8hx7.

Initial enrolment of children and adolescents at the national level

<i>Description</i>		<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
Sex	Female	1 017 190	1 011 593	987 314
	Male	1 011 510	1 006 673	979 300
Total		2 028 700	2 018 266	1 966 614
Level of education	Preschool	246 160	242 821	236 258
	Primary	1 266 513	1 265 911	1 247 459
	Secondary	516 027	509 534	482 897

Source: Honduras en Cifras 2017–2019, Central Bank of Honduras.²⁵

73. Indigenous and Afro-Honduran children and adolescents and children and adolescents with disabilities enrolled in the national education system between 2018 and 2020:

Enrolment of indigenous and Afro-Honduran children and adolescents in intercultural bilingual education

<i>Year</i>	<i>Level of education</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>
2018	Preschool	3 306	3 254	6 560
	Primary	41 337	42 877	84 214
	Total	44 643	46 131	90 774
2019	Preschool	3 341	3 320	6 661
	Primary	36 418	36 837	73 255
	Total	39 759	40 157	79 916
2020	Preschool	4 119	3 953	8 072
	Primary	43 710	44 887	88 597
	Secondary	5 531	5 082	10 613
	Total	53 360	53 922	107 282

Source: Ministry of Education and Culture.

Enrolment of children and adolescents with disabilities in inclusive primary education

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type of disability</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>
2018	Auditory	820	860	1 680
	Visual	3 135	2 992	6 127
	Intellectual	2 215	2 917	5 132
	Motor	1 085	1 396	2 481
	Multiple	785	1 048	1 833
	Language disorders	1 309	2 172	3 481
	Learning problems	8 283	10 873	19 156

²⁵ Available at bit.ly/319dWlr.

	Cerebral palsy	110	119	229
	Other disabilities	395	648	1 043
	Total	18 137	23 025	41 162
2019	Auditory	1 071	1 074	2 145
	Visual	3 886	3 558	7 444
	Intellectual	3 596	2 964	6 560
	Motor	2 020	1 899	3 919
	Multiple	1 752	1 557	3 309
	Language disorders	1 592	2 586	4 178
	Learning problems	8 096	10 554	18 650
	Cerebral palsy	196	189	385
	Other disabilities	724	946	1 670
	Total	22 933	25 327	48 260
2020	Auditory	498	498	996
	Visual	2 023	1 968	3 991
	Intellectual	1 023	1 320	2 343
	Motor	733	808	1 541
	Multiple	385	439	824
	Language disorders	628	979	1 607
	Learning problems	4 039	5 371	9 410
	Cerebral palsy	80	91	171
	Other disabilities	227	503	730
	Total	9 636	11 977	21 613

Source: Ministry of Education and Culture/General Directorate of Educational Modalities.

74. Paragraph 17(b) of the list of issues and questions. Measures to provide girl students with access to distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic:

(i) The “We Want You Studying at Home” strategy prioritized curricular content and the distribution of workbooks to educate children and adolescents in rural areas without access to the Internet or other means of communication. For this purpose, a protocol was drawn up for the distribution of primary and secondary education textbooks, focusing on underprivileged areas;

(ii) With the support of the academic coordinators of the distance-learning secondary education institutions, primers, activity guides and workbooks were written for such subject areas as English I and II, Administration II, Project Management II, Mathematics II and Biology I.

75. Paragraph 17(c) of the list of issues and questions. Measures taken under the multisectoral plan for the prevention of teenage pregnancy to address school dropout rates among girls:

(i) Thirteen training days on the prevention of teenage pregnancy were held for 13- to 18-year-old students in 13 selected departments:²⁶ 3,201 students from

²⁶ Departments selected: Atlántida, Colón, Comayagua, Cortés, El Paraíso, Islas de la Bahía, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Santa Bárbara, Valle, Yoro and Francisco Morazán.

202 schools participated in the training days as part of the “I choose to make my dreams come true” campaign;

(ii) In July 2020, the television series “*Es cosa D-2 (It Takes Two)*”, aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies, was launched with the support of UNFPA. The eight-episode series, which addresses youth issues with the aim of spreading awareness, is based on real-life events in rural and urban contexts, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive rights, domestic violence, sexual violence, communication between mothers and daughters, the importance of reporting incidents, inequality and women’s empowerment, the consequences of early marriages (in the Lenca culture) and early pregnancies,²⁷ which affect more than 4,000 young people in 13 departments who speak openly about these issues. The goal is for the message of the series to reach 10,000 adolescents, mothers and fathers, elicit reflection and a change in behaviour, and, by rebroadcasting the series on regional networks, reach 48 municipalities that have higher rates of teenage pregnancy;

(iii) Municipal and district-level directors of public and private educational institutions were instructed to work with the educational community to address topics related to preventing pregnancy throughout their curricula.

76. The General Subdirectorate of Education for Prevention and Social Rehabilitation of the Ministry of Education and Culture, within the framework of the National Strategy for Prevention and School Safety, promotes the care policy regarding vulnerable populations, forced displacement, sexual and reproductive education, young people in conflict with criminal law (with alternative programmes), child labour and the development of teaching skills in socioemotional prevention, ethics, values and the rule of law. This generates the impetus for violence prevention efforts.

77. Violence in schools is being addressed under the Strategy for the Promotion of Human Rights and the Prevention of Violence, and teachers are being trained in violence prevention.

78. Between 2014 and October 2021, 93.1 per cent of migrant children and adolescents returning to the country whose cases were handled in returning migrant support centres were reintegrated into the national education system.

Migrant child and adolescent returnees reintegrated into the national education system

<i>Year</i>	<i>Child and adolescent returnees</i>	<i>Reintegrated children and adolescents</i>
2017	3 758	2 696
2018	8 436	7 846
2019	13 745	15 965
2020	4 293	4 304
As of October 2021	6 608	7 058

Source: Ministry of Education and Culture.

79. The Ministry of Education and Culture has the following virtual platforms: the school reintegration database for returning migrant children and adolescents and the Gender in Education portal.

²⁷ Accessed on 22 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3r9EDkb.

80. **Paragraph 17(d) of the list of issues and questions.** The “Caring for my Health and Life” manuals cover the mandatory comprehensive educational curriculum on sexual and reproductive health and responsible sexual behaviour at all levels of education.

81. **Paragraph 17(e) of the list of issues and questions.** The complaints unit of the Ministry of Education and Culture handles complaints of harassment, sexual abuse and gender-based violence against girls in school, with the support of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Children.

82. **Paragraph 17(f) of the list of issues and questions.** Female adolescents and young women can choose one of the technical career training courses offered by the National Institute for Vocational Training. Between 2017 and July 2021, 197,833 adolescents between the ages of 14 and 19 years (115,538 women and 97,050 men) completed training courses.

83. **Paragraph 17(g) of the list of issues and questions.** The Ministry of Education and Culture incorporated a gender perspective through the Gender Mechanism²⁸ and the Strategic Gender Road Map in order to combat gender stereotypes in curricula. It also promotes gender inclusiveness in the classroom, eliminating sexist language and promoting a coeducational model.

84. **Paragraph 17(h) of the list of issues and questions.** With regard to continuing education programmes available to women, the Ministry of Education and Culture designed and implemented the Plan on Universal Primary Education. Educational opportunities are conceived and made available for all levels and modalities, in line with demand, and publicized through a communications campaign.

85. With regard to scholarships, under the Honduras 20/20 Presidential Scholarship Programme, 950 young people have received assistance with their postgraduate studies abroad; 17,000 students have received youth scholarships; 4,800 students have received solidarity scholarships; 88,400 students have received youth vouchers; and 116 young people have undertaken courses in agricultural education.

86. In 2020, 43,688 primary and secondary school students were awarded scholarships under the Programme.

XV. Employment

87. **Paragraph 18(a) of the list of issues and questions.** The following measures have been adopted to promote access to formal employment:

(i) The *Innovamujer* Honduras initiative was carried out in 2021 by the National Entrepreneurship and Small Business Service, the Women’s City programme and the Inter-American Development Bank, with funding from the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, to promote the growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises headed by women through a business development services model;²⁹

(ii) The seed funding programme for women entrepreneurs was carried out by the National Entrepreneurship and Small Business Service and the Women’s Entrepreneurship Programme of the financial autonomy units that work out of the Women’s City Centres;

(iii) The aim of the “*Honduras Se Levanta* (Honduras Rises)” strategy is to provide assistance to those affected by COVID-19 and Hurricanes Eta and Iota,

²⁸ Agreement No. 0643-SE-2018, Official Gazette No. 34,862.

²⁹ Accessed on 10 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3p3t239.

including 1,500 women aged 18 to 50 years. In 2021, a line item of 250 million lempiras in seed capital was added;

(iv) Online companies are provided with advisory services and legal permission to operate, in support of women's entrepreneurship. A tax exemption period has been approved, digital marketing platforms have been developed, delivery companies are being promoted, subsidized loans are granted, virtual training sessions are held, financial education is provided, and virtual and local expositions are organized to market products;

(v) Additional credit was extended to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, with an investment of 2.5 billion lempiras, 25 per cent of which was earmarked as guaranteed funds for small entrepreneurs;

(vi) The National Entrepreneurship and Small Business Service's Business Development Centres Network for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises benefited 12,419 women, providing technical assistance to 850 new enterprises in 177 municipalities across 12 regions. As a result, 7,877 jobs, including 2,882 new jobs for women, were preserved; 232 lines of credit were granted to businesses with women at the helm; 1,454 companies led by women benefited from trade fairs; 298 women participated in business rounds; and 13,604 women from 4,821 companies were trained;

(vii) In the agrifood and rural sector, between 2018 and 2021 the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock helped 56,000 women through its programmes to narrow the gender employment gap;

(viii) A strategy was carried out for reinforcing and improving people's quality of life through entrepreneurship, with a focus on the family members of missing migrants, single mothers and young returning migrants.

88. The minimum wage is set on an annual basis, under the Tripartite Agreement on the Adjustment of the Minimum Wage concluded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Honduran Private Enterprise Council and labour unions.

Minimum wage between 2018 and 2021

<i>Year</i>	<i>Minimum wage, lempiras</i>	<i>Variation</i>	<i>Agreement of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security</i>
2018	8 910.70	5.5%	STSS-003-2018
2019	9 443.24	6.0%	
2020	10 022.04	6.1%	STSS-06-2019
2021	10 601.67	–	STSS-01-2021

Source: 2020 Annual Report, Central Bank of Honduras Minimum wage table for 2021.³⁰

89. **Paragraph 18(d) of the list of issues and questions.** The Ministry's Directorate General of Labour Inspections is responsible for verifying the nature of working conditions by inspecting both private and public workplaces and anywhere else that an employer-employee relationship exists. Between 2016 and August 2021, 1,970 inspections were conducted in the maquila sector.

³⁰ Accessed on 23 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3nSITIU.

Inspections carried out between 2017 and 2021

<i>Description</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Inspections	25 614	25 545	21 400	8 267	8 246
Workers concerned	257 097	428 532	259 912	173 183	97 111
Women workers concerned	111 276	182 344	106 385	75 921	41 298

Source: Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

90. **Paragraph 18(f) of the list of issues and questions.** Childcare centres for children under 6 years of age extend support to working parents by providing childcare services. There were 496 such centres in 2017, 370 centres in 2019, 252 centres in 2020 and 447 as of June 2021.³¹

XVI. Health

91. **Paragraph 19(a) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding the legalization of abortion on the three grounds, please see the response to paragraph 5 of the list of issues and questions.

92. **Paragraph 19(b) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding measures to provide mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- (i) The primary health-care facilities of the Ministry of Health have personnel trained in providing psychological care who refer patients to the country's psychiatric hospitals when appropriate;
- (ii) With the support of psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors and specialized personnel, a psychological support platform was put in place using information and communications technologies to provide psychological assistance to persons suffering from depression, suicidality and other mental health-related pathologies and comorbidities;
- (iii) The Priority Patient Programme makes it possible to evaluate patients on the same day they come to the outpatient clinic. In serious cases, patients are admitted to the women's wards and the Child and Adolescent Unit (adolescents and children over 8 years of age). Children under 8 years of age requiring hospitalization are admitted to the Maternity Hospital.

93. **Paragraph 19(c) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding measures to eliminate stigmatization, cease the prosecution of women seeking care in health-care centres and ensure that their decisions are respected:

- (i) The Protocol on post-abortion care on an outpatient basis has been updated, with the support of the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization and the Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics. Issues related to rights, humane treatment and stigmatization are addressed in the Protocol;
- (ii) Adherence to the Standard for High-Quality and Humane Care during Outpatient Consultations and Emergencies is mandatory in public and private health facilities;
- (iii) Unsafe abortions are addressed under the provision on the management of obstetric complications of the Protocol on care prior to conception, during

³¹ 2020 Report on the Achievements of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

pregnancy, childbirth and delivery, and on immediate postpartum and neonatal care.

94. According to the 2019 National Population and Health Survey/Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics, the total fertility rate is 2.6 children per woman. The fertility rate in rural areas is 2.9 children, compared to 2.3 children in urban areas.³²

Statistics on fertility, hospital admissions for childbirth, abortions and vaccination against human papillomavirus

Description	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fertility rate according to the National Institute of Statistics	2.54	2.51	2.47	2.44	2.58
Hospital births	–	–	137 143	125 193	99 684*
Adolescent deliveries	30 468	29 741	27 571	23 181	16 158*
Abortions	–	13 202	12 194	9 751	7 530*
Adolescent abortions	1 754	1 641	1 414	1 118	1 276*
Girls under 11 years of age having received the full HPV vaccine schedule	63 245	53 703	59 446	46 849	27 188

* As of September.

Source: Ministry of Health.

95. **Paragraph 19(e) of the list of issues and questions.** The Depo-Provera injection is the contraceptive method administered to women with psychiatric conditions admitted to chronic women's wards in psychiatric hospitals. In order to provide proper inpatient care, women are treated in acute care wards separate from those of men.

96. **Paragraph 19(f) of the list of issues and questions.** According to the new National Health Policy, there are 32 hospitals (15 basic hospitals, 7 general hospitals and 10 specialized hospitals), of which 29 provide obstetric care, 19 provide obstetric care on demand to indigenous communities and communities of African descent, and the remainder provide referrals.

XVII. Rural women, indigenous women and women of African descent

97. **Paragraph 20(a) of the list of issues and questions.** In January 2020, the Special Advisory Committee of the National Congress held a meeting to acquaint representatives of the 10 indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples with the proposed legislation. The meeting was attended by indigenous and Afro-Honduran women from the following peoples: the Miskitu-Masta, the Lenca, the Garífuna, the Maya Chortí, the Tawahka, the Pech, the Nahuas, the Tolupán, the English-speaking black community and the Chorotega.³³

98. In order to ensure that indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples are consulted and their opinions are respected, the Policy on Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples

³² 2019 National Population and Health Survey/Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, p. 240. Available at bit.ly/3FLPnsN.

³³ Accessed on 6 September 2021. Available at bit.ly/3omjwJP.

promotes culturally appropriate participation and consultation procedures and the establishment of effective mechanisms for obtaining their free, prior and informed consent before adopting legislative or administrative measures that may affect their rights, including the forest governance protocols for the Nahua peoples developed in 2019 with the assistance of the European Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the forest governance protocols of the Lenca and Maya-Chortí peoples drawn up in 2021.

99. **Paragraph 20(c) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding measures to facilitate women's access to land and resources, loans and opportunities:

(i) The Alliance for the Development of La Mosquitia launched the Territorial Governance Platform, which takes a cross-cutting approach to the titling, distribution and regulation of land in the interest of indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples. The Inter-Agency Subcommission for the Titling, Expansion, Distribution and Protection of the Territories and Natural Resources of La Mosquitia was established in September 2019 and the Land Distribution Plan was introduced in 2021;³⁴

(ii) With the *Conecta+* (Connect+) project implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment in conjunction with the Foundation for Rural Business Development, the rural cooperatives project is being carried out, along with training and action plans to promote the economic empowerment of indigenous and Afro-Honduran women, such as the workshop on gender and leadership for indigenous Chortí women;

(iii) The Indigenous Lenca and Chortí National Coordination Platform was established as a space for coordination between the peoples to join forces in defence of their rights and advocacy of those rights before the State and State institutions;

(iv) Together with the Lenca and Maya-Chortí indigenous leadership, tools and mechanisms for capacity building and guidelines for the exercise of the right to consultation during the COVID-19 pandemic were developed.

100. The National Agrarian Institute provides access to land and technical assistance to campesino families and indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities, thereby ensuring legal security and helping to increase production, productivity and income generation as a means of reducing poverty and social violence in the countryside.

Land titles granted to campesino families and indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities, area in hectares and property surveys

<i>Description</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>Total</i>
Titles granted	4 066	4 008	32	8 106
Hectares covered	7 404.46	6 380.47	353.01	14 137.94
Campesino families and indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities in receipt of titles	4 333	4 238	35	8 606
Women	1 552	1 524	17	3 093
Men	2 781	2 714	18	5 513
Titles granted	3 278	3 160	504	6 942
Hectares covered	8 001.01	8 028.96	1 664.87	17 694.84

³⁴ Executive Decree No. PCM-035-2019.

<i>Description</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>Total</i>
Campeño families and indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities in receipt of titles	2 969	3 044	474	6 487
Women	1 020	1 181	197	2 398
Men	1 949	1 863	277	4 089
Property surveys	2 330	2 239	211	4 780
Hectares	20 637.43	23 825.13	1 595.13	46 057.69

Source: National Agrarian Institute Performance Reports 2018, 2019 and 2020.³⁵

101. **Paragraph 20(d) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding access to education for all rural and indigenous women and women of African descent, the Intercultural Bilingual Education Model is being implemented, with the active participation of indigenous and Afro-Honduran communities and civil society organizations. In particular:

- (i) In 2021, 57 new Intercultural Bilingual Education centres were established, bringing the total to 1,175 centres, and 498 people received training in the competencies required for classroom instruction;
- (ii) The third cohort of persons to receive a diploma in trainer training in multicultural techniques and methods for the Intercultural Bilingual Educations Model comprised 342 women and 120 men between 2019 and 2021.

XVIII. Disadvantaged groups of women

102. **Paragraph 21(a) of the list of issues and questions.** The Special Commission issued the draft bill on the prevention of forced displacement and the care and protection of forcibly displaced persons.

103. **Paragraph 21(b) of the list of issues and questions.** To assist returning migrant children and facilitate family reunification:

- (i) In 2018, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which fosters international cooperation, was adopted;
- (ii) The Plan on providing consular protection to families separated in the context of United States policy was carried out, leading to the identification of 1,011 children and adolescents separated from their families and the reunification of 883 of them with their families in 2018;
- (iii) The General Directorate for the Protection of Honduran Migrants is working in collaboration with the Honduran consular network to protect the rights of children and adolescents, assist with their reunification in Honduras or in the country of destination and ensure their dignified return, in coordination with the Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family, which conducts searches for the families of children and adolescents and follows up on the reunification process;
- (iv) The Support Centre for Migrant Children and Families–Belén welcomes migrant families and assists children and adolescents who return alone or accompanied in a welcoming environment, providing them with food, medical

³⁵ Accessed on 7 September 2021. Available at bit.ly/3D5Ba8Z.

and psychological care, clothing, lodging and assistance with the immigration process and other services;

(v) As at 7 November 2021, 45,432 Hondurans have returned, of whom 5,956 are children and adolescents (2,110 girls and 3,846 boys). Some 4,648 children and adolescents (1,506 girls and 3,142 boys) have returned from Mexico, 1,014 children and adolescents (504 girls and 510 boys) from the United States and 294 children and adolescents (100 girls and 194 boys) from Central American countries.

104. Projects to assist returning migrants:

(a) The pilot project for the implementation of the National System for the Reintegration of Returning Migrants, which promotes, coordinates and systematizes national, municipal and international cooperation to address the needs of migrants in a comprehensive manner and reduce the causes of migration;

(b) Humanitarian Assistance and Protection for Returning Migrants in Need of Protection, with a view to developing a national programme to assist, protect and provide solutions to persons in situations of forced human mobility;

(c) The “*Yo Emprendo En Mi Tierra* (My Local Business)” scheme of the National Entrepreneurship and Small Business Service, to encourage and support entrepreneurship.

105. In the communities with the highest migration levels, there are 15 municipal support centres for returning migrants. The centres coordinate the provision of comprehensive assistance to returning migrants at the local level.

106. **Paragraph 21(c) of the list of issues and questions.** Regarding measures to protect women participating in migrant caravans:

(i) The inter-agency response system was activated, bolstering the capacity of returning migrant support centres to receive migrants, thereby guaranteeing their safe and assisted return, and strengthening regional frameworks to promote solidarity in the management of migration;

(ii) In 2020, the National Protocol for the Repatriation of Children and Adolescents was updated. The Protocol is implemented at the national level in coordination with the State institutions that provide protection and assistance;

(iii) The Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights implemented the Security Protocol at the national and international levels, in conjunction with Mexican and Guatemalan human rights institutions.

107. **Paragraph 21(d) of the list of issues and questions.** In order to protect asylum seekers and refugees, the National Migration Institute, in accordance with the Migration and Aliens Act, provides specialized assistance to asylum seekers and refugees through the support centres for migrants in an irregular situation, where migratory status is verified, international protection needs are assessed and medical care and humanitarian assistance are provided. In addition, a multidisciplinary body on refugee matters was set up to analyse and resolve cases.

108. Between January and 5 September 2021, refugee status was granted to 56 people (41 per cent of them women) from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Venezuela and Colombia. In addition, 40 people (50 per cent of them women) from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Cuba, Guatemala, Venezuela, Brazil and Iraq filed refugee applications in 2021.

109. **Paragraph 22(a) of the list of issues and questions.** A total of 1,206 women are deprived of liberty; 18 of them are foreign, 450 have been sentenced, and 756 are facing charges.

110. **Paragraph 22(b) of the list of issues and questions.** In order to ensure that conditions of detentions for women meet the requisite standard, the National Penitentiary Institute has taken the following measures:

(i) It provides health-care services, medical evaluations in the areas of gynaecology-obstetrics, paediatrics, dentistry and laboratory testing, psychological care, mental health and medical treatment. There are 55 patients with psychiatric disorders receiving therapeutic and medical treatment;

(ii) A peaceful coexistence approach to security seeks to foster a harmonious environment by managing emotions in institutional contexts involving the total isolation of individuals, promoting pro-social values that make it possible to live together in solidarity and respect and promote a culture of peace and conflict resolution;

(iii) Internal prison security has been strengthened. Security camera monitoring systems have been installed; perimeter fences and internal barriers separating prison wards have been built. Entry into prison establishments is monitored and registered. Regular searches are conducted, and metal detection equipment is in use;

(iv) With regard to education and capacity building, ongoing training is provided in non-formal education, entrepreneurship and human development, serving 400 women deprived of liberty; 27 women deprived of liberty were trained as educational facilitators and 300 women deprived of liberty are enrolled in the “*Educatodos* (Educate all)” programme;

(v) As part of the health-care infrastructure, a clinic and a visiting room at the National Women’s Social Adaptation Penitentiary were remodelled, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), benefiting some 900 women deprived of liberty and 38 children and adolescents;³⁶

(vi) Module 12 was remodelled, to the benefit of 100 women deprived of liberty;

(vii) In order to facilitate social reintegration, work projects are being carried out that equip women deprived of liberty with tools and new skills.

111. The following training courses build the capacity of prison personnel:

(a) Training of institutional human rights trainers’ course, offered to men and women;

(b) Workshops on prison-related human rights issues;

(c) Between 2018 and 2021, 1,950 officials completed training courses on the prevention of torture, the prevention of discrimination against vulnerable groups, human rights in prisons and enforced disappearance;

(d) With the assistance of ICRC, 24 directors, 24 deputy directors and 30 members of the interdisciplinary technical councils of the 25 prisons were trained in the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules);

(e) The academic curriculum for the training of new prison officers includes a module on gender equality and equity.

³⁶ Accessed on 12 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3cO4mGw.

XIX. Marriage and family relations

112. **Paragraph 23(a) of the list of issues and questions.** In order to enforce the prohibition of marriage of children under 18 years of age, the National Registry Office has instructed the municipal and auxiliary civil registrars to comply with the provisions of the amended Act on the capacity of adolescents to contract marriage. Moreover, young people between 18 and 20 years of age may only marry and be registered in the Civil Registry with the authorization of their parents or guardians.

113. **Paragraph 23(c) of the list of issues and questions:** In 2018, an appeal was brought against article 112 of the Constitution and article 45 of the Family Code, both of which prohibit egalitarian marriage, on the grounds that the articles are unconstitutional. The appeal is pending a ruling by the Plenary of the Chamber.

114. **Paragraph 23(d) of the list of issues and questions:** Under Honduran law, the economic regime of marriage is governed by three systems applicable within the marriage; it recognizes the spouses' right to manage the assets and limits the management thereof should the person managing the assets, due to negligence or incapacity, threaten to destroy the joint marital property or fail to provide for the adequate maintenance thereof.

115. During the dissolution of the marriage, the liquidation and distribution of marital property is governed according to the agreed regime, without prejudice to the preservation of the joint marital property and the provisions of article 70 of the Family Code. The legal remedies are, by way of summary proceedings, divorce and marriage annulment proceedings; in addition to the remedy of appeal, appeals may be made to a higher court.

116. While the value of the non-economic contributions of women to marital property is not explicitly and specifically established, article 42 of the Family Code recognizes a value analogous to that of household work and childcare by establishing the obligation of the spouse to make a strictly monetary contribution, apart from the responsibility to participate in household work and childcare.

XX. Climate change and disaster risk reduction

117. **Paragraph 24(a) of the list of issues and questions.** To mainstream a gender perspective into national disaster response plans:

(i) *MiAmbiente+* (MyEnvironment+) has tools for mainstreaming a gender perspective into the management of development projects. The National Plan on Drought Risk Reduction promotes gender equality and equity in all initiatives and strategic guidelines, and proposes the strengthening of regional and local structures and the establishment of inclusive and egalitarian processes;³⁷

(ii) The National Strategy on Gender and Climate Change is being developed as part of the implementation of the nationally determined contribution to global climate action, and a round table has been set up on gender and climate change;

(iii) The Policy for Comprehensive Risk Management in Honduras sets out actions to reduce vulnerability and disaster risk, and thereby to foster a responsible, resilient and visionary civic and institutional culture;³⁸

³⁷ Accessed on 11 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/30Zn9MB.

³⁸ Accessed on 12 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3oZsUC2.

(iv) The Project on Disaster Risk Management incorporates gender equity safeguards to promote equal participation, decision-making and leadership by women and men in natural disaster risk management;

(v) The National Plan on Disaster Preparedness of the Ministry of Health is followed in emergency and disaster situations. It was developed with the participation of representatives of civil society organizations and the municipal offices for women.

118. Paragraph 24(b) of the list of issues and questions. With regard to the involvement of women in disaster risk reduction and climate change policies and programmes, the first School for the Equality and Empowerment of Rural Women is a pioneer at the national level in equipping women leaders, who have a key role in protecting their environments and communities, to become decision makers.³⁹

119. Paragraph 24(c) of the list of issues and questions. The following measures were taken to assist women affected by the state of emergency declared⁴⁰ in response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota, which affected 4.5 million people in November 2020:

(i) The Ministry of Finance identified, managed, redirected and allocated resources from the various State institutions and available external resources;⁴¹

(ii) As part of Operation “*No Están Solos* (You Are Not Alone)”, 60,000 families (400,000 people) received humanitarian aid packages containing hygiene kits, baby care products and household and kitchen items, totalling an investment of 960 million lempiras;⁴²

(iii) The Standing Commission on Disaster Preparedness launched a search engine platform to make it possible to locate persons who have gone missing during storms and reunite affected families;⁴³

(iv) Support for the food production sector and agroindustry was declared a priority, and the Programme to Ensure Food Sovereignty and Food Security was established to organize, register and trace food production units and define categories of producers;⁴⁴

(v) Emergency response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota, to provide humanitarian assistance to persons in the affected areas;⁴⁵

(vi) The Sustainable Reconstruction Plan, whose aim is to observe, study, analyse, transform and mitigate the social, economic and political differences that lead to discrimination against and oppression of women.

³⁹ Accessed on 12 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/310nL4A.

⁴⁰ Executive Decree PCM-095-2020, Official Gazette No. 35,393.

⁴¹ Executive Decree PCM-112-2020, Official Gazette No. 35,421.

⁴² Accessed on 12 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3eN1ZDw.

⁴³ Accessed on 12 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3r83DrM.

⁴⁴ Executive Decree No. PCM-030-2020, Official Gazette No. 35,222, as amended by Executive Decrees No. PCM-037-2020 and No. PCM-041-2020.

⁴⁵ Accessed on 12 November 2021. Available at bit.ly/3oZtvng.