Women and internal conflict in Colombia

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(1/12) Colombian armed conflict and violence

**Protracted and ongoing** (60 years)
- Influenced by crops of illegal use, land control and drug trafficking
- Peace agreement in 2016

**Single Victims Registry** since 1997 (demand driven)
- Stock of people and events
- Broken down by sociodemographic and geographical variables
- 8.9 million individual victims
- 11.1 million events
- 88% internal displacement
- 18% country’s population
Women are targeted, threatened and discriminated for:
• Their social and political involvement
• Standing for their rights
• Just because they are women

Affectations:
• Sexual and domestic violence
• Domestic and labour exploitation
• Low access to education and job opportunities
• Obstacles in access to land ownership
• Barriers to access public and political scenarios
• Forced recruitment of their children by armed groups
• Murder or disappearance of their economic provider

From traditional caregivers and housewives to being responsible for the household and providers
• **2004, Ruling T-025.** The Colombian Supreme Court declared an **Anti-constitutional State of Affairs** of the internal displacement situation.

• **2008, Ruling 092.** The Supreme Court order the government to **create specific programs** to protect the rights of displaced women.

• **2008, Law 1257.** The National Congress passed the Law to create awareness, **prevention and punishment** of forms of violence and discrimination against women.

• **2013, Conpes 3784.** **Public Policy Guidance** to prevent risks, protect and guarantee the effective enjoyment of rights of women victims: coordination, monitoring with specific indicators.

• **2017, EGRIS.** The **Victims’ Unit** joined EGRIS and the **DANE** (Colombian NSO) joined the IAEG-SDGs, both commissioned by the UN Stat Com.
There is a general balance between the statistics of men and women but:

- 4 million IDP **women** (combined with threat, land grabbing, gender based violence)
- 579.000 women have been affected by **homicide, forced disappearance and kidnapping** (indirect victims, loss of economic provider)
- 28.000 **female victims of gender based violence** (14 times higher than male statistics)
- 30% of IDP **households** were **female headed** at time of registration

Victims’ Unit, 31/01/2020
• 41% of women were under age at the time of victimization (27% at current age)
• 4% of women were above 60 at the time of victimizations (10% at current age)
• 13% of women victims are African descent (523,000 women)
• 4.4% of victims are indigenous women (182,000 women)
... As intended by Ruling 092/2008:

1. Prevention of the disproportionate impact of displacement
2. Prevention of sexual violence against women
3. Prevention of domestic violence
4. Health Promotion
5. Support for women heads of household, access to labor and productive opportunities
6. Educational support for women above 15 year olds
7. Access to land ownership
8. Protection of the rights of indigenous women
9. Protection of the rights of women of African descent
10. Promotion of participation and prevention of violence against social leaders
11. Emotional recovery and psychosocial support

Were there feasible to create and measurable?
A set of practical and operational orientations that allows concrete actions and mechanisms to incorporate, appropriate and implement a gender and differential approach throughout the programs of the Victims´Unit according to the needs and particularities of the victims of the internal conflict.

Principles:

• No harm, avoid re-victimization
• Specialized orientation
• Targeting and prioritization
• Identification and profiling
• Rights education and dissemination
• Social programs adequation
Vulnerability assessment:

- Based on IASC Durable Solutions Framework
- The extent to which and IDPS has overcome displacement related vulnerabilities
- 7 indicators: identification, food security, education, health, income generation, housing, family reunification.
- Data collected via admin records + profiling surveys

Administrative reparation program:

- Economic compensation (“indemnización administrativa”)
- Support for adequate investment of resources
- Emotional recovery strategy

Indicators included in the National Development Plan 2018-2022
(9/12) Durable solutions for IDP female

- 98% of IDP women have ID according to age (93% men)
- 90% of IDP women access the health system (87% men)
- 91% of IDP young women attend school (90% men)
- 59% of IDP women have food security (57% men) 47% ND
- 28% of IDP women live in adequate housing (30% men) 57% ND

3,7 million IDP women measured
Again, there is a general balance between men and women but:

- 10% of the victims registered have accessed **economic compensation**
- 6% of female **victims of displacement**, 28% of female victims of **gender based violence**
- **547,000 women** have accessed **economic compensation** (1163 million USD dollars)
(11/12) Making progress: emotional recovery

- Collective reparation of women’s collectives (women’s organizations):
  - Organizational strengthening
  - Self-management
  - Recovery of cultural practices
  - Involvement in public policy decision making

- 75% of victims who have access to psicosocial rehabilitation are women

- Women victims of gender-based violence are mainly targeted to these programs along with economic compensation.
Final remarks

• Conflict and forced displacement **exacerbates discrimination and violence** against women.
• Conflict and forced displacement express a **dominant position of men and masculinity** by armed groups.
• Victimization against women is a **war strategy**.

Measuring the disproportionate impact of conflict and displacement in women is important to guide solutions, but

• How to make visible and countable the stigmatization, fear and lack of trust?
• How to move from disaggregation of current statistics to specific statistics of women and gender?
• SDGs #5 opportunity?
Thanks

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