



# RESULTS OF THE REGHID SURVEY OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF SALVADORAN WOMEN AND ADOLESCENTS DURING DISPLACEMENT

**Project** *Redressing the gendered health inequalities of displaced women and girls (ReGHID) in the context of the prolonged crisis in Central and South America*





### Study Objective

To explore the Sexual and Reproductive health of returned Salvadoran migrant women and adolescents during their displacement within the framework of the ReGHID Project in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the University of Southampton (UoS).

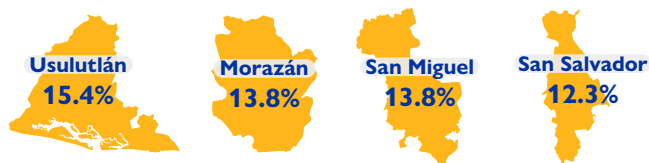
### Sample Characteristics

**Non-probabilistic sample of 65 women and adolescents returned to El Salvador.** The surveys were taken by female IOM staff, trained in migrant health and psycho-emotional support between the 15th of June and 22nd of July 2022.

## Demographic Profile

The sample was mainly composed of **women between the ages of 20 and 24 (N=23, 35.4%), who predominantly reported having attained a basic level of education (N=17, 27%).** The proportion of respondents indicating that they did not have a partner before or after starting their migratory journey was almost exactly the same, 52.3% and 50.8% respectively.

**The areas (Departamentos) of Usulután (15.4%), Morazán (13.8%), San Miguel (13.8%) and San Salvador (12.3%) were where most of the respondents were born.**



INDICATOR		NUMBER	%
Age (years)	15 a 19	14	21.5%
	20 a 24	23	35.4%
	25 a 29	14	21.5%
	30 a 34	14	21.5%
Education <sup>1</sup>	Preschool	4	6.3%
	Basic	41	64.1%
	Secondary	17	26.6%
	Further	2	3.1%
Place of Birth (Departamento)	Usulután	10	15.4%
	Morazán	9	13.8%
	San Miguel	9	13.8%
	San Salvador	8	12.3%
	La Paz	7	10.8%
	Cabañas	5	7.7%
	Sonsonate	5	7.7%
	La Unión	4	6.2%
	Chalatenango	4	6.2%
	La Libertad	2	3.1%
	Ahuachapán	1	1.5%
	San Vicente	1	1.5%

I. The total in this category does not equal the sample size (N= 65) where the question was left blank

## Migratory Profile

Practically all of those surveyed reported that they were first-time migrants (N=63, 97%), most of whom (N=43, 66%) also reported that their migratory journey had lasted between 21 and 60 days. Two out of three (N=44) reported that they had reached the United States, while the remainder reached Mexico. By contrast, practically all of those surveyed reported that they had intended to reach the United States (N=64, 98.5%), and the same proportion reported that they had been deported back to El Salvador. **Four out of five stated that they received no information at the point of their detention.**

**Four out of five (N=53, 81.5%) reported that they had been accompanied,** and nine out of ten of these (N=49, 92.5%) had been accompanied by their offspring.

INDICATOR		AMOUNT	%
First-time migrant?	First time	63	96.9
	Had migrated before	2	3.1
Last country reached?	United States	44	67.7
	Mexico	21	32.3
Intended destination country	United States	64	98.5
	Mexico	1	1.5
Information received during detention or deportation?	Yes	11	16.9
	No	54	83.1
Journey Duration (days)	11 a 20	18	27.7
	21 a 30	26	40.0
	31 a 60	17	26.2
	>= 61	4	6.2
Lone traveller?	Yes	12	18.5
	No	53	81.5
Travelled with offspring? <sup>1</sup>	Yes	49	92.5
	No	4	7.5

1. Question only asked of respondents who reported that they had not travelled alone (N=53)

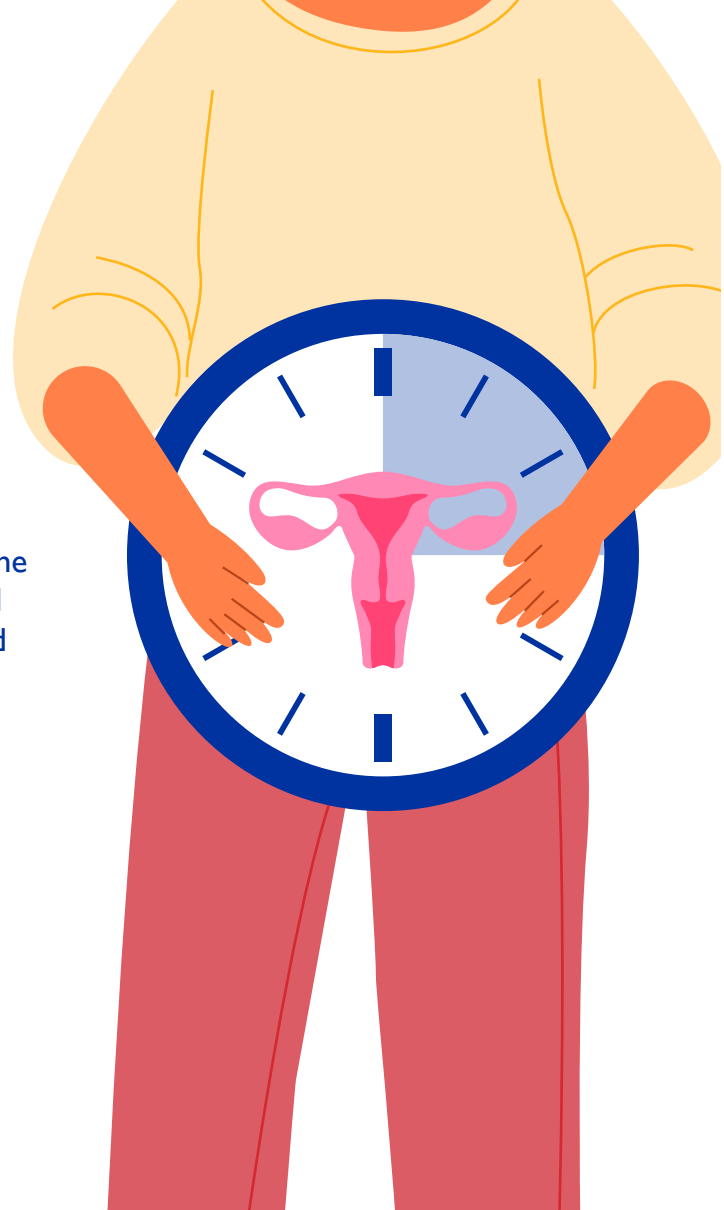
## Menstrual Health



78.5% of the women surveyed reported that they had been menstruating in the days or weeks prior to the survey.

**Two out of three (N=43)** had menstruated during the migratory journey. All of the women reported that they had used **disposable sanitary pads** during their period. These had been **brought from home in 81.4%** of cases (**N=35**), or **obtained from shelters (N=6, 14%)**.

Of the women surveyed who reported that they had not menstruated during the migratory journey (**N=22**), use of contraceptives (**N=13, 59%**) and the migratory journey not coinciding with their menstrual cycle (**N=3, 13.6%**) were the reasons most often given.



## Results of the Reproductive and Sexual Health Survey

INDICATOR		NUMBER	%
Period during the migratory journey?	Yes	43	66.2%
	No	22	33.8%
Reason for not having experienced the period during the migratory journey <sup>1</sup>	Use of contraception	13	59.1%
	Other reason	5	22.7%
	Not the date in their cycle	3	13.6%
	Pregnancy or breastfeeding	1	4.5%
Most commonly-used menstrual hygiene product during the migratory journey <sup>2</sup>	Disposable sanitary pad	43	100.0%
How was the product obtained?	Brought from home	35	81.4%
	Obtained / given to them at a shelter /migrant centre	6	14.0%
	Obtained or given out in detention / deportation centre	1	2.3%
	Purchased in a shop	1	2.3%
Were you able to find your preferred product during the journey?	Yes	42	97.7%
	No	1	2.3%

1.Question only asked of respondents who reported that they had not had their period during the migratory journey (N=22)

2.Question only asked of respondents who reported that their period had come during the migratory journey(N=43)

## Reproductive background



# 9 out of 10

women surveyed had been pregnant at least once (N=52, 90%),

all of whom had had at least one live birth, and in 6% of cases (N=3) at least one stillbirth or miscarriage. No cases of pregnancy during the migratory journey were reported.



## The Migratory Journey and its Effect on Physical and Mental Health



Half of those surveyed reported that the migratory journey had affected their physical health (N=33), while four out of ten (N=25) indicated that it had a negative impact on their mood.

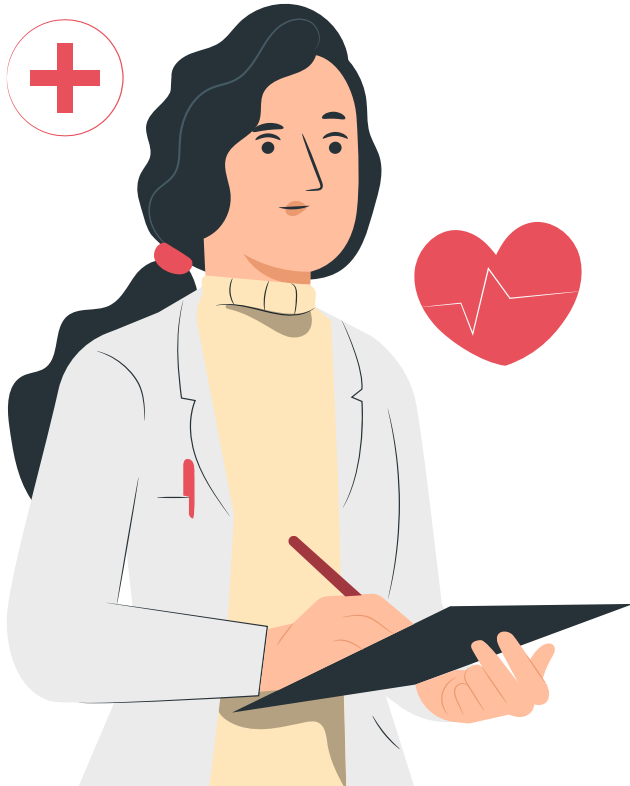


Women surveyed reported a considerable reduction in their general state of health across the different stages of the migratory journey (at the start, during the journey, end of the journey). None of the women surveyed reported being in poor or very poor health at the start of the journey, this had increased to some 4.8% (N=3) and 28.6% (N=18) respectively towards the end of the journey. There was no change across the stages of the journey for those who reported themselves to be in good health. There was a significant reduction, however, in those who had alleged very good health from 50% (N=32) at the start of the journey, to 5% (N=3) towards the end.





## Identifying Health Needs; Locating and Accessing Healthcare Services



**42% of the women surveyed (N=27) reported that they or their offspring had a health need, and of these, nine out of ten (N=24) accessed the corresponding service.**



**Most of this subset (N=20, 83%) reported that the healthcare service required was provided in a Migrant Shelter.** The distance to these compounds (N=11, 46%) was the reason most often given for seeking assistance there.

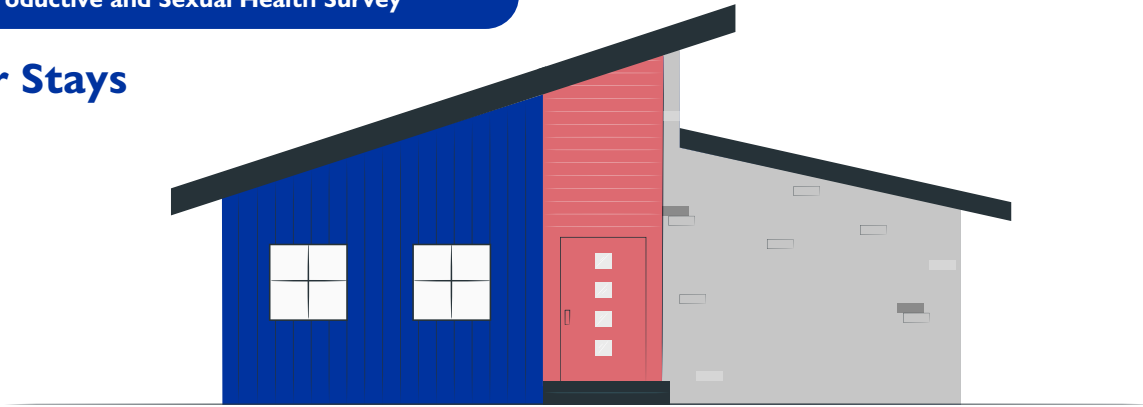


Women who had **received health care in a Migrant Shelter** had their health need resolved in **58.3%** of cases. However, health needs were **not resolved at all or only partially resolved in the remaining 41.7% of cases.**



**75% of the four respondents who had not sought medical care** cited their irregular status as an undocumented migrant as the main reason for not doing so (N=3).

## Shelter Stays



Nine out of ten women surveyed sought refuge in a migrant shelter during the migratory journey  
**(N=56, 87.5%)**



The majority reported not having been turned away by any shelter  
**(N=62, 97%).**

### Of those who reported having stayed in a shelter :

**64%** Stayed in only one (N=36)

**14%** Stayed in two (N=8).

**93%** Reported that they felt safe or very safe during their stay in the shelter

**Over 30%** Were unsatisfied with the care they received during their stay.



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SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF  
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ADOLESCENTS DURING DISPLACEMENT

## STUDY CARRIED OUT BY

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the University of Southampton, as part of the “Redressing Gendered Health Inequalities of Displaced Women and Girls in the context of the Protracted Crisis in Central and South America” Project (ReGHID)

## RESEARCH TEAM

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El Salvador fieldwork coordinator (IOM/El Salvador)

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## SUGGESTED CITATION

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