

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

HONDURAS

STRENGTHENING SERVICES FOR THE ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF RETURNED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS

(HO-T1475)

PROJECT DOCUMENT

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HONDURAS STRENGTHENING SERVICES FOR THE ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF RETURNED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS HO-T1475		
PROJECT SUMMARY		
Operation Type:	Technical Cooperation	
Sector:	SOCIAL INVESTMENT	
Subsector:	MIGRATION & MIGRANTS	
TC Taxonomy:	Operational Support	
Project Number under the Operational Support Taxonomy:	HO-J0001	
Technical Responsible Unit:	SCL/MIG-Migration Unit	
Unit with Disbursement Responsibility (UDR):	CID/CHO-Country Office Honduras	
Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank	
PROJECT OBJECTIVE		
<p>The project aims to support the development and implementation of a specialized model of comprehensive care and referral for returning women and children, with a focus on rights, gender, inclusion, and protection. This model seeks to improve access to and the quality of economic reintegration services, contributing to a more effective and sensitive response to the particular needs of this vulnerable population.</p>		
FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
Financing Type	Fund	Amount in US\$
TCN - Nonreimbursable	W1D - OC SDP Window 1 - Operational Capacity and Policy Dialogue for OC-concessional eligible countries	150,000
Total IDB Financing		150,000
Counterpart Financing		0
Total Project Budget		150,000
Donors:	N/A	
Disbursement Period:	30	
Execution Period:	Months	
ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
N/A		

I. General Objectives and Justification of the TC

- 2.1 **General Context:** The situation of returned women and children has worsened significantly during the periods 2017–2020 and 2021–2024, with an increase of 48% in the case of returned women and 25% for returned children. This represents a total of 49,426 returned women registered between 2017 and 2020, rising to 63,227 between 2021 and 2024; and for returned children, the figure increased from 36,742 to 45,938 during the same period¹. This rise reflects the urgency of addressing the structural factors that perpetuate their vulnerability.
- 2.2 By 2023, **8.8% of young Honduran women who returned did so accompanied by at least one of their children**, forming part of family units. The main reasons behind their migration continue to be economic (61.9%), followed by family-related motives (25.0%) and violence and insecurity (6.9%) (Returnee Assistance System — hereinafter SIAMIR, 2025). These factors reflect the multiple dimensions of vulnerability faced by migrant women, both during their departure and upon return.
- 2.3 In terms of gender and diversity, **in 2024, women represented 54.9% of the working-age population** (3.87 million), of which 1.58 million were part of the labor force and 1.48 million were employed — mainly as self-employed workers (38%), in the private sector (36%), and in the public sector (11%). They are concentrated in trade (30.6%), manufacturing (16.6%), and accommodation and food services (10.8%).²
- 2.4 The **average female income in Honduras is 8,857 Lempiras (hereinafter L)**, with significant differences across sectors: L 17,964 in the public sector, L 9,706 in the private sector, and L 3,863 among dependent contractors³. Meanwhile, the female unemployment rate reached **6.5%, compared to 4.4% for men**, with an average job search time of 3.2 months (2.4 for men), evidencing greater barriers to labor market insertion for women.⁴
- 2.5 According to SIAMIR data, between 2023 and 2025 there was a significant decrease both in the total number of registered returnees with work experience and in female participation. In 2023, a total of 48,968 people were recorded (30.2% women),

¹ <https://ods.sedesol.gob.hn/siamir/>

² Instituto Nacional de Estadística (2024, June 1). *Encuesta Permanente de Hogares (EPHPM)*. <https://ine.gob.hn/2024/11/13/encuesta-permanente-de-hogares-de-propositos-multiples-ephpm-2024/>

³ (2024, June 4). *Ingresos 2024*. Instituto Nacional de Estadística. https://temp.ine.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/IngresoJunio2024.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁴ (2024, June 4). *RESUMEN EJECUTIVO RESULTADOS LXXXI ENCUESTA PERMANENTE DE HOGARES DE PROPOSITOS MULTIPLES JUNIO 2024*. Instituto Nacional de Estadística. https://temp.ine.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Resumen-ejecutivo-EPHPM-junio-2024.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

dropping to 41,252 in 2024 (27.9% women) and to 8,069 in 2025 (22.2% women). This represents an **80.4% reduction** in the number of returnees registered with work experience and an **8-percentage point decrease** in female participation between 2023 and 2025.

2.6 The most common occupations throughout the period include fisherman, cutter, janitor, merchant, and plumber — with a marked **masculinization of technical and primary sector jobs**, while women are concentrated in roles such as housekeeper, artisan, janitor, nanny, and merchant. This trend reveals pronounced gender gaps, highlighting how women tend to be concentrated in sectors of **lower productivity and income**, face a **disproportionate burden of unpaid work**, and have **lower rates of formal employment**.

2.7 These figures show that, although women's participation in the labor market is significant, **structural gaps persist** that limit their access to diversified and better-paid jobs, as well as inequalities in the **coverage, specialization, and effectiveness** of services directed toward women.

2.8 In the context of migration and return, **returned women face specific and multifactorial challenges** that affect their reintegration. Among these are limited access to sexual and reproductive health services — both along the migration route and upon return; psycho-emotional consequences such as stress, anxiety, feelings of failure and guilt; high levels of indebtedness and loss of assets or businesses used to finance migration; as well as stigma and discrimination in their communities of origin, which weakens their support networks. These challenges are compounded by the absence of differentiated protocols, limited specialization in service provision, weak institutional interoperability, and logistical barriers such as distance to service points, lack of childcare services, and low availability of psycho-emotional support — all of which reduce the effectiveness of referral mechanisms and the real opportunities for reintegration.

2.9 The **synergy among institutions** serving returned women and children in Honduras faces a structural challenge: the lack of inter-institutional coordination and limited interoperability among the information systems of each entity. Although important efforts exist across different institutions, the alignment and coordination among competent bodies remains limited, resulting in duplication of efforts, inefficiencies in case management, and delayed responses in an already fragile social context.

2.10 Despite this structure, the lack of effective coordination among different levels and actors prevents comprehensive and continuous assistance — exposing returnees to a higher risk of reliving the trauma of return and the uncertainty that comes with it. The *Plan de Reintegración Nacional (PNR)* - National Reintegration Plan-, developed by the *Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores y Cooperación Internacional (SRECI)* - Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation- in 2024, identifies as one of its strategic pillars the attention to populations with specific needs, such as returned

women. However, the operationalization of the PNR remains a major challenge, as evidenced by the **absence of differentiated protocols** for women and children, which limits the capacity to respond to their specific needs.

- 2.11 Currently, the **reintegration process involves multiple levels of care**. At the national level, the *Centro de Atención al Migrante Retornado (CAMR)* - Centers for Assistance to Returned Migrants- operate under a relatively organized model of inter-institutional coordination, enabling immediate reception. However, this organization becomes weaker and more diffuse at subsequent levels. Although the reception system does respond to immediate needs when returning, there are no clear processes or mechanisms for follow-up and inter-institutional coordination, which exceeds the operational capacity of the CAMRs.
- 2.12 At the state level, institutions such as the *Secretaría de Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia (SENAF)* - Secretariat for Children, Adolescents, and Family- and the *Oficinas Municipales de Reinserción y Apoyo al Retornado (OMRARs)* - Municipal Offices for Reintegration and Support to Returnees - of the SRECI are primarily responsible for case management. Meanwhile, at the municipal level, entities such as the *Secretaría de Estado en los Despachos de Trabajo y Seguridad Social (SETRASS)* - Secretariat of Labor and Social Security- , **Ciudad Mujer**, and **Municipal Women's Offices** offer more specialized services for women.
- 2.13 At the departmental and municipal levels, the situation is even more critical due to the lack of information interconnection. For instance, SIAMIR still needs to link its information system with other key institutions providing services to women, such as Ciudad Mujer, which prevents the sharing of key data like the employment history of returned women. This disconnect increases complexity in case identification and contributes to the revictimization of returned women. The lack of coordination generates information gaps that affect both the design of programs and access to adequate services.
- 2.14 The OMRARs face similar challenges: the absence of specific protocols, limited technical capacity, lack of safe spaces, and geographical barriers. Moreover, inter-institutional coordination is weak and poorly defined, making case traceability and continuity of care difficult. The lack of interoperability between SIAMIR and other systems, such as Ciudad Mujer, underscores a structural problem of institutional coordination and dialogue.
- 2.15 Finally, Ciudad Mujer has an economic autonomy module that could be key to the reintegration of returning women. However, its effectiveness depends on a prior referral system that ensures that women arrive with adequate support and incentives. Currently, the services available are not sufficiently specialized or integrated for returning women and require a more comprehensive approach to ensure the economic and social reintegration of women and their children.

- 2.16 **Synergies and IDB support.** In terms of strategic alignment, and in response to the complex humanitarian and institutional challenges affecting returned women and children, the Government of Honduras and the IDB have developed a substantial portfolio to strengthen reintegration and labor insertion services. Notably, the Labor Market Integration Support Program in Honduras (HO-L1237) seeks to improve formal labor market insertion opportunities for jobseekers by: (i) strengthening employability skills; and (ii) expanding the coverage and quality of public employment services, including differentiated assistance for the Returned Population (PR). This Technical Cooperation complements and adds value to HO-L1237 by developing specialized, gender-responsive approaches for returned women and children, enhancing interoperability among key institutions, and improving case management and referral mechanisms to ensure continuity and effectiveness of reintegration services. The design of this TC also incorporates lessons learned from RG-T4787, which provided training to reintegration personnel from SRECI and SENAF, helping to better understand the roles, gaps, and coordination needs among these institutions throughout the reintegration process—insights that directly informed the focus on differentiated protocols, strengthened information flows, and improved institutional collaboration included in the current operation.
- 2.17 This TC HO-T1475 is consistent with the Second Update of the Bank's Institutional Strategy, *Transforming for Scale and Impact* (CA-631), and aligns with the challenge of Social Inclusion and Equality by expanding access for women and returned children to timely, quality public reintegration services. It also articulates with the cross-cutting areas of Gender and Diversity and Institutional Capacity and Rule of Law by strengthening governance and the interoperability of information systems (e.g., SIAMIR and referral routes to Ciudad Mujer), implementing differentiated protocols for case management and care, and improving inter-institutional coordination (SRECI/CAMR/OMRAR). This TC is also consistent with the objectives and standards of the Strategic Program for the Development of Countries Financed with Ordinary Capital whose objectives include: "strengthening the technical and management capacity of national governments" and "expanding access to intra-regional experiences and promoting the exchange of cooperative expertise among all borrowing member countries." (GN-2819-14). Finally, the TC aligns with the IDB Group's Country Strategy for Honduras (GN-2944) and its 2025–2026 Update (GN-2944-3), particularly with the human capital accumulation pillar and the objective of "reducing poverty and improving services for the vulnerable population," and generates synergies with the portfolio under execution.
- 2.18 **Objective:** The project aims to support the development and implementation of a specialized model of comprehensive care and referral for returning women and children, with a focus on rights, gender, inclusion, and protection. This model seeks to improve access to and the quality of economic reintegration services, contributing to a more effective and sensitive response to the particular needs of this vulnerable population.

II. Description of activities/components and budget.

3.1 Component 1: Redesign and inter-institutional collaboration of economic reintegration services with a focus on returned women and children. (i) Design of a specialized care protocol for returned women. (ii) Capacity building – Training of key institutional personnel involved in differentiated care with a gender focus. (iii) Referral mechanisms – Development of effective referral mechanisms among institutions to ensure comprehensive and timely service delivery.

3.2 Component 2: Strengthening interoperability and adoption of information systems among key institutions. (i) Institutional interoperability model – Design and implementation of a care module that connects different key actors. (ii) Management and monitoring tools – Integration of case management and monitoring tools to ensure continuity and effectiveness of care. (iii) Data process improvement – Optimization of data collection, analysis, and use regarding returned women to strengthen decision-making and public policy development.

3.3 Component 3: Communication activities for the promotion of public reintegration services and awareness-raising among officials regarding the care of returned women and children. (i) Exchange workshops – Organization of workshops for the exchange of lessons learned and best practices among institutions and key actors. (ii) Communication campaigns – Campaigns to promote public services and raise community awareness about the care of returned women. (iii) Dissemination events – Organization of events to present results and the impact of the implemented model, fostering institutional and community engagement. The TC will support in-person and hybrid events, covering the costs of participants that will be selected based on their institutional role, relevance to reintegration processes, technical responsibilities, and participation in SIAMIR-related services for returned women and children. Workshops and dissemination events are expected to include approximately 20–30 representatives from key institutions involved in reception, case management, and reintegration services

3.4. Technical Cooperation Budget. The total cost of this Technical Cooperation is **US\$150,000**, financed by the **OC Strategic Development Program, Window 1 – Operational Capacity and Policy Dialogue** for OC-concessional eligible countries (W1D) under a non-reimbursable TCN modality.

Activity/Component	Description	(W1D)	Total Funding
Redesign and coordination of economic reintegration services with a focus on returning women and children.	Redesign of economic reintegration services with a gender focus, strengthening institutional capacities, and referral mechanisms.	45,000	45,000
Strengthening interoperability and adoption of information systems in key institutions	Improving interoperability and data management between key institutions for effective care for returning women.	75,000	75,000
Communication activities to promote public reintegration services and raise awareness among officials about caring for returning women and children.	Promotion of public services and awareness-raising through workshops, campaigns, and events focused on women and returned children.	30,000	30,000

Total		US\$150,000.00	US\$150,000.00
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3.5. Beneficiaries. The primary beneficiaries of this technical cooperation are SRECI (CAMR and OMRARs), SEDESOL (ODS), SENAF, Ciudad Mujer, and Municipal Women’s Offices, whose capacities in case management, referral mechanisms, and data use will be strengthened. As a result of these improvements, returned women and their children will ultimately benefit from enhanced access to timely, integrated, and gender-responsive economic reintegration services

III. Expected results:

4.1 Specialized Attention Protocols for Women and Children Returnees Implemented: CAMRs and OMRARs adopt and operationalize differentiated care protocols for returned women and children, including emotional support, mental health services, and childcare, supported by adapted infrastructure and trained personnel.

4.2 Improved Interinstitutional Coordination Under the SRECI–Ciudad Mujer Framework: The SRECI–Ciudad Mujer agreement functions as a strategic coordination mechanism, enabling continuous, needs-based care for returned women through integrated service pathways and institutional collaboration.

4.3 Expanded and Timely Access to Ciudad Mujer Services for Returned Women: Returned women are effectively linked to Ciudad Mujer modules—economic autonomy, sexual and reproductive health, rights protection, adolescent care, community education, and childcare—with service delivery monitored through SIAMIR for timeliness and quality.

4.4 Advance in the development of an interoperable Case Management System Operational Across Key Institutions: A digital system for case referencing and follow-up is implemented across SRECI, Ciudad Mujer, OMRARs, CAMRs, and other relevant actors, improving tracking, coordination, and responsiveness in reintegration services.

IV. Executing agency and execution structure

5.6 The execution period of this Technical Cooperation will be 30 months, from January 2026 to June 2028. The disbursement period will follow the same timeline, ensuring that all activities and contractual obligations are completed within this timeframe.

5.1 The EA will be the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), at the request of the Government of Honduras, in accordance with the guidelines and requirements established in the Technical Cooperation Policy (GN-2470-2) and the TC Operational Guidelines (OP-619-4). The TC will be executed by the Migration Unit (SCL/MIG) in close coordination with the Social Protection and Labor Markets (SCL/SPL), the Gender and Diversity Division (SCL/GDI), and the Country Office in Honduras (CSC/CHO). Bank execution is justified under Annex II, Section II.C.2.2 of OP-619-4, given the explicit request from the beneficiary and the limited institutional and operational capacity of the counterpart to procure and supervise the specialized consultancies during a governmental transition period.

5.3 The Bank will implement this TC in close coordination with SENAF, SEDESOL, and SRECI. SEDESOL will support the proactive identification of eligible returnees and their timely referral to SENAF's protection and social services, while ensuring service quality is monitored through SIAMIR. In parallel, SRECI, as the line ministry responsible for the OMRARs, will promote and channel access to specialized assistance through the municipal returnee support network and operationalize Ciudad Mujer coordination framework to guarantee continuous, needs-based care for returned women.

5.4 Procurement. All procurements to be executed under this TC have been included in the Procurement Plan (Annex IV). Procurement will be executed in accordance with the Bank's procurement policies, specifically: (a) contracting of individual consultants, as established in standard AM-650; (b) contracting of consulting firms for services of an intellectual nature, in accordance with the Corporate Procurement Policy (GN-2303-33) and its Guidelines; and (c) contracting of logistics and other non-consulting services, in accordance with the Procurement policy GN-2303-33 and its Guidelines. All procurement processes will be managed by the Bank, as an Executing Agency, in alignment with its fiduciary standards.. Knowledge products generated under Bank-executed activities will be owned by the Bank and may be publicly released under a Creative Commons license. At the beneficiaries' request, and pursuant to AM-331, the Bank may also license the intellectual property through specific contractual arrangements prepared with Legal's guidance.

5.5 Supervision. The TC will be supervised by the Bank through the designated project team, composed of a team leader and an alternate team leader, under the Migration Unit. The team will be responsible for monitoring progress toward expected results and ensuring alignment with the operational timeline, in close coordination with SRECI. Monitoring and evaluation will follow the Bank's internal procedures and be guided by the TC Results Matrix. Annual progress reports and a final completion report will be submitted via Convergence and shared with the donor in line with the terms of the Administration Agreement.

V. Sustainability

6.1 The fundamental purpose of this technical cooperation is to strengthen the institutional capacity of governments to implement programs and strategic actions that ensure the reintegration of returned women and children in **Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador**. Upon completion of this technical cooperation, it is expected that the participating countries will have consolidated their capacity to continue implementing strategic actions that promote the social and economic reintegration of this population. Likewise, this technical cooperation will foster **regional coordination** among the three receiving countries, leaving as a legacy **successful and easily scalable monitoring and follow-up systems**.

VI. Project Risks and issues

6.1 Political Risk: The 2025 presidential election may slow approvals, change counterparts, and delay implementation at national and subnational levels. The IDB will

mitigate this by front-loading technical tasks that do not require new policy decisions. As a Bank-executed TC, procurement will be fully managed by the IDB to reduce execution risk.

6.2 Operational risk: The TC will build existing IDB partnerships in the region (national and local governments, IOM, and other donors), using a clear division of roles to avoid overlap. The team will apply lessons from prior operations and align activities through joint workplans, shared indicators, and a public calendar. Knowledge generated will be translated into policy and investment decisions through targeted briefs, workshops, roundtables, and capacity-building embedded in each component

6.3 Security risks and social acceptance: Heightened discrimination against migrants/returnees could reduce public and private-sector support, slowing results. Mitigation will include training public officials on nondiscrimination and service standards; designing activities with dual benefits for host communities and migrants; running evidence-based communication campaigns on the socioeconomic contributions of migrants and returnees; and convening employer and community roundtables to sustain constructive dialogue.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

This TC will not finance feasibility or pre-feasibility studies for investment projects or associated environmental and social studies and therefore does not meet the applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework.

VIII. Exceptions to Bank policy

1.1 No exceptions to Bank policy have been identified.

REQUIRED ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Request from Client
- Annex II: Results Matrix
- Annex III: Terms of Reference
- Annex IV: Procurement Plan

REQUIRED ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Result Matrix [translation is required]
- Annex II: Procurement Plan [translation is required]

REQUIRED ELECTRONIC LINKS:

- Electronic Link I: Request from Client
- Electronic Link II: Terms of Reference