FAITH AND RESPONSES TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN DISPLACEMENT

UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF COLOMBIAN FAITH LEADERS

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Number of Internally displaced persons (IDPs) by Country

2017 Global Report on Internal Displacement

- Colombia: 7,246,000 IDP
- Iran: 3,035,000
- Pakistan: 464,000
- Nepal: 30,000
- Bangladesh: 426,000
- Myanmar: 644,000
- Philippines: 87,000
- Thailand: 35,000

(IDCM, 2017)
Internal Displacement in Colombia

COLOMBIA 7,246,000

Syria 6,326,000

Iraq 3,035,000

Internal Displacement Victims - Colombian Record (RUV, 2016)

MEN 48.45%
WOMEN 51.06%
NO REPORTED GENDER 0.46%
LGBTI 0.02%
### Colombia: Sexual Violence Victims in the Context of the Armed Conflict

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender and Sexual Orientation</th>
<th>Number of Survivors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEN</strong></td>
<td>1,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WOMEN</strong></td>
<td>15,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NO REPORTED GENDER</strong></td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LGBTI</strong></td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

89.7% of crimes against liberty and sexual integrity are perpetrated against women (RUV, 2016)
What Could be the Role of the Christian Church?

Colombia

(Pew, 2014)

79% Catholic

13% Protestant

Photographer: Spen Rasmussen
The integral missiology and the human flourishing of internally displaced persons in Colombia
Aim

To build an understanding of faith leaders’/pastors’ knowledge and perspectives on the trauma experienced by IDPs and of the potential role of the churches and their leaders in responding to it.
Methodology

Survey information

Participants: 250 pastors and faith leaders in Colombia

- **Male**: 46%
- **Female**: 54%

Age range: 19-69 years old
Findings

Religious denomination of the survey participants

Has your congregation been affected by internal displacement?

- Catholic: 52%
- Baptist: 13%
- Foursquare: 3%
- Evangelical Churches of the Caribbean AIEC: 4%
- Pentecostal: 4%
- Presbyterian: 3%
- Independent: 12%
- Assemblies of God: 9%
- No reported: 2%
- Yes: 59%
- No: 39%
Findings

How do you find out about problems related to internal displacement in your congregation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Person’s family member tells someone in leadership</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual persons tell pastor</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From other church member(s)</td>
<td>69.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor notices</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Another church refers person to our church</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health provider/agency refers person</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are some barriers to creating services in your church that you need for people affected by internal displacement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of staff</td>
<td>56.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of funds</td>
<td>52.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources</td>
<td>79.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support from denomination</td>
<td>88.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge about mental health</td>
<td>59.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of knowledge about internal displacement</td>
<td>39.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregants don’t seem interested</td>
<td>77.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregants are too afraid</td>
<td>93.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable/we have the services we need</td>
<td>98.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>91.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Findings

“If a woman doesn't defend herself from the aggressor, it means that she was not really raped”

“When a woman is raped, it means that she did something wrong to be involved in that situation”
Workshop feedback

• Pastors expressed a strong interest in learning more about trauma and SV.

• They are willing to integrate SV prevention as a line of work in their ministries as counselors and preachers.

• They asked for professional help to accompanying the internal displacement and SV trauma in their churches.
Final considerations

- Church willingness and capacity to accompany IDPs and SV survivor
- Lack of trained personnel
- Lack of knowledge to deal with such trauma
- Next steps in the project
Thank you!