

THIRD REPORT ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE STATISTICS IN EL SALVADOR

Gender-Based Violence Research Institute (IVG)

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1. Executive summary

This report has been prepared by the Gender-Based Violence Research Institute (IVG), part of the USAID-funded LibrES: For a Gender-Based Violence El Salvador project. Its objective is to provide statistical data on gender-based violence in El Salvador during the months of September and October 2023, with a particular focus on the 21 municipalities covered by the LibrES project.

This third report is based on data provided by the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), via public information requests. A quantitative and descriptive analysis was carried out focusing on the care provided by ISDEMU to women victims of gender-based violence at the national level and in the 21 municipalities covered by the LibrES project.

Below are the main results according to the sections that make up this report.

National data on services provided and cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU in September and October 2023

During September and October 2023, the 126 Attention Center and the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) carried out significant work in caring for women who have faced gender-based violence at the national level. The 126 Service Center registered a total of 1,288 calls, 6,780 counseling or orientations and 44 registrations in the "126 Platform guides you", adding up to a total of 8,112 services provided in both months. In addition, ISDEMU provided 736 services, distributed in 336 psychological, 202 legal and 198 social, with a considerable decrease in the number of visits from September (514) to October (222).

In terms of the typology and distribution of gender-based violence, a total of 929 cases were registered, with a notable increase from 432 in September to 497 in October. Psychological violence predominated with 704 cases, followed by economic violence (119 cases), sexual violence (64 cases), patrimonial violence (36 cases) and femicide (3 cases). There was one case of symbolic violence in October.

Regarding care according to the age ranges of the victims, of the 1,052 cases registered, the 30-39 age group had the highest incidence with 317 cases, followed by the 20-29 (249 cases) and 40-49 years (190 cases) ranges. The 10-19 years (128 cases) and 50-59 years (102 cases) ranges showed a lower but significant presence.

Caring for women with disabilities was also a crucial part of ISDEMU's activities, providing support to 16 women in total. There was an increase in cases from September (6 cases) to October (10 cases),



distributed among women with sensory (6 cases), mental (5 cases), physical (4 cases) and cognitive (1 case) disability.

These data reflect the prevalence of psychological violence as the most common type of gender-based violence and the variability in the incidence of violence according to age ranges and the presence of the disability condition. The general decrease in visits from September to October raises the need to investigate the causes behind this trend and strengthen the response capacity and reach of services. This overview highlights the importance of a multidimensional approach adapted to the specific needs of women affected by different types of violence.

Data on cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served y ISDEMU in the 21 municipalities of the LibrES project, between September and October 2023

During September and October 2023, the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) carried out a significant effort to serve women affected by gender-based violence in the municipalities of the LibrES project. In September, 151 cases were treated, with a higher incidence in the age ranges of 30-39 years (43 cases) and 20-29 years (40 cases). The municipalities of San Miguel and Colón stood out for the number of cases, with 37 and 48 respectively. However, several municipalities, such as Chiltiupán and Chinameca, did not register any cases.

In October, an increase in the number of cases treated was observed, reaching 182. The distribution by age followed a similar pattern to that of September, with a prevalence in the 30-39- and 20-29-year-old groups. San Miguel continued to be a major focus, along with notable increases in Santa Ana and Soyapango. Despite this, some municipalities such as Chiltiupán and San Luis de la Reina did not report cases.

In addition, the types of gender-based violence at the national level were analyzed in both months. In September, 128 cases were recorded, dominated by psychological violence (100 cases), followed by economic violence (14 cases) and physical violence (10 cases). San Salvador, Soyapango, Colón and San Miguel were the municipalities with the most cases of psychological violence. In October, 153 cases were recorded, with a similar pattern of predominance of psychological violence (125 cases). The municipalities of San Salvador, Soyapango and Santa Ana showed a high number of cases.

This analysis highlights the importance of addressing gender-based violence with specific strategies adapted to the needs of each municipality and age group. The prevalence of psychological violence and the variability in the distribution of cases by municipalities and ages emphasize the need for a multidimensional response that is sensitive to the particularities of each affected group. Continued attention and assessment of trends are crucial to providing effective and targeted responses to women affected by gender-based violence.

2. Introduction

The Gender-Based Violence Research Institute (IVG) presents this report within the framework of the project "LibrES – For an El Salvador without Gender-Based Violence". The objective is to provide a detailed statistical overview of gender-based violence in El Salvador during the months of September and October 2023, with a particular focus on the 21 municipalities covered by the LibrES project. This analysis aims to provide a comprehensive perspective of the gender-based violence (GBV) situation both at the national level and in the specific areas of the project.

This third report highlights key statistics for the months of September and October 2023, addressing two levels of analysis: national and municipal, based on data from the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU). At the national level, figures are included on the care of women victims of gender-based violence, taking into account variables such as age, type of care received, type of violence and disability status. At the municipal level, the report details the characteristics of the violence faced and the age distribution of the victims in the 21 municipalities involved in the project.

For data collection, the IVG has obtained official information on GBV for 2023, both at the national and municipal levels, through access to public information requests addressed to government entities. Consequently, the data presented in this report come from the information provided by ISDEMU, following the official procedures for access to public information. The detailed process for these requests, including the required information, can be found in the appendix to the report.

3. Method

A quantitative and descriptive analysis was carried out of the care provided by the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) to women victims of gender-based violence. This study covers both the national level and the 21 municipalities included in the LibrES project. National statistics, compiled by ISDEMU, are classified according to age ranges, type of care, type of violence and disability status. At the municipal level, the analysis focuses on the type of violence reported and the ages of the victims involved. The primary data used in this study, corresponding to the period from September to October 2023, were provided by the Access to Public Information Unit of ISDEMU, ensuring the veracity and timeliness of the information.

4. Results

The following are the results of the care provided by ISDEMU at the national and municipal levels, disaggregated by various variables.



4.1. National data on services provided and cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU in September and October 2023

This section presents the care provided to women victims of gender-based violence at the national level, disaggregated by: use of hotlines and platforms, type of care, type of violence, and characteristics of the victims, such as age and disability.

4.1.1. Characterization of services provided and cases of women victims of gender-based violence served (September – October 2023)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) strengthened its response capacity through the creation of the Directorate of Specialized Care (DAE). The main objective of this directorate is to meet the needs of women, girls, adolescents and members of the LGTBIQ+ community who have suffered gender-based violence. As part of this initiative, the 126 Care Center (CA126) was established, a service designed to provide remote assistance and guidance to women who require it.

The CA126, operating under the supervision of the DAE, offers remote counseling and guidance services through two main channels: the toll-free line 126 and the virtual platform "126 Guides You". Both services are available 24 hours a day, every day of the year, thus ensuring constant and reliable access for those seeking help. The 126-line functions as an emergency line, focused on providing immediate assistance and support in critical situations. This comprehensive and accessible approach demonstrates ISDEMU's commitment to providing vital and ongoing support.

Analysis of data from the 126 Care Center nationwide between September and October 2023 reveals several key points. In these two months, a total of 8,112 counseling and orientations were offered, although a significant decrease in their number was observed, going from 6,634 in September to 1,478 in October, which represents a drop of 77.7%. This notable decrease could be influenced by both internal factors of the center and changes in the needs of the community. (See figure 1).

As far as "126 calls" are concerned, a total of 1,288 calls were recorded in both months, with an increase from 593 in September to 695 in October. This 17.2% increase indicates an increasing use of this communication channel, which could reflect an increased need for direct telephone assistance due to ease of access or the urgency of the situations addressed.

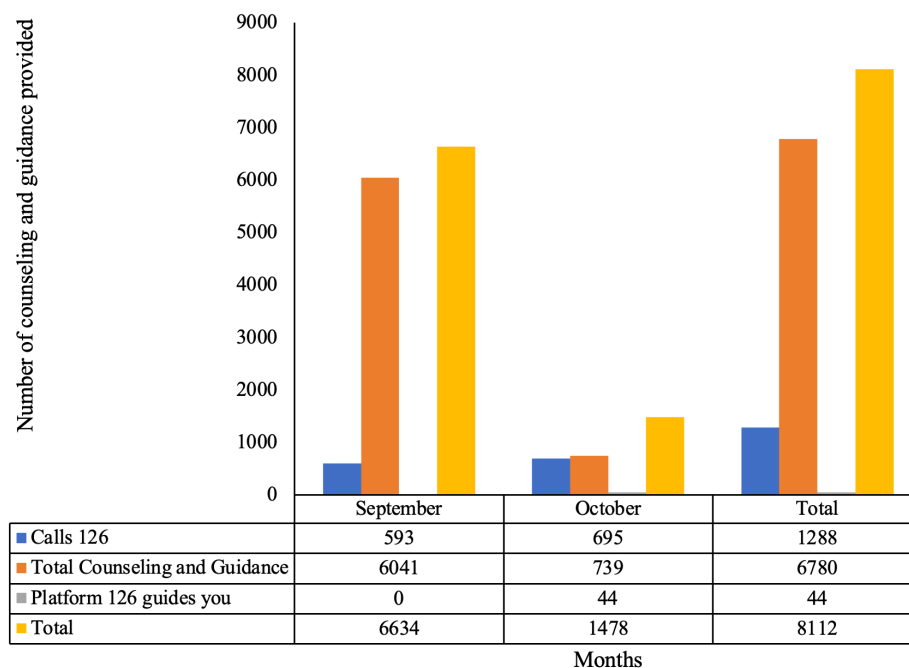
On the other hand, direct counseling and guidance experienced a drastic decrease, from 6,051 in September to only 739 in October, which implies a reduction of 87.8%. This substantial change could be due to variations in the demand for these services or adjustments in the supply capacity of the center.



In addition, the use of the "126 Platform Guides You" is observed in October, with 44 registrations, despite having no activity in September. This indicates a new adoption of this service or an increase in its visibility and use, possibly in response to the need for alternative methods of communication.

This analysis underscores the importance of continuously adapting the 126 Care Center's services to meet the changing needs and preferences of its target audience. It also suggests the need for further research into the causes behind the observed fluctuations in the use of different services, in order to improve the effectiveness and accessibility of the care provided.

Figure 1. Number of counseling and orientations provided by the 126 Care Center nationwide, El Salvador, from September to October 2023



Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments. SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023. (ISDEMU, 2023a; ISDEMU, 2023b).

Ciudad Mujer's Specialized Care Centers are equipped with multidisciplinary teams made up of lawyers, psychologists and social workers. These professionals are dedicated to meeting the specific needs of women, adolescents, girls, and members of the LGBTI community. In the legal field, they offer advice and accompaniment in judicial processes, ensuring access to justice and providing vital information on rights and relevant legislation. On the psychological side, they provide specialized approaches and self-help groups to address the emotional consequences of gender-based violence. In addition, social care includes the development of life and safety plans, assessing risks and providing support to users to overcome situations of violence. ISDEMU, the supervisory body, classifies these



services in the Specialized Care Centers of Ciudad Mujer, differentiating them according to the type of violence and the location of the center (ISDEMU, 2023c).

This institution is dedicated not only to registering and serving people who are seeking help for the first time, but also to offering them ongoing support. Initial cases refer to the first consultations received, while follow-ups involve subsequent appointments or care, which may include psychological, legal and social counseling services. It is common for a user to require multiple appointments, depending on their particular situation. Each of these appointments or care is considered a follow-up. This holistic approach highlights the institution's focus on the well-being of the people served, ensuring that they receive continuous and appropriate care until their situation improves or is resolved. Thus, it goes beyond a single care, allowing sustained and effective care.

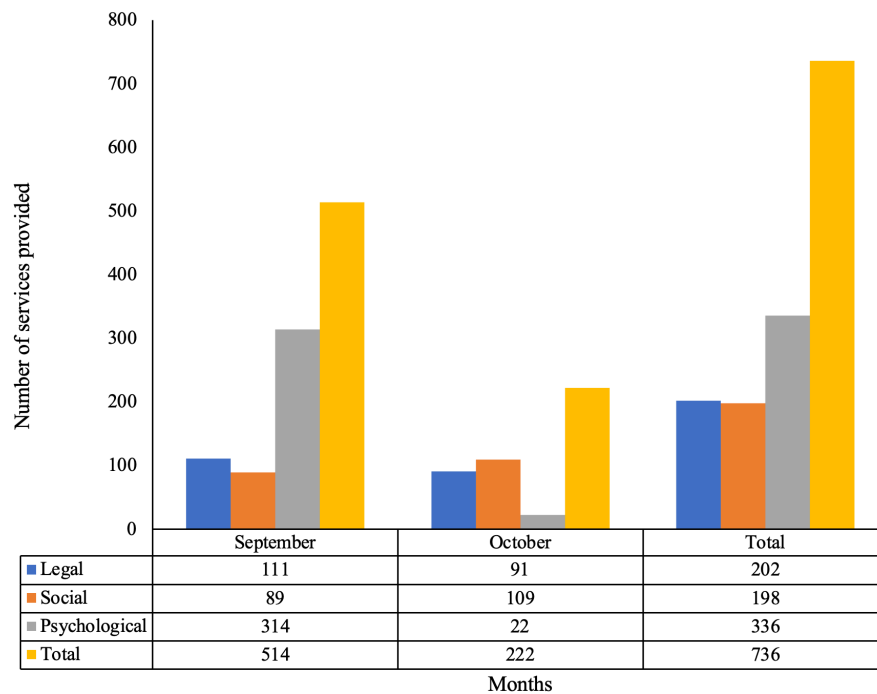
The analysis of the care provided by the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) to women affected by gender-based violence between September and October 2023 reveals several important trends. In total, 736 visits were offered in these two months, with a notable decrease from 514 visits in September to 222 in October, which represents a drop of 56.8%. This decrease could be related to changes in the demand for services or in ISDEMU's capacity to provide care. (See figure 2).

In terms of psychological care, a total of 336 were registered, with a drastic reduction from 314 in September to only 22 in October. This 93% drop is significant and could reflect variations in users' needs or in the availability of psychological resources. On the other hand, legal services, which totaled 202, showed a less pronounced decrease from 111 in September to 91 in October, indicating a more constant demand or greater stability in the provision of these services.

One contrasting aspect is the increase in social services, which increased from 89 in September to 109 in October, an increase of 22.5%. This change could indicate an adjustment in the needs of the clients or an improvement in the supply of social services during this period.

These data indicate that there are complex dynamics at play in ISDEMU's response to the needs of women affected by gender-based violence. The marked decrease in psychological care, the relative stability of legal care, and the increase in social care underscore the importance of ongoing evaluations to ensure that the services offered are effectively aligned with the changing needs of users. In addition, it would be crucial to consider external factors, such as socio-economic situation or significant events, that could influence both the demand for these services and the institute's ability to respond appropriately.

Figure 2. Number of services provided by ISDEMU, at the national level to women who have faced gender-based violence, by type of service, from September to October 2023



Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments. SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023. (ISDEMU, 2023a; ISDEMU 2023b).

The analysis of the cases of care provided by ISDEMU to women who have faced gender-based violence between September and October 2023 reveals several significant trends and dynamics. In total, 929 cases of care were registered during this period, showing an increase of 15%, from 432 cases in September to 497 in October. This increase suggests an increase in the incidence or reporting of cases of gender-based violence. (See figure 3).

As far as psychological violence is concerned, it was observed to be the most prevalent type, with 704 cases in total. There was a slight increase from 343 cases in September to 361 in October, underscoring the need for specialized care to address this form of violence. On the other hand, cases of economic violence showed a decrease, from 71 in September to 48 in October, which could indicate variations in economic circumstances or in the effectiveness of preventive measures.

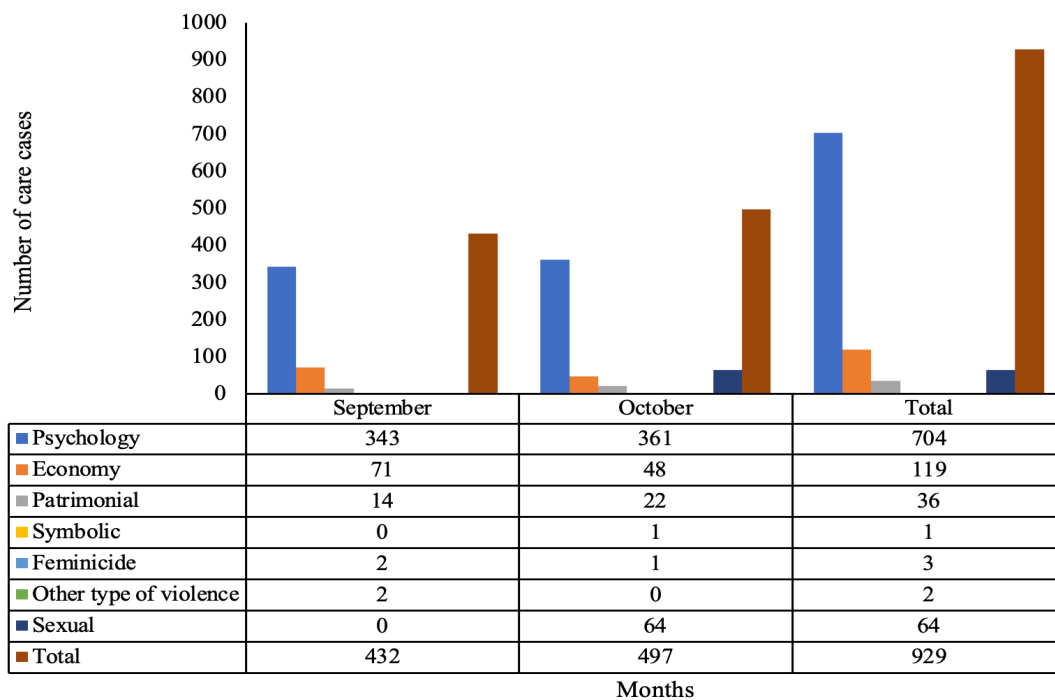
Notably, no cases of sexual violence were recorded in September, but there was a significant increase to 64 cases in October. This surge is worrisome and requires further research to understand the causes behind this change. In terms of patrimonial violence, 36 cases were recorded in total, with an increase from 14 in September to 22 in October, indicating a growing trend that deserves attention.



Cases of femicidal violence, although few in number, are extremely serious. Three cases were recorded in total, decreasing from two in September to one in October. In addition, three cases were recorded in less common categories: two cases of other types of violence in September and one case of symbolic violence in October.

This analysis highlights the importance of adapting ISDEMU's intervention and prevention strategies to effectively address the various types of gender-based violence and their changing trends. Continued monitoring and response to these patterns is crucial to providing effective protection to women affected by gender-based violence.

Figure 3. Number of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU, at the national level, by type of violence, from September to October 2023



Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments. SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023.

4.1.2. Age of victims

The analysis of the cases of care provided by ISDEMU to women who have faced gender-based violence, classified according to the age ranges of the victims between September and October 2023, shows a series of important trends. In total, 1,052 cases were recorded, with a slight increase from 514 cases in September to 538 in October, suggesting an increasing trend in the incidence or reporting of cases of gender-based violence.

The 30-39 age range had the highest number of cases, with 317 in total, increasing from 151 in September to 166 in October. This indicates that women at this stage of life may be particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence. Similarly, the 20-29 age range also showed a high incidence, with 249 cases in total, increasing from 116 in September to 133 in October, which could reflect factors such as relationships, economic and social independence. (See table 1).

In the 40-49 age range, 190 cases were recorded, with an increase from 91 in September to 99 in October. This group also shows a significant incidence of cases. However, in the 50-59 age range, although 102 cases were recorded in total, there was a decrease from 61 in September to 41 in October. As for the older age ranges, 60-69 years and above, fewer cases were observed, with 46 cases in the 60-69 age range and a very small number in the 70 and older age groups.

It is worrying to note that in the age range of 10-19 years 128 cases were recorded, with an increase from 57 in September to 71 in October, which could be related to violence in the family or school environment. Although the number is low in the 0-8 years range (11 cases in total), it is alarming to see cases of gender-based violence at such young ages.

This analysis highlights the need for differentiated and age-specific approaches in the fight against gender-based violence. The 30-39 and 20-29 age groups, as well as the 10-19 age group, require specialized attention and resources, while the decrease in the 50-59 age range and the lower incidence in older ages suggest different patterns of vulnerability and need. The presence of cases as young as 0-8 years highlights the importance of protection and prevention in all age ranges. This analysis underscores the importance of adapting ISDEMU's prevention and intervention strategies to address the particular needs of each age range in the fight against gender-based violence.

Table 1. Number of cases of women who have faced gender-based violence, served by ISDEMU, at the national level by age range of the victim, from September to October 2023

Victim's Age Range	September	October	Total
0 - 9 years	4	7	11
10-19 years	57	71	128
20 - 29 years old	116	133	249
30 - 39 years	151	166	317
40-49 years	91	99	190
50 -59 years	61	41	102
60 -69 years	29	17	46
70 - 79 years	2	2	4
80 -89 years	1	1	2
90 - 99 years	1	1	2
Data not provided	1	0	1
Total	514	538	1,052

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments. SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023. (ISDEMU, 2023a; ISDEMU, 2023b).



4.1.3. Victims with disabilities

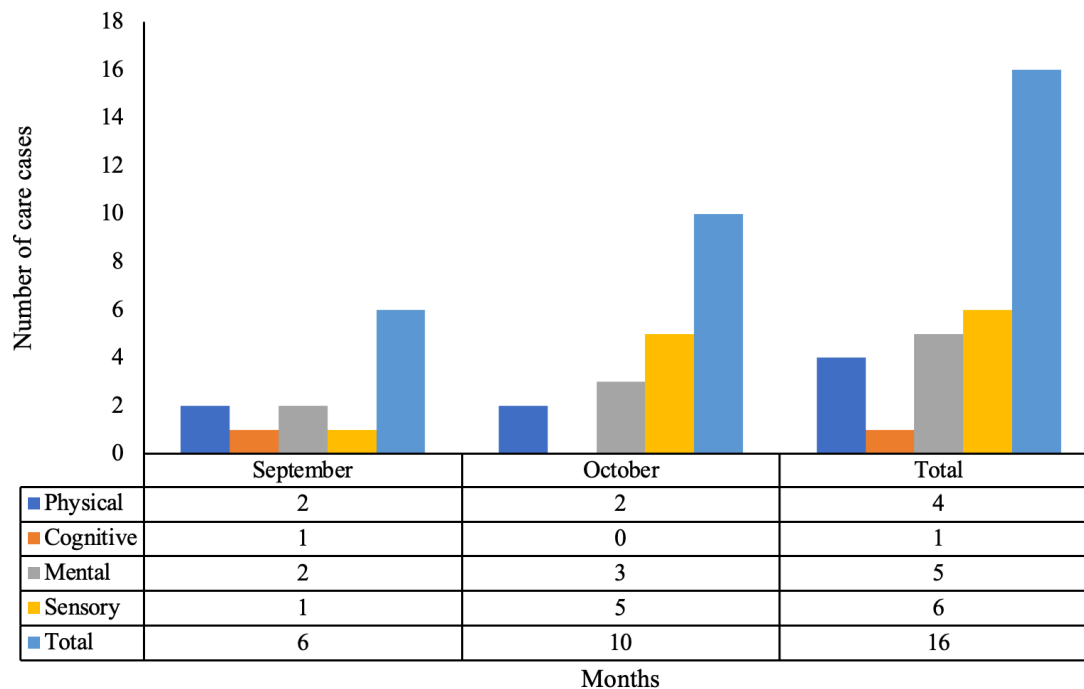
The analysis of cases of care provided by ISDEMU to women with disabilities who have faced gender-based violence between September and October 2023 reveals several key observations. A total of 16 cases were recorded, with an increase from 6 cases in September to 10 in October. This increase suggests a higher incidence or reporting of cases of violence against women with disabilities during this period. (See figure 4).

In terms of sensory disability, 6 cases were recorded, with a notable increase from 1 case in September to 5 in October. This suggests that women with sensory disabilities may be particularly exposed to or more vulnerable to gender-based violence, and this vulnerability may have been accentuated or made more visible by October. On the other hand, 5 cases of care for women with mental disabilities were registered, increasing from 2 in September to 3 in October. Violence against women with mental disabilities can present additional challenges, given the barriers they face in accessing support and reporting services.

With regard to physical disability, 4 cases were recorded, equitably distributed over the two months. Women with this type of disability may face specific challenges both in terms of vulnerability to violence and in seeking support. In addition, there was only one case of care for a woman with a cognitive disability in September. Violence against women with cognitive disabilities is an area that requires specialized attention, as these women may have additional difficulties in communicating their experiences and seeking help.

These data highlight the importance of addressing gender-based violence with an inclusive approach that is sensitive to the needs of women with different types of disabilities. The increase in cases from September to October could be related to increased awareness or availability of support services during this period. The diversity in the types of disability among the women served underscores the need for services that are accessible and adapted to each person. It is crucial that support and reporting services are accessible to women with all types of disabilities, ensuring that all have equal opportunities to seek help and protection. This analysis highlights the need for inclusive and disability-sensitive strategies in the fight against gender-based violence, adapting intervention and prevention approaches to meet the unique needs of women with disabilities.

Figure 4. Number of cases of women who have faced gender-based violence, who have one or more types of disabilities, served by ISDEMU, according to type of disability, from September to October 2023



Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments. SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023. (ISDEMU, 2023a; ISDEMU, 2023b).

4.2. Data on cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU, in the 21 municipalities of the LibRES project, between September and October 2023

This section presents data on cases of care for women who have faced gender-based violence in the 21 municipalities of the LibRES project, disaggregated by age ranges and type of violence.

4.2.1. Characterization of cases of women victims of gender-based violence served, according to age range, in the 21 municipalities of the LibRES project (September and October 2023)

The analysis of data on the care provided by ISDEMU to women victims of gender-based violence in September 2023 reveals significant trends and observations. A total of 151 cases were registered, indicating a worrying prevalence of this type of violence in the municipalities of the LibRES project. (See table 2).

In terms of age distribution, a higher prevalence is observed in the middle age groups. The 30-39 age group had the highest number of cases (43), followed by the 20-29 age group (40 cases). This



suggests a particular vulnerability or a greater willingness to seek help in these age groups. Also notable is the care in younger and older age ranges, with 18 cases in the 10-19 age group and one case in the 90-99 age range, demonstrating that gender-based violence can affect women of all ages. However, the 70-79 and 80-89 age groups reported no cases, which could indicate a lower incidence or a lower likelihood that women in these age groups will seek help.

The distribution by municipalities shows a higher concentration of cases in some places, with Colón (48 cases) and San Miguel (37 cases) leading the way. This could reflect a more serious problem of gender-based violence or greater effectiveness in identifying and reporting cases in these municipalities. On the other hand, the variability in cases reported in other municipalities, such as San Salvador and Soyapango (20 cases each), Santa Ana (9 cases) and San Sebastián Salitrillo (7 cases), as well as the absence of cases in municipalities such as Chiltiupán and Chinameca, suggests the need for differentiated and context-specific approaches.

This analysis underscores the importance of awareness of gender-based violence and access to support resources at all stages of life. The variability in the distribution of cases by age and municipality reveals significant patterns and areas of focus for future interventions and public policies aimed at combating gender-based violence. In addition, the absence of cases in certain age groups and municipalities could reflect a bias in reporting or accessibility to support services, rather than an actual absence of gender-based violence.

Table 2. Number of cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU, by municipality of residence of the victim and by age range of the victim in September 2023

Departments	Municipality of residence of the victim	Victim's Age Range											Total
		0 - 9 years old	10 - 19 years old	20 - 29 years old	30 - 39 years old	40 - 49 years old	50 - 59 years old	60 - 69 years old	70 - 79 years old	80 - 89 years old	90 - 99 years old	No data	
La Libertad	Chiltiupán	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Colón	1	5	6	9	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	La Libertad	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Santa Tecla	0	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1	6	8	11	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
San Salvador	Apopa	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ciudad Delgado	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Ilopango	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Marcos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Salvador	0	1	7	3	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
	Soyapango	2	0	5	7	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	1	14	13	7	7	3	0	0	1	0	0	

Departments	Municipality of residence of the victim	Victim's Age Range											Total
		0 - 9 years old	10 - 19 years old	20 - 29 years old	30 - 39 years old	40 - 49 years old	50 - 59 years old	60 - 69 years old	70 - 79 years old	80 - 89 years old	90 - 99 years old	No data	
San Miguel	Chinameca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chirilagua	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ciudad Barrios	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Luis de la Reina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Miguel	0	8	13	9	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sesori	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	9	14	9	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Ana	Candelaria de la Frontera	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chalchuapa	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Metapán	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Sebastián Salitrillo	0	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Santa Ana	0	0	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Total	0	2	4	10	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	24
Total	3	18	40	43	24	16	5	0	0	1	1	151	

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments. SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023. (ISDEMU, 2023a; ISDEMU, 2023b).

The analysis of October 2023 data on the care provided by ISDEMU to women victims of gender-based violence in the municipalities intervened by the LibreS project yields several important conclusions. In total, 182 cases of care were registered, reflecting a worrying situation in terms of the prevalence of gender-based violence in these municipalities. (See table 3).

In terms of age distribution, a higher incidence is observed in middle age groups. The 30-39 age group had the highest number of cases (49), followed by the 20-29 age group (40 cases) and the 40-49 age group (37 cases). This indicates that women at these stages of life are the most affected or the most likely to seek help. Also noteworthy is the attention received by younger and older age groups, with 28 cases in the 10-19 age group and 16 cases in the 50-59 age group, showing that gender-based violence affects a wide spectrum of ages. Although less frequent, the presence of cases in the 60-69 age group (6 cases) and in the 70-79 age group (1 case) is also significant. However, no cases were reported in the 80-89 and 90-99 age groups, which may indicate a lower incidence or underreporting in these age groups.

Regarding the distribution by municipalities, San Miguel has the highest number of cases (44), followed by Colón (24 cases) and San Salvador and Soyapango (22 cases each). These numbers may reflect areas with a higher prevalence of gender-based violence or greater effectiveness in detecting and reporting cases. The variability in cases reported in other municipalities, such as Santa Ana (21 cases), Apopa and Ilopango (10 cases each), as well as the absence of cases in municipalities such as Chiltiupán, Chinameca, San Luis de la Reina and Metapán, and the low incidence in Chirilagua and Ciudad Barrios (1 case each), suggest the need for differentiated approaches for each area.



This analysis underscores the complexity of gender-based violence and the need for multifaceted and targeted approaches to effectively address it in different contexts. Evidence suggests that women of productive age and young are the most affected, requiring specific responses for these groups. In addition, the presence of cases at almost all ages highlights the importance of awareness and access to support services at all stages of life. Municipalities with high numbers of cases require particular attention, while the absence of cases in others may require strategies to improve reporting and access to services.

Table 3. Number of cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU, by municipality of residence of the victim and by age range of the victim in October 2023

Departments	Municipality of residence of the victim	Victim's Age Range											Total
		0 - 9 years old	10 - 19 years old	20 - 29 years old	30 - 39 years old	40 - 49 years old	50 - 59 years old	60 - 69 years old	70 - 79 years old	80 - 89 years old	90 - 99 years old	No data	
La Libertad	Chiltiupán	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Colón	0	3	4	8	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	24
	La Libertad	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Santa Tecla	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Total	0	7	9	10	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	35
San Salvador	Apopa	0	2	1	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Ciudad Delgado	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Ilopango	0	1	5	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	10
	San Marcos	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	San Salvador	0	1	8	2	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	22
	Soyapango	0	1	5	9	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	22
Total	0	5	19	16	18	8	3	0	0	0	0	69	
San Miguel	Chinameca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chirilagua	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Ciudad Barrios	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	San Luis de la Reina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Miguel	4	13	7	10	4	2	2	1	0	0	1	44
	Sesori	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	4	15	7	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	1	48	
Santa Ana	Candelaria de la Frontera	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Chalchuapa	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Metapán	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Sebastián Salitrillo	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Santa Ana	0	1	4	7	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	21
Total	0	1	5	12	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	30	
Total	4	28	40	49	37	16	6	1	0	0	1	182	

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments. SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023. (ISDEMU, 2023a; ISDEMU, 2023b).

The analysis of data on the care provided by ISDEMU to women who have faced gender-based violence, considering both the municipality of residence of the victim and the age ranges, between

September and October, reveals several significant trends. First, there is an overall increase in the total number of cases, from 151 in September to 182 in October. This increase suggests a higher incidence or reporting of cases of gender-based violence during this period.

Analyzing the age ranges, notable variations are detected. In the 10-19 age group, cases increased from 18 to 28, indicating increased vulnerability or reporting in this age group. Similarly, in the 40 to 49 age range, there was an increase from 24 to 37 cases. These increases may reflect increased awareness or incidence in these age ranges. In the 0-9 and 60-69 age ranges, slight increases are observed, while in the 20-29, 50-59, and 80-89 age ranges, cases remained stable. On the other hand, in the 70 to 79 age range, one case was reported in October, with none in September, and in the 90 to 99 age range, it was reduced from one case to zero.

As for the variation by municipalities, San Miguel stands out, where cases increased from 37 to 44. This increase may indicate a specific situation that requires attention. In Apopa, an increase from 6 to 10 cases was observed. Although the number is smaller, the increase is proportionately significant.

This analysis underscores the importance of monitoring patterns of gender-based violence, not only in a general way, but also considering demographic variables such as age and geographic location. The data reveal the need for targeted interventions and policies to effectively address gender-based violence and suggest that this phenomenon is complex and influenced by multiple factors that can vary significantly from context to context.

4.2.2. Characterization of cases of women victims of gender-based violence served, according to type of violence, in the 21 municipalities of the LibrES project (September and October 2023)

On the other hand, the analysis of the cases of care provided by ISDEMU in the 21 municipalities of the LibrES project to women who have faced gender-based violence in September 2023, broken down by type of violence and distribution by municipalities, reveals important trends. In total, 128 cases were registered, with psychological violence being the most common, accounting for 100 cases. It is followed by economic violence with 14 cases and physical violence with 10 cases. Only one case of both patrimonial violence and femicidal violence was recorded, while there were no cases of symbolic violence. (See table 4).

The distribution by municipalities shows that San Miguel (22 cases), Soyapango (14 cases), Colón (12 cases) and San Salvador (13 cases) had the highest numbers of cases of psychological violence. It is notable that, in municipalities such as Chinameca, San Luis la Reina, Ilopango and San Marcos, no cases of this type were registered. In terms of physical violence, San Miguel stands out with 5 cases,



followed by San Salvador and Colón with 2 cases each, and Santa Tecla with one case. No cases were reported in other municipalities.

In the area of economic violence, Colón registered 5 cases, San Miguel and Soyapango 4 cases each, and San Salvador only 1 case. Again, no cases were reported in other municipalities. On the other hand, there was one case of patrimonial violence in San Miguel and one case of femicidal violence in San Salvador.

These data underscore the prevalence of psychological violence and suggest that psychological violence is a significant problem that might require special attention in terms of resources and intervention strategies. The concentration of cases in certain municipalities indicates regional differences in the incidence of gender-based violence or in the ability or willingness to report such cases. The absence of cases of symbolic violence could indicate a lower awareness or difficulties in identifying and reporting this type of violence. In addition, the presence of cases of physical, economic, patrimonial and femicidal violence, although less frequent, highlights the need for a multidimensional response that addresses all forms of gender-based violence.

This analysis highlights the importance of targeted strategies tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of each region, as well as the need to address all forms of gender-based violence in order to provide a comprehensive and effective response.

Table 4. Number of cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU, by municipalities and by type of violence, September 2023

Departments	Municipality of residence of the victim	Types of Violence							Total
		Psychological	Physics	Economic	Patrimonial	Symbolic	Femicidal	Other Type	
La Libertad	Chiltiupán	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Colón	12	2	5	0	0	0	0	19
	La Libertad	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Santa Tecla	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Total	25	3	5	0	0	0	0	33
San Salvador	Apopa	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	Ciudad Delgado	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Ilopango	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Marcos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Salvador	13	2	1	0	0	1	2	19
	Soyapango	14	0	4	0	0	0	0	18
Total	35	2	5	0	0	1	2	45	

Departments	Municipality of residence of the victim	Types of Violence							Total
		Psychological	Physics	Economic	Patrimonial	Symbolic	Femicidal	Other Type	
San Miguel	Chinameca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chirilagua	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Ciudad Barrios	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	San Luis de la Reina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Miguel	22	5	4	1	0	0	0	32
	Sesori	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	25	5	4	1	0	0	0	35
Santa Ana	Candelaria de la Frontera	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Chalchuapa	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Metapán	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	San Sebastián Salitrillo	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
	Santa Ana	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Total	100	10	14	1	0	1	2	128	

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments. SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023. (ISDEMU, 2023a; ISDEMU, 2023b).

The analysis of the cases of care provided by ISDEMU to women who have faced gender-based violence in October 2023, classified by type of violence and its distribution by municipalities, offers a detailed perspective. In total, 153 cases were recorded, with psychological violence being the most common, with 125 cases. This is followed by physical violence with 15 cases and economic violence with 10 cases, while 3 cases of property violence were recorded. There were no records of cases of femicidal or symbolic violence in October 2023. (See table 5).

In terms of distribution by municipalities, cases of psychological violence were highest in San Miguel with 26 cases, Santa Ana with 18, Colón with 16, and Soyapango and San Salvador with 15 cases each. Interestingly, no cases were reported in Chinameca, Chiltiupán, San Luis la Reina and Metapán. For physical violence, San Miguel leads again with 4 cases, followed by 2 cases in San Salvador, Santa Tecla, Apopa and Soyapango, and one case each in Ilopango, Candelaria de la Frontera and Santa Ana. In terms of economic violence, Colón registered 3 cases, San Salvador and Soyapango 2 cases each, and La Libertad, Ilopango and Santa Ana one case each. With regard to patrimonial violence, one case was registered in San Miguel, one in Ilopango and one in San Salvador.

These data underscore the prevalence of psychological violence and suggest that psychological violence is a significant problem, possibly due to its less visible nature compared to other forms of violence. The concentration of cases in specific municipalities indicates regional differences in the incidence of gender-based violence or in the ability or willingness to report such cases. The absence of cases of femicidal and symbolic violence could indicate a lower incidence during this month or difficulties in identifying and reporting these types of violence. The presence of physical, economic



and patrimonial violence, although less frequent, highlights the need for a multidimensional response that addresses all forms of gender-based violence.

This analysis highlights the importance of targeted strategies tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of each region, as well as the need to address all forms of gender-based violence in order to provide a comprehensive and effective response.

Table 5. Number of cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU, by municipalities and by type of violence, October 2023

Departments	Municipality of residence of the victim	Types of Violence							Total
		Psychological	Physics	Economic	Patrimonial	Symbolic	Femicidal	Other Type	
La Libertad	Chilitupán	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Colón	16	0	3	0	0	0	0	19
	La Libertad	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	6
	Santa Tecla	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Total	22	2	4	1	0	0	0	29
San Salvador	Apopa	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Ciudad Delgado	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Ilopango	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	9
	San Marcos	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	San Salvador	15	2	2	1	0	0	0	20
	Soyapango	15	2	2	0	0	0	0	19
	Total	48	7	5	2	0	0	0	62
San Miguel	Chinameca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chirilagua	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Ciudad Barrios	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	San Luis de la Reina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	San Miguel	26	4	0	0	0	0	0	30
	Sesori	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Santa Ana	Candelaria de la Frontera	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Chalchuapa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Metapán	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	San Sebastián Salitrillo	18	1	1	0	0	0	0	20
	Santa Ana	25	2	1	0	0	0	0	28
	Total	125	15	10	3	0	0	0	153
Total		100	10	14	1	0	1	2	128

Source: Prepared by the authors based on the Integrated System for the Management of Records and Appointments.SIMEC. Information generated on:10/11/2023. (ISDEMU, 2023a; ISDEMU, 2023b).

The analysis of the data provided by ISDEMU on the care of women who have faced gender-based violence reveals several significant trends in the months of September and October, which vary according to the type of violence experienced.

First, there is a notable increase in cases of psychological violence, from 100 in September to 125 in October. This increase may reflect a greater awareness and willingness to report this type of violence, or an actual increase in its incidence. On the other hand, cases of physical violence also increased, although to a lesser extent, from 10 to 15 cases. This continues to highlight physical violence as a constant concern.

In terms of economic violence, there was a decrease in cases, from 14 to 10, which could indicate changes in economic circumstances or in the availability of resources for victims. Cases of patrimonial violence, although low in number, showed an increase from 1 to 3, reflecting a problem that, although less frequent, needs attention.

No cases of symbolic violence were reported in either of the two months, which could be due to a lack of recognition or reporting of this type of violence. Finally, it is encouraging to note that cases of femicidal violence decreased from 1 case in September to 0 in October, although any such case is extremely serious and requires continued attention.

This analysis highlights the importance of continuous monitoring of different forms of gender-based violence. The variability in the types of violence reported month by month underscores the need to constantly adapt intervention and prevention strategies to effectively address these issues. In addition, the data suggest the need to improve awareness and reporting mechanisms, especially in lesser-recognized types of violence such as symbolic violence.

The analysis of ISDEMU data on cases of care for women who have faced gender-based violence, focusing on psychological violence and comparing the months of September and October, reveals significant increases in three specific municipalities: Chiltiupán, Ilopango and Santa Ana.

In Chiltiupán, a notable change was observed, going from no cases of psychological violence in September to four cases reported in October. This increase may be indicative of an increase in the incidence of this type of violence or an improvement in the awareness and reporting of these cases by victims and authorities.

The situation in Ilopango shows a similar pattern, but with a steeper increase. Here, no cases were reported in September, but six cases were recorded in October. This substantial increase could reflect a particularly worrying situation in this municipality that requires immediate and specific attention in the area of psychological violence.

The Santa Ana case is even more notable, with a significant jump from two cases reported in September to eighteen in October. This increase could indicate a growing problem of psychological violence in the municipality or a greater efficiency in the identification and reporting of these cases.



These variations underscore the importance of a localized approach to the analysis of gender-based violence. Steep increases in municipalities such as Ilopango and Santa Ana suggest the possibility of specific factors in these areas contributing to an increase in cases of psychological violence. This data is critical for entities such as ISDEMU to adjust their strategies and resources, effectively addressing gender-based violence, with a particular focus on psychological violence in these municipalities.

4.3. Analysis of the three reports on Gender-Based Violence Statistics in El Salvador

To take stock of the three reports presented by the Gender-Based Violence Research Institute (IVG) within the framework of the LibrES project, several key aspects that emerge from the data and analysis provided must be considered:

4.3.1. Evolution of gender-based violence (first report submitted in October 2023)

The first report of the Gender-Based Violence Research Institute (IVG) provides a detailed overview of the violence registered against women and the LGBTIQ+ population in El Salvador, at the national level and in the 21 municipalities addressed by the LibrES project. This analysis reveals an initial increase in female homicide rates in these municipalities between 2012 and 2015, followed by a decrease until 2020. At the national level, there is an upward trend in crimes against women from 2015 to 2021, with a notable increase in expressions of violence and the illegal dissemination of information. Likewise, an upward trend in crimes against women is identified, as there was an increase in crimes committed against women between 2015 and 2021, with physical, sexual and patrimonial violence standing out as the most prevalent.

The data also suggest institutional challenges in the recording of violence against the LGBTIQ+ population, especially in the classification by gender identity and expression.

4.3.2. Victim care and communication (second report submitted in November 2023)

The second report focuses on ISDEMU's work in caring for women victims of gender-based violence at the national level from 2015 to August 2023. There was a decrease in the number of cases treated up to 2020, followed by a significant increase in the following years. The report also highlights the role of the "126 calls" and the "126 Te Orienta Virtual Platform" in communication and assistance. The analysis by age reveals that women aged 20-29 and 30-39 are the most affected, while women with disabilities also represent a vulnerable segment. The following are highlighted:

- Decrease and subsequent increase in ISDEMU attendances: A decreasing trend was noted in the cases attended by ISDEMU from 2015 to 2020, with a subsequent increase in 2021 and 2022.
- Use of communication tools: The "126 calls" and the "126 Te Orienta Virtual Platform" played

a crucial role, although there was a decrease in the number of visits through the platform until August 2023.

- Higher incidence in young women and women with disabilities: The most affected age ranges were women aged 20-29 and 30-39 years, and care for women with disabilities was highlighted.

4.3.3. Recent trends and typologies of violence (third report)

The third report covers the months of September and October 2023, highlighting the actions of the 126 Care Center and all other ISDEMU care for women affected by gender-based violence. There was a predominance of psychological violence, followed by economic, sexual, patrimonial and femicidal violence. In addition, an overall decrease in the number of visits was observed from September to October, which requires an investigation of the causes and a possible adaptation of services. The following is highlighted:

- Services provided in 2023: During September and October 2023, significant attention was maintained for women victims of gender-based violence, both nationally and in the municipalities of the LibrES project.
- Predominance of psychological violence: There was a predominance of psychological violence, followed by economic, sexual, patrimonial and femicidal violence.
- Overall decrease in attendance: A decrease in the total number of entries was observed from September to October, which could indicate variations in demand or in the effectiveness of services.

4.3.4. Overview of the three reports

Gender-based violence in El Salvador, and specifically in the municipalities covered by the LibrES project, has shown complex and changing patterns over the years. Psychological violence emerges as the most prevalent, underscoring the need for approaches focused on psychological and emotional support. Care for women victims of gender-based violence has fluctuated, with a decline followed by an increase in recent years. This highlights the importance of maintaining vigilance and adapting intervention strategies to emerging trends.

In addition, the data reveal a particularly focused focus on young women and women with disabilities, highlighting the need for specific approaches for these groups. Finally, the variability in the incidence and types of violence between different municipalities suggests the need for prevention and intervention strategies tailored to the local context.

5. Final thoughts

Below are a series of reflections derived from the sections of the results obtained in this report.



National data on services provided and cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU in September and October 2023

The information collected on the care provided by the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU) to women who have faced gender-based violence reveals several important trends and needs in the response to this problem.

First, there has been a notable increase in the number of cases attended and in calls to the 126 Attention Center, reflecting a growing demand for support services for women victims of gender-based violence. This indicates increased awareness of the availability of these services or, possibly, an increase in the incidence of violence.

Psychological violence emerges as the most common type of violence, underscoring the need to focus resources and intervention strategies on psychological care and emotional support. This highlights the importance of counselling and psychological guidance services in the comprehensive approach to gender-based violence.

In addition, the use of various communication channels, such as phone calls and the digital platform, highlights the importance of offering multiple avenues of access to support services, adapting to women's needs and circumstances. This is crucial to ensure that all women, regardless of their situation, can access the help they need.

The distribution of care cases according to age ranges and the presence of disability indicates unique challenges that women face based on their age and physical or mental condition. This requires a personalized and sensitive approach to these variables, ensuring that the services provided are relevant and effective.

In conclusion, these data highlight the need to strengthen and diversify support services for women victims of gender-based violence in El Salvador. It is essential to ensure a personalized, accessible and sensitive approach to the different forms of violence and the diverse needs of the women affected in order to provide an effective and comprehensive response to this problem.

Data on cases of women who have faced gender-based violence served by ISDEMU, in the 21 municipalities of the LibrES project, between September and October 2023

The information collected on the care provided by ISDEMU to women who have faced gender-based violence in the municipalities intervened by the LibrES project reveals several key trends and needs.

First, a high incidence of care cases is observed in specific age groups, especially among women aged 30-39 and 20-29 years. This concentration suggests that women at these stages of life may be particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence, possibly due to social, economic, or relational factors. Psychological violence emerges as the most common type of violence in different municipalities, indicating the need for a greater focus on psychological and mental support services for victims.

In addition, care varies significantly between different municipalities, with some, such as San Miguel and Colón, reporting a higher number of cases. This may reflect differences in the prevalence of gender-based violence or in the capacity of local services to identify and care for victims. Variability in care by age and type of violence suggests the need for personalized, targeted approaches that consider each victim's unique circumstances.

The absence of reported cases in some municipalities and types of violence could indicate a lack of awareness of gender-based violence or barriers in accessing support services. This underscores the importance of developing comprehensive strategies that address not only physical, but also psychological, economic and patrimonial violence, adapting to the needs of victims in different regions and age ranges.

Finally, the intervention of the LibRES project in certain municipalities shows its impact on the identification and attention of cases of gender-based violence, highlighting the importance of focused initiatives to address this problem. In summary, these findings highlight the complexity of the phenomenon of gender-based violence and the need for multifaceted responses tailored to specific demographic and regional characteristics. Continuity in data collection and analysis is critical to developing effective prevention and intervention strategies in this critical field.

Analysis of the three reports on Gender-Based Violence statistics in El Salvador

Taken together, the reports on statistics on gender-based violence in El Salvador provide a comprehensive view of this type of violence in El Salvador, highlighting both the challenges and the progress made in the fight against this problem. It is crucial that efforts continue to focus on understanding and addressing the various manifestations of gender-based violence to ensure an effective and responsive response to the needs of all affected women.

IVG reports show that gender-based violence in El Salvador is a complex and dynamic phenomenon, with significant variations in types of violence and incidence between different age groups and municipalities. Psychological violence is particularly prevalent, emphasizing the need for approaches focused on psychological support. In addition, care for women victims of gender-based violence has



fluctuated, underscoring the importance of constant vigilance and adaptive intervention strategies. Attention to specific groups, such as young women and women with disabilities, highlights the need for tailored approaches. Finally, differences in the incidence and types of violence between different municipalities suggest the need for prevention and intervention strategies that are sensitive to the local context. These findings provide a crucial foundation for a comprehensive understanding of gender-based violence in El Salvador and highlight the importance of continuing to develop effective and responsive responses to the needs of all affected women.

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