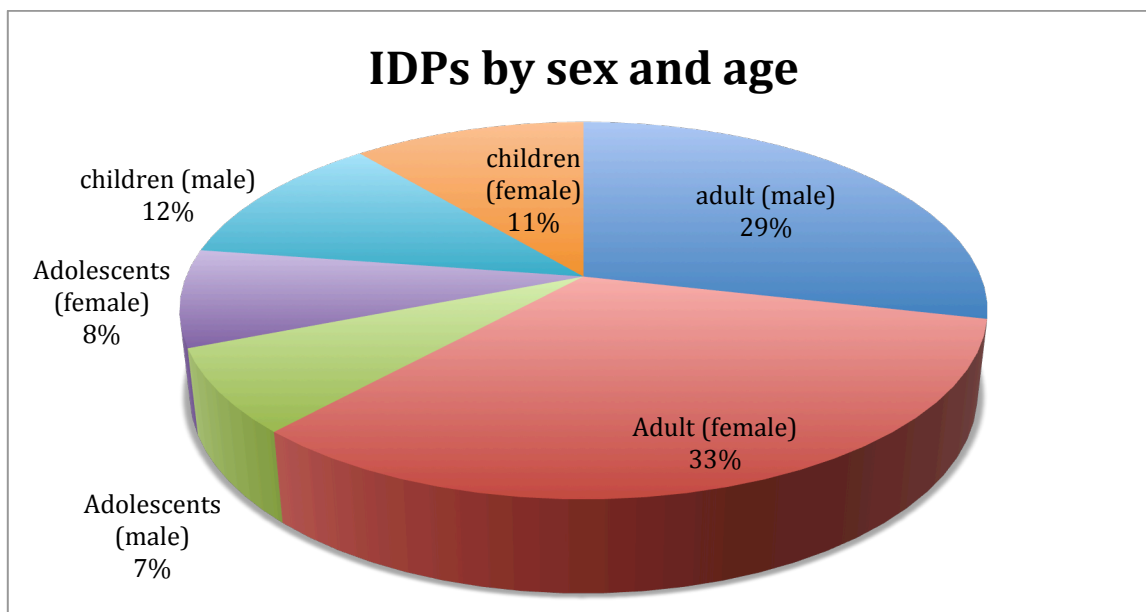


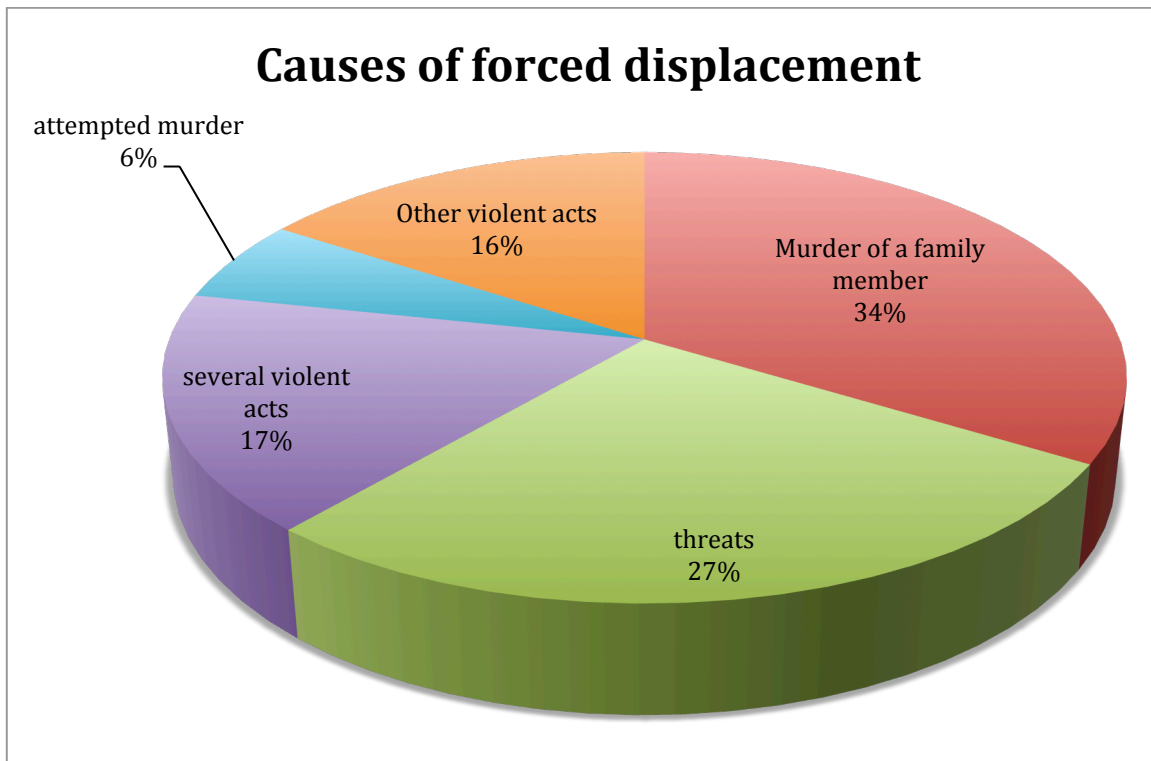
SUMMARY ON IDPs REPORT IN EL SALVADOR

As privacy policies of Foundation Cristosal prohibits to divulge cases information that could endangered the victims, the following is an excerpt of the report on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) because of Violence in El Salvador:

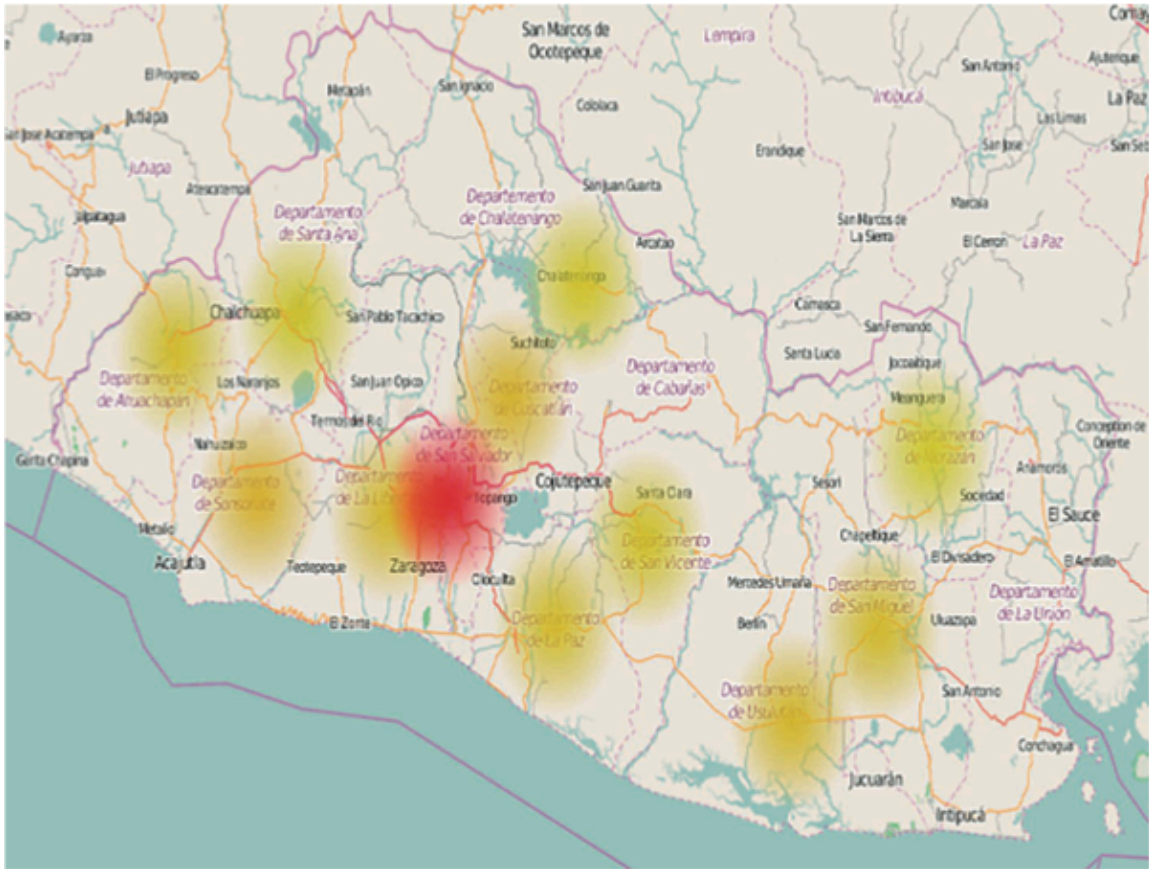
The report on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) because of Violence in El Salvador was launched on the 19th of January 2016 by the Civil Society's Round Table against Forced Displacement by Violence and Organized Crime. The report is based on the 146 cases registered by 7 of the 13 organizations that conforms the roundtable, which give assistance to cases. Those cases collect data from 623 IDPs in El Salvador, most of the cases conformed by families. 178 (29%) were male adults, 207 (33%) female adults, 72 (12%) male children, 69 (11%) female children, 45 (7%) male adolescents, 52 (8%) female adolescents.



The cause of displacement was in most of the cases direct violent acts against these victims. In 34% of the cases the displacement was motivated by the murder of a family member, 27% by threats, 6% attempted murder, The rest 33% respond to other causes like beatings, extortions, kidnapping, forced gangs recruitments, human trafficking cases, domestic violence, injuries, forced disappearance, among others, in 17% of the cases there is more than one cause of displacement identified, in most of them there is a threat to the life of the victims.



In 86% of the cases gangs do the violent acts that cause displacement, but in the rest of cases particulars, drug smugglers, other organized crime structures, police and army were identified as the aggressors. 80% of the victims come from the central zone of the country, mostly from the capital San Salvador with 59%, 11% from the east and 9% from the west. In most of the cases follow up is difficult and is hard to determine which percentage of IDPs migrate out of El Salvador to seek international protection. On the interviews performed most of the people have not yet think of possible solutions of resettlement due to their distress, but on those cases who openly said they wanted to migrate pointed USA and Canada as the most common destinations, but also countries like Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, some few cases also mention Belize and Honduras, some European countries as Sweden and Italy where mention as possible destination. Within programs of organizations that conforms the round table - even though is not the main objective of these programs - some IDPs were helped to seek international protection outside of El Salvador, mainly in Sweden, Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica (each organization keeps their own records on how many cases they helped seek international protection, but the round table hasn't collect the data on the follow up of those cases).



Within the cases in the report, 23 of those cases that were registered by Foundation Cristosal, IDHUCA and FESPAD were chosen to do a deeper report on the characterization of IDPs in El Salvador. Those cases represent 106 IDPs, 59 adults and 47 children and adolescents. Seven of the cases are families with single mothers as head of family and 2 cases are families conform just by women. The most relevant findings are as follows:

Difficulties on presenting complaints in police stations and attorney general's offices were detected. They usually denied victims their right to complaint under pretexts of lack of information or undue process, as a result victims are discourage to seek further help from state's agencies. If the victims has a family tie with a gang member they also suffer discrimination, even if their lives are threaten by the gang which their family member belongs too. In cases were complaints are taken a lack of adequate protection measures and the slow reaction of state agencies propel the endangerment of victims. Corruption and ties with criminal structures also results as an absence of trust from victims to seek government help. The witness protection program of the country, the only structure build for victims of violence, is pointed as one of the most human rights violator against victims, suffering violence from their personnel who handle themselves with impunity.

Most of these IDPs have as a common denominator that they come from poverty-stricken areas where the gangs are in control. As they run off for survival without any government support, they encounter difficulties on basic needs as finding shelter, food, cloth, health services, etc. Their capacity to exercise their economical, social and cultural rights is interrupted because they enter in a sort of clandestine mode, hiding and in fear to be located by their aggressors.

Note: Foundation Cristosal is an active member of the Civil Society's Round Table against Forced Displacement by Violence and Organized Crime and has a legal assistance program which focuses on IDPs. In some extreme cases the program helps IDPs to seek international protection outside of El Salvador. Both efforts have a rights based focus and an advocacy strategy.