

In response to high rates of gender-based violence (GBV) in Honduras, in 2019, Cure Violence Global and UNICEF collaborated to adapt the Cure Violence approach to reduce GBV. Since then, the Cure Violence approach to GBV has been implemented in five cities, successfully interrupting GBV conflicts, helping to relocate women and children, and changing norms around GBV.

## The Epidemic of Gender-based Violence in Honduras

In Honduras, GBV is a hidden epidemic that often goes unreported and unaddressed. From the data that is available, rates of GBV in Honduras are four and a half times higher than in the United States.

## The Cure Violence and UNICEF Partnership to Address GBV

In 2019, UNICEF and Cure Violence Global partnered to adapt the Cure Violence approach to address GBV in Honduras. The initiative strengthened existing Cure Violence program sites through technical support and training to increase their capability to address GBV.

The project's first phase was put into action in March 2019 in San Pedro Sula (Rivera Hernández and Chamelecon), Choloma, La Ceiba, Sambo Creek, and Corozal. From 2020 to 2021, the violence interruption teams stopped 724 acts of violence against women and girls, ranging from sexual assault to trafficking and exploitation. The project estimates that the lives of 501 women were saved, and 52 persons, predominantly women and children, were assisted in relocating to safer areas.

## A GBV Interruption in Honduras

*Five women were being threatened with death by gang members in Choloma, a city in northern Honduras. The women were given 24 hours to comply with the gang members' demand that they engage in drug trafficking.*

*The women contacted Melania, a Violence Interrupter in Choloma, for help. Melania and her colleagues were able to secretly escort the women out of the community, sheltering them in their own homes until they could relocate them to a safer location.*

## Objectives of the CV Approach to GBV

- Build capacity through training and technical assistance
- Interrupt potential acts of GBV
- Reduce the likelihood of engaging in GBV
- Reduce the risk of being a victim of GBV
- Change the aggressive behaviors and norms of those at high risk of engaging in GBV
- Shift social norms that validate violence and gender inequality





# Adaptation of the Cure Violence Approach to Gender-based Violence

The Cure Violence approach is a health approach for reducing violence grounded in epidemiological methods proven effective in controlling other health epidemics, including detection and interruption of events, identification and treatment of those at highest risk, and shifting of norms. The Cure Violence approach has been implemented in more than 100 communities globally and has been externally evaluated several times, with each evaluation showing large, statistically significant reductions in violence.

Originally developed to address the epidemic of gun violence in cities across the United States, over the last decade, the approach has been successfully adapted to address urban violence in communities in Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa, as well as violence in schools, refugee camps, juvenile detention facilities, and prisons, as well as sectarian, tribal, and belief-inspired violence.

## Adaptation of the Approach

To adapt the approach to GBV, CVG collaborated with UNICEF and local leaders in Honduras to analyze the characteristics, context, and prevalence of GBV in the target cities and customize the approach and training to address it.

The process included:

1. Selecting target communities in each city based on levels of GBV
2. Identifying and selecting leaders based on their sensitivity to gender issues and their ability to interrupt conflicts and promote change
3. Providing training and ongoing support to program sites and communities

## Components of the Cure Violence Approach to GBV

### 1. Detect and Interrupt Potentially Violent Conflicts

Workers at each program location detect and intervene in cases of GBV, mapping the community to identify GBV hotspots, building relationships with survivors of GBV, and participating in dialogues and social events to engage those who might wish to report disputes.

### 2. Identify and Change the Behaviors of Those Most Impacted by Violence

Workers encourage participants who are at high risk of becoming involved in GBV situations, either as aggressors or as potential victims, to change their behavior. Participants are identified through community outreach initiatives, successful mediation cases, and community contacts. Workers assist participants with conflict resolution, emotion management, and access to resources such as mental health, substance abuse treatment, education, and employment.

### 3. Mobilize the Community to Change Norms

Workers encourage norm change through group activities, workshops, and the cleaning and restoration of public common areas. These activities are intended to have a positive impact on people's attitudes, perceptions, and norms around GBV.

*"The industrial city of Choloma has long been a hotspot for crime and violence. In 2019, 38 women were reported to have died as a result of violence. In 2020, that number has dropped to 13, because of a committed team of men and women like Melania (a violence interrupter)."*

- UNICEF Report