

Mexico

Information provided further the statement by the Lanzarote Committee Chair and Vice-Chairperson on stepping up protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

No information received.

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Responses to specific questions by the Bureau of the Lanzarote Committee on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

**Responses provided by the Executive Secretariat of the National System
for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents (SIPINNA)**

- 1. To what extent, if at all, has the threat of child sexual abuse/exploitation changed due to COVID-19? If so:
 - **Please tell us about whether the level of risk has increased/decreased/remained the same and if possible specify this with regard to the various types of sexual offences against children (Articles 18-23 of the Convention);****

The level of risk has increased. The actions carried out by the Government of Mexico to deal with violence in the framework of the health emergency by Covid-19, were based on the national and international experience that recognizes that in the context of national emergencies there is an increase on domestic violence, including sexual violence, particularly against women, girls, boys and adolescents, people with disabilities and older adults.

Considering that sexual violence against children and adolescents is carried out by relatives or people close to girls, boys and adolescents, it is estimated that confinement has increased the risk of various types of sexual crimes against girls, boys and adolescents. It is also considered that with a greater use of the internet for school, social and recreational activities by girls, boys and adolescents, the risk of sexual violence through digital media has increased. With regard to risk factors derived from situations of poverty, it is expected that the decrease in family income and the predictions of an increase in poverty will exacerbate the risk factors for sexual crimes against girls, boys and adolescents.

- **You may also wish to indicate any emerging trends relating to child sexual abuse/exploitation, as the result of COVID-19, and point at measures taken to address them.**

As indicated in the next question, there is a trend related to domestic violence, including sexual violence, in the context of self-confinement, the detection of which has been hampered by the isolation in which children and adolescents find themselves and the fact that they are not in social structures where such violence can be detected, such as educational centres or other spaces for socialization.

In the context of the pandemic, attention to violence against women, girls, boys and adolescents is being coordinated by the interior ministry through two processes. The first through the National Strategy for the Prevention and Attention of Violence against Women, Girls, Boys and Adolescents, which is made up of four axes: 1) Protection; 2) Training and education; 3) Participation; 4) Information and dissemination.

The second process refers to the Agreement of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents, approved in its extraordinary session of April 30, 2020, which defined the essential actions for the care and protection of girls, boys and adolescents, which includes the axis of protection against violence.

In both processes, protection has focused on: 1) Encouraging services of protection against violence to be defined as essential and, therefore, not to stop their operation during the pandemic crisis; 2) strengthen the capacities of the emergency lines for the attention and channelling of cases of violence against children and adolescents, including sexual violence; 3) improve coordination between authorities for the proper care of girls, boys and adolescents who have been subjected to violence, guaranteeing that all procedures are followed from the reception of the case to the reparation of the damage, including violence in the digital space.

2. Did lockdown cause child sexual abuse/exploitation cases (identified/reported) to increase, decrease or stay the same? Please submit data (number of victims/offenders) and highlight what you think may explain the trend.

With the data available from January to March 2020, it was identified that:

- Increase of emergency calls related to sexual abuse by 16.9 percent;
- 22.7 percent increase in emergency calls related to domestic violence;
- 23.2 percent increase in emergency calls related to intimate partner violence;
- Increase related to emergency calls against women by 20.4 percent.

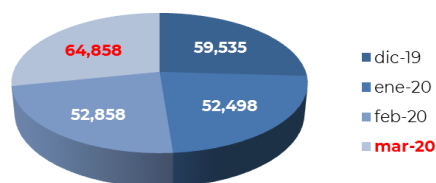
It is estimated that the trend will continue to increase in these months, as indicated by 9-1-1, as well as by the network of refuges of violence against women. An increase in internet searches has also been confirmed to the question: Where to report family violence?

In terms of poverty, according to the Institution that is in charge of poverty measurement, one of the effects of the COVID pandemic is that there can be a general drop in people's income of 5%, which in turn can generate a poverty growth in the income between 7.2% and 7.9% in urban poverty. In this way, income poverty would go from 48.8% in 2018 of the total population of the country to 56% and even to 56.7 according to the urban data in 2020.

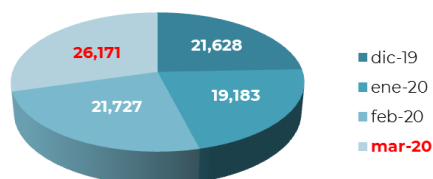
Datos enero – marzo 2020



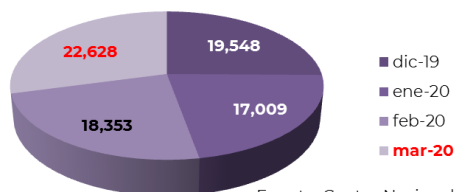
Aumentó **22.7 por ciento** las llamadas de emergencia relacionadas con violencia familiar



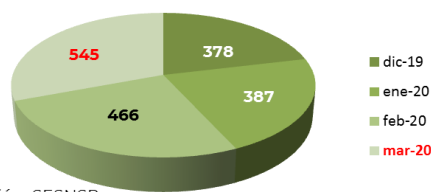
Aumentó **20.4 por ciento** las llamadas de emergencia relacionadas contra las mujeres



Aumentó **23.2 por ciento** las llamadas de emergencia relacionadas con violencia de pareja



Aumentó **16.9 por ciento** las llamadas de emergencia relacionadas con abuso sexual

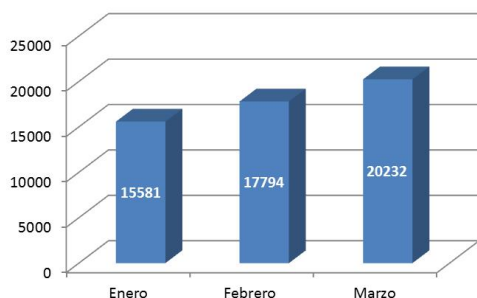


Fuente: Centro Nacional de Información. SESNSP.

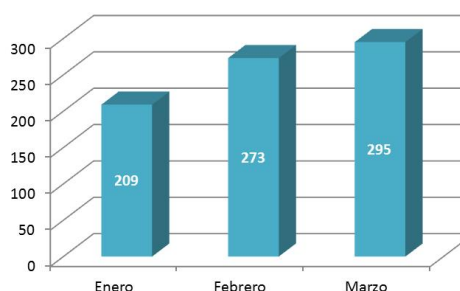
Datos enero – marzo 2020



Carpetas de violencia familiar



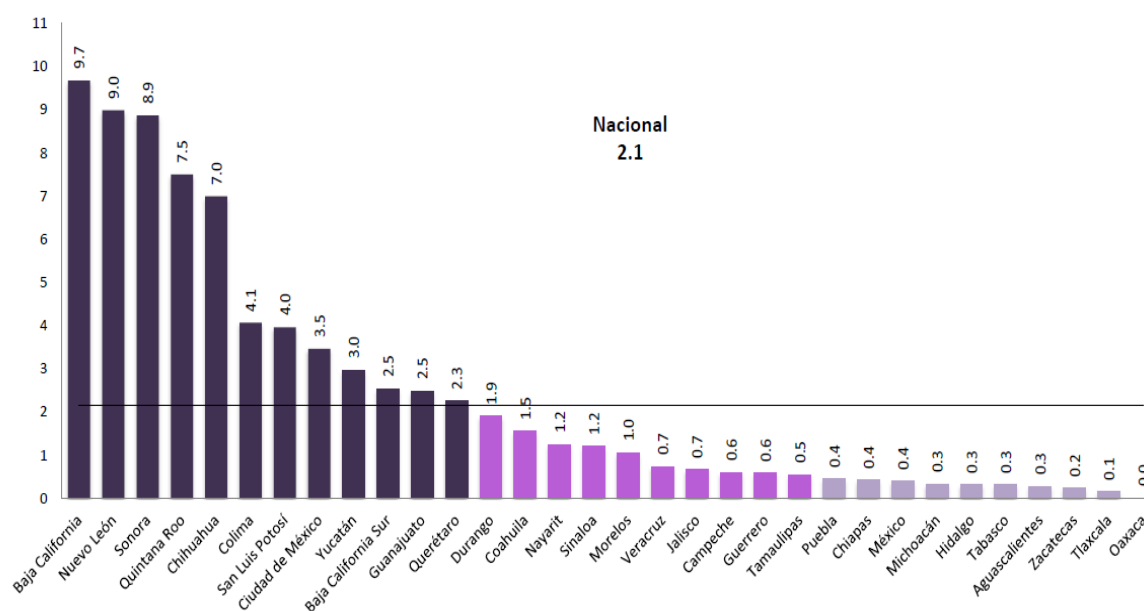
Carpetas de violencia de género



Fuente: Centro Nacional de Información. SESNSP.

LLAMADAS DE EMERGENCIA RELACIONADAS CON INCIDENTES DE
 ABUSO SEXUAL* POR CADA 100 MIL MUJERES^{1/}: ESTATAL

Enero – marzo 2020



3. Please also tell us whether and how general child safeguarding measures were, or are likely to be, affected by measures taken by governments in response to COVID-19. In addition, highlight any additional, specific measures put in place during lockdown to ensure reporting by victims of child sexual abuse/exploitation as well as to support and assist them, and whether these measures will be maintained even when the lockdown is lifted.

Among the adjustments stipulated by the Federal Government to deal with the health crisis caused by COVID-19, it was particularly warned about the closure of government centres for children and adolescents, as well as the availability of health services in cases of sexual violence against girls, boys and adolescents.

In the first case, the interior ministry defined care services for violence victims as essential, which is why they continue to operate, including Women's Justice Centres and women's shelters in cases of violence, and the hotline services were strengthened. For the emergency and for the authorities for the protection of children and adolescents, adjustments were made to ensure that there were care staff available at all times.

As mentioned, within the framework of this strategy, the Institutional Coordination Protocol for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents is being prepared, within which the specific situation of girls and adolescents is contemplated. The protocol seeks to coordinate the care of children and adolescents victims of violence until the restoration of their rights, considering the central role of the Children's Attorneys.

- 4. Finally, please tell us whether children have been duly listened to on decision-making concerning their protection against sexual abuse/exploitation during this period. Please also tell us whether and how children will be involved in decision-making on or assessing the impact of COVID-19 measures in the future.**

In the “Participation” axis of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Attention of Violence against Women, Girls, Boys and Adolescents, it is foreseen to take into account the right of participation of children, we are working on its implementation to guarantee that right, a fundamental right to reduce risk factors that children and adolescents may face in their homes during the contingency period in the family environment, including sexual violence.

Based on this strategy, the necessary participation mechanisms have been generated so that, based on their stage of development, children and adolescents have the tools to stay informed, to report acts of violence they are facing and to secure that their voice is heard and taken into account in policy-making for prevention and care during contingencies.

The strategy contemplates three elements: inform, consult and involve. Within the framework of the last element, which seeks to encourage the participation of girls, boys and adolescents as active agents at home and at the environment setting, intergenerational dialogues are being carried out with adolescents from organized groups throughout the country, seeking to identify and improve preventive actions of sexual violence.