



PUBLIC PROSECUTORS' AWARENESS-RAISING EVALUATION

Executive report 2022



Within the framework of:



United Nations Development Program

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This document has been elaborated within the framework of the Spotlight Initiative, a global effort between the European Union and the United Nations aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls and femicide, as part of the essential conditions to achieve sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. More information: www.spotlightinitiative.org/ecuador

AccLab UNDP- Ecuador
2022



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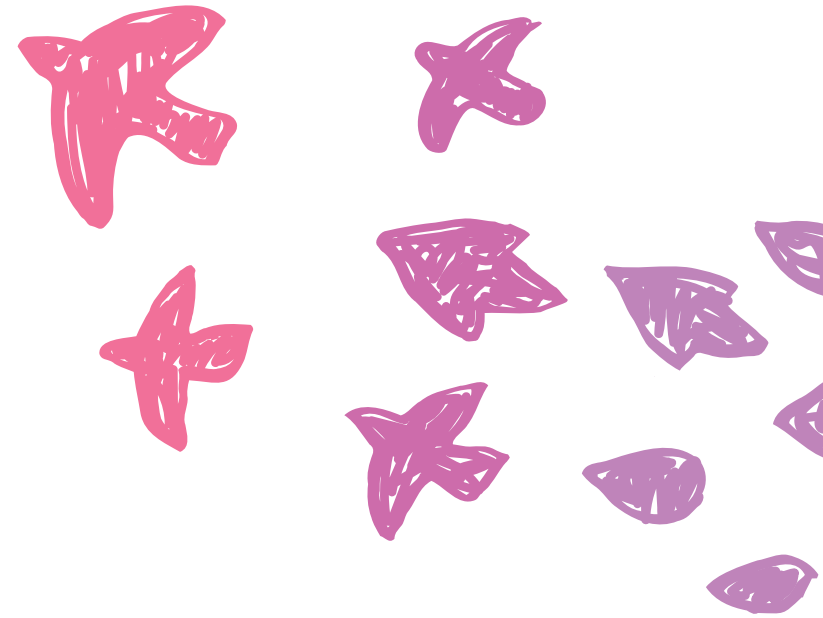


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Background

The Spotlight Initiative in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean is focused on eliminating femicide. In the case of Ecuador, the United Nations agencies that jointly participate in this program are UN Women, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), who spearheaded pillar 5, aimed at improving data on different types of violence against women. In this regard, Ecuador's Accelerator Lab contributed with the design of an innovative intervention for gathering qualitative data through social mapping adapted to reconstruct memory with families of victims of femicide. In 2021, with the support of their strategic partner, ALDEA Foundation, a total of 8 story maps were developed, contributing significantly to the symbolic reparation of families, honoring, and making visible the implications of lost lives.

These accounts, denoted, [Flowers in the Air](#), contain georeferenced multimedia information, resulting from walks carried out with family members through significant places where remembrances in text, audio, video or photographs were collected to honor the lives of victims of femicide. The tool was launched in March 2022, and the entire process was an important contribution for symbolic reparation of the secondary victims.

Flowers in the air, resignifies the losses from lived experience, humanizing the victims. Consequently, it was included in a gender-based violence training directed towards 374 Prosecutors and disseminated to more than 2,000 justice operators through the State Attorney General's Office communication channels at a national level. To assess the level of awareness offered by the tool and its stories, UNDP Accelerator Lab generated a survey, with closed and open questions. In addition, to triangulate the results, two focus groups were led with prosecutors, men, and women, to delve into the responses obtained and support the recurrences by sex variable. Below are the results of this assessment.

General Aspects

- Trained civil servants: 374
- Respondents to the survey: 312
- Valid Surveys Conducted: 168
- Men:80
- Women: 88
- Public Prosecutors: 140
- Male Public Prosecutors: 69
- Female Public Prosecutors: 71
- Amazon area: 8
- Andes area: 89
- Coastal area: 69

What and How We Want to Measure?

We seek to know to what extent does navigating the testimonies:

- a) Mobilize new learnings and emotions
- b) Contribute to grasp the dimensions of immediate and larger impacts of femicide
- c) Expand understanding of what comprehensive redress means from the point of view of families.

Measuring instrument

- Survey with closed and open questions (one for each indicator)
- Two focus groups, with male and female prosecutors separately



Limits to online training

144 surveys were dismissed for a lack of qualitative validity. Reasons for invalidity of surveys: :

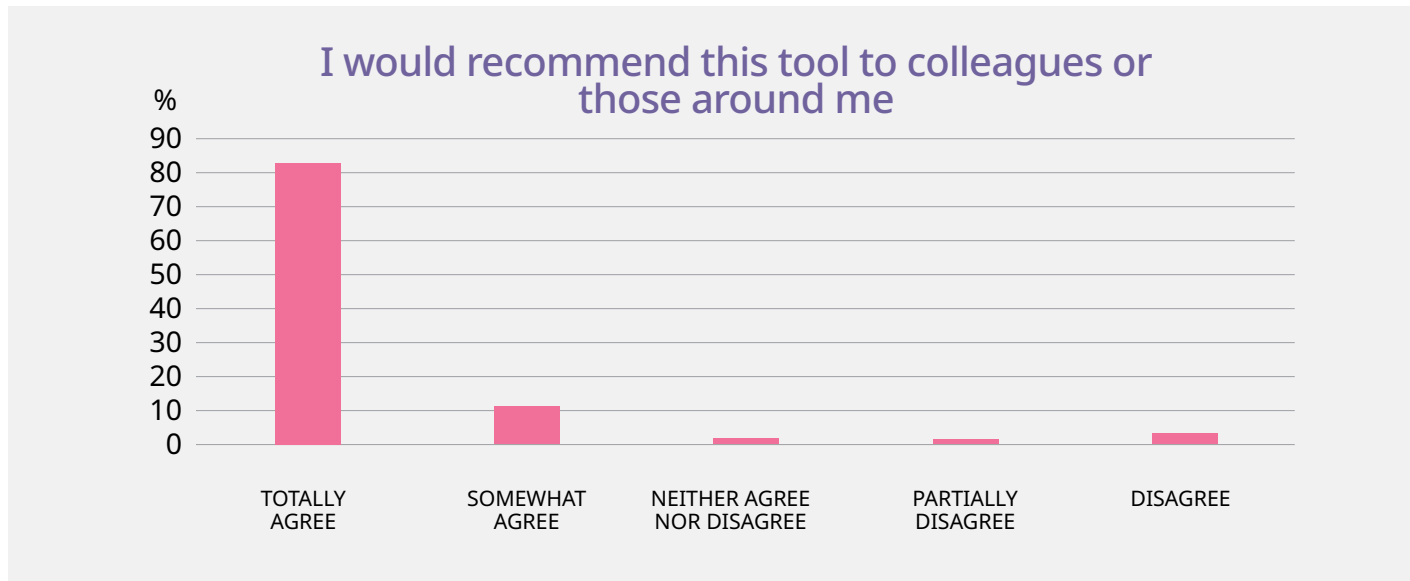
- Repeated responses (same person fills in 2 or more surveys with the same information).
- Empty answers
- Responses with deficient qualitative information

Dismissed responses indicate that in about half the cases, justice operators revised the contents in a superficial way, the same person filled the survey for several officials or responded without navigating the tool. We recommend holding virtual training with active support with mentors to improve its effectiveness.

To count on reliable data that enable us to measure the usefulness of Flowers in the Air as an awareness tool, we based our analysis on 168 valid responses and the information was triangulated through two focus groups.



Quantitative Results



Most justice operators express that they would recommend the tool to their colleagues or those around them. In addition to this survey, analytics from www.otrosmapas.org, the site where Flores in the Air is hosted, show that the website achieves an average session duration of 8 minutes and 26 seconds, above 87% of other similar websites. This result is not limited to Flowers in the Air, but to the web in general; however, we can conclude that significant qualitative content- in this case, micro-narratives- hold the attention of browsers. Story maps are a powerful tool to communicate.



MindMaps

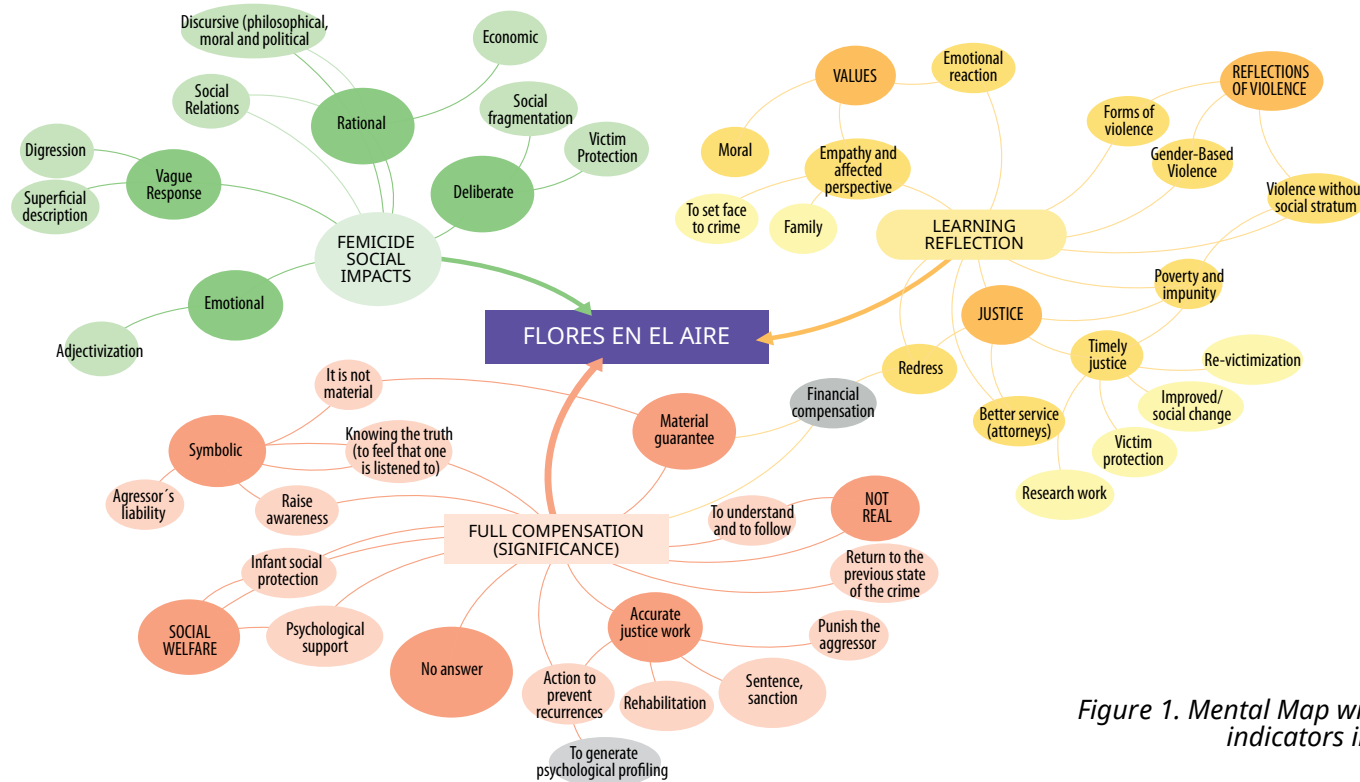


Figure 1. Mental Map with the three indicators in the survey

The first information scanning allowed the creation of response categories according to the qualitative questions included in the survey. These categories were arranged into mind maps (see Fig. 1) that allowed us to create clouds of similar information. The mental map of Figure 1 can be seen in detail in the following [Link](#).



Qualitative Results

I. Did new emotions or awareness arise in you?

1.1 Empathy

Most of the responses express feelings of empathy towards the secondary victims and the impact on their families. Without distinction by sex, emotional reactions were presented in the survey responses as “sad, heart-breaking, impotence, pain”. Male prosecutors tend to apply such descriptors to crime, while women use them to describe their own feelings.

The most important aspect in relation to empathy is the humanization of victims. The prosecutors connected with the life projects behind the losses, mentioning vital dimensions such as longings and ideals behind each woman.

1.2 Rethinking Gender-based violence

The reflections that emerged from the stories in Flowers in the Air regarding violence, acknowledged that it can manifest itself regardless of the victims' social status. They talked about danger, both outside and within the family circle, citing specific examples from the navigation. The most important of the reflections was identifying femicide, as an act of sexist violence in which women are killed simply because they are women.

1.3 Justice: from impotence to compromise

Data from focus groups and surveys show that, although both men and women mentioned feeling helpless due to a weak judicial system, male prosecutors focused more on punishments and sentences on perpetrators as a form of public condemnation. Women, on the other hand, focused on the need for prevention mechanisms and more resources, as well as in feelings of a greater commitment in their work to overcome impotence.

*I learned to never give up on investigations to obtain justice. I feel more eager to apply the law so that the victims' families see that they are not alone and ensure judicial rulings in their favor, and therefore, make these cases visible to raise awareness against gender-based violence. **Female prosecutor survey response***

*Adult offenders should be taken to the dungeon whenever he hits a woman even if four days have passed, because if four days elapsed, he's not jailed in flagrant offence, instead, he returns with the victim. And what is the message we give to citizens? **Male prosecutor, focus group.***

II. What impacts does femicide have on the immediate/extended/indirect circle?

This question seeks to identify whether victims' stories make it evident that violence transcends the private sphere and shows its impact at a social level.

2.1 The social impact recognized through stories

When mentioning the impact on families, the responses contained an emotional tone, mentioning the devastating elements in children and immediate relatives. In addition to that, in the focus groups, participants quoted testimonies, connecting with families' experiences.

2.2. The social impact recognized through stories

The mostly mentioned social impact alludes to social fragmentation. This is important to rescue since violence has traditionally been approached as an intimate matter, which occurs within the family. Acknowledging the impact of

femicide on the whole of society enables a comprehensive, structural approach, and not blaming the victims, which continues to happen in judicial processes. Special reference was made to social psychology, mentioned as “collective psychosis”, linked to feelings of uncertainty generated by fear, recognizing that violence permeates all possible spheres.

2.3 Digression

The survey also yielded rambling answers or superficial writings. This is due to the limitations of online training, as mentioned above.

III. From the stories you navigated, what is the meaning of comprehensive redress from the perspective of the family that has lost a family member to femicide?

3.1 About Symbolic Redress

The symbolic redress is mentioned in two ways. On one hand, as something insufficient and insignificant and on the other hand, focus groups highlighted citizen initiatives of symbolic value. Meaning, whilst the symbolic is considered unsatisfactory in the surveys, participants in focus groups, thanks to a more careful navigation, recognized the sense of actions such as planting trees on the street, painting victims' names on a bridge, and other spontaneous citizen initiatives that does not leave violence indifferent.



3.2 Proper Law Enforcement

The limitations within the justice system were acknowledged and thus, the need for substantial improvement to achieve timely sentences, the application of sanctions, and more investment to stop impunity. They quoted examples from the testimonies, which show how inefficient judicial response produces revictimization to the families. Women prosecutors, especially, expressed their commitment in their daily work as justice system officers.

3.3 Social Welfare as Redress

Special reference was made to families where there were orphans, citing Celeste's story. Mainly female prosecutors mentioned social welfare and its relationship with the victims' bereaved. Redress was linked to the need to cover the families' basic needs responding from different sectors as well as guaranteeing psychological support, given that the stories portray the lack of institutional aids.

3.4 Helplessness and Integral Redress as Non-existent

A significant number of responses mention that economic reparation never occurs because neither the aggressor nor the state can deliver economic contributions to the victims, so it remains on paper. Finally, prosecutors speak of the non-existence of comprehensive reparation and express that it is a dead letter.



Conclusion

- Online training processes have limitations, if you do not have mentors who give individualized support and boost participation. Nevertheless, our intention was not to measure the Moodle training, but the Flowers in the Air tool.
- According to the quantitative section, more than 80% of officials would recommend the tool to other colleagues or their environment, indicating a high acceptance of it.
- Accelerator Lab's, www.otrosmapas.org manages to capture the attention of its browsers above 87% of other websites. It is an educational and awareness tool with a lot of potential.
- Regarding the emotions or learnings that were mobilized in the justice system officers after navigating the tool, the main one was empathy, followed by feelings of sadness and helplessness. Women refer to their own feelings after navigation and men refer to the use of descriptive of the situation.
- The most significant learning was to rethink violence to recognize its structural dimensions and above all the essence of femicide that is, being attacked for the mere fact of being a woman. Cristina's story mobilized this learning, recognizing that no condition, neither social, nor economic nor origin, prevents you from being killed.
- Men make greater allusions to the application of punitive justice and women mention the need for prevention.
- On the impacts of femicide, the responses alluded to social psychology, to collective fear, because violence encompasses all spheres. That is, the problem was recognized as one's own, and everyone's, and not as something alien, or familiar.



- Memory routes are useful for raising awareness among officials and the population, if quality navigation is carried out, accompanied by facilitation and subsequent space for collective reflection.
- Forum viewing activities are recommended, to facilitate learning and reflections.

You can read the full report in Spanish [here](#).

Within the framework of:

