

# SURVIVAL SEX IN THE MIGRANT POPULATION

2021 - 2022

## OBJECTIVE

This study is made from the interactions and community interventions that AID FOR AIDS has built with the Venezuelan refugee population in Colombia that engages in survival sex.

## THE STUDY INCLUDES 3 SPECIFIC APPROACHES

An ethnographic approximation of the situation of migrants and refugees who have had to engage in sexual activities to survive in 6 Colombian cities: Barranquilla, Bogotá, Cali, Cúcuta, Maicao and Medellín.

The statistical data collected in five Colombian cities are presented with the aim of quantifying key dimensions of the phenomenon.

Qualitative approach resulting from focus groups with the target population.



## WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS DOES THIS STUDY RESULT IN?

Based on valuable qualitative information about the life stories of migrants and refugees, their expectations, the reasons why they engage in these practices, how their rights have been violated and the consequent emotional effects, a comprehensive protection program is drawn up.

This program is based on these pillars:



Provide them with psychosocial and empowerment tools to reduce the emotional impact.

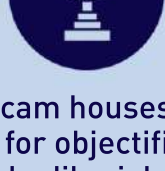


Creation of a pilot program for 600 people who practice survival sex in Bogotá, Barranquilla, Cali, Cúcuta, Maicao and Medellín, Colombia.

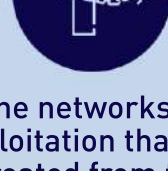
*"The exchange of sex for money or goods has proven to be a topic of interest in HIV and migration research" (AID FOR AIDS, 2022)*

## THE STUDY AND ITS VIEW FROM INTERSECTIONALITY

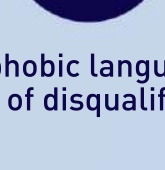
For AID FOR AIDS, it is important to show the inequalities encountered by migrants and refugees living in Colombia on a daily basis. In our work in the field, we have found some particularities that we want to highlight from the exercise of survival sex in Colombia:



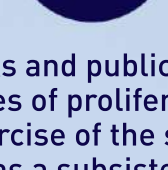
Webcam houses as a niche for objectification and bodily violence.



The networks of exploitation that are created from the trafficking and smuggling of migrants.



Xenophobic language as a form of disqualification.



The parks and public squares as places of proliferation of the exercise of the survival sex as a subsistence.

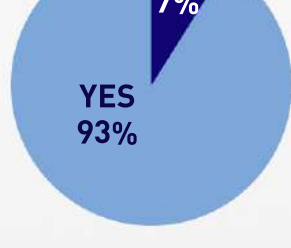
## THE LINES AND AXES OF ANALYSIS

- Being a migrant but at the same time being a woman, member of the LGBTQ+ community, and/or Afro as characteristics combinations of inequality and discrimination.
- Approach to the socioeconomic situation.
- Immigration status and the possibility of accessing services.
- Quality of life and establishment in the country.
- Employment opportunities.
- Health challenges: overcome HIV and STIs related challenges.

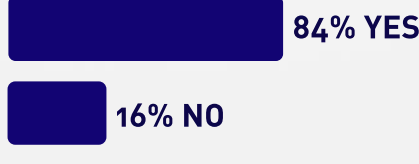
## SOME RELEVANT DATA

Knowing the violation of rights and life situation experienced by migrants and refugees from Venezuela who engage in survival sex is a way of generating reflections on our internal processes as an organization and how these contribute to addressing the needs of these populations, their dilemmas and repertoires of violence to which they have been exposed:

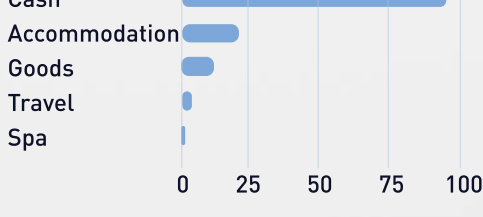
### INTENTION TO REMAIN IN COLOMBIA



### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB?



### WHAT 'BENEFITS' DO YOU RECEIVE FROM SURVIVAL SEX?



## THE TIME ALLOCATED TO SURVIVAL SEX



The number of hours per day that they dedicate on average to these activities fluctuates between 1 and 24 hours, with an average of 9.9 per day.

By disaggregating them according to their city, we see that those who are in Medellín and Maicao dedicate more hours to these activities, 12 hours a day on average.

## THE RISK OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND VIOLENCE IN MIGRANT PEOPLE WHO EXERCISE SURVIVAL SEX

People declare feeling the risk of suffering sexual assault for carrying out this type of activity in the following proportion:

