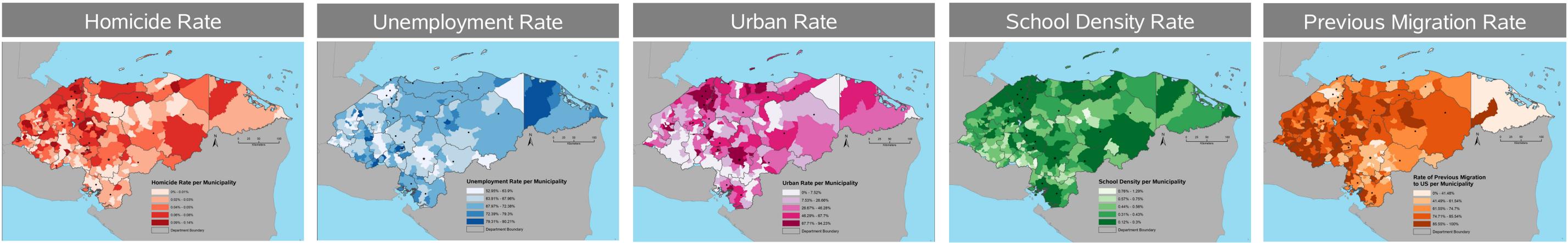


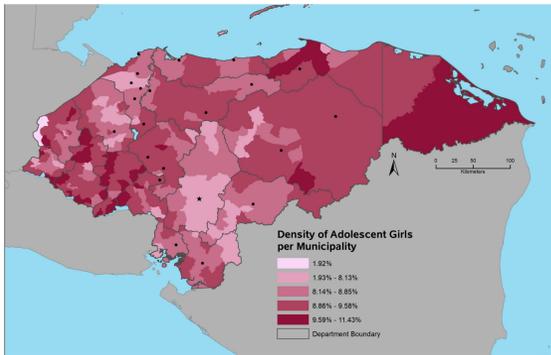
# The Beginning of the Journey:

## A Vulnerability Analysis of Migration from Honduras to the United States



### Background

#### Density of Adolescent Girls



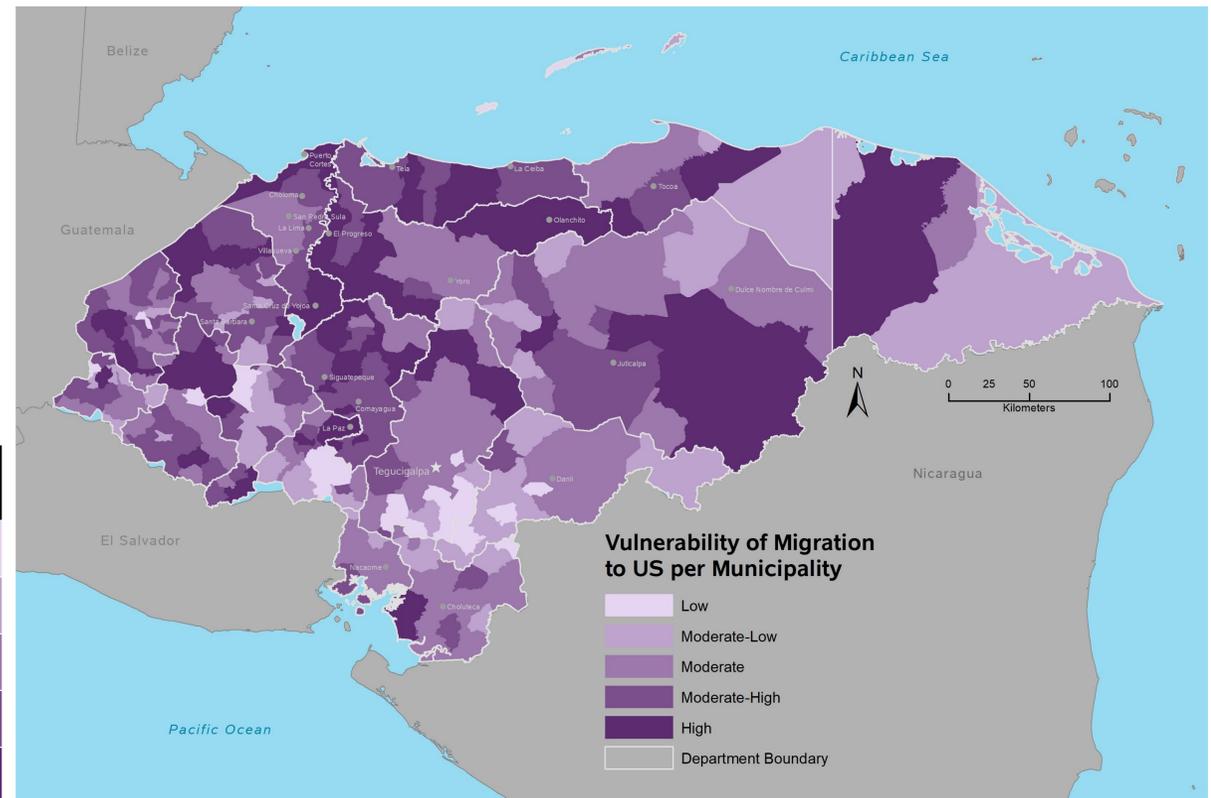
Over the last decade, there has been a 32% increase in migration from Honduras to the United States (Pew Research Center). Decades of regional volatility and a military coup in 2009 have created lasting impacts on Honduras and hindered its government's capacity to create stability within the country. Gangs and organized crime govern many parts of the country, resulting in a persistent rate

of violent conflict. The network of communication between gangs and crime organizations makes it difficult for people, including women and girls, to relocate within the country. A lack of economic opportunity puts the country at an approximately 60% unemployment rate. Increasing urbanization has allowed many people to acquire a baseline of financial resources as well as the social connections needed to make the arrangements to leave. A lack of access to education limits opportunities to work one's way out of poor conditions within the country. Connections in the US give people a destination and convince them that the journey is possible. These are all factors that drive people to migrate out of Honduras.

schools, and 5) connections in the US measured by previous migration rates. Three of the five indicators were calculated from the 2013 Honduras Census tabulated by Administrative Level 2 (municipality), while homicide rate (2015) and school density (2014) were taken from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (OCHA ROLAC) database, accessed through Humanitarian Data Exchange. Each indicator was normalized and assigned a score from 0 to 4, using natural breaks in the data, with 0 being the lowest vulnerability and 4 being the highest vulnerability. Based on my research, I weighted the indicators, so that the final rank was calculated, using the field calculator tool, as such:  $([\text{homicides\_rank}] * 0.3) + ([\text{unemployment\_rank}] * 0.25) + ([\text{urban\_rank}] * 0.10) + ([\text{education\_rank}] * 0.10) + ([\text{previous\_migration\_rank}] * 0.25)$ . The composite vulnerability score was a rank from 0 to 4.

	Total Population	Population of Adolescent Girls
Low	193,418	15,767
Moderate-Low	644,951	57,630
Moderate	3,701,343	307,555
Moderate-High	2,164,929	188,388
High	1,598,981	142,985

### Vulnerability of Migration to the US



### Results

According to the results from the composite vulnerability score, the municipalities in Honduras that are most vulnerable to migration to the US are Protección, Ajuterique, Magdalena, and Petoa, with rankings of 3.6, 3.3, 3.15, and 3.1 out of 4, respectively. The municipalities with high vulnerability seem to be scattered geographically throughout the country, but the four municipalities with the highest vulnerability are in the most western third of the country, and only 3 of the highest 20 municipalities are in the eastern half of the country. 1,598,981 people live in municipalities that rank high on the vulnerability index, including 142,985 adolescent girls. This analysis will help program designers create and implement services that are sensitive to the migrants' home community and overall journey to the US. In the future, it can be used in programs to directly target the most vulnerable general population and population of adolescent girls in Honduras.

### Limitations

One of the main limitations of this project was that the most recent census was conducted in 2013; however, much has changed in the country since then. The two indicators that were not taken from the census data, homicide rate and education density, were both from different years, which may have skewed the results. The social indicators used in this vulnerability analysis are not exhaustive. For example, another factor of vulnerability that was not feasible for this analysis, but is worth looking at, is the effects of climate change and environmental disasters on migration from Honduras.

### Methodology

This project seeks to answer the following questions: which municipalities in Honduras are most vulnerable to migration to the US? How many adolescent girls in Honduras are vulnerable to migration to the US?

I created a vulnerability index which consisted of five indicators: 1) presence of conflict measured by homicide rate, 2) socioeconomic instability measured by unemployment rate, 3) urban rate, 4) access to education measured by density of