FAITH AND RESPONSES TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN DISPLACEMENT

UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF COLOMBIAN FAITH LEADERS

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SVRI Forum 2017
Sexual Violence Research Initiative
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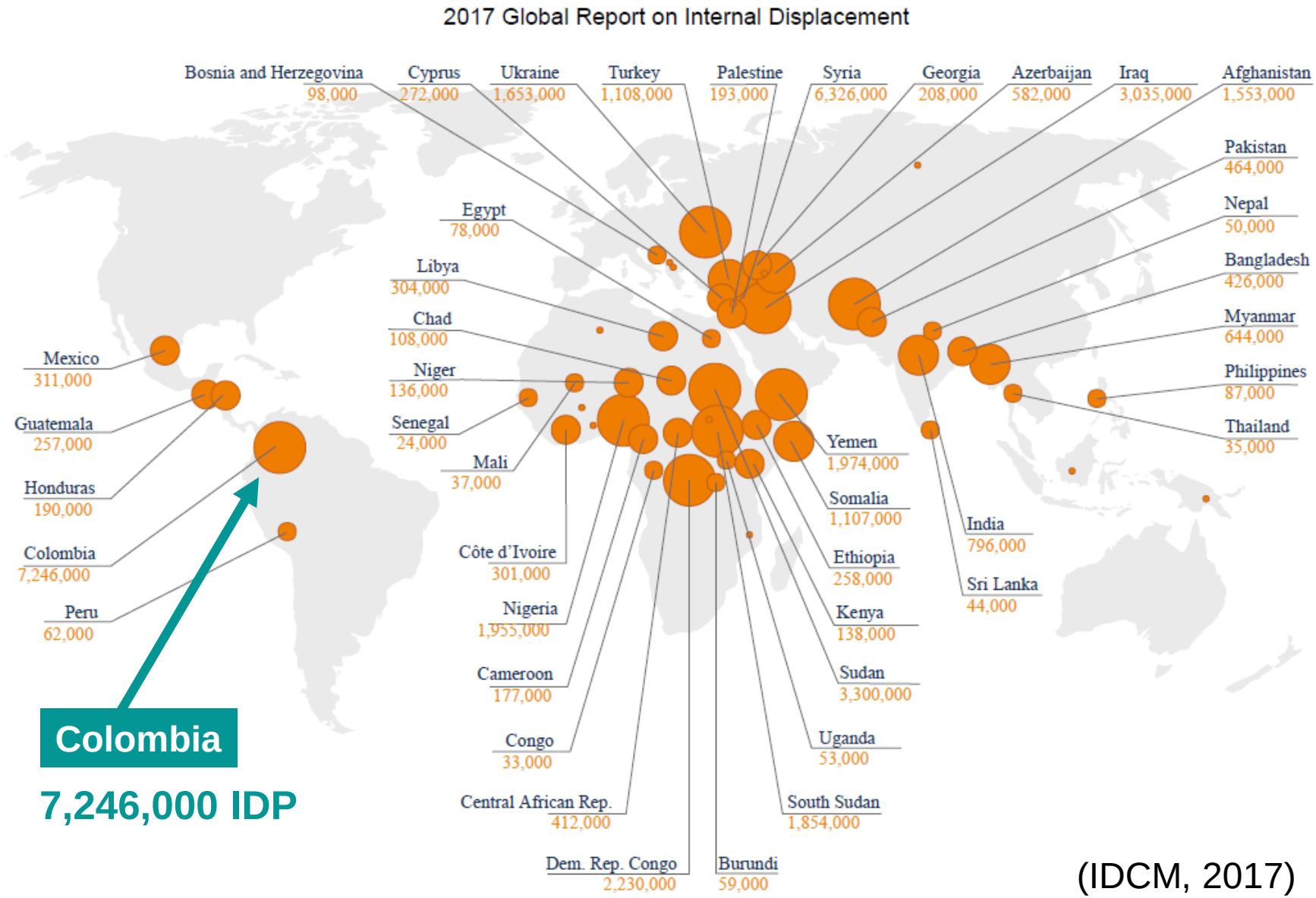
Rio | Brazil

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 18-21 September 2017

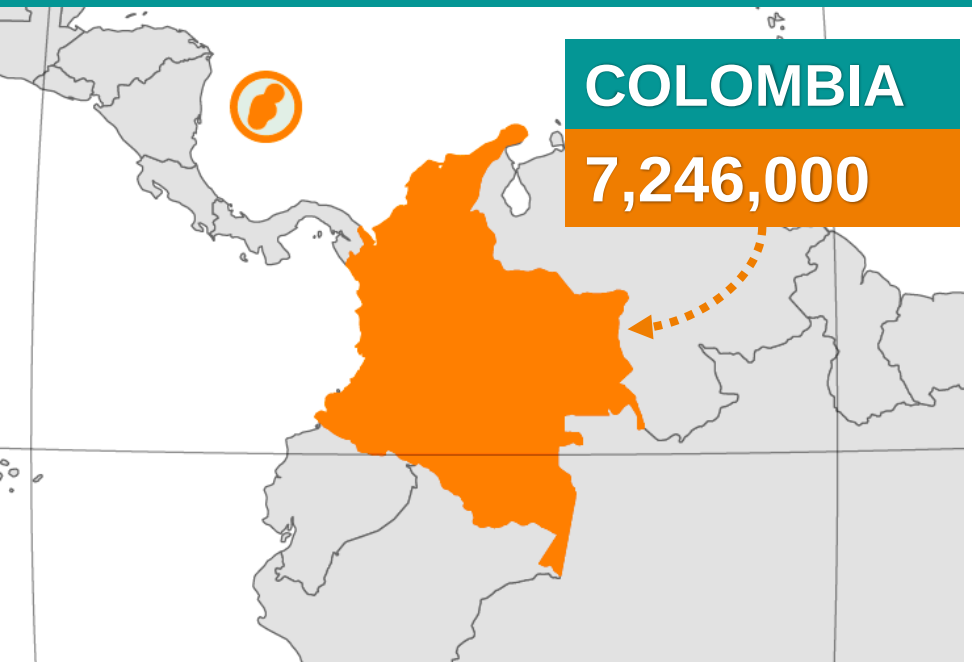
Number of Internally displaced persons (IDPs) by Country

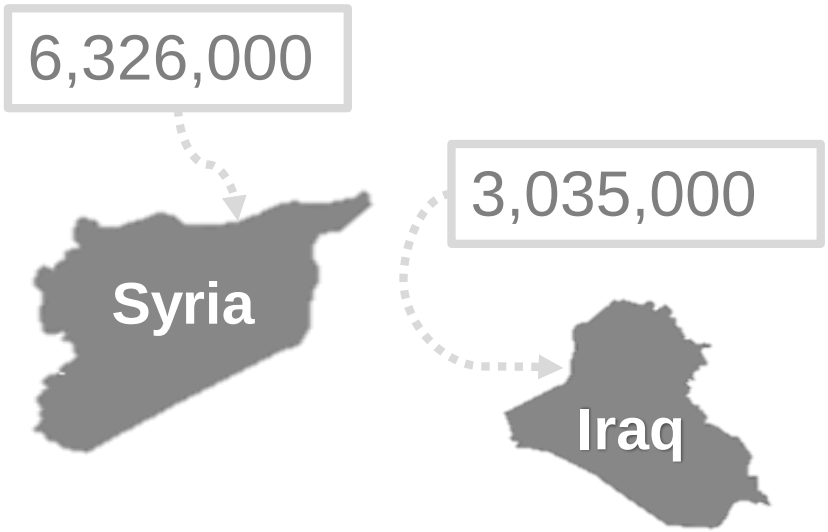


(IDCM, 2017)

Internal Displacement in Colombia

IDMC, 2017





Internal Displacement Victims - Colombian Record (RUV, 2016)

MEN 48,45%

WOMEN 51,06%

0,46%

LGBTI 0,02%

Colombia: Sexual Violence Victims in the Context of the Armed Conflict

Number of Surviviors by Gender and Sexual Orientaion

MEN 1,291

WOMEN 15,087

340

LGBTI 106

89.7% of crimes against liberty and sexual integrity are perpetrated against women
(RUV, 2016)

What Could be the Role of the Christian Church?

Photographer: Spen Rasmussen

Colombia

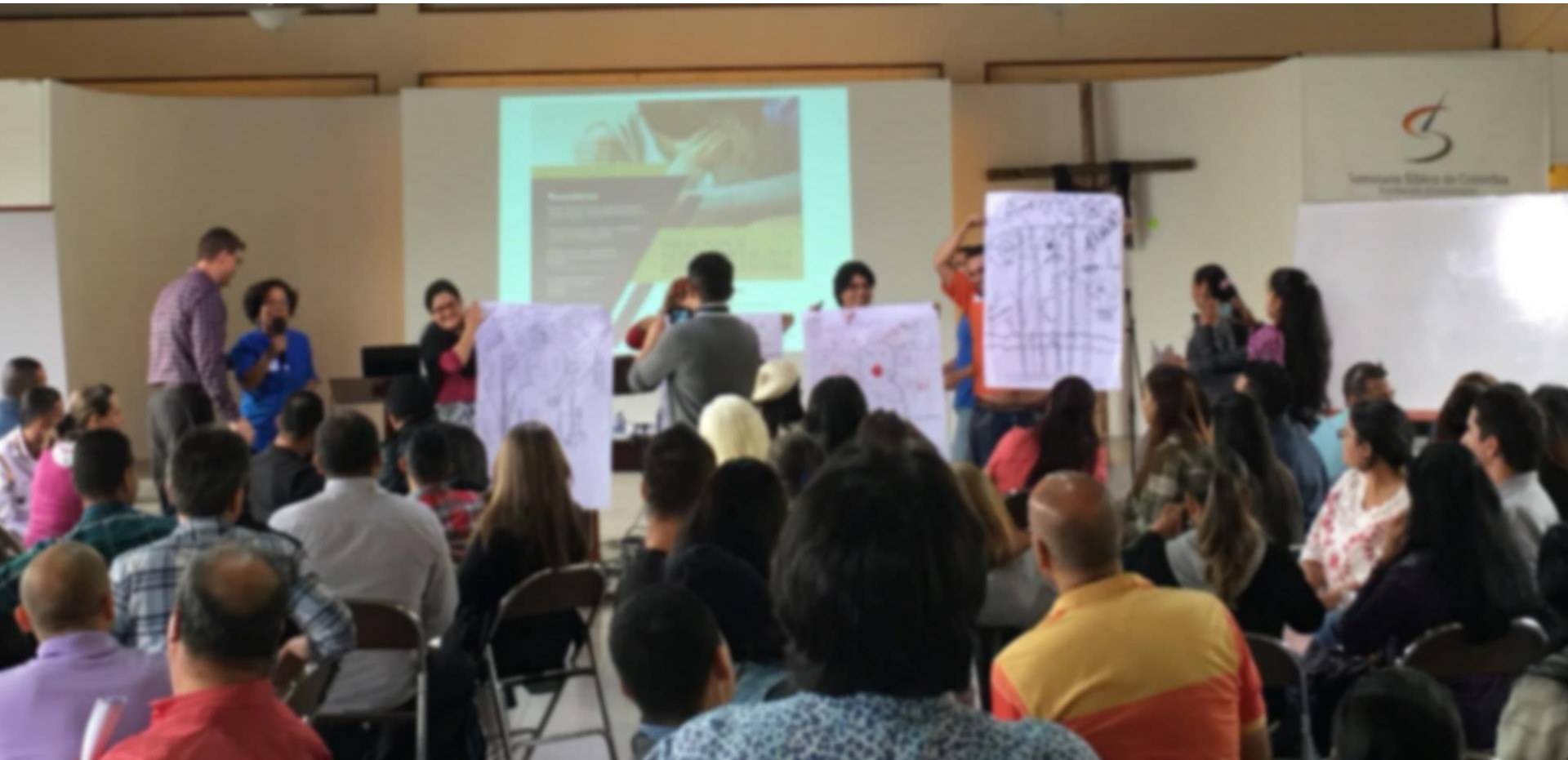
(PEW, 2014)

79%
Catholic

13%
Protestant

The Project

The integral missiology and the human flourishing of internally displaced persons in Colombia



Aim

To build an understanding of faith leaders'/pastors' knowledge and perspectives on the trauma experienced by IDPs and of the potential role of the churches and their leaders in responding to it.

Methodology

Survey information

Participants:

250

pastors and faith leaders in Colombia

Male

46%

Female

54%

Age range:

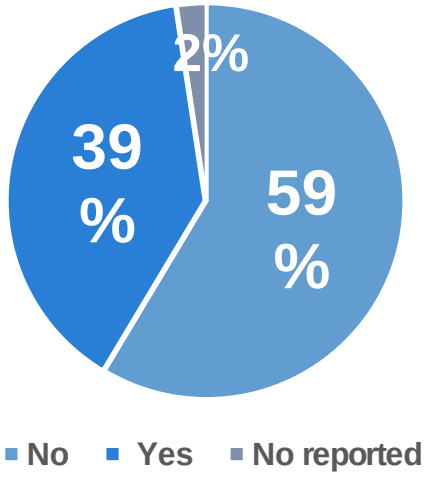
19-69

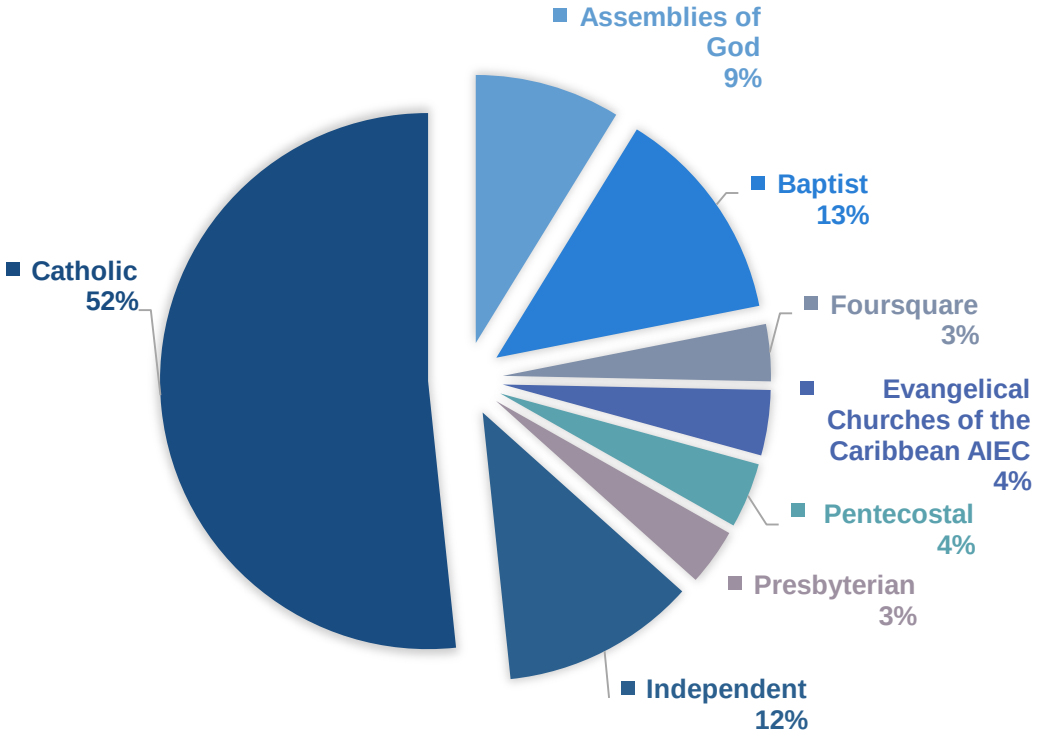
years old

Findings

Religious denomination of the survey participants

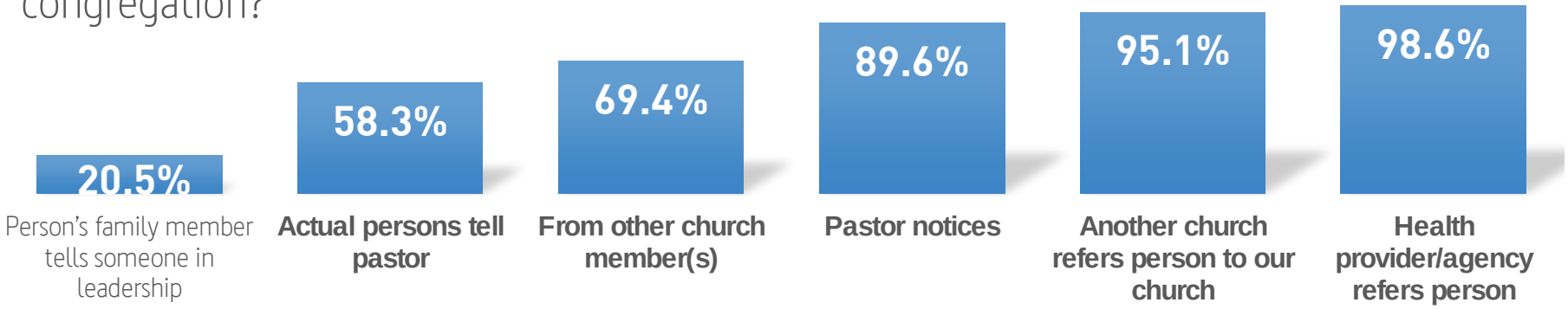
Has your congregation been affected by internal displacement?



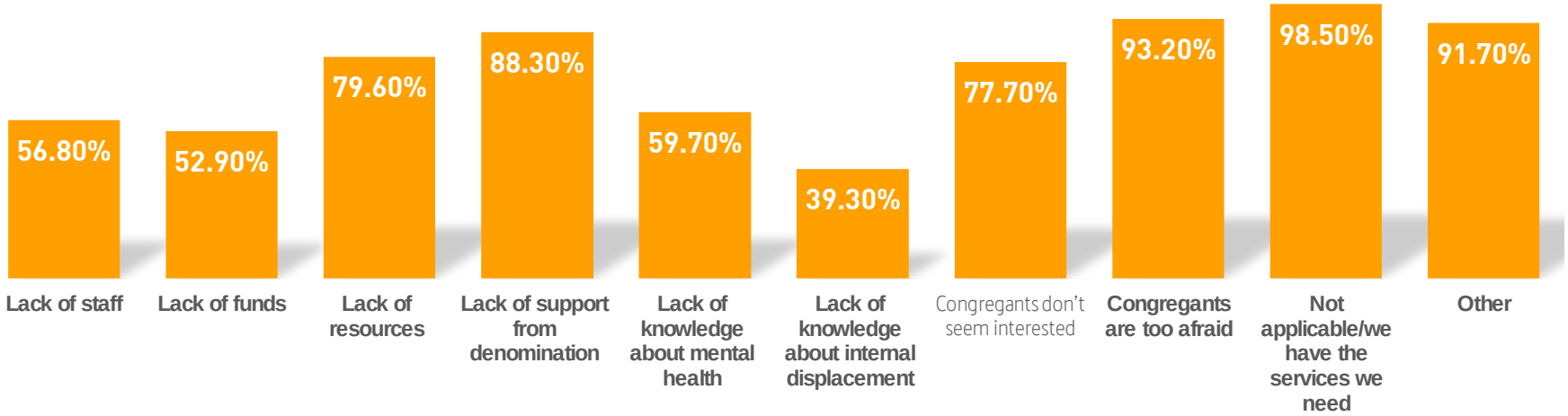


Findings

How do you find out about problems related to internal displacement in your congregation?

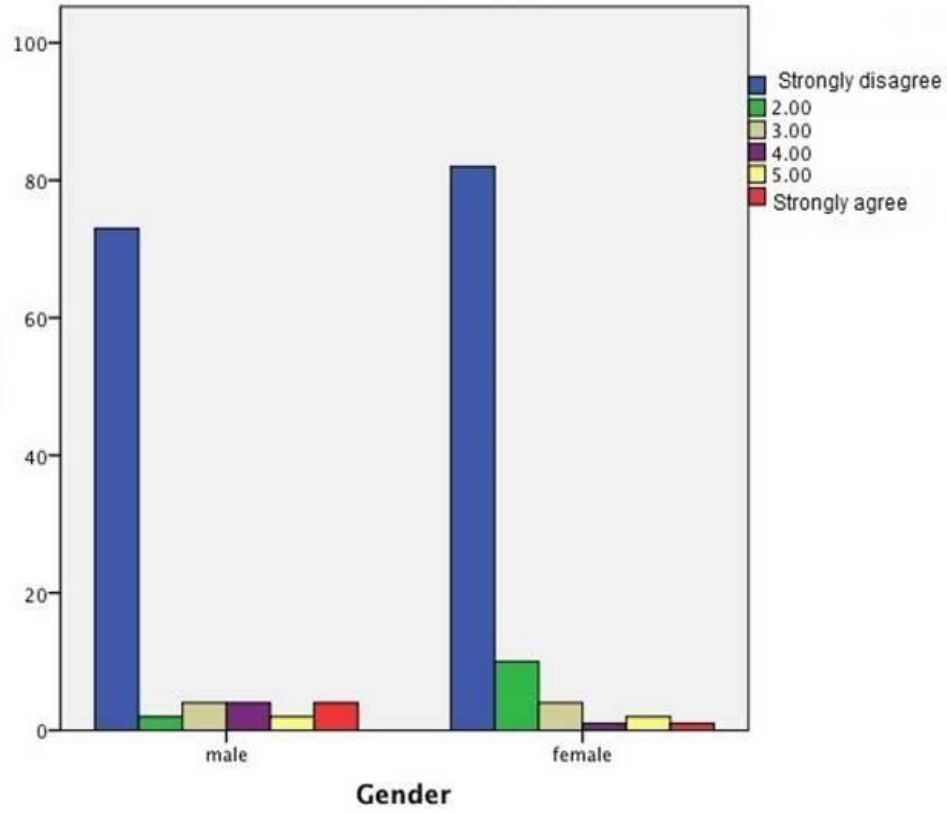


What are some barriers to creating services in your church that you need for people affected by internal displacement?

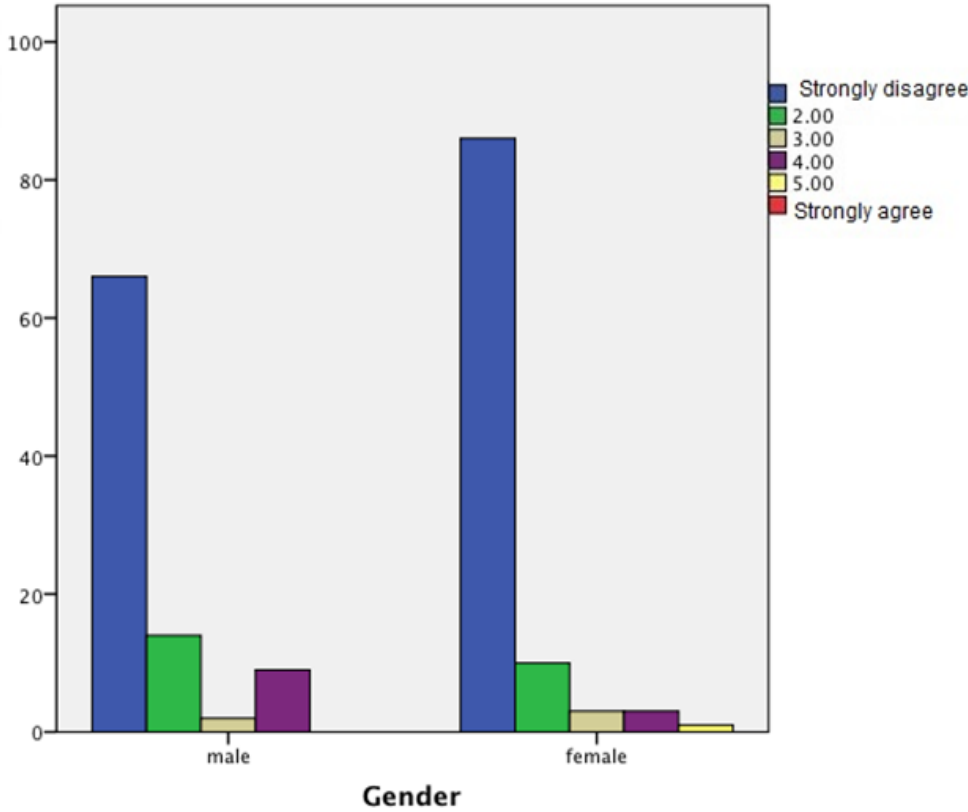


Findings

"If a woman doesn't defend herself from the aggressor, it means that she was not really raped"



"When a woman is raped, it means that she did something wrong to be involved in that situation"



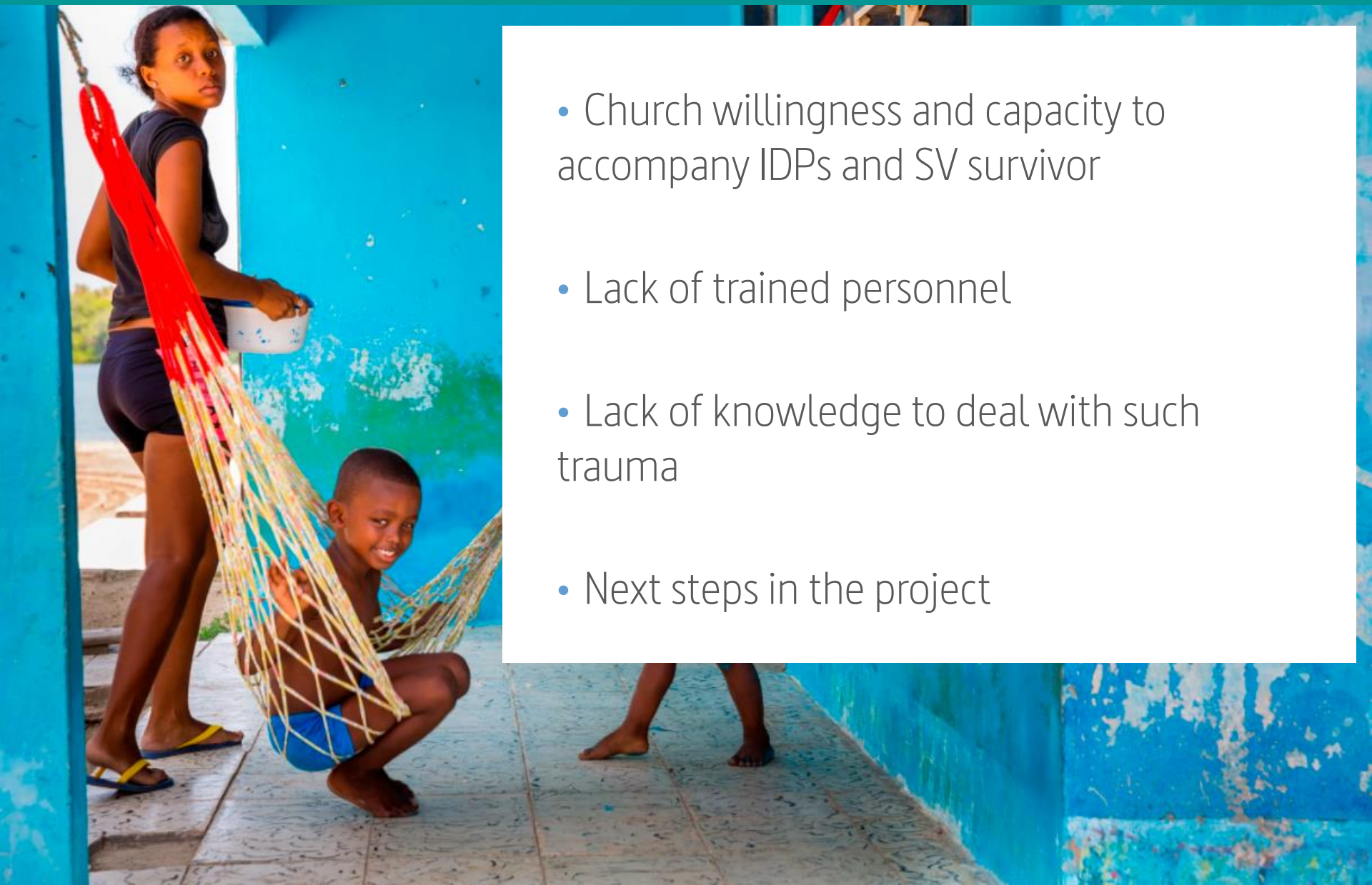
Workshop feedback

- Pastors expressed a strong interest in learning more about trauma and SV.

- They are willing to integrate SV prevention as a line of work in their ministries as counselors and preachers.

- They asked for professional help to accompanying the internal displacement and SV trauma in their churches.

Final considerations



- Church willingness and capacity to accompany IDPs and SV survivor
- Lack of trained personnel
- Lack of knowledge to deal with such trauma
- Next steps in the project

Thank you!