



Experience of the Fundación Circulo Solidario (FCS)

in Chancala, El Salvador

Context: In the Chancala community the women asked to work on gender training issues, due to the high rates of gender violence experienced in the area, seeing it necessary to also create a support system to accompany the survivors of violence.

The **solution** was to form a network among women, provide them with gender and self-care training and train them in different skills to earn their own income.

Description of the experience

- A group of women was formed with the aim of forming a support network to provide accompaniment to survivors of violence within their community. A 'victim support route' was created, identifying the risk areas and safe zones in their community.
- In a second phase, the protagonists were the women in the network themselves, as mentors for other women, training them in gender issues. They have been recognised as a reference in the municipality, due to the great progress they have made as a support network.
- The beneficiaries were 27 women between 13 and 77 years old, they were accompanied women, married or single, students and widows.



Characteristics



IMPACT

- **Gender equity:** the process has contributed to greater gender balance in decision-making and active participation in the community.
- **Social improvements:** The Chancalas Unidas Women's Network was formed, with training in gender, self-care and communication.
- **Economic improvements:** Crochet and jelly making were taught to generate income.



CHALLENGES

- Many women suffer from violence and eco-social dependency in their homes.
- Women were not taken into account in decision-making.
- Women were not aware of legislation and institutions that support women to get out of violence.



LESSONS LEARNT

- Women need economic and psychological support to escape violence.
- Women must know their rights and have the tools to defend themselves.
- Involving women in a participatory way supports women's empowerment.