

Teen Mums
HONDURAN ADOLESCENCE MARKED BY
HIGH RATES OF PREGNANCY.

By Oriol Segon/Echo



The antepartum room at the Escuela Hospital (located in Tegucigalpa). 1/3 of deliveries at Escuela Hospital are those of teenage mothers.



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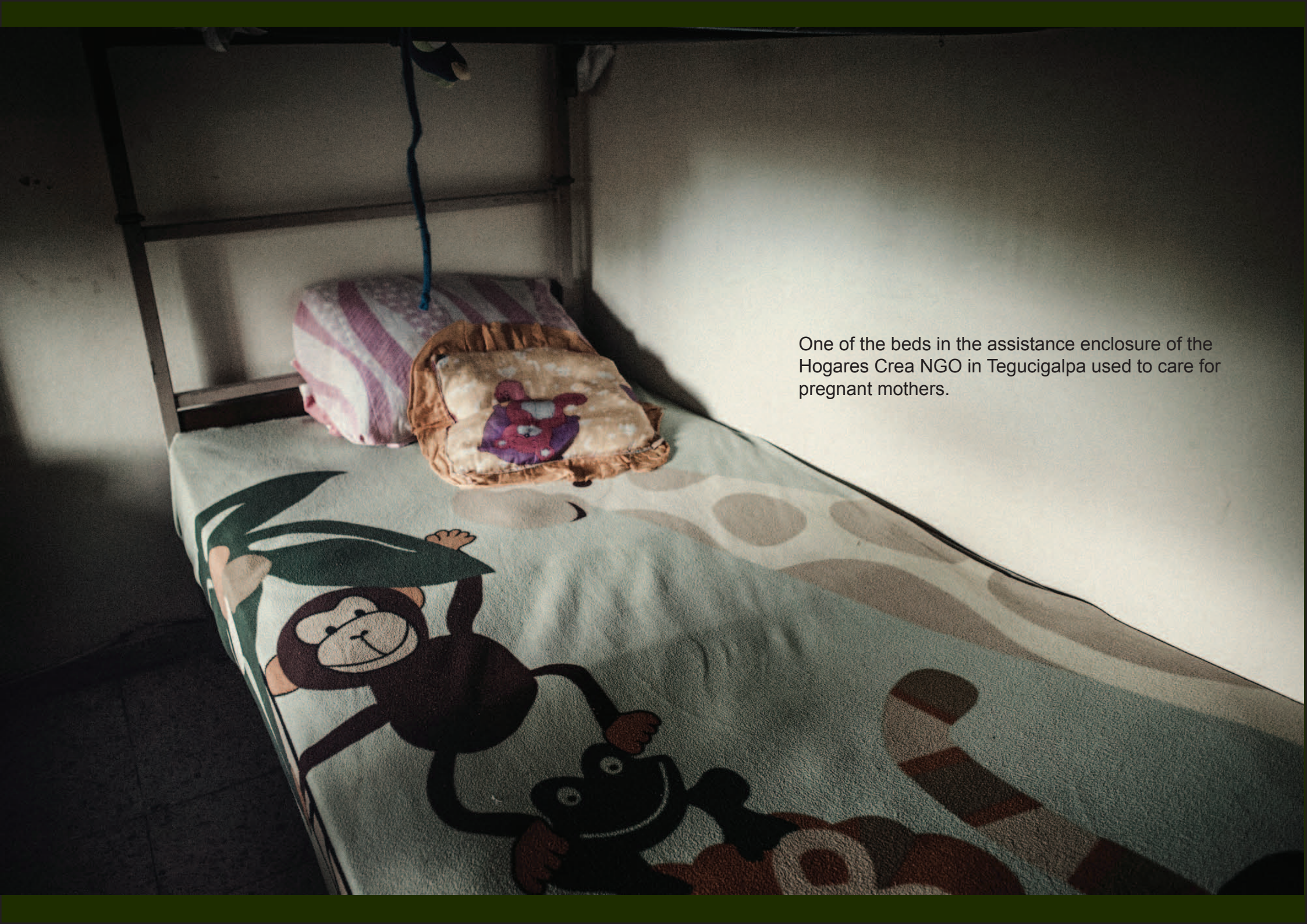
Honduras is currently the country with the highest murder rate in the world. More than 20 people are killed daily by firearms in this Central American country. One of the main causes of this structural violence is definitely family breakdown. Most of honduran moms and grandmothers, with low economic resources, must go ahead with lots of children and with the absence of the father figure and its respective economic contribution. One of the rising factor within the family breakdown structure is teen pregnancy.

Only in the year 2012 more than 50,000 teenage girls became pregnant in Honduras. According to the report State of the World Population, conducted by the United Nations, Honduras is the second Latin American country with the highest rate of teenage pregnancies, after Nicaragua and second only to sub-Saharan Africa. Official data show that in Honduras 22 of every 100 pregnancies are adolescents, a value which increases year after year. In the Hospital Escuela in Tegucigalpa, which receives daily lot of pregnant teens are girls between 12 and 18 years, 34% of the deliveries are from teenagers. In the health center Suasó Alonso, another hospital in the capital, Dr. Philippe Reyes hits daily a dozen of ultrasounds to pregnant girls. According to the United Nations Population Fund teen pregnancy is not related to responsive to decisions of young women but to the lack of opportunities, social, cultural, economic pressures, and the context in which they live. In that sense the girls under 18 with low income, living in rural areas and with less educational background are more likely to become pregnant than others. Among the main causes of teenage pregnancy also include lack of family planning, lack of access to contraception, banning emergency contraception, sexual stimuli present in the media, the prevailing sexism in the underlying patriarchal culture and the alarming rates of intrafamily violations (by the father or the partner of her moms) who suffer the region.

Young mums live pregnancy as a break from the transition between childhood and adulthood. His early pregnancy carries negative connotations and is accompanied by feelings of guilt, rejection and lack of connection with the newborn. Many teen moms usually drop out her studies after delivery and it has an impact on future economic condition of both mom and baby.

This common inertia in Honduran families creates a vicious circle difficult to change: Young mothers with no father figure and economically disadvantaged give birth during adolescence to young potential mothers who in will grow without a father figure and limited economic resources.

For the current Honduran society, marked by violence and hopelessness, teen pregnancy remains as an obstacle to their emancipation.

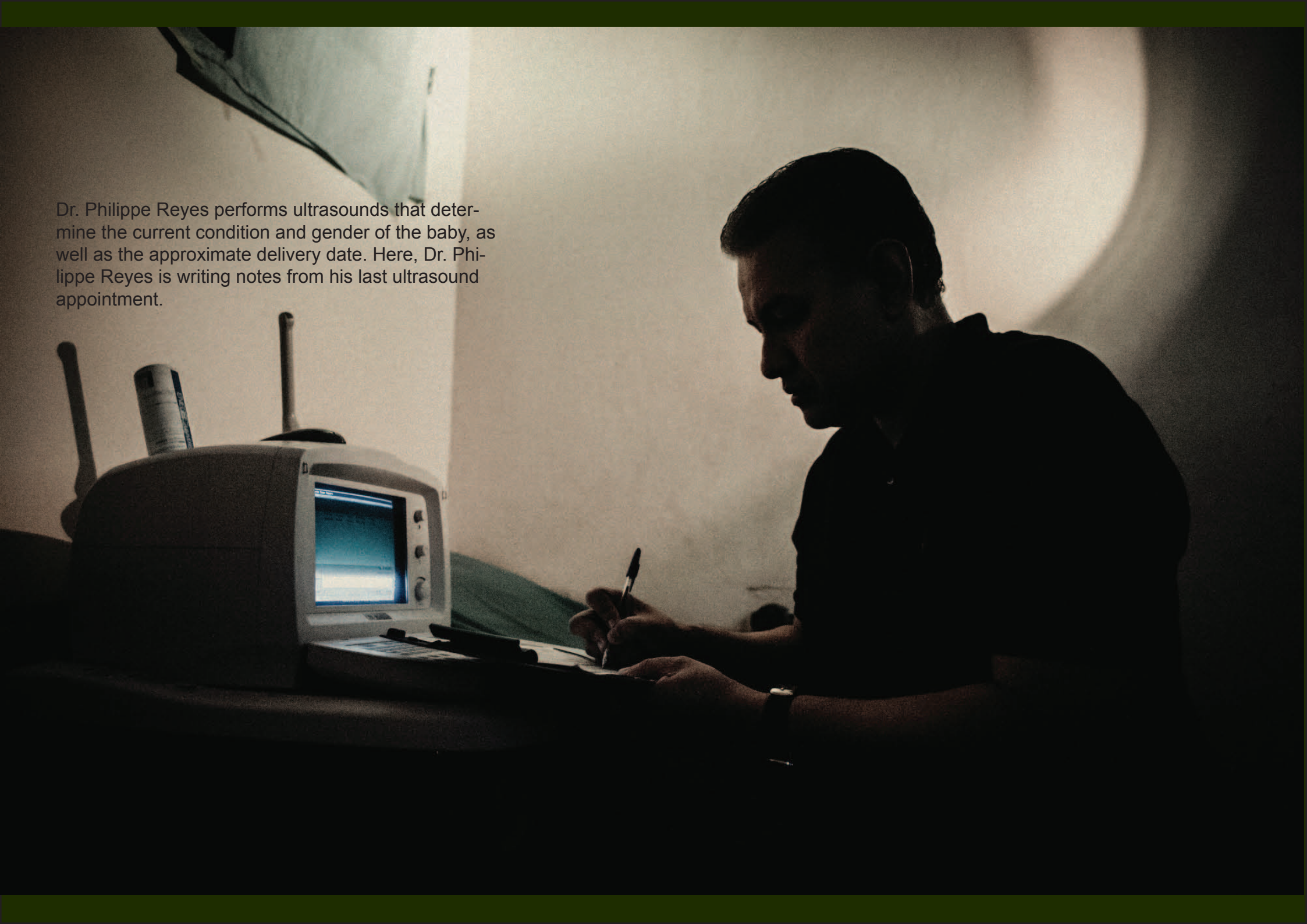


One of the beds in the assistance enclosure of the Hogares Crea NGO in Tegucigalpa used to care for pregnant mothers.

A group of teenage mothers and women who receive assistance from the Hogares Crea organization during one of their periodic walks with their babies.




Dr. Philippe Reyes performs ultrasounds that determine the current condition and gender of the baby, as well as the approximate delivery date. Here, Dr. Philippe Reyes is writing notes from his last ultrasound appointment.



17 year-old Evelyn Beatriz assists Dr. Dinora Rosales with her medical consultation for young pregnant women.



A photograph showing a young woman in a striped shirt and red pants styling the hair of a seated woman in a black t-shirt. A baby is sitting on the seated woman's lap. The background is a brick wall with a calendar and a window.

One of the young girls at Hogares Crea's youth organization, whose responsibilities include assisting teenage mothers, practices styling Elia's hair while Elia's daughter Sinai sits on her lap.



Two babies are waiting to be returned to their teenage mothers at Tegucigalpa's Escuela Hospital.



15 year-old Sandy prepares to go for a walk with her baby in a stroller at Hogares Crea (an organization which cares teenage mothers in Tegucigalpa).

View of the maternity ward in the Escuela Hospital in Tegucigalpa occupied by teenage mothers and their babies.





Cateryn Michelle, while sitting down in her new foster home, receives a visit.

16 year-old Daniela Cristina stands in labour at the regional hospital in Tela.



Maria Mariela is visited by her partner (the baby's father) at Tegucigalpa's Escuela Hospital's maternity ward.



Young teens who recently delivered babies are waiting to be discharged from Tegucigalpa's Escuela Hospital.



Portrait of young mother Cesia in one of the beds of Hogares Crea in the absence of her baby (temporarily cared for by her family).



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www.echophotoagency.com - info@echophotoagency.com - +39 02 94559873