

¡Ni Una Muerta Más! No More Killing Of Women! Is A Future Without Femicides Possible? A Proposal for Scenario Analysis and Planning for Strategic Foresight

MARCEL RIVERA TREVIÑO¹

Abstract

This research investigates whether a future without femicides is possible in Mexico and develops strategic foresight scenarios to guide policy and activism toward achieving a sustained reduction in gender-based murders over a 25-year horizon (2026–2051). A two-phase experimental method was employed. Phase one involved qualitative data collection through five focus groups with university students and structured interviews with five experts from health, education, civil society, the judiciary, and academia. Phase two applied Peter Schwartz’s eight-step scenario planning methodology to construct future narratives based on identified driving forces and critical uncertainties. Thematic analysis revealed two consensus variables: sexist culture (machismo) as the root cause of femicides, and police institutional failure as the most urgent barrier to justice. Two critical uncertainties were identified — transformation of upbringing and transformation of justice institutions — yielding four scenarios. The ideal scenario requires simultaneous transformation of both family education and justice institutions, projecting a reduction in femicides where women walk alone without fear and men express emotions freely.

Keywords

Femicide; scenario planning; machismo; gender-based violence.

1 Universidad Iberoamericana, Ciudad de México. ORCID ID: 0009-0006-5360-2023. Correspondence regarding this article may be addressed to: marcel.rivera@correo.uia.mx

¡Ni Una Muerta Más! Nem Uma Mulher Morta A Mais! É Possível um Futuro Sem Feminicídios? Uma Proposta de Análise e Construção de Cenários para a Prospectiva Estratégica

Resumo

Esta pesquisa investiga se um futuro sem feminicídios é possível no México e desenvolve cenários prospectivos estratégicos para orientar políticas públicas e ações de ativismo voltadas à obtenção de uma redução sustentada dos assassinatos baseados em gênero ao longo de um horizonte de 25 anos (2026–2051). Foi empregado um método experimental em duas fases. A primeira fase envolveu a coleta de dados qualitativos por meio de cinco grupos focais com estudantes universitários e entrevistas estruturadas com cinco especialistas das áreas de saúde, educação, sociedade civil, sistema judiciário e academia. A segunda fase aplicou a metodologia de planejamento de cenários em oito etapas de Peter Schwartz para construir narrativas de futuro com base nas forças motrizes identificadas e nas incertezas críticas. A análise temática revelou duas variáveis consensuais: a cultura sexista (machismo) como causa fundamental dos feminicídios e a falha institucional das forças policiais como o obstáculo mais urgente para a obtenção de justiça. Foram identificadas duas incertezas críticas — a transformação da educação familiar e a transformação das instituições de justiça —, resultando em quatro cenários. O cenário ideal requer a transformação simultânea tanto da educação no ambiente familiar quanto das instituições de justiça, projetando uma redução dos feminicídios em um contexto em que as mulheres possam caminhar sozinhas sem medo e os homens possam expressar livremente suas emoções.

Palavras-Chave

Feminicídio; planejamento de cenários; machismo; violência de gênero.

1_INTRODUCTION: THE PROBLEM OF FEMICIDE IN MEXICO

Mexico is a country that kills its women. Not only adult women, but also young girls, teenagers, and the elderly. And not just one type of woman, but all women. It

seems that being a woman or identifying as one is like carrying a ticking time bomb. You never know where, when, how, or who might attack a woman for any reason, simply for being a woman. According to United Nations Women (2025) femicide “is a type of intentional killing motivated by gender.” This type of crime can occur in some contexts due to power imbalances, gender stereotypes, or the existence of social norms that disadvantage women (UN Women, 2025). Violence against women, adolescents, and girls happens in homes, workplaces, schools, and public spaces, and ranges from sexist jokes, street harassment, and workplace discrimination to torture, mutilation, rape, and murder.

In Mexico, the Federal Penal Code defines femicide in article 325 when any of the following seven circumstances are met:

- 1) The victim shows signs of sexual violence of any kind; 2) The victim has suffered infamous or degrading injuries or mutilations, before or after the deprivation of life, or acts of necrophilia; 3) There is a history or evidence of any type of violence in the family, work, or school environment, perpetrated by the perpetrator against the victim; 4) There was a romantic, emotional, or trust-based relationship between the perpetrator and the victim; 5) There is evidence that there were threats related to the crime, harassment, or injuries inflicted by the perpetrator against the victim; 6) The victim was held incommunicado for any period of time prior to the deprivation of life; 7) The victim’s body is exposed or displayed in a public place; or 8) The perpetrator forced the victim to perform an activity or work or subjected the victim to any form of exploitation (Código Penal Federal, 2026).

According to some reports in Mexico, 2,798 women were murdered in 2025 alone, almost 8 femicides per day. Between 2018 and 2025, the cumulative total reached 26,652 murders of women, an average of 3,331 femicides per year, or approximately 9 women murdered every day (Network for Children’s Rights in Mexico, 2025; Gómez, 2026; López, 2026). However, not all murders of women and girls are reported as femicides due to various factors, including the lack of standardization in crime classification across states, and the fact that not all murders are reported as such (the dark figure of crime), sometimes femicides are reclassified as suicides or intentional homicides (Gómez, 2026; Pérez, 2022).

TABLE 1:

Fact Sheet: Situation of Violence against Women in Mexico.

CATEGORY	MEASURE EXPLANATION	FIGURES IN MEXICO
Gender Development Index (GDI)	It measures gender gaps in achievements in three basic dimensions of human development: health, knowledge, and average years of schooling for adults.	0.976 (high-good)
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	It measures gender inequalities in three key dimensions: reproductive health, women's empowerment, and the labor market.	0.358 (avg-regular)
Index of Social Gender Norms	It assesses the impact of social beliefs on gender equality in four dimensions: politics, education, economics, and physical integrity.	90.09 (high-bad)
Femicide Rate	It measures the frequency of gender-based murders of women in a population.	5.7 per 100,000 (high-bad)
Level of Impunity for Femicides	It measures the proportion of femicides that do not receive any kind of sanction (without criminal, civil or administrative responsibility for those responsible).	76% (high-bad)

Source: Elaboración propia con datos de United Nations Development Program (2025); Durán (2023) y Organización de las Naciones Unidas México (2023).

2_PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH

Is a future without femicides possible? Yes, of course it is possible! It is also highly desirable and achievable. However, it seems that authorities, society in general, government, and public and private institutions and organizations are doing little or nothing to protect the lives of all women. The cries of the marches on March 8th and other significant dates, by hundreds of thousands of women, teenagers and children around the world, resonate powerfully in the streets, shaking the foundations

of authorities and entire governments. Thousands of women shout in unison: “*¡Ni una muerta más!*” “The police don’t protect me, my friends do!”, “They took them alive, we want them back alive!”, “Alert! Alert! Alert, the feminist struggle is marching through Latin America, and let the machistas tremble, tremble, tremble, for Latin America will be entirely feminist!”, “In a skirt or in pants, respect me, you bastard!”, among many other demands, not counting the thousands of banners, signs, flyers, graffiti, clotheslines, songs, and artistic demonstrations that demand tooth and nail a safer environment, justice for abused women, and a prompt response from the government and people in authority (Rafael, 2025).

Therefore, the purpose of this research is to present the possibility of achieving a desirable future scenario where femicides no longer occur. This scenario will be developed using strategic foresight methodology for creating future scenarios, based on valuable data and information gathered through focus groups and interviews with experts. A better future for all women is achievable, and scenario planning will facilitate the vision, objectives, and strategies needed to consolidate a future free from femicides.

3_METHODODOLOGY

For the purposes of this study, an experimental method proposed by author of this article, Marcel R. Treviño, was chosen. This method consists of two phases: the first, a qualitative phase, gathers information from focus groups of university students and the opinions of experts. The second phase, the strategic foresight, will establish the necessary information base for creating scenarios according to Peter Schwartz (Gándara, 2024).

TABLE 2:
Phases, Objectives and Research Questions

PHASE	OBJECTIVE	RESEARCH QUESTION	SAMPLING
Qualitative	To determine the most relevant and feasible levers of change—in the legal, educational, economic, institutional and cultural spheres— that, according to the perception of two key groups (university students and decision-makers), could accelerate the transition to an ideal scenario of zero femicides in Mexico within a 25-year horizon.	What combination of legal, educational, economic, institutional, and cultural changes would have the greatest leverage to ensure that femicides in Mexico are statistically zero within a 25-year timeframe, according to the perception of university students and decision-makers?	Focus Groups • Maximum Variation • Sampling • Subjects: University Students Expert Interviews • Purposive Sampling by Criteria • Subjects in the areas of: • Health • Academia • Non-profit • Education • Judiciary
Strategic Foresight	Identify and describe the most viable and transformative scenario (ideal scenario) in which, based on the identified driving forces, a sustained reduction of femicides is achieved, in order to guide strategic decisions of public policy or activism.	What are the central characteristics—in terms of driving forces, actors, critical assumptions, and time trajectory—of the ideal scenario that allows for a sustained reduction in femicides in Mexico, and what makes it more viable and transformative compared to other possible scenarios?	Peter Schwartz's scenario planning methodology based on the previous section findings.

Source: Own elaboration

Focus groups and expert interviews were chosen to support the experimental method proposed in the qualitative phase, with the aim of obtaining relevant and perceptual data in a robust and diverse manner. The focus groups were conducted with different groups of university students until thematic saturation was reached (in this case, 5 groups), using maximum variation sampling to capture a wide range of opinions and perspectives on femicides among university students aged 18-24, residing in Mexico, studying different majors, and with diverse gender identities. The expert interviews were conducted using purposive sampling based on specific criteria,

with the goal of identifying trends, critical uncertainties, and points of leverage with the experts' help. The criteria used for the experts were that they had at least 10 years of experience in their respective area (health, education, civil organization, judicial/government and academia) that they had worked or were currently working on gender issues and that they followed a philosophy or activism in favor of women's rights, and that they were from different regions of the country.

Finally, for the foresight section, we chose to create scenarios based on Peter Schwartz's theory (1991), which employs eight steps to inform the design of multiple possible future narratives, which we will call "scenarios." These possible scenarios are narratives of alternatives that may or may not materialize depending on the decisions made in the present (Ogilvy, 1998). It should be emphasized that scenarios are not predictions of the future but rather hypotheses of what the future could be (Ogilvy, 1998), with the ultimate goal of preparing strategies to face any of them (Schwartz, 1991).

CHART 1: Methodological Scaffolding (abbreviated)



Source: Own elaboration

INSTRUMENT FOR FOCUS GROUPS AND INTERVIEWS

A script of questions was prepared for the focus groups and interviews, which will be read to each group and interviewee, respectively. The questions focus on opinions, attitudes, and perspectives regarding the safety, lives, and future of women in Mexico.

TABLE 3:
Question Script

SECTION	QUESTION	OBJECTIVE
Fundamental Causes	1. When we hear about a woman murdered by her partner, a family member, or a stranger, it's often said, "There were warning signs." In your opinion, what are the root causes of this violence? 2. Beyond the obvious warning signs, what are the more subtle and normalized attitudes in society, such as in the media, language, or traditions, that create an environment conducive to this violence occurring?	Identify and differentiate the deep structural causes of femicides (first level) from the subtle and naturalized cultural attitudes (second level) that function as hidden or underestimated driving forces.
Community	3. "Intervention before violence escalates is crucial." Could you describe what a proactive and supportive community (neighbors, friends, coworkers, online communities) would look like? 4. What concrete actions could people take to support women at risk and confront harmful behaviors in others before they become a crisis?	To describe, from the narratives and experiences of the participants, the characteristics, practices and values of an ideal community (neighborhood, work, friendly, digital) that acts in an anticipatory, co-responsible and effective manner to prevent the escalation of violence against women.
Transformation of Institutions	5. Our institutions (police, courts, schools, social services, health) have the function of protecting and preventing. Based on your knowledge or experience, what is the most important change that one of these institutions should implement to reliably identify risks and save lives? How should it operate differently?	Identify the priority institution (police, courts, schools, social services or health) and the specific reform with the greatest potential to improve the reliable identification of femicide risks and the protection of lives, as well as describe its alternative functioning in a transformed scenario.
Redefining masculinity and education	6. "Prevention over 25 years involves influencing the next generation. If you were to design a mandatory educational program for all young people, from primary school to high school, what would you include to radically transform attitudes about gender, respect, healthy relationships, and conflict resolution?"	Identify and describe the curricular, pedagogical and cultural components of a compulsory educational program (from primary to high school) designed to radically transform attitudes about gender, respect, healthy relationships and non-violent conflict resolution.
Desired Future	7. "Imagine that in 25 years we have managed to drastically reduce the murder of women. What would that society be like on a daily basis? Describe the small, everyday differences in the way people interact, what is taught at home, how the media portrays women, and how conflicts are resolved."	Describe the concrete and everyday characteristics of a future society (in 25 years) where femicides have been drastically reduced, in terms of daily interactions, family socialization, media representation of women and conflict resolution.

Source: Own elaboration

4_RESULTS

FOCUS GROUPS

In the first, qualitative phase, five focus groups were conducted with university students of varying ages, semesters, majors, cities of residence, and gender identities. The purpose was to prioritize the concepts mentioned based on word repetition, thus indicating their relevance in each section, and then compare them using a single-point rubric to match each section with its most representative elements. The results of the word count for all groups and their analysis using the single-point rubric yielded the information detailed below. Focus group and interviews to experts phases were conducted in Spanish, hence the charts will be shown in their original language.

CHART 2:

Results of the Fundamental Causes Section by Hierarchy (number of mentions)



Source: Own elaboration

“Upbringing” is the dominant cause according to the focus groups, this is the way children are raised in their families of origin; “machismo culture” is the second most frequently mentioned cause and was present in all groups. Furthermore, the “normalization of minor or subtle violence” appears as the mechanism that allows everyday aggression to escalate.

CHART 3:
Results Community Section by Hierarchy (number of mentions)



Source: Own elaboration

Community support could begin with “support networks” agreed upon by the groups, emphasizing that the community should act as a safety net. “Not normalizing jokes” and “not being indifferent” are simple yet powerful actions that anyone could take in situations of violence.

CHART 4:
Results Section Transformation of Institutions by Hierarchy (number of mentions)



Source: Own elaboration

The groups agree that the police are the institution most in need of change, as they are the first barrier a woman faces when filing a report. The second point is “follow-up on reports,” which is related to the judiciary, prosecutors’ offices, and other relevant authorities. Corruption, which is also linked to the justice system, appears

in third place and is therefore something that should be addressed to improve case follow-up.

CHART 5:
Results Section Redefining Masculinities and Education by Hierarchy
(number of mentions)



Source: Own elaboration

According to focus groups, “education from primary school onwards” is undoubtedly where teaching about gender and conflict resolution should begin. “Emotional management” is the central tool that should be taught in schools. The concept of “consent” appears prominently among the topics to be taught. Education is the area with the greatest diversity of topics, which demonstrates that it is seen as the most comprehensive solution.

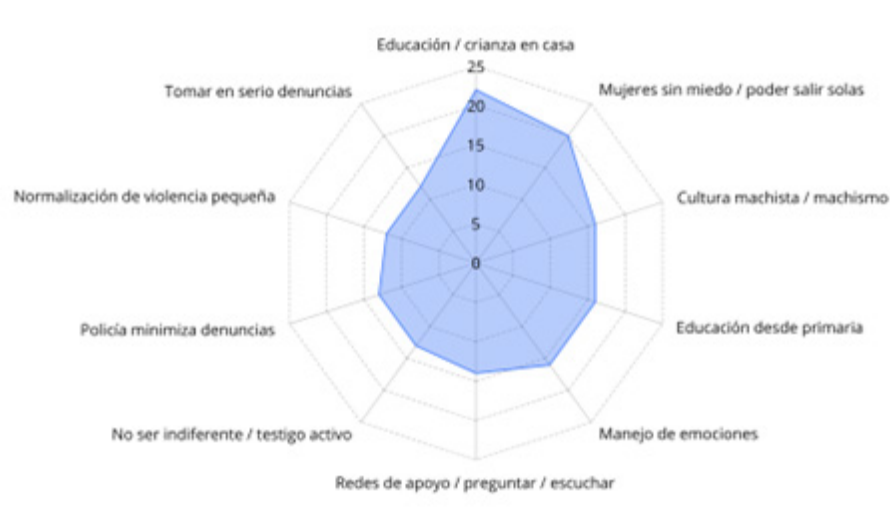
CHART 6:
Results Desired Future Section by Hierarchy (number of mentions)



Source: Own elaboration

The members of the groups envision a future where, first and foremost, women can go out alone without fear, reflecting a sense of security they hope for. This is clearly the most tangible and emotionally resonant indicator of a society free from femicide. Furthermore, other points mentioned include the liberation of men from stereotypes, which would be an important collateral benefit.

CHART 7:
Results of all mentions (the 10 most mentioned)



Source: Own elaboration

According to the single-point rubric, all groups whose purpose was to conduct a thematic analysis in order to find significant variables received results. These results are shown in the following analysis table.

TABLE 4:
Thematic Analysis of Focus Groups

Section	Relevant Elements
Causes	Upbringing and sexist culture
Community	Support networks and active witness
Transformation	Police and lack of follow-up
Redefinition	Managing emotions
Future	Women unafraid to go out alone

Source: Own elaboration

The points mentioned above will be compared with those proposed by the experts to assess their relevance and consistency as significant variables. This will be done to identify the key elements for creating meaningful scenarios.

5_INTERVIEWS TO EXPERTS

As part of the first qualitative phase, five structured interviews were subsequently conducted (asynchronously with the focus groups) with experts on feminism, women's rights, and/or femicides from the perspectives of education, health, the judiciary, academia, and civil society. The purpose, similar to the focus groups, was to prioritize the concepts mentioned based on word repetition, indicating their relevance. Then, using a single-point rubric, the relevant elements mentioned in the focus groups were compared with those identified by the experts to obtain the most significant variables according to consensus.

The word count results for all experts differed from those of the focus groups because there is no thematic consensus, so only the different topics mentioned and the number of repetitions in each are listed.

TABLE 5:
Results of the Fundamental Causes Section by Hierarchy
according to Experts (number of mentions)

Item	Number of mentions
Machismo/machista culture	6
Gender roles	4
Control	4

Source: Own elaboration

The experts did agree that machismo and/or the prevailing machista culture in the country is the main cause of violence against women; from it derives the idea of gender roles and the control of women's bodies, so in general the idea of machismo encompasses all the fundamental causes.

TABLE 6:
Community Section Results by Hierarchy (number of mentions)

Item	Number of Mentions
Online community	4
Other: Safety kit, Offering your home, Documentation, Accompaniment, Support among friends	1

Source: Own elaboration

Although there was no strong consensus among the experts, the most frequently mentioned idea was to create online communities to support women in need. Each expert offered her own solutions or recommendations based on her area of expertise.

TABLE 7:
Results Section Transformation of Institutions by Hierarchy according to Experts (number of mentions)

Item	Number of mentions
Police as a problem	4
Lack of follow-up	2
Context Analysis	2
Education from childhood	2

Source: Own elaboration

As with the previous point, the experts did not agree on a single issue; they mentioned different solutions and institutions. However, we could infer that the police institution and the lack of follow-up with the authorities are the areas most in need of change.

TABLE 8:
Results Section Redefining Masculinities and Education by Hierarchy according to Experts (number of mentions)

Item	Number of mentions
Otherness, Non-discrimination, Clubs, Psychological help, Human behavior, Emotions, Finance, Critical thinking, Non-hierarchical	1

Source: Own elaboration

There was no single, strongly emphasized topic. Each expert pointed to different options, solutions, and problems based on their own contexts.

TABLE 9:
Results of the Desired Future Section by Hierarchy according to Experts
(number of mentions)

Item	Number of Mentions
Emotional control / emotional management	2
Freedom, Body without cost, Children without trauma, Dialogue, Psychologists, Solidarity, Workplace equity, End of body sales	1

Source: Own elaboration

The future for women without femicides also lacks a specific idealized form in the minds of the experts. Beyond the two mentions of controlling and managing emotions, there doesn't seem to be a consistent vision of the future across all the interviews.

TABLE 10:
Results of all mentions according to Experts (the 10 most mentioned)

Item	Number of mentions
Machismo / Machista culture	6
Control (freedom, financial, health)	4
Gender roles	4
Online community / anonymity	3
Structural/systemic violence	2
Domestic violence / cycles	2
Economic problems / lack of stability	2
Political violence in the media	2
Sexualization of women in the media	2
Police officers as first responders (problem)	2

Source: Own elaboration

The list above generally reflects how frequently these elements were mentioned and, therefore, their importance in the discourses of all the experts interviewed. It is evident that patriarchal culture and its various manifestations (control, gender roles, structural violence, domestic violence, political violence, and sexualization) are variables frequently mentioned by the experts in the diverse range of their discourses.

Finally, the single-point rubric, which was used to compare all the focus groups, was used to conduct the same thematic analysis of the interviews. The results are shown below with a thematic comparison of the experts and the focus groups.

TABLE 11:
Comparison of Thematic Analysis of Experts and Focus Groups

Section	Important Elements for Experts (5 experts)	Important Elements for Focus Groups (5 groups)	Observed Similarities
Causes	Sexist culture	Upbringing and sexist culture	Sexist culture (cultura machista)
Community	Online Community	Support networks and active witness	No consensus
Transformation	Police and lack of follow-up	Police and lack of follow-up	Police and lack of follow-up
Redefinition	No consensus	Managing emotions	No consensus
Future	Control of emotions	Women unafraid to go out alone	No consensus

Source: Own elaboration

Observations: The experts spoke from more institutional and systemic perspectives, from each of their respective areas of work and experience (health, education, civil society, judiciary, and academia), while the focus group participants spoke from a lived and personal perspective. Both the experts and the focus group participants came from different backgrounds, regions of the country, disciplines, and ages, which brought variability and richness to the content of the interviews and groups.

DEFINITION OF COMMON VARIABLES/ELEMENTS.

As described in the previous sections, the common variables or elements found within the focus groups and expert interviews are, firstly, sexist culture (machismo), and secondly, the transformation of the police institution. Other relevant elements were mentioned, although they did not have the same intensity and force in both

groups and experts. Therefore, both concepts will be defined as they are described in the discussions and interviews, in addition to making special mention of how the future is portrayed in consensus, since this is the main point of the research.

ROOT CAUSE: SEXIST CULTURE - MACHISMO

Machismo is a system of beliefs, attitudes, and social practices that establishes the superiority of men over women, assigning differentiated roles, values, and spaces based on gender, and normalizing control, symbolic violence, and physical violence as mechanisms to maintain this hierarchy.

By consensus among the various parties, it is understood that “machismo”: 1) establishes male superiority as natural and unquestionable; 2) assigns differentiated roles (women: caregiving/submission; men: provider/control); 3) normalizes control and violence (from microaggressions to femicide) as legitimate tools to maintain the hierarchy; 4) is reproduced through upbringing, language, the media, traditions (e.g., gender revealing), and institutions (police, healthcare, justice system, schools); 5) is sustained by mechanisms such as impunity, victim-blaming, isolation, and economic violence (pink tax, financial control). 6) It manifests itself daily in romanticized jealousy, sexist jokes, checking cell phones, using feminine language as an insult, and sexualizing women in the media; and 7) It generates consequences ranging from the normalization of violence to femicide, including intergenerational trauma, the wage gap, silencing, and late health diagnoses.

THE MOST URGENT INSTITUTION TO TRANSFORM: THE POLICE AUTHORITY.

In Mexico, the police are perceived as the first institutional barrier a woman faces when reporting violence. Instead of protecting and preventing, the police revictimize, minimize, disbelieve, fail to act preventively, and in many cases, are complicit through action (corruption) or omission (indifference).

The consensus on the need for a transformation of police authority explains that the reasons are because: 1) it minimizes and does not believe complaints, especially if there is no “serious” physical violence; 2) it revictimizes with questions like “what were you wearing?”, “why didn’t you leave sooner?”; 3) it only acts after the tragedy (femicide), it does not prevent it; 4) it does not follow up on complaints; the victim does not receive feedback; 5) it is corrupt (covers up, accepts bribes, is colluding); 6) it does not enforce restraining orders (there is no supervision); 7) it lacks a gender

perspective and sensitivity towards victims; and 8) it has internalized sexism, even among female police officers.

Therefore, the transformation of the police as an institution is necessary through:

- 1) mandatory and continuous training in gender perspective, victim perspective, non-revictimization, and identification of early warning signs (control, isolation, threats);
- 2) profound cultural change (“changing the mindset”): eradicating internal sexism, moving from “containment” to “prevention”;
- 3) clear and measurable protocols: response times, mandatory follow-up, accountability;
- 4) context analysis as a tool to identify patterns of violence, not just isolated incidents;
- 5) real consequences for police officers who fail to act or who re-victimize;
- 6) effective inter-institutional coordination (police-prosecutor’s office-health-education);
- 7) protection for those who report violence (health personnel, witnesses, neighbors);
- 8) effective restraining orders with real supervision;
- 9) specialized units with truly trained personnel (not just untrained women); and
- 10) political will and budget to sustain the changes.

FORESIGHT ANALYSIS: SCENARIO BUILDING.

The following steps, proposed by Schwartz (1991), will be used to create possible scenarios based on the information presented and collected in the first phase of the research. These steps are: 1) identifying the focal decision, 2) identifying the key driving forces, 3) identifying the predetermined elements, 4) identifying the critical uncertainties, 5) constructing the matrix, 6) shaping the scenarios (narratives), 7) analyzing the implications, and 8) selecting monitoring indicators.

For the next scenario proposal, the first five steps have already been completed through the first phase, so the steps from this point onwards will be explained below.

TABLE 12:
Steps for Creating Scenarios

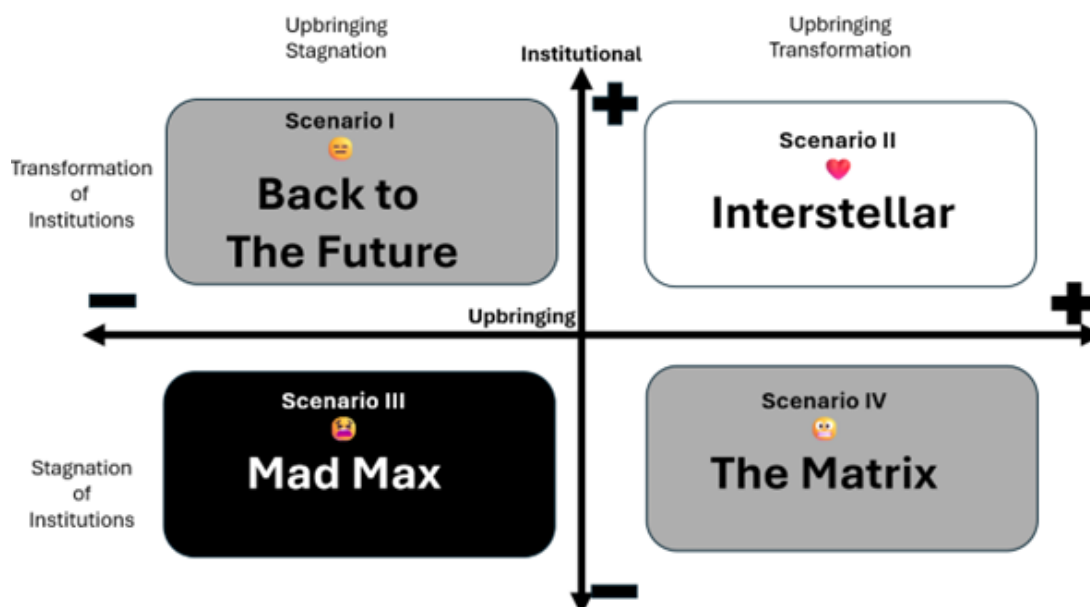
Step	Description	Results
1	Identifying the focal decision. What decision do we want to inform with these scenarios?	Is a Future Without Femicides Possible? What strategies should Mexico implement over the next 25 years (2026-2051) to drastically reduce femicides and build a society free from gender-based violence, considering the social, institutional, educational, and cultural forces identified by students and experts?

2	Identify the key driving forces. Driving forces are trends or factors that will drive change. They are divided into social, economic, political, technological, cultural, and legal categories.	What main forces are shaping the future of femicide in Mexico? Hierarchy of driving forces (according to mentions): Upbringing (22) Fear of public space (20) Machismo culture (16) and Emotional management (16) Institutional failures (13-12) and Support networks (14) Normalization of minor violence (12)
3	Identify the predetermined elements. Predetermined elements are trends or events that have a high probability of occurring, regardless of the actions we take.	What is inevitable or almost inevitable in the next 25 years? (no hierarchy) Growing gender awareness among young people Increased use of social media and digital spaces International pressure for women's rights Aging population and demographic changes Continued economic inequality Persistence of sexism in institutions Uncertainties: Will the police truly transform? Will upbringing change? Will the media stop sexualizing women? Will there be real political will?
4	Identify critical uncertainties Critical uncertainties are factors that have a high impact on the future but a low level of predictability.	Of all the driving forces, the two most impactful and least predictable uncertainties are: Transformation of upbringing. Focus groups and experts indicate that the root of sexism lies in upbringing. However, changing parenting practices is virtually impossible through public policy alone. Transformation of justice institutions (police, courts). Focus groups and experts prioritize institutional distrust, given the enormous levels of corruption and cultural resistance.
5	Matrix construction. Construction of a 2x2 matrix.	The following axes were therefore chosen: X (horizontal): Transformation of upbringing. Impact level: HIGH Predictability: LOW Negative extreme: = Macho parenting, traditional roles (remain at the same level as in 2026) Positive extreme: + Egalitarian parenting, emotional education at home (improved compared to 2026) Y (vertical): Transformation of justice institutions Impact level: HIGH Predictability: LOW Negative extreme: = Corrupt police, impunity, re-victimization (remain at the same level as in 2026) Positive extreme: + Police with a gender perspective, effective follow-up (improved compared to 2026 levels)

Source: Own elaboration

PROPOSAL OF POSSIBLE SCENARIOS.

CHART 8:
Levels of Future Scenarios without Femicides



Source: Own elaboration

TABLE 13:
Continued Steps for Creating Scenarios

Step	Description	Results
6	Shaping the scenarios (narratives)	The possible scenarios are described and explained according to the information gathered and in accordance with the axes presented in the 2X2 matrix.

Source: Own elaboration

SCENARIO 1: BACK TO THE FUTURE.

Positive Extreme: WITH Transformation of Justice Institutions.

Negative Extreme: NO Transformation of Upbringing.

In the 1985 film Back to the Future, Marty McFly travels through time, changing and transforming institutions from the past to the present/future, only to find that his family adapts to the context, without any real change occurring.

In this scenario, the State transforms justice institutions, but families continue to raise children with traditional gender roles and machismo. The police are now trustworthy: they train their personnel, follow up on complaints, and apply contextual

analysis. However, men continue to grow up in patriarchal homes, learning that control and jealousy are normal, and that women are inferior. When these men commit violence, the system punishes them, but the violence continues because the underlying cultural changes have not been made. Women are more confident in reporting abuse, but the number of victims does not decrease significantly.

Characteristics of scenario 1: Increased reporting (because there is trust in the police), stagnation in femicides (violence continues to occur in homes), overburdened judicial system (more cases, but not less violence), and there is a need to invest in primary prevention (education at home).

SCENARIO 2: INTERSTELLAR

Positive Extreme: WITH Transformation of Justice Institutions

Positive Extreme: WITH Transformation of Upbringing.

In the famous 2014 film *Interstellar*, astronaut Cooper arrives in a distant galaxy and returns to his own to find a future for humanity that is completely transformed and advanced in every aspect.

In this optimistic scenario, Mexico experiences a profound cultural transformation over 25 years. Families adopt egalitarian parenting practices: girls and boys learn emotional management, respect, consent, and equity from a young age. Schools reinforce these values with psychologists, participation clubs, and social-emotional education. Simultaneously, justice institutions are transformed: the police receive mandatory training in gender perspective, complaints are effectively followed up, the prosecutor's office provides feedback to victims, and aggressors are punished.

Characteristics of scenario 2: Women go out alone without fear (goal of 20 mentions), femicides are drastically reduced, men express emotions freely (without shame), the media stops sexualizing women (diverse representation), and society lives longer and healthier (less stress).

SCENARIO 3: MAD MAX

Negative Extreme: NO Transformation of Upbringing.

Negative Extreme: NO Transformation of Justice Institutions.

The *Mad Max* film saga (1979-2024) depicts a future that gradually deteriorates and ultimately descends into a struggle between savage groups for survival and control of the scarce resources remaining on Earth.

This is the most pessimistic scenario, the one that students and experts fear. Families continue to raise children with machismo, and the police continue to be re-victimizing, corrupt, and act with impunity. Men grow up believing they have the right to control “their women,” and the system does not punish them. Femicides remain the same or increase (10-15 per day in Mexico). Women live in constant fear, share their location, do not go out alone at night, and do not report crimes because they know it will be useless. Support networks exist, but they are insufficient in the face of structural violence.

Characteristics of scenario 3: femicides are not decreasing (or are increasing), high level of institutional distrust, migration of women (seeking safer countries), and growing social mobilization (protests, collectives, but without systemic impact).

SCENARIO 4: THE MATRIX

Positive Extreme: WITH Transformation of Upbringing.

Negative Extreme: NO Transformation of Justice Institutions.

Neo, the protagonist of the Matrix saga (1999-2021), discovers that the world is just a computer simulation. The surviving humanity changes and adapts to its reality, while the machines and their robots maintain the status quo.

In this scenario, families change from within, but the State and justice institutions do not transform. Equal parenting flourishes in homes: girls and boys grow up with values of respect, equity, and emotional intelligence. However, when these girls grow up and face violence, the police remain re-victimizing, corrupt, and ineffective. Victims learn not to report because they know the system doesn’t work. Community support networks (friends, collectives, digital spaces) become the main protection mechanism, but they cannot replace state justice.

Characteristics of scenario 4: Moderate decrease in femicides (newer generations are more aware), high institutional distrust (the police remain an obstacle), strengthening of sisterhood and support networks (offering shelter, accompaniment) and social frustration (cultural changes are not reflected in the justice system).

TABLE 14:
Continuation - Steps for Creating Scenarios

Step	Description	Results
7	Analyze the implications What does each scenario mean for the focal decision?	The implications for designing a national strategy to respond to each scenario are explained. If scenario I: Back to the Future is reached, massive investment (efforts, resources of all kinds) must be made in upbringing and parenting; the priority is education within the home. If scenario II: Interstellar (ideal) is reached, actions and strategies must be maintained and reinforced; education and justice are prioritized. If the situation is scenario III: Mad Max (worst), a radical change in strategy and actions will be urgent; there must be greater social pressure and much greater international intervention to change things. The priority is to change the system comprehensively. Finally, if scenario IV: The Matrix is reached, it is essential to invest in the transformation of justice institutions; the priority is change in the judicial system.

Source: Own elaboration

A SOLID AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.

Regardless of the specific scenario, all of the following strategies will contribute to a better achievement of the objective (focus decision): Train police officers in gender perspective, implement emotional education programs in schools, strengthen community support networks, launch communication campaigns to denormalize microaggressions, and create dedicated telephone hotlines for gender-based violence.

TABLE 15:
Continuation - Steps for Creating Scenarios

Paso	Descripción	Resultado conforme a Primera Parte de la Investigación
8	Select monitoring indicators What indicators point to the scenario towards which current actions are heading?	Several measurable indicators will be proposed to show which scenario the current actions and strategies are targeting. Transformation of upbringing. Institutional transformation. Violence against women. Cultural indicators. Economic indicators.

Source: Own elaboration

TABLE 16:
Measurable Indicators of Strategies Well Directed Towards the Ideal Scenario.

Indicator	Measures
Transforming upbringing	Increase in the percentage of families reporting equal parenting practices. Increase in the incorporation of social-emotional education into Public and Official education curricula. Increase in the number of schools with psychologists.
Institutional transformation.	Increase in the percentage of women who trust the police. Decrease in the average response time to complaints. Increase in the number of police officers trained in gender perspective.
Violence against women.	Decrease in the femicide rate per 100,000 women. Decrease in the number of reports of gender-based violence.
Cultural indicators.	Increase in the percentage of young people who reject sexist phrases ("jealousy is love"). Increase in the representation of women in the media (diversity vs. sexualization).
Economic indicators.	Reduction - in the gender pay gap. Increase percentage of households with an equitable distribution of domestic chores.

Source: Own elaboration

6_CONCLUSION

These possible scenarios provide an idea of how the future for women could be. A future without femicides is definitely possible as long as the Mexican government, society and authorities can focus their efforts into a scenario 3, in which both society and institutions change. Families and their views on how they educate children are difficult to transform since it requires not only the involvement of the state, educators, health professionals, religious leaders among many others but also the commitment of many actors and the combination of many factors that will ultimately produce a positive effect on women's well being. Good news is that the GDI has positively increased from 0.903 (1990) to 0.976 (2023) similar to Germany (0.975) and Switzerland (0.970) as a reference Brazil is 1.002 (UNDP, 2025). The country has already changed the view of women in Mexico, e.g. first female president Claudia Sheiubbaum elected in 2024 (BBC News,

2024). This could be the beginning of a series of actions and events that could trigger Mexican society to increase its demand for fairness and justice in their institutions as would be the example of the Judiciary and their branches (including police).

Moreover, some of the proposal for the achieving of scenario 3 have already been taken place in the nation, police officers have already been trained with gender perspective and specialized units are taking over gender-related crimes (Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana, 2022), in the education sector measures are already in place to make sure all children receive information and learn about stereotyping, prejudice, and gender inequality (Secretaría de las Mujeres, 2024), although some improvements on emotional education could be done (hiring psychologists and therapists to help children and teenagers cope with life, school and family issues). There is also a constant strengthening of community support networks in schools, institutions and workplaces (Secretaría de Salud, 2014; Casa de Apoyo a la Mujer, 2026; Casa de Mujeres; 2026). Communication campaigns to denormalize microaggressions are also part of the information that is constantly provided on T.V., public areas as well as in private organizations (Secretaría de las Mujeres, 2026). Finally, a dedicated telephone hotline for gender-based violence is also available in many cities and at nationwide level (Gobierno de México, 2022). What all these mean is that the foundations for a better, safer and healthier future for women have been built and now it is the society's turn to begin modifying their own views, perspectives and traditions on women, teenagers and girls to create a great future for their own daughters.

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