



Mixed Movements

Overview of key figures and trends

+87 k

People entered Panama through the Darien province in the first quarter of 2023.



35% VENEZUELAN
27% HAITIAN
16% ECUADORIAN
4% CHINESE

Main nationalities in 2023 in the Darien.

225 k

Expulsions from the United States under Title 42 in the first quarter of 2023.



Highest figure of irregular arrivals in the Darien province for the first quarter ever recorded.

RECORD NUMBER



38 k

Individuals crossed the Darien during March 2023, mainly Venezuelan and Haitian nationals.

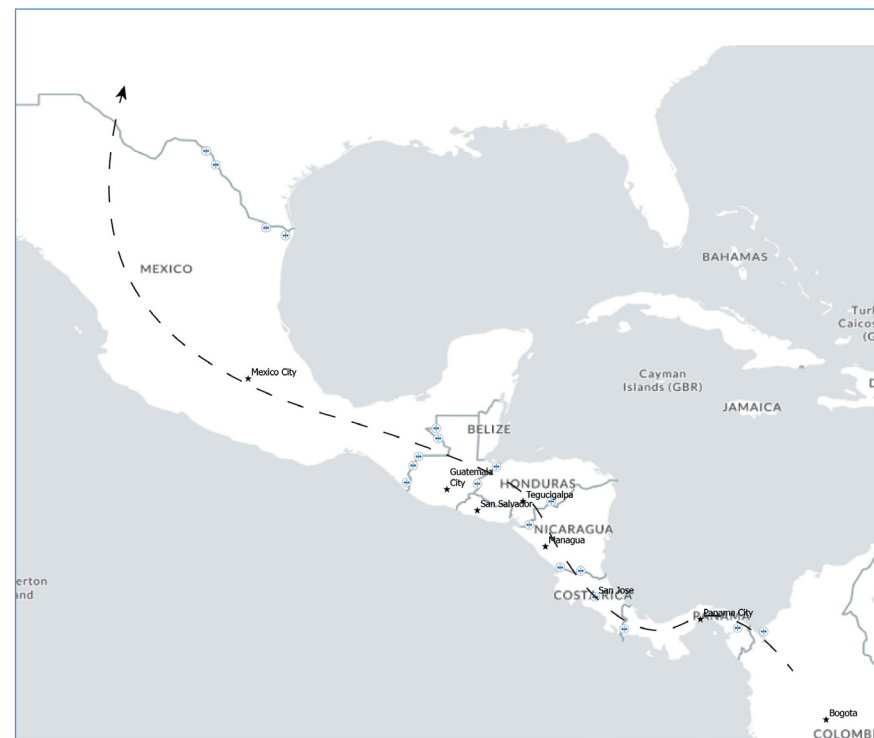
+47 k

Individuals have applied for asylum in Central America and Mexico in the first quarter of 2023.

Record number of persons engaged in mixed and onward movements continue to be reported arriving in the Darien, where more than 87,390 arrivals have been registered during the first quarter of 2023. The number of irregular arrivals reported in the Darien up to 31 March 2023, represents a 634% increase if compared to the numbers recorded during the same period in 2022. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti and Ecuador remain the main nationalities crossing the Darien province.

Other border areas in Central America continue to experience significant mixed movements, mainly engaging people travelling northbound. Increasing movements are reported transiting through Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala where reception capacities, including temporary shelter, transportation and protection services, etc., are operating at significant strain. In Mexico, more than 37,000 new asylum claims have been registered in 2023, representing a 29% increase if compared with the numbers for the same period of 2022. Haiti, Honduras, Cuba, and Venezuela remain the top nationalities of persons seeking asylum in Mexico.

Land border encounters reported at the U.S. Southwest border reached a record number in calendar year 2022 with 2,577,699 encounters. In January and February 2023, a significant decrease of border encounters was reported at the Southwest border. Encounters dropped from 252,002 encounters reported in December 2022 to 156,787 and 156,138 in January and February 2023 respectively. Changes in the trend of arrivals reported at the U.S. land border respond in part to the impact of the U.S. announcements on new migration processes for nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela in the dynamics of mixed movements in the region.



Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UN.

Sources: SENAFRONT: Panama, UNHCR, 2023.



Mixed Movements

Overview of key figures and trends

As record number of arrivals continue to be reported in the Darien, changes are observed in the profile of those engaged in mixed movements during the first quarter of 2023. The arrivals of nationals from Venezuela in Darien experienced a new increase in 2023, repositioning Venezuela as the main nationality with 35% of all recorded arrivals (main nationality of arrivals reported in February and March 2023).

Despite the U.S. implementation of the migration process for Venezuelans announced in October 2022 (expansion of returns under Title 42 and implementation of humanitarian parole programme), misinformation around changes to the U.S. border regulations and the lifting of Title 42, and the implementation of CBP One, a mobile device application used as a primary method for asylum-seekers and migrants arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border to preschedule appointments for processing, have in part led to a rise in the number of Venezuelan nationals involved in mixed movements toward the U.S. Southwest border at the beginning of 2023.

On 5 January, 2023, the U.S. announced more policy changes related to asylum-seekers and migrants arriving at the U.S. Southwest border, including expanding the application of Title 42 and the establishment of a parole programme for three new nationalities: Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans. The new measures create the framework for the return of nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela back to Mexico under Title 42 if they cross the border irregularly, and the expansion of parole entry programmes for these nationalities, capped at 30,000 entrants per month.

The U.S. has confirmed that the implementation of Title 42 will terminate on 11 May 2023. As the region approaches the date set for the termination of Title 42, new changes to the U.S. migration and border regulations are being discussed. Increasing movements across Central America and Mexico could be expected in the upcoming weeks adding significant strain on already overwhelmed reception capacities at key border crossings and other locations (shelter, transportation, protection services, etc.).

Needs continue to be reported in many countries along the mixed-movement route in Central America and Mexico regarding the reinforcement of reception capacities at key border and reception locations in the areas of shelter, food, medicines/health care, information, mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling, and protection services for cases at heightened vulnerability. Advocacy towards the implementation of legal stay arrangements also remains a priority.

Ayaluz and her husband left Venezuela after selling everything they owned, and crossed the Darien jungle in search of a better life.

Their perilous journey lasted 8 days and left Ayaluz with severe dehydration, physical injuries, and emotional distress after witnessing the death of a family group. Injured and out of resources, the couple hopes to reach their destination safely.

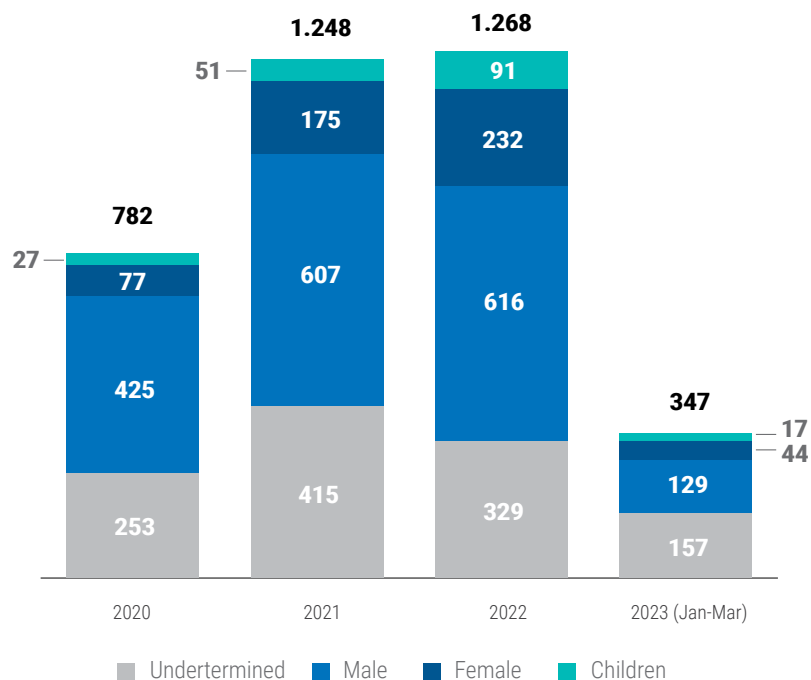




Missing migrants in the Americas

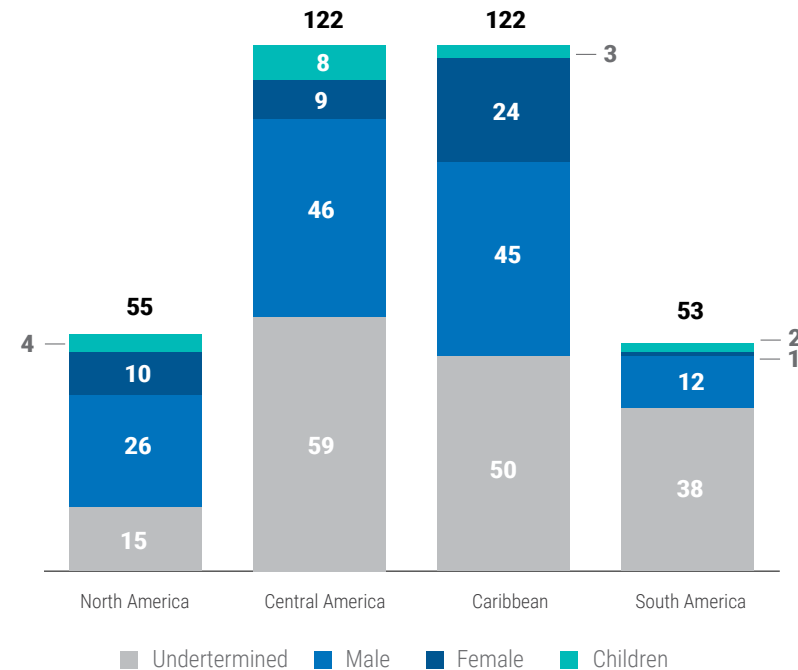
- Since IOM began monitoring deaths and disappearances of migrants and people on the move, between 2014 until March 2023, 7,706 cases have been recorded in the region. Actual figures may be a lot higher as not all deaths are recorded ([MMP, 2023](#)).
- During the first quarter of 2023, 352 cases were registered in the Americas. The break-down by sub-region is: Caribbean: 122; Central America: 122; South America: 53 and North America: 55 ([Idem](#)).

Total of missing people on the move recorded in the Americas by sex and age group (2020 - 2023 Jan-Mar)



Source: [Missing Migrants Project](#), 2023.

Total of missing people on the move recorded in the Americas by subregion, sex and age group, 2023 (Jan-Mar)



Source: [Missing Migrants Project](#), 2023.



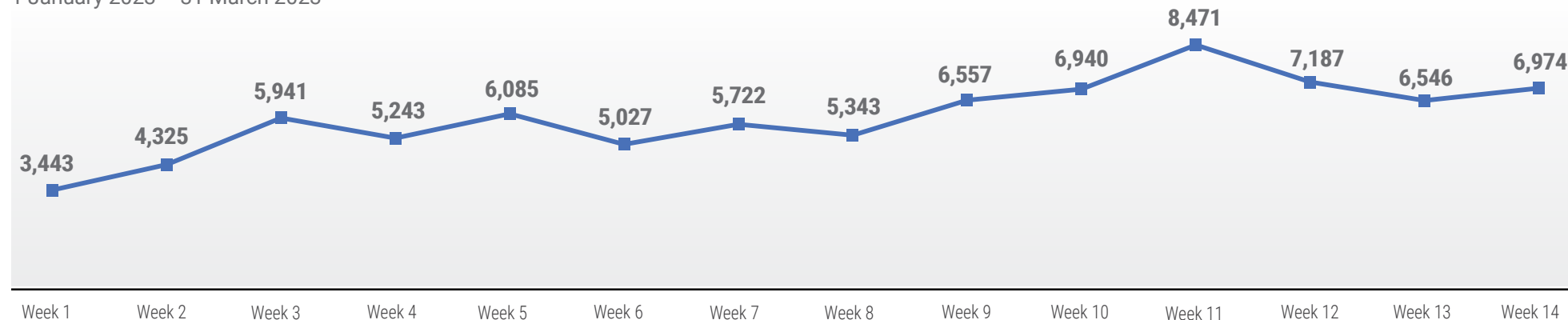
Mixed Movements Colombia

Necoclí is a small town located in the department of Antioquia, on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. Since 2021 it has received thousands of people who embark there for the shores of Panama, later undertaking a journey on foot through the jungle in the Darien Province.

The following line chart shows the daily passenger flows of individuals from all nationalities departing from Necoclí to Panama, where a doubling is recorded between the first week of January and the last week of March.

Weekly flows of all nationalities recorded by maritime companies in Necoclí 2023

1 January 2023 – 31 March 2023



Source: [GIFMM-R4V, 2023](#)

125 k

Venezuelans entered Colombia in the first quarter of 2023 via official border points, according to [official data](#).

124 k

Venezuelans exited Colombia in the first quarter of 2023 via official border points, according to [official data](#).

10%

Increase in Venezuelan exits in the first quarter of 2023, compared to the same period in 2022.

38,652

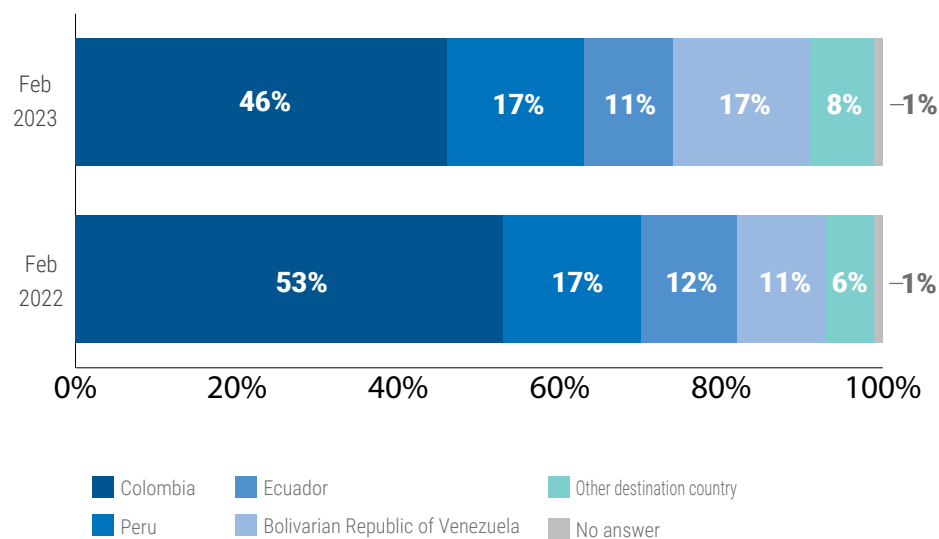
Exits registered by the Colombian Government in March 2023.




Mixed Movements Colombia

Destination countries for Venezuelan refugees and migrants - February 2022 and February 2023

Data collected from 9.700 Venezuelans nationals interviewed by IOM in 17 shelters in Colombian territory in February 2023 compared to DTM data collected in [February 2022](#).



Source: [DTM Colombia, February 2023](#).

 **7%**
Decrease in Colombia as destination

In February 2023, forty-six percent of individuals indicated that their final destination country was Colombia, showing a seven per cent decrease compared to February 2022.

 **6%**
Increase in Venezuela as destination

From 11 per cent in February 2022 to 17 per cent in February 2023. This trend has been constant since January 2022, nevertheless this destination does not imply re-settling back in Venezuela, but the destination of the travel.

No significant differences are observed in the participation of other destination countries, with the countries showing the greatest variation being where the survey was conducted and the country of origin.



Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

➔ **87,390**

People entered irregularly through the Darien in 2023.

✕ **6 times**

more irregular entries in the Darien in the first quarter of 2023, compared to the same period of 2022.

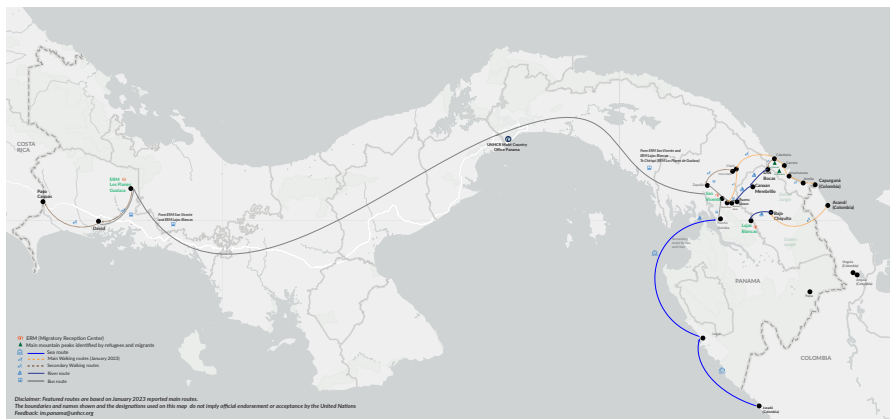
📈 **38,099**

Irregular entries in the Darien Province were registered during March 2023.

♂ **66%** Men March 2023

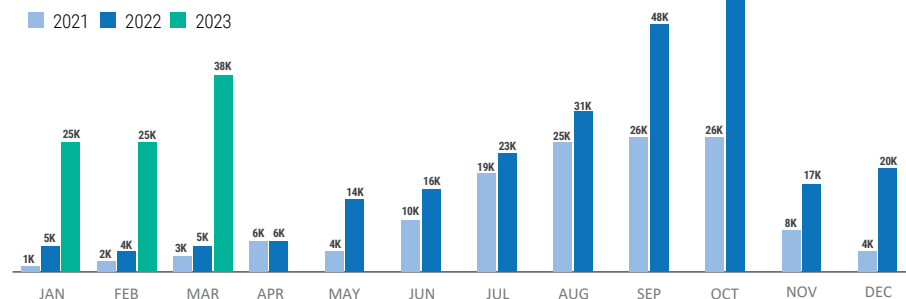
♀ **34%** Women March 2023

Based on a DTM conducted in the Darien Province between 13 December 2022 and 13 January 2023, to 207 interviewees, 7 of 10 mentioned the lack of means as a factor for migrating. Also, 76% answered the raise of market prices as a driver ([DTM, 2023](#)).

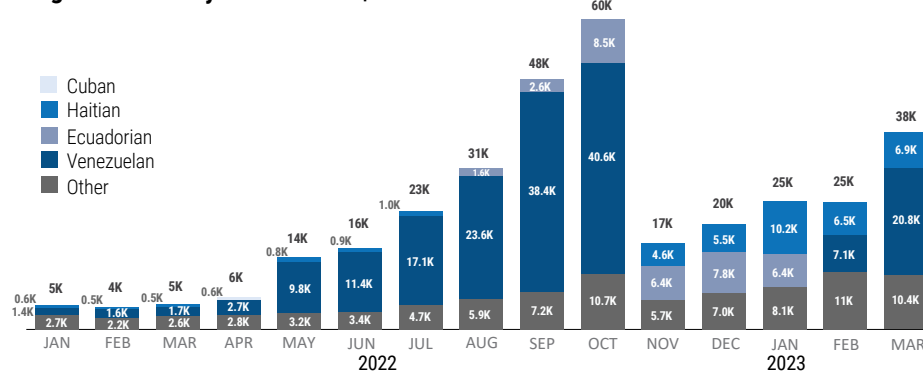


Source: UNHCR, 2023.

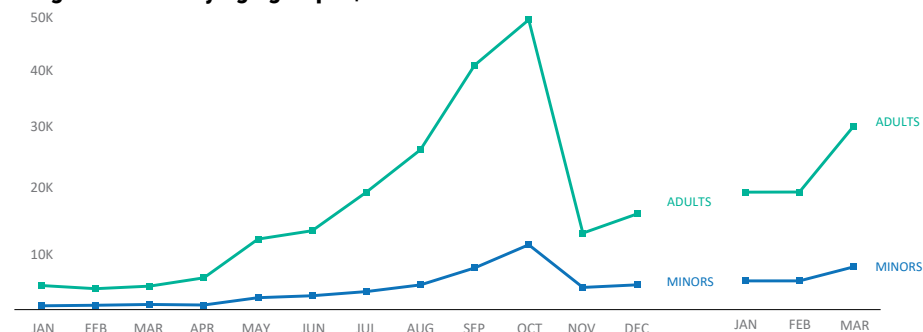
Irregular entries Darien | 2021 - 31 Mar 2023



Irregular entries by nationalities | 2022 - 31 Mar 2023



Irregular entries by age groups | 2022 - 31 Mar 2023



Source: Migraciones Panama.



Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

312
 Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between January and March 2023.
 entering Panama from Colombia in the Darien province (Migration Reception Centers Lajas Blancas and San Vicente).

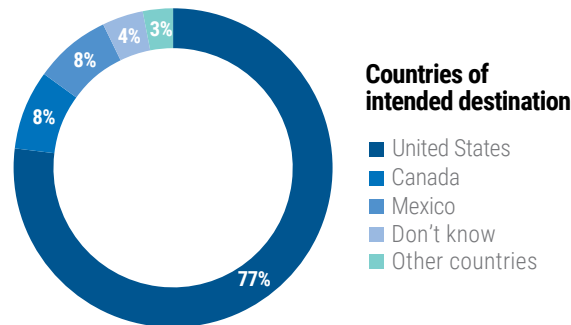
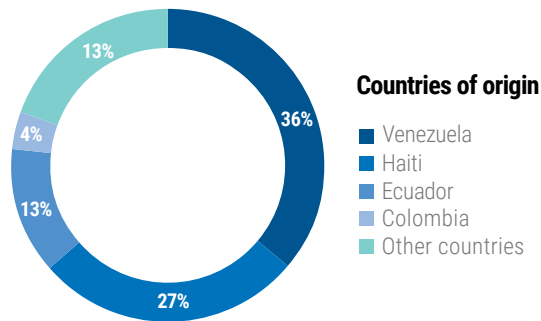
75%
 Men

25%
 Women

32
 Average age

25
 Different nationalities interviewed

27%
 Reported to have experienced protection incidents during their journey through the jungle.

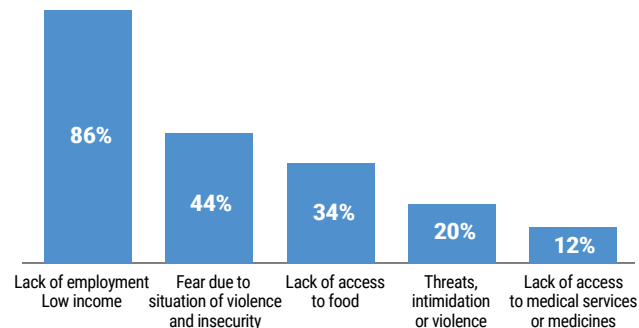


Food security

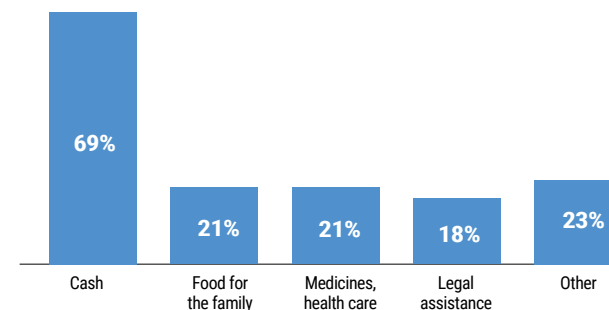
90%
 of people on movement have food security issues.
 50% have regularly skipped meals and 37% spent whole days without eating.

55%
 Consumed one meal only (44%) or none (11%) the day before the interview.

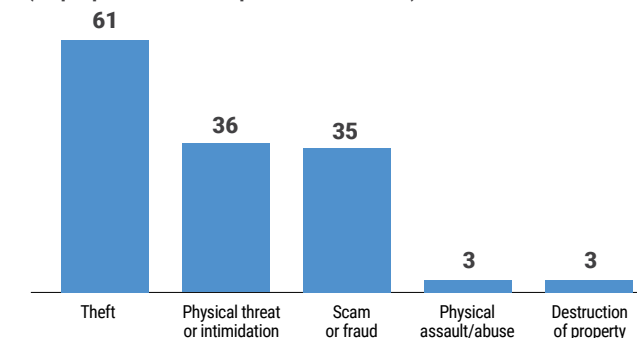
Main reasons to leave country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



Main needs and to continue the journey (More than one option could be selected)



Main protection incidents in the Darien (84 people who suffered protection incidents)



Source: [Mixed movement monitoring UNHCR-WFP, Panama, 2023.](#)



Mixed Movements Costa Rica



163

Individuals interviewed in shelters by OIM, between Dec 15th 2022 and March 31st 2023.



**VENEZUELAN
CUBAN
ECUADORIAN
HAITIAN
COLOMBIAN**

Main nationalities interviewed in shelters.



53%

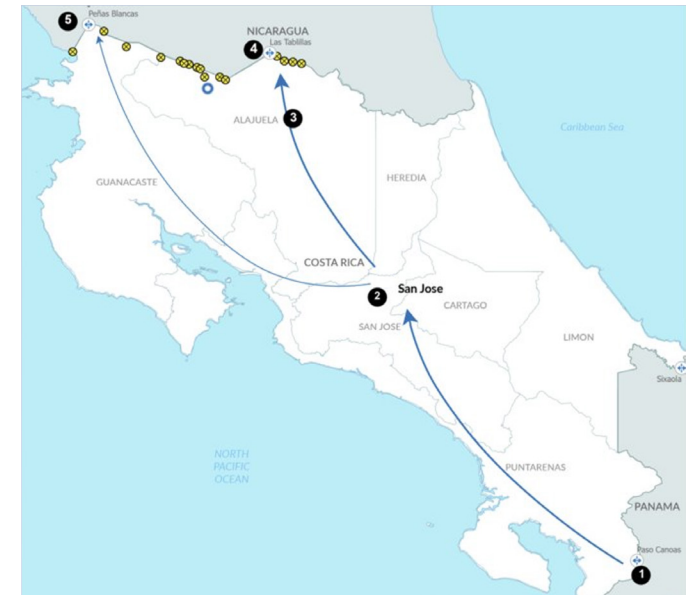
Women



47%

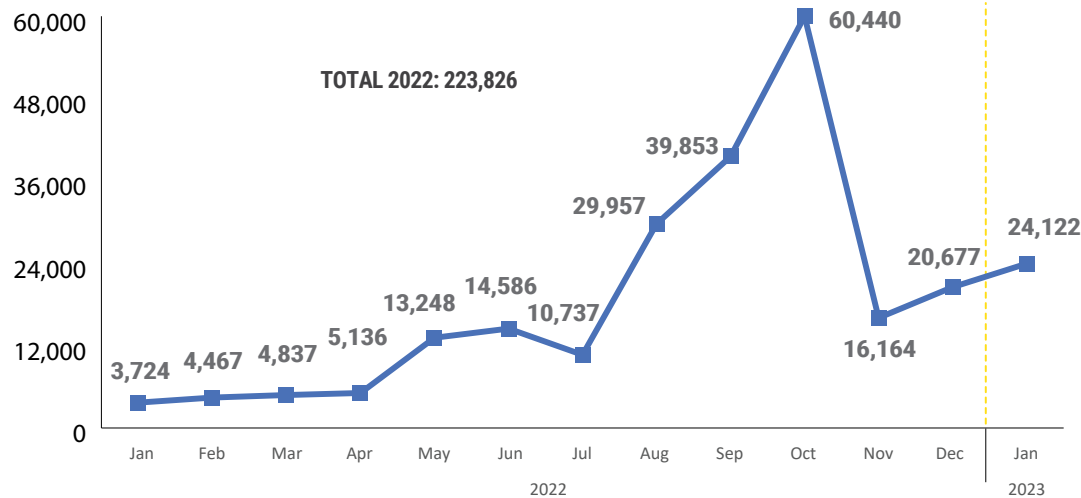
Men

Source: [Interactive data dashboard on migrants moving through the Americas in Costa Rica](#)



Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UN.

Recorded departures of migrants from Panama to Costa Rica



Source: Migration Reception Station at Los Planes of Guacala, Chiriquí, Panamá, 2022-2023 (Jan).

During January the number of people moving through the monitoring point of Los Planes increased. These flows were composed mainly by Venezuelan nationals according to the latest available figures from DTM ([DTM, 2023b](#)).



Mixed Movements Costa Rica

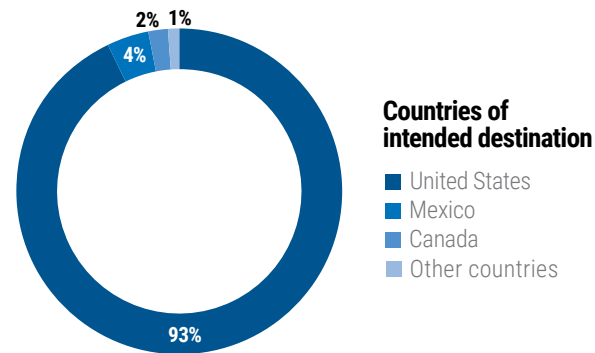
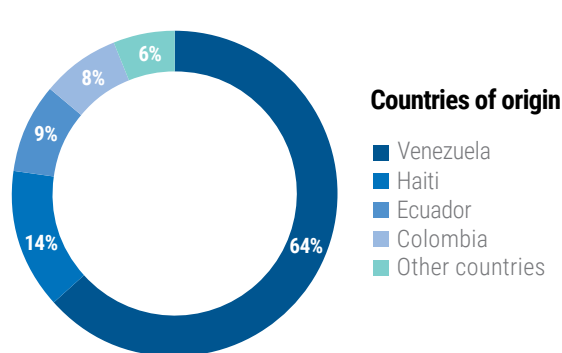
511
Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between January and March 2023.
Interviews took place in Ciudad Neily, Paso Canoas and Los Chiles.

65%
Men
35%
Women

29
Average age

35%
Reported to have experienced protection incidents in other countries along the route.

55%
Reported that the fear of generalized violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin.
92% cited lack of employment or low income.

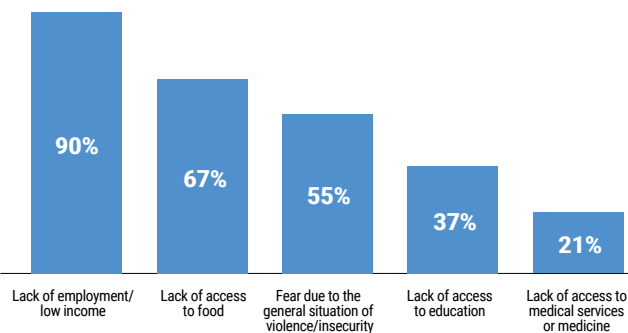


Food security

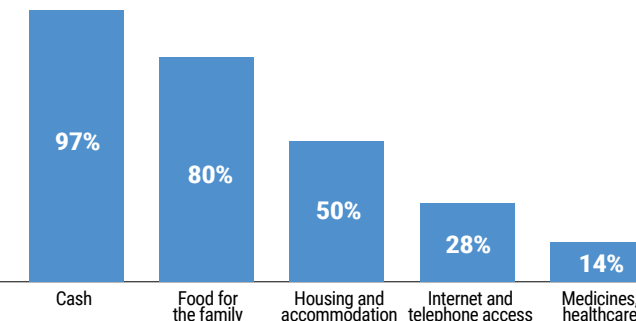
4 out of 5
people have food security issues.
27% have regularly skipped meals and 56% spent whole days without eating.

58%
Consumed one meal only (48%) or none (10%) the day before the interview.

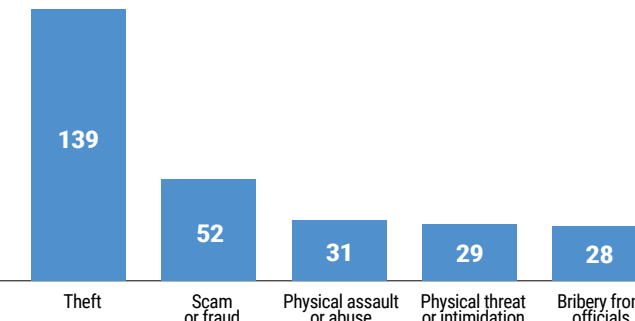
Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



Main needs now and to continue the journey (More than one option could be selected)



Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Costa Rica (238 people who suffered protection incidents)





Mixed Movements Guatemala

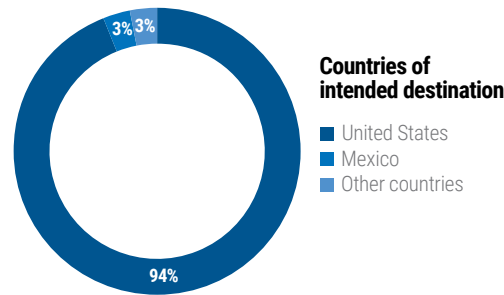
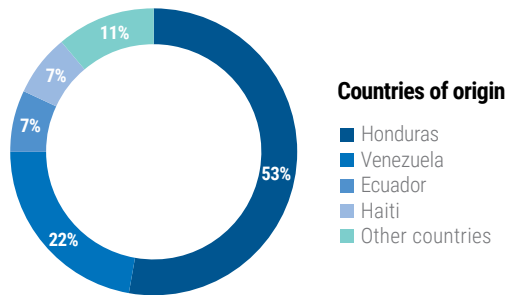
1,501
Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between January and March 2023

Interviews were conducted in several provinces and border points including Petén, Chiquimula, Izabal, San Marcos, as well as the capital Guatemala City.

67% Men
33% Women

30 Average age

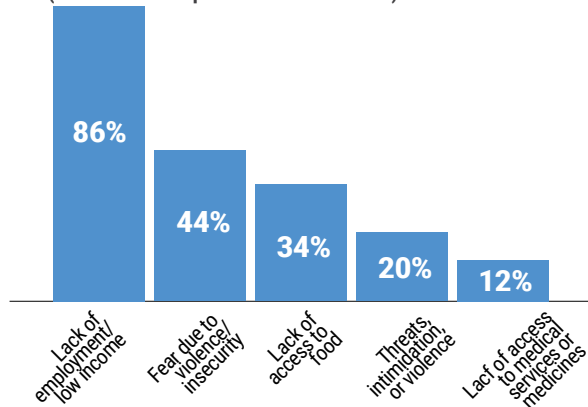
1 in 3
Individuals interviewed reported theft of their belongings



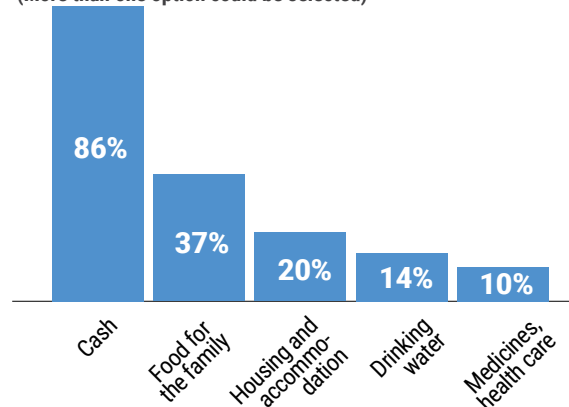
Food security
4 out of 5 people have food security issues.
68% have regularly skipped meals and 13% spent whole days without eating.

60%
Consumed one meal only (57%) or none (3%) the day before the interview.

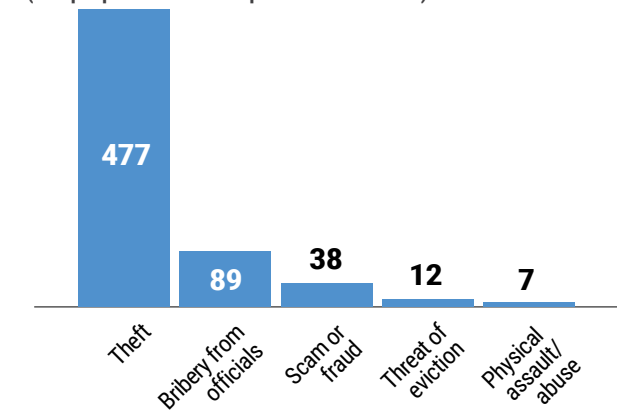
Main reasons to leave the country of origin
(More than one option could be selected)



Main needs now and to continue the journey
(More than one option could be selected)



Main protection incidents in Guatemala
(569 people who suffered protection incidents)

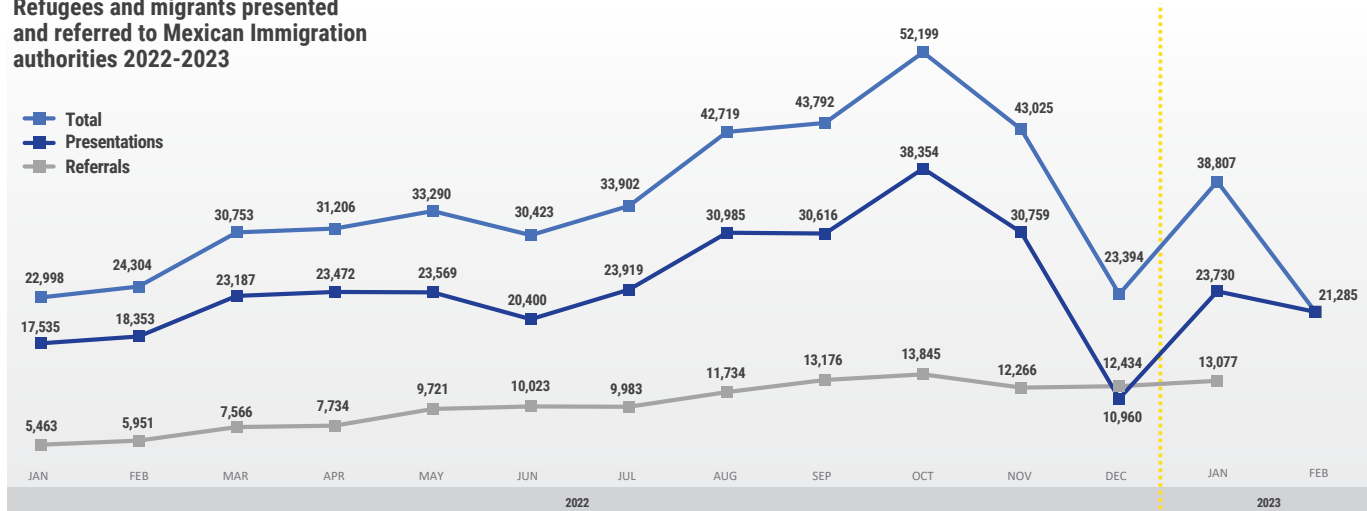




Mixed Movements

Refugees and Migrants presence in Mexico (presentations and referrals)

Refugees and migrants presented and referred to Mexican Immigration authorities 2022-2023



23%

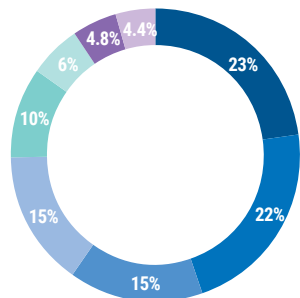
Increase of presentations and referrals of refugees and migrants by February 2023 in Mexico compared with the total events of migrants with irregular situation in the same period in 2022.



23% ECUADOR
22% VENEZUELA
15% HONDURAS
15% GUATEMALA
10% HAITI

Main countries of origin

Refugees and migrants presented and referred to Mexican Immigration Authorities by country of origin and demographic group, January – February 2023

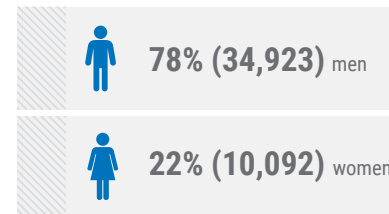


Main countries of origin

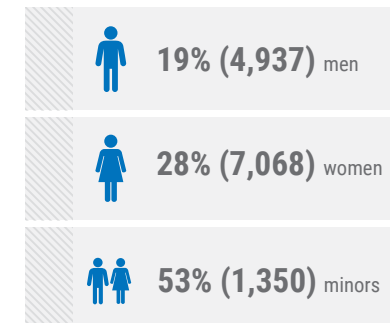
- Ecuador
- Venezuela
- Honduras
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Cuba
- Nicaragua
- El Salvador

Totals by demographic groups:

Presentations



Referrals



Source: Unidad de Política Migratoria, 2023.



Asylum trends in Mexico

37,606

Asylum applications were lodged in Mexico from January to March 2023, an increase of 29% compared to the same period in 2022 (COMAR, 2023).



**HAITI
HONDURAS
CUBA
VENEZUELA**

Top countries of origin in 2023

While in 2022, most asylum-seekers were from Honduras, Cuba, Haiti and Venezuela (COMAR, 2023).



12 k

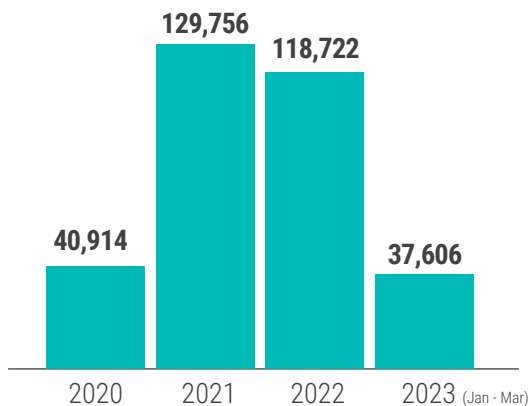
Asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023.



75%

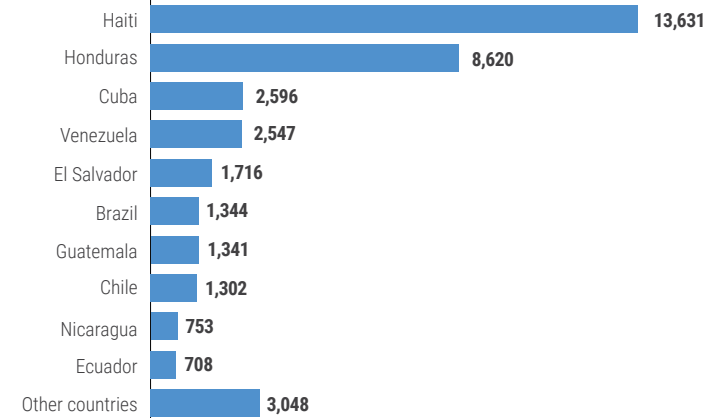
of asylum-seekers interviewed by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023, have specific protection needs.

Asylum Applications in Mexico 2020-2023 (Jan-Mar)
(all nationalities)



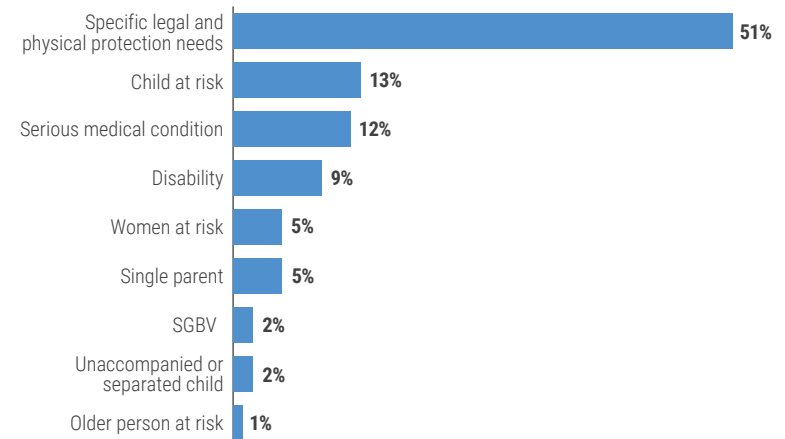
Source: COMAR, 2023.

Top 10 Asylum applications in Mexico by country of origin Jan - Mar 2023



Source: COMAR, 2023

Mexico: Asylum-seekers with protection needs registered by UNHCR in Jan-Mar 2023 (percentage)



Source: UNHCR, 2023.



Mixed Movements Mexico

1,038

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between January and March 2023
Interviews took place in 13 cities across Mexico.

56% Men

44% Women

33 Average age

59%

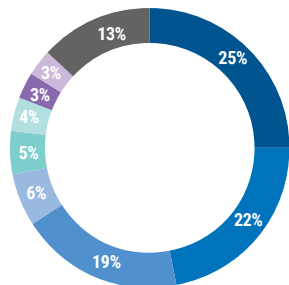
Reported that violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin.
64% cited lack of employment or low income, 37% mentioned threats and intimidation, and 17% lack of access to food.

1 in 5

Individuals interviewed declared their intention to conclude their journey in Mexico.

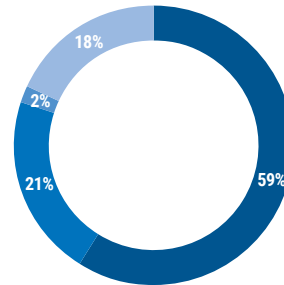
80%

Reported their main need was food for their family.



Countries of origin

- Haiti
- Venezuela
- Honduras
- El Salvador
- Cuba
- Guatemala
- Nicaragua
- Angola
- Other countries



Countries of intended destination

- United States
- Mexico
- Canada
- Prefer not to say

Food security

3 out of 5

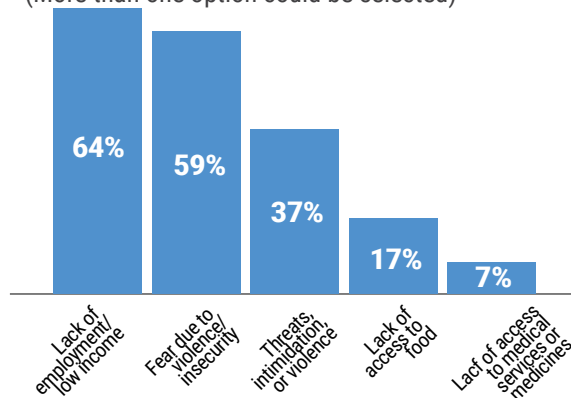
people have food security issues.

53% have regularly skipped meals and 8% spent whole days without eating.

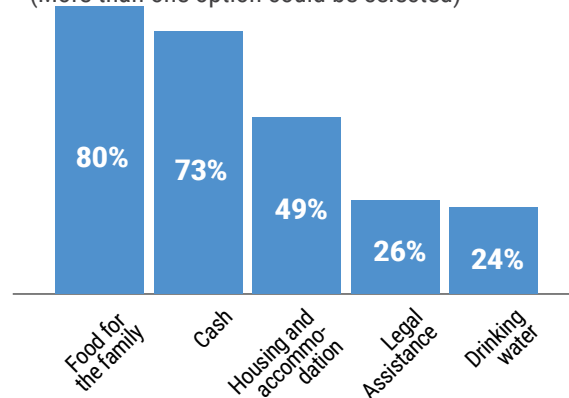
26%

Consumed one meal only the day before the interview.

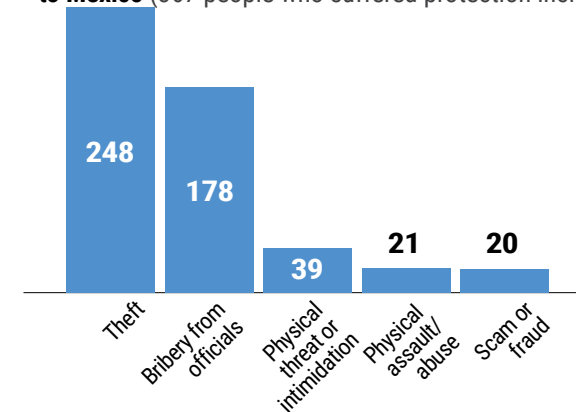
Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



Main needs now and to continue the journey (More than one option could be selected)



Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Mexico (367 people who suffered protection incidents)





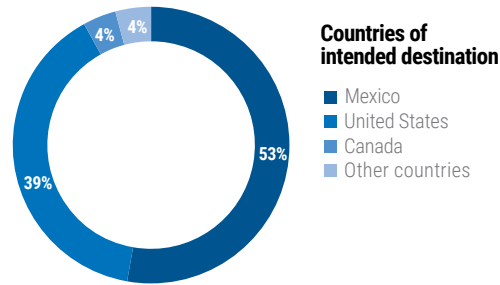
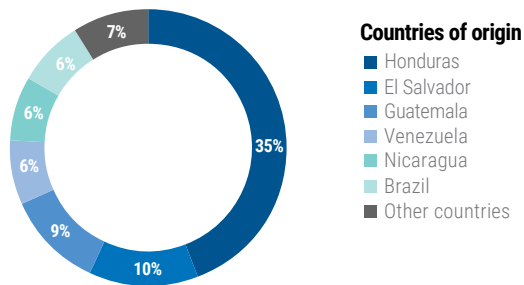
Mixed Movements Mexico South Border

138 Individuals were interviewed by DTM Mexico in Tapachula in January 2023.

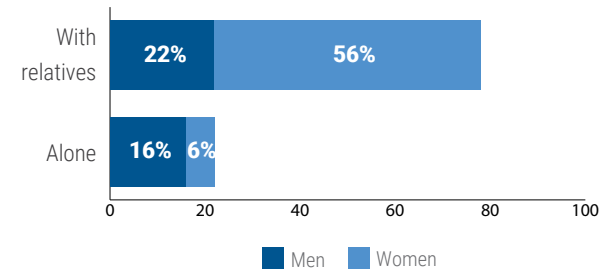
52% Men

48% Women

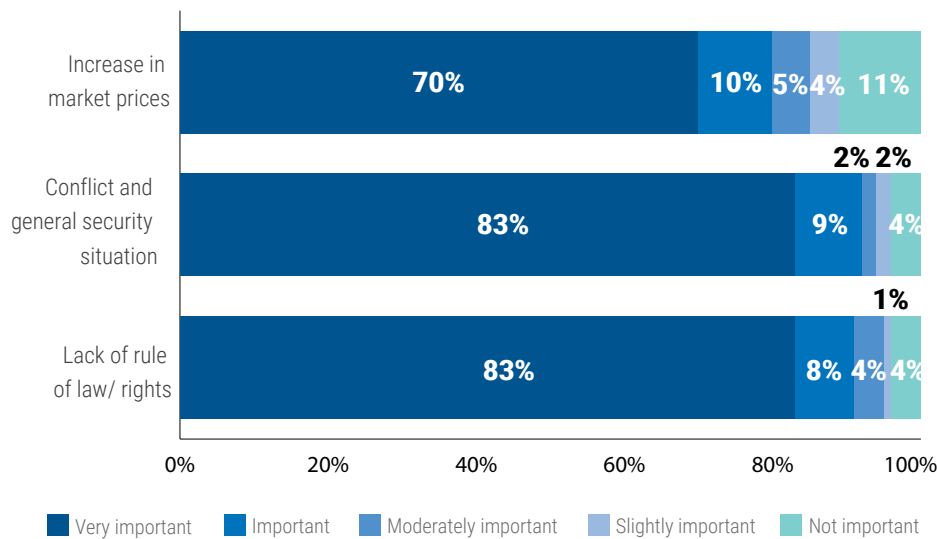
48% Were under 24 years old.



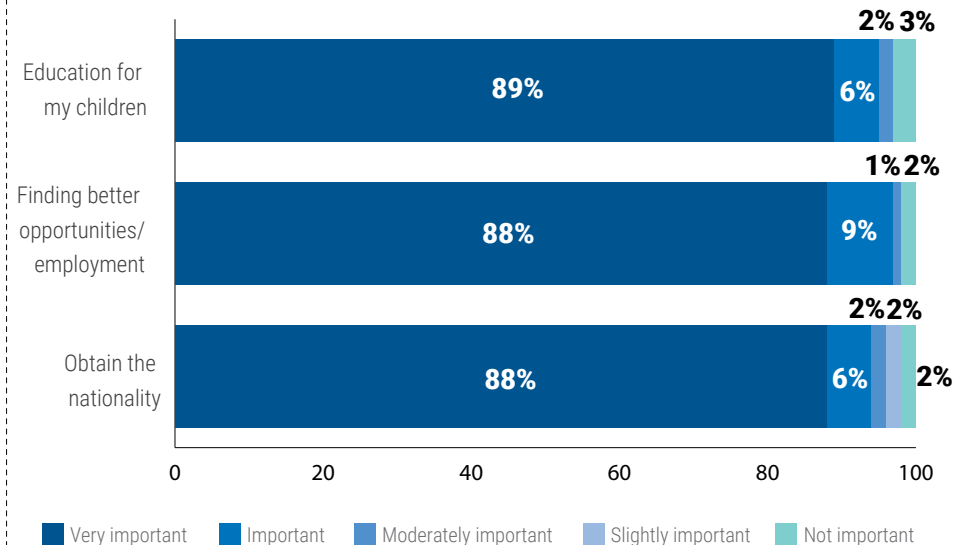
Travel group of interviewed individuals



Main reasons to leave the country of origin



Main reasons to choose country of destination





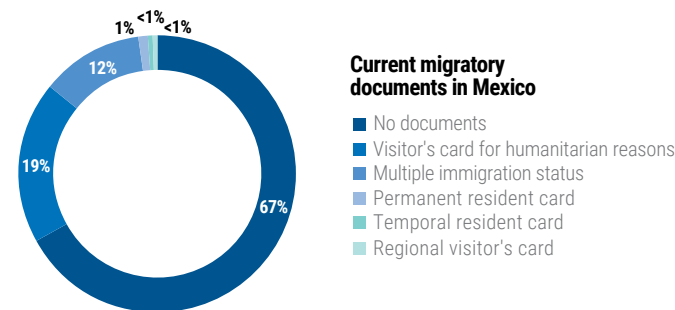
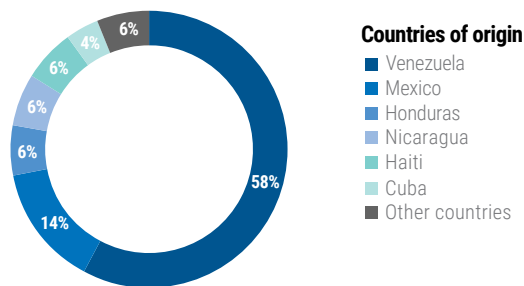
Mixed Movements Mexico North Border

631 Individuals were interviewed by DTM Mexico in Matamoros in January 2023.

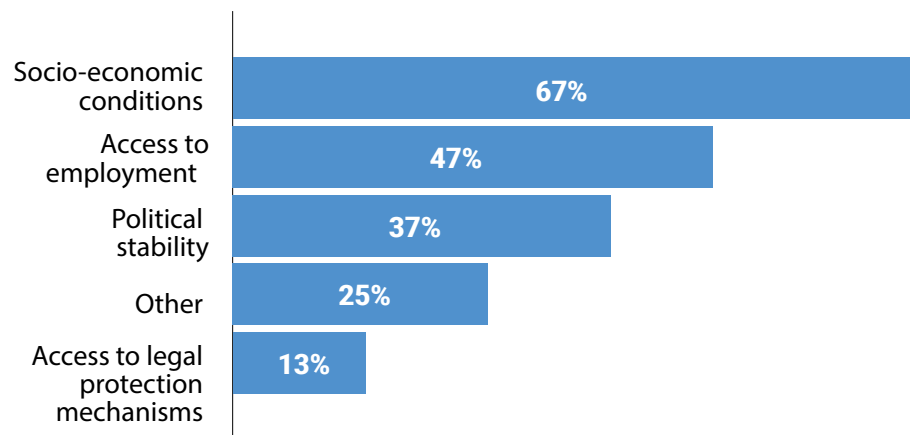
54% Men

46% Women

24 Was the average age



Main reasons to leave the country of origin



92% Claims to have used the CBP ONE app.

96% of those who have used the app have done so to register for one of the available processes

46% of them have been able to schedule an appointment.

While appointments are provided for the next 14 days, some people mentioned waiting longer periods.



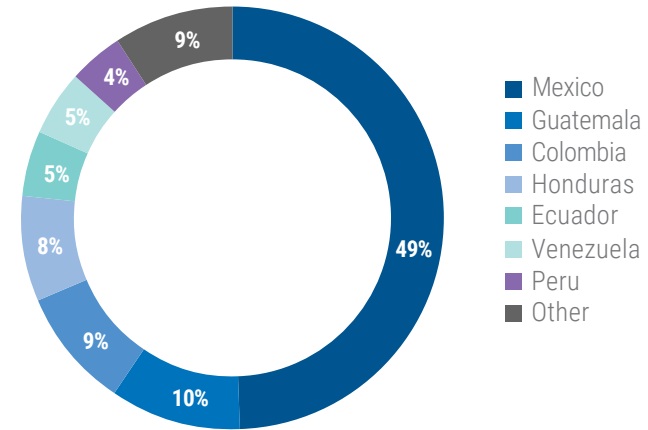
Land Border Encounters in Southwest in United States

14%
 Decrease in the encounters at the Southwestern United States border by March 2023 (191,899), in comparison to encounters in March 2022 (222,574).

49% MEXICO
10% GUATEMALA
9% COLOMBIA
9% HONDURAS
8% ECUADOR

Main nationalities

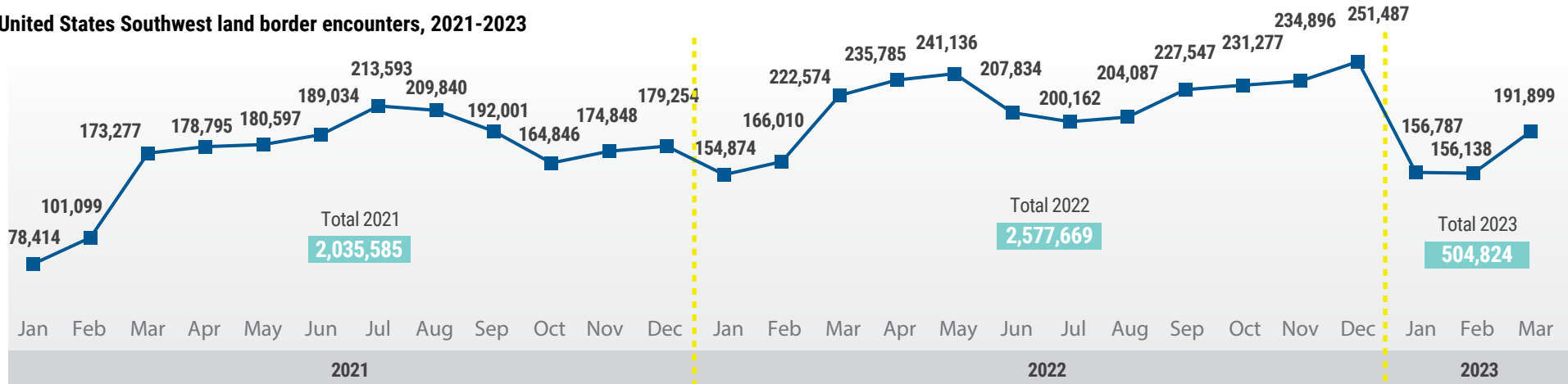
Main country of origin in United States Southwest land border encounters in 2023



251,487
 All-time monthly record registered in December 2022.

70%
 Were adults travelling alone, 23% moving in family units and 7% unaccompanied minors.

United States Southwest land border encounters, 2021-2023

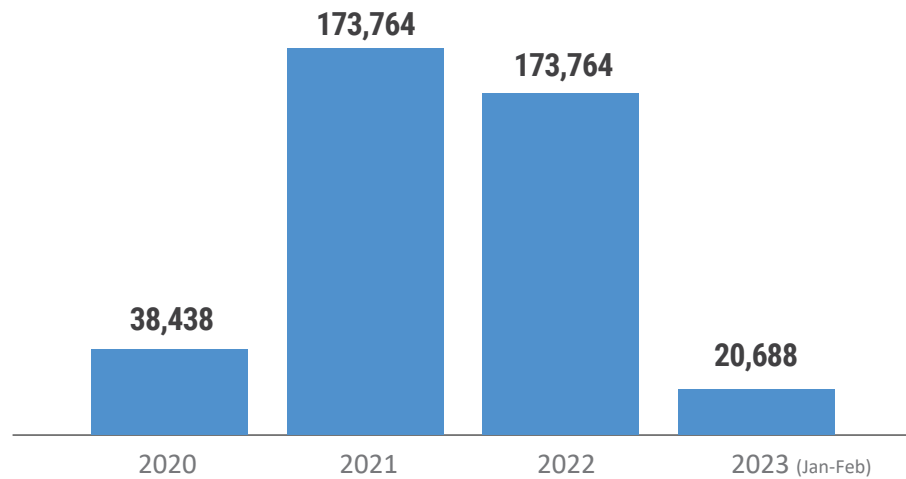


Source: United States (U.S.) [Customs and Border Protection](#) (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security.

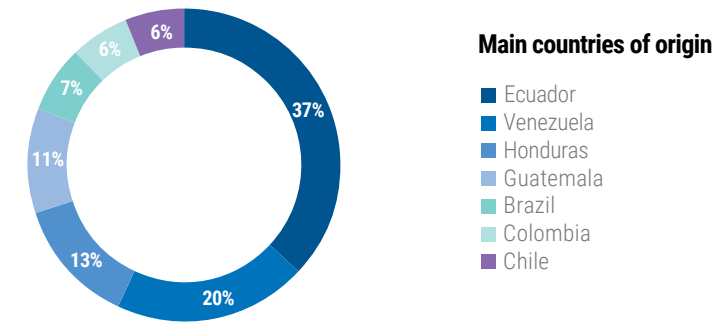


Land Border Encounters of children on the move at the Southern border of the United States

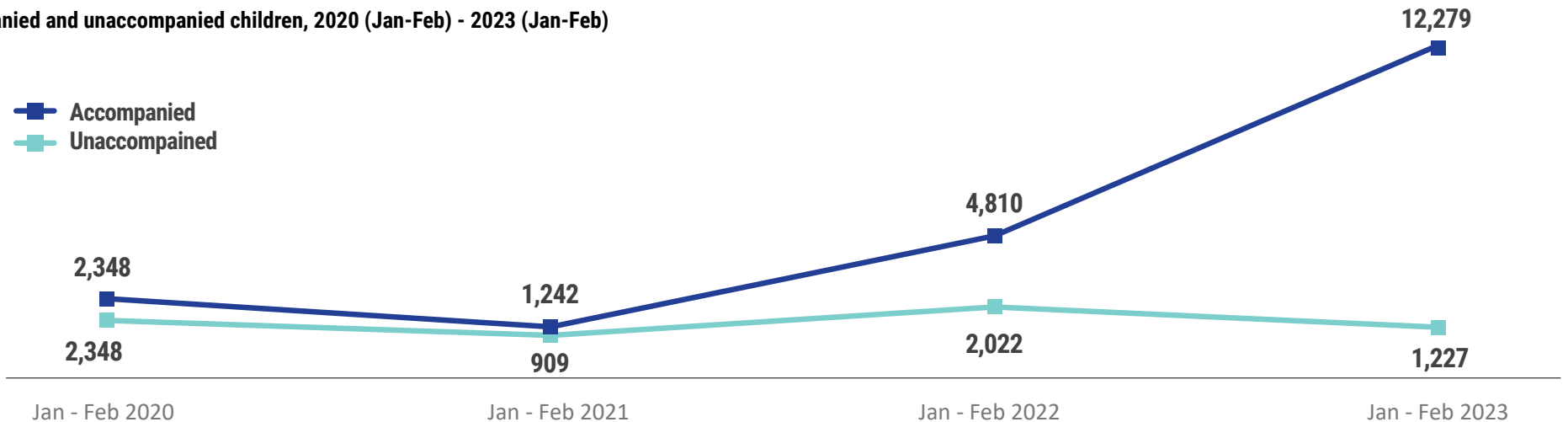
United States Southern land border encounters, 2020 - 2023 (Jan-Feb)



Main countries of origin in United States Southern land border encounters in 2023 (Jan-Feb)



Accompanied and unaccompanied children, 2020 (Jan-Feb) - 2023 (Jan-Feb)



Source: United States (U.S.) [Customs and Border Protection](#) (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security.



Returns to Northern Central American countries (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala)

22,880

Guatemalans, Hondurans and Salvadorians were returned from the United States, Mexico and other countries

from January to March 2023.

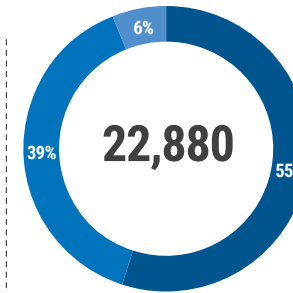
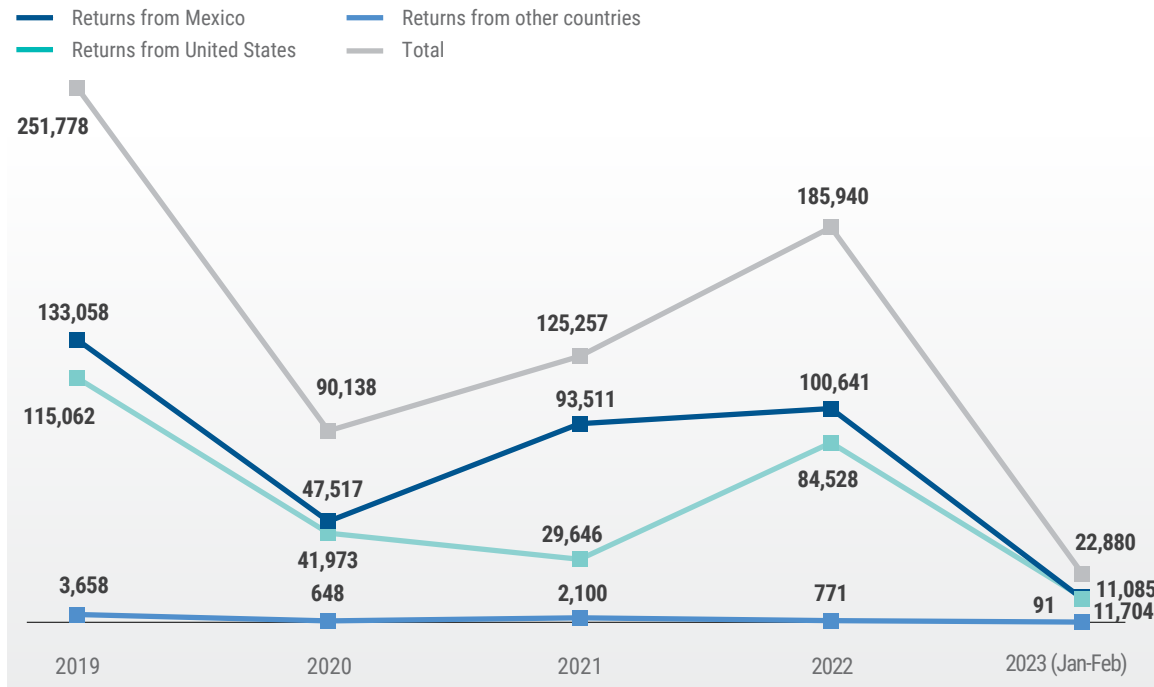
29%

Decrease in the total of returns in January and February 2023, in comparison to 2022.

56% GUATEMALA
39% HONDURAS

were the countries with the higher figures of returns.

Returns from Mexico, United States and other countries, 2019-2022 (Jan - Feb)



Returns by destination country (Jan - Mar)

	Returns 2022 (January - December)	Returns 2023 (January - February)
Men	61% (120,243)	69% (15,761)
women	21% (41,192)	20% (4,524)
Children and adolescents	18% (35,860)	11% (2,595)

Source: IOM, [Unidad de información para los países del norte de Centroamérica Dashboard](#), 2023.