

Mixed Movements

Central America and Mexico

28 February 2022

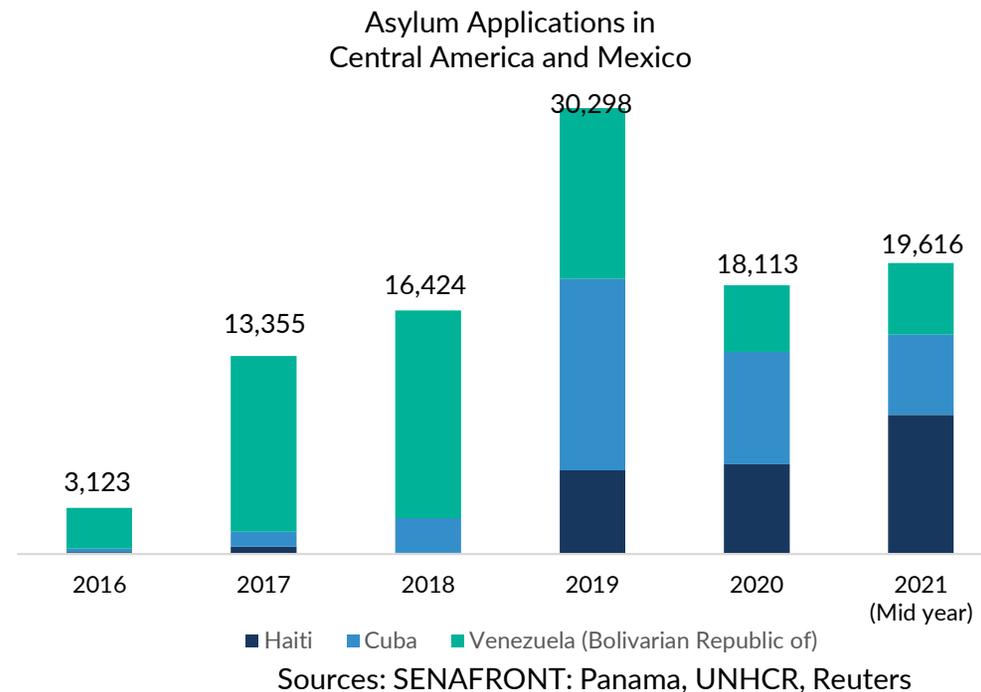
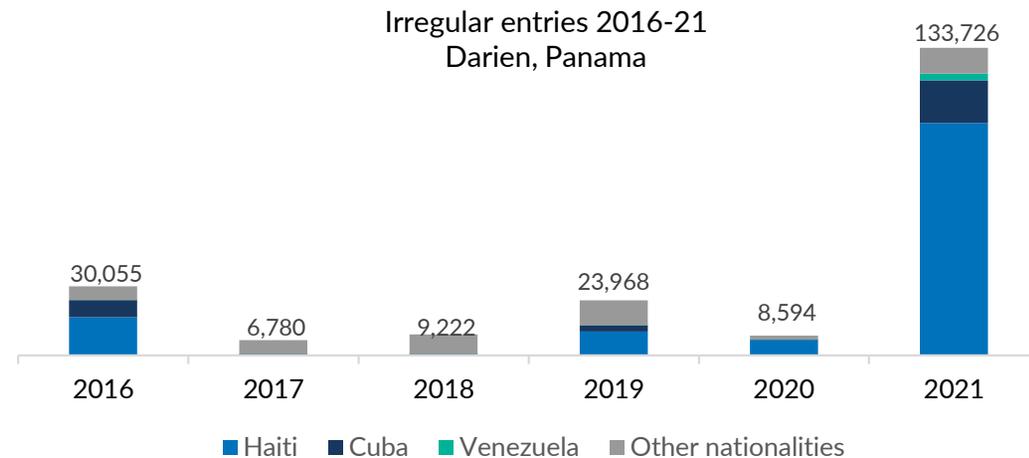


During 2021, secondary mixed movements of Haitians originating mostly from Brazil and Chile increased considerably as border restrictions, put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, were lifted. The profiles of these movements continues to evolve, with and increase in Venezuelans entering Panama and Mexico for Jan and Feb 2022.

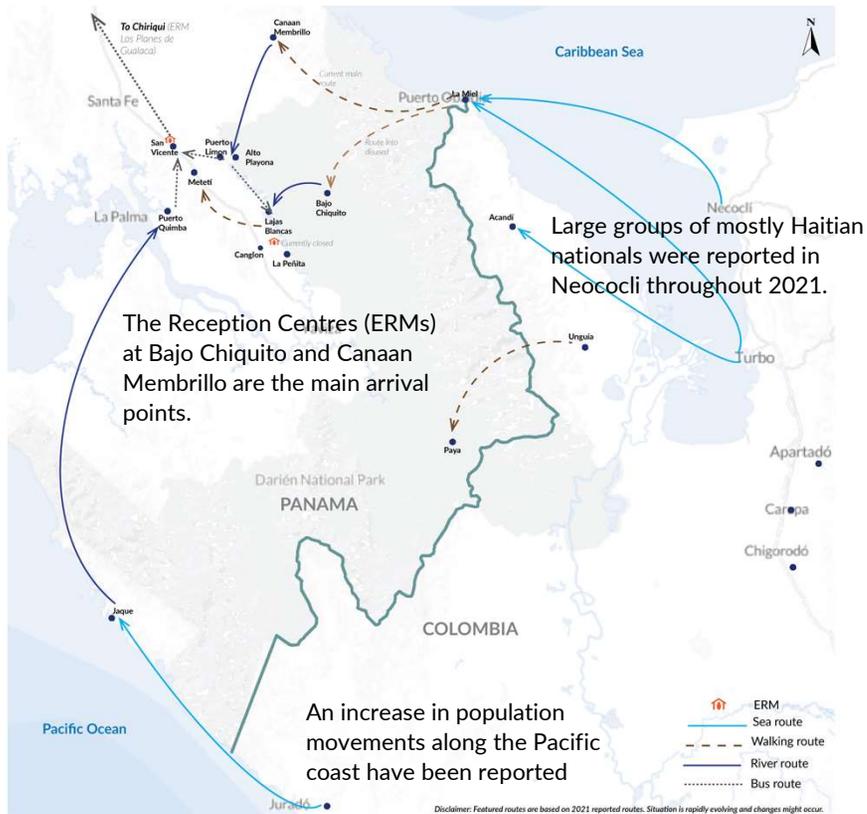
Data on irregular entries from SENAFRONT in the Darien Region of Panama and asylum applications in the region reflect the scale of the increase. While most irregular entries are made by Haitian nationals in 2021, initial data for 2022



The [Regional Platform for refugees and Migrants from Venezuela \(R4V\)](#) reported that addition to the ca. 5 million Venezuelans hosted in the region, outflows of more than a thousand persons/day persisted and increased onwards movements on new northward routes were observed.



Mixed Movements Colombia - Panama



In 2021 authorities identified **118 unaccompanied or separated children** and adolescents, 82 of whom have already been handed over to their relatives who had been left behind on the way.



At least **41 bodies** have been found on the banks of rivers, along the route to cross the border between Panama and Colombia

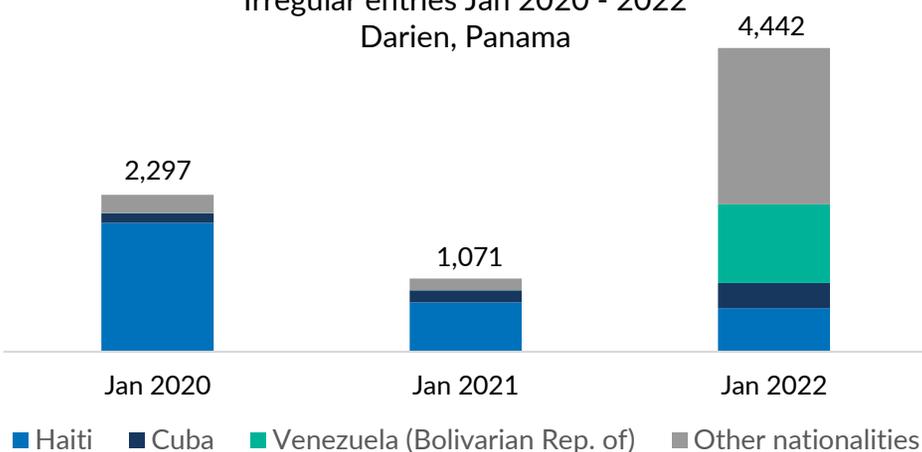


Agreements were made between Panamanian and Colombian authorities to allow entry of 500 people into Panama. However, larger numbers of entries (up to 1,000 per day) were reported.

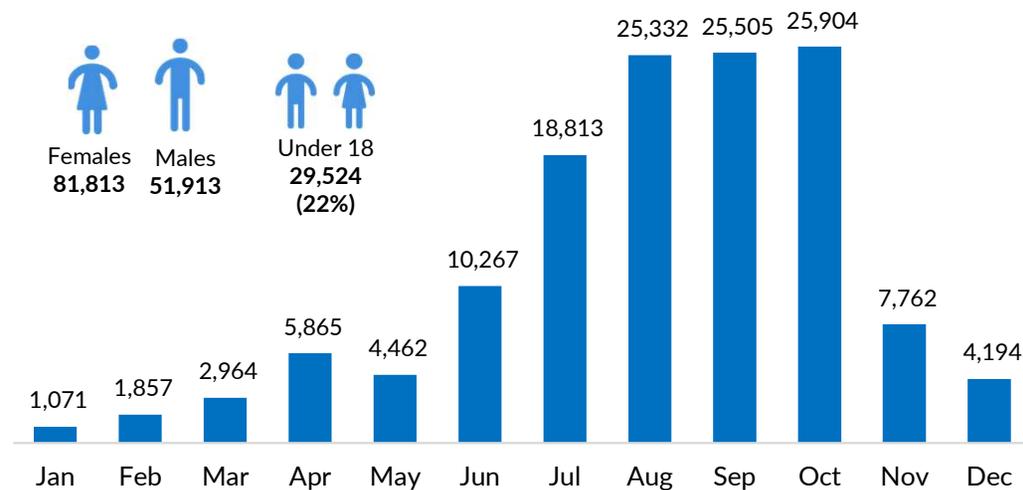


Since January 2022, refugees and migrants from Venezuela have been the predominant population passing through the Darien, illustrating a shift in dynamics.

Irregular entries Jan 2020 - 2022
Darién, Panama



Irregular entries in 2021
Darién, Panama



Sources: SENAFRONT, IOM, UNICEF, R4V

Mixed Movements

Panama – Costa Rica



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In January 2022, IOM's DTM identified the following trends:

- 4% increase in flows when compared to December 2021.
- Nationalities
 - 43% Venezuelan
 - 15% Cuban
 - 14% Haitian
 - 9% Senegalese
- 75% Males | 25% Females
- 75% stated United States as final intended destination
- 13% were 17 years or younger

IOM's DTM rounds in June to August 2021 identified the following trends:

- Over 40,800 people entering through Paso Canoas over the three-month period.
- 60% were males and 40% female
- Nationalities
 - 78% Haitian
 - 12% Cuban
 - 10% Venezuelan
- Approximately were 2,040 pregnant women
- Out of a total 14,760 adolescents and children, **12,480 were under 5 years old.**

Asylum applications of Haitians in Costa Rica 2021*

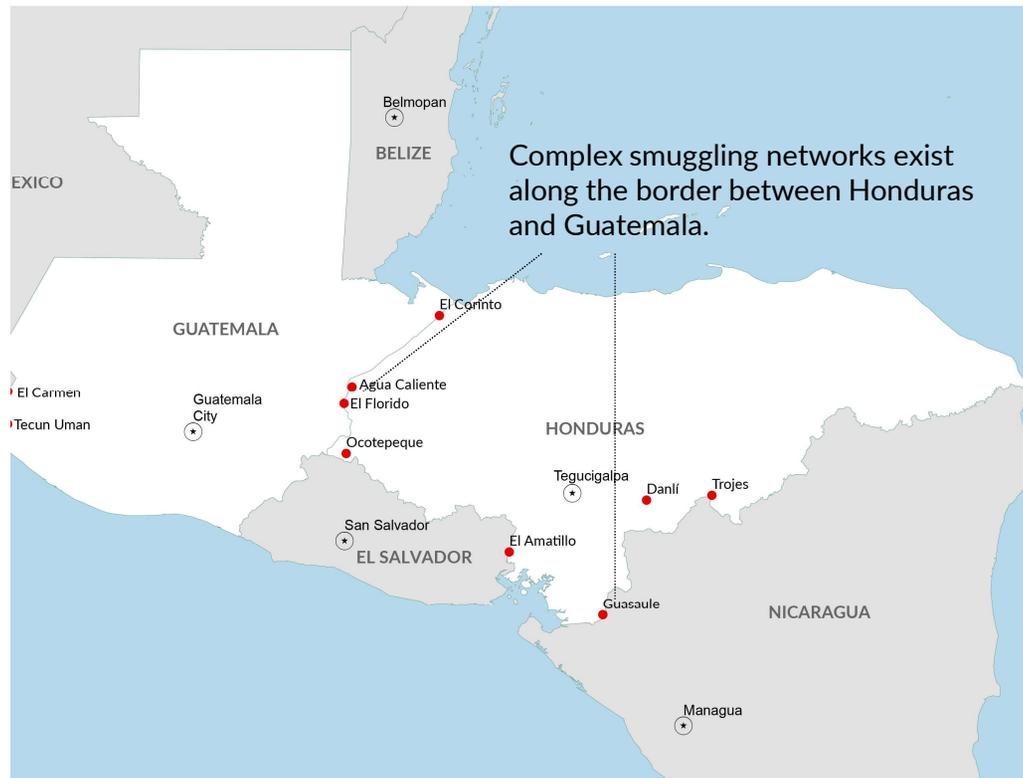


*2021 figures subject to change

Mixed Movements

Honduras - Guatemala

28 February 2022



Overview in 2021

The majority of mixed movements enter Honduras through informal entry points in the municipalities of **Trojes** and **El Triunfo**. The majority Haitian nationals, tend to enter in groups of 10-40 people.

From about April 2021 onwards, local authorities reported a large increase in Haitian and Cuban arrivals in Guasaule and Trojes municipalities.

Arrivals into Honduras of up to 450 people in groups were reported in one week during the peak of movements in August.

Monitoring of population movements along the border between Honduras and Guatemala is challenging given the security situation in many border towns.

In Guatemala, most Haitian nationals enter Mexico through Tecun Uman. Providing assistance is difficult due to the language barrier and the fact that most people are guided by smugglers.

Expulsion small groups of Haitians from Mexico to Guatemala at El Carmen during the second half 2021 were reported.

Trends in January 2022

Guatemala | In Peten, 2,092 people on the move from Cuba, Venezuela, Ecuador, Honduras have been reported. Around 290 people daily are estimated to cross into Mexico, most of them guided by smugglers.

Honduras | Increase in the number of Cuban and Venezuelan nationals crossing through irregular border points has been reported.

Mixed Movements

Mexico

28 February 2022



In June 2021, **DTM** was conducted in the Centre of Tapachula

- Of those surveyed, 26% were from Haiti.
- 16% of Haitians survived on help from friends and family, while 8% were receiving remittances from abroad.
- 24% were actively looking for work and 28% were not looking for work.
- 39% were able to survive with the assistance of family and friends who travelled with them.

In October and November 2021, UNHCR conducted a survey of 510 Haitian families in Tapachula, Mexico. Some of the key findings include:

- **63% left Haiti between 2016-18**
- An average of 39% cited labour exploitation, lack of access to employment and xenophobia as the main reason for leaving their previous country of residence, while 29% cited challenges in accessing education and 25%; challenges to accessing food, health and education.

Specific needs

- 9% had a chronic medical condition
- 7% were pregnant women

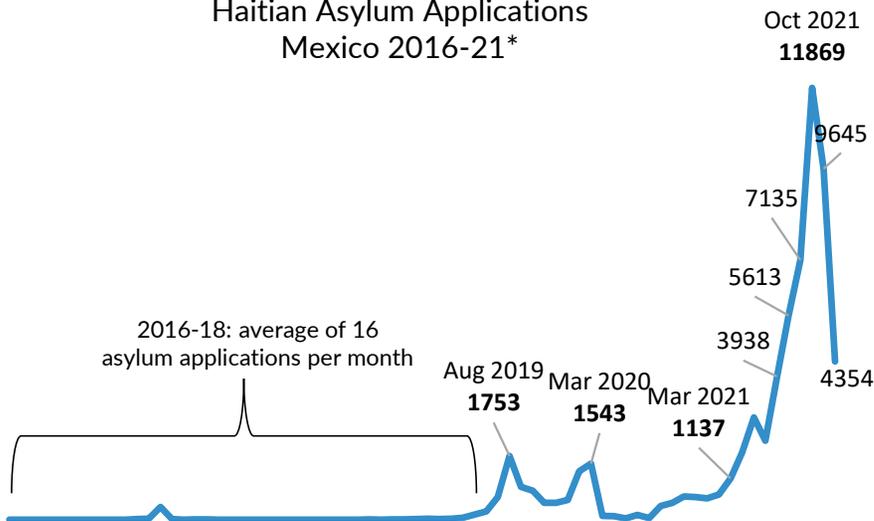
Documentation

- 77% had a valid passport
- 23% had an expired passport.

Intention to stay

- Out of 58% of those who planned to leave Tapachula, the vast majority (92%) planned to stay in Mexico.

Haitian Asylum Applications
Mexico 2016-21*



*2021 figures subject to change



- Venezuelans arriving in Mexico by plane exponentially increased from 8,458 in February to 31,518 in December 2021.
- Encounters of Venezuelans at the US border rose from 295 in January to 24,819 in December; totaling over 107,000 in 2021 (14% of all encounters)

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Routes

Neococli in Colombia continues to be the main arrival point prior to entering Panama through the Darien region. The Darien is the region with one of the highest risks for those on the move.

The complex network of traffickers ('coyotes') play a key role in facilitating these movements which often evade the detection of authorities.

Tapachula in Mexico is the primary final arrival point in which more reliable data and access to those undertaking mixed movements can occur.

Response

Since 2020, UNICEF has managed more than 190 child protection cases, half of which (52%) are related to unaccompanied minors. 31% of these cases, were with children under 5 years

Advocacy: The United Nations has worked with national authorities in trying to provide safe passage for those undertaking these journeys.

Reception and refuge centres continue to play a key role in providing temporary shelter, information and access to basic services.

Causes

One of the key reasons leading to an increase in mixed movements in 2021, came from the changes affecting Haitian national residing in Chile and Brazil. With little prospect of being able to return to Haiti, many seek stay arrangements elsewhere.

Projections for 2022

If current trends continue, mixed movements are likely to continue during 2022 with peaks and troughs in different months depending on varied of factors.

The RMRP 2022, estimate there to be at least 15,000 Venezuelans on the move in Central America and Mexico in 2022.



Regional [planning assumptions](#), carried out by R4V Platform for the [2022 RMRP](#) highlight the complex and dynamic situation affecting refugees and migrants from Venezuela, including increased onwads movements northwards. Population projections for Central America and Mexico

