



Mixed Movements

Overview of key figures and trends

➔ **409k**

People entered Panama through the Darien province during the first three quarters of 2023 (213k only in Q3).



64% VENEZUELAN
12% ECUADORIAN
9% HAITIAN
4% CHINESE

Main nationalities in the Darien from January to September 2023.



Number of irregular entries in the Darien province in the third quarter of 2023 is the highest in

HISTORY



82k

Individuals crossed the Darien during August, the highest number recorded in 2023.

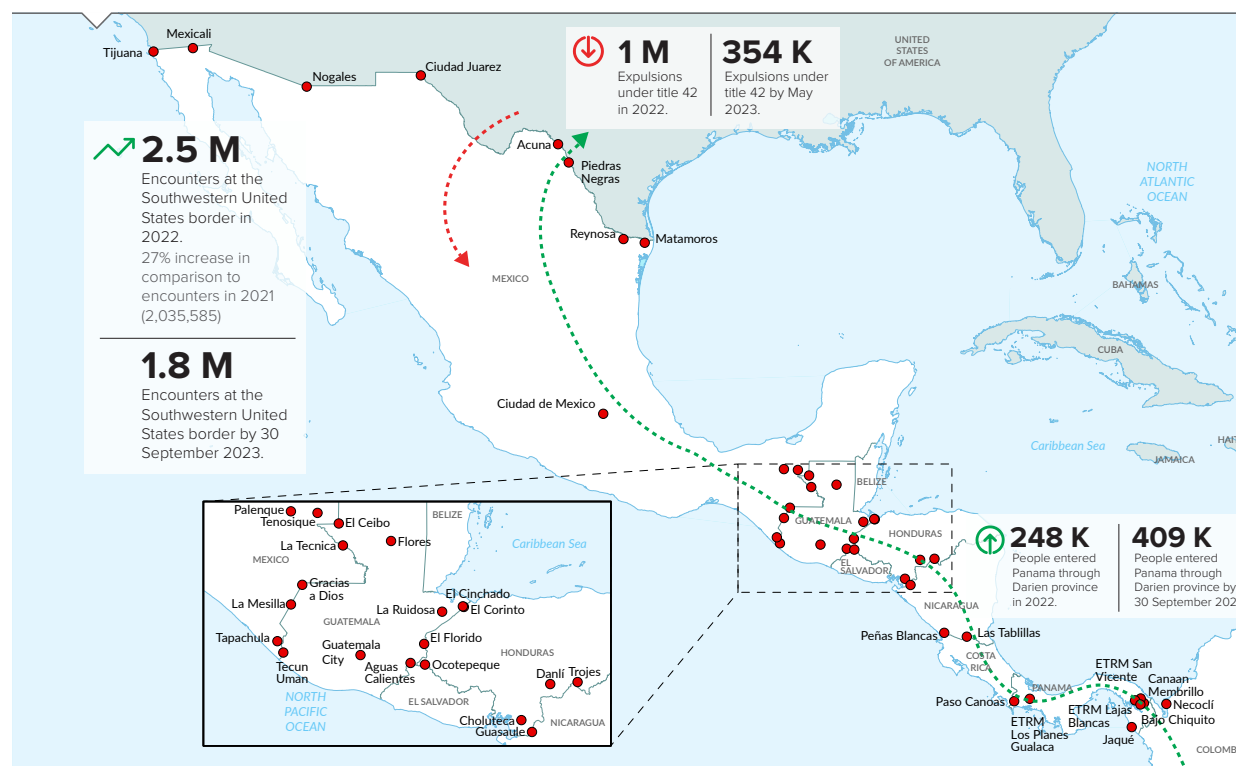
+115k

Individuals have applied for asylum in Mexico in the first three quarters of 2023.



270k

Monthly encounters recorded at the Southwest border of the United States in September 2023. Highest number recorded in 2023.



In the third quarter of 2023, a record-breaking number of individuals engaged in mixed movements have consistently been reported arriving in the Darien.

Officially, 212,601 arrivals have been recorded during the months of July, August, and September 2023. The majority, constituting 75%, originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereafter Venezuela), followed by Ecuador (11%) and Colombia (4%). This marks a 95% surge when compared to the previous quarter.

Between January and September 2023, nearly 409,000 arrivals have been documented in the Darien region, with a notable spike in August, totaling 81,950 arrivals. This surge represents a 170% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

The primary nationalities of persons engaged in mixed movements across the Darien in 2023 are Venezuelans (64%), Ecuadorians (12%), and Haitians (9%). While there was a noticeable decline in the number of Haitian nationals during the second and third quarters, this may be attributed to their exploration of alternative routes, especially through Nicaragua. Furthermore, the influx of extracontinental arrivals persisted and even increased throughout the third quarter, with Chinese, Indian, and Afghan nationals emerging as the most prominent among them.

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

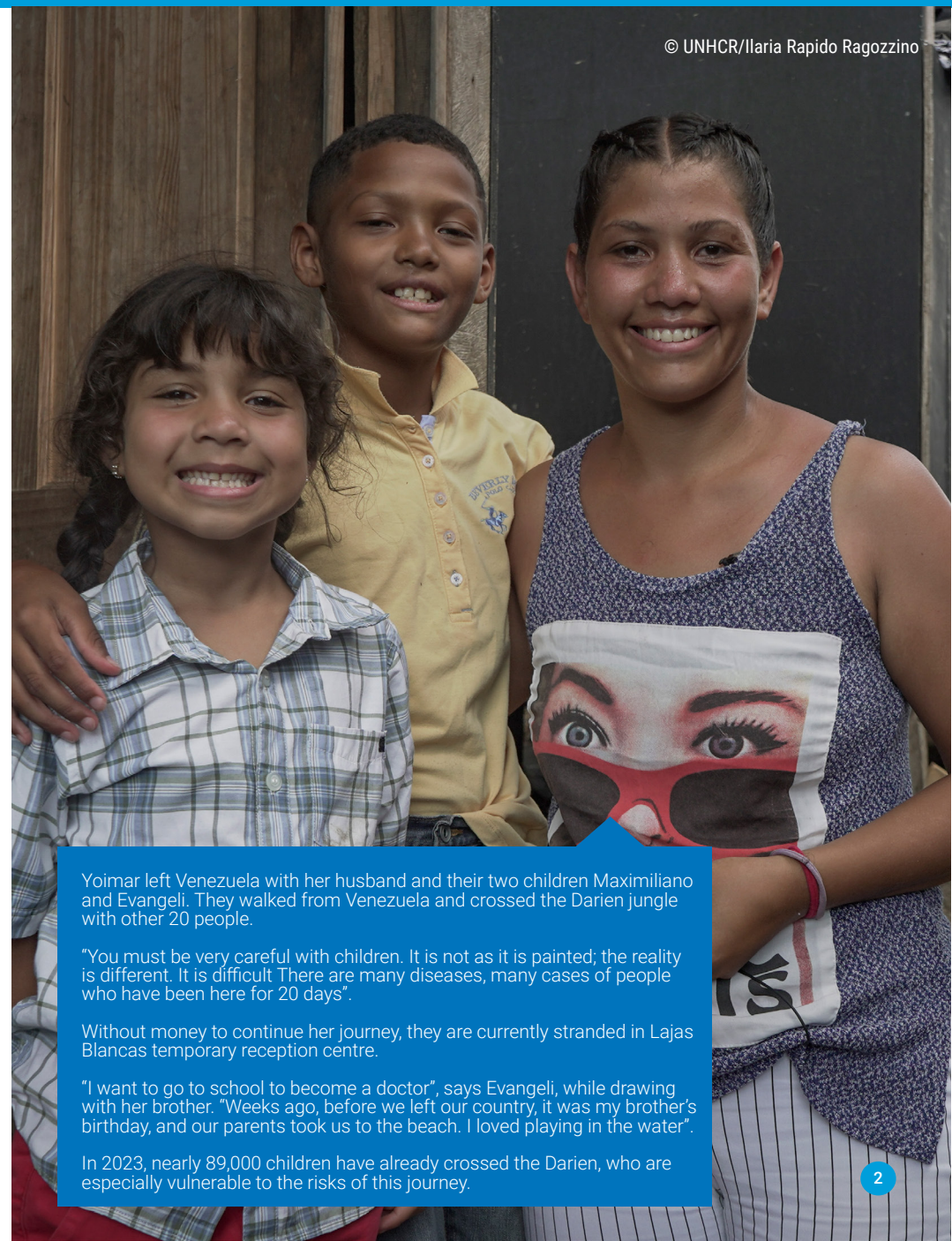
The growing trend of individuals engaged in mixed movements has placed substantial pressure on already overwhelmed reception systems. Throughout the period covered in this report, critical needs persist at key locations, especially at border crossing points and other reception areas where the available services remained inundated and unable to cope with the mounting demand for assistance in crucial areas such as shelter, food, mental health and psychosocial support, protection services, among others.

Refugees and migrants involved in mixed movements across the region continue to confront grave dangers along their journey, including incidents of theft, harassment, extortion, physical assault, and gender-based violence. The reported number of people on the move who went missing in Central and North America in 2023 is 913, underscoring the level of risks and hardships faced by those engaged in mixed movements. Persons engaged in mixed movements confront various health issues, such as acute diarrhea, respiratory infections, skin problems, and psychological stress. Mental health is a notable concern requiring increasing support and resources.

Increasing movements were also reported in Honduras where official figures reveal more than 341,000 people entering the country irregularly from January to September 2023. The main nationalities include Venezuela (45%), Cuba (14%), Haiti (11%), and Ecuador (10%). In Mexico, over 115,000 new asylum claims were registered from January to September 2023, reflecting a 131% increase compared to the same period in 2022. The primary nationalities of asylum seekers in Mexico include Haitians (33%), Hondurans (27%), and Cubans (11%).

As evident from multiple data collection initiatives implemented in the region, the predominant aim of most individuals involved in mixed movements is to reach the United States. By September 2023, there were over 1.8 million reported encounters at the U.S. Southwest land border, representing a 5% decrease compared to the same period in 2022. However, there was a 9% increase noted in July, August and September 2023 when compared to the corresponding period in the preceding year. The primary nationalities include Mexicans (24%), Venezuelans (17%), Guatemalans (14%), and Hondurans (13%).

Providing information to persons engaged in mixed movements on the availability of essential services, including safe shelter spaces along the migration route, access to national asylum processes, eligibility for resettlement and other pathways, including the U.S. Parole Program, and the CBP One App, is an ongoing priority. Without accurate information, individuals remain vulnerable to deception, are more likely to accept offers from smugglers and to be subject to extortion, fraud, robbery, and abuse.



© UNHCR/Ilaria Rapido Ragozzino

Yoimar left Venezuela with her husband and their two children Maximiliano and Evangeli. They walked from Venezuela and crossed the Darien jungle with other 20 people.

"You must be very careful with children. It is not as it is painted; the reality is different. It is difficult. There are many diseases, many cases of people who have been here for 20 days".

Without money to continue her journey, they are currently stranded in Lajas Blancas temporary reception centre.

"I want to go to school to become a doctor", says Evangeli, while drawing with her brother. "Weeks ago, before we left our country, it was my brother's birthday, and our parents took us to the beach. I loved playing in the water".

In 2023, nearly 89,000 children have already crossed the Darien, who are especially vulnerable to the risks of this journey.



Highlights from the R4V Quarterly Movements Report

Amidst **outflows from Venezuela continuing to outnumber returns**, the rate of those leaving for Brazil increased even further during this quarter, while **Colombia** saw greater exits than overall entries, predominantly leaving north towards Central and North America, and some to Venezuela.

For the first time, more refugees & migrants engaged in northbound movements, towards Mexico and the US, than those moving south. This was the predominant trend not only in Central America, but now also in South America, where Peru, Ecuador and Colombia all witnessed significantly more exits through northern borders than southern ones. With 409K having crossed the Darien so far in 2023, surpassing the Government's initial yearly estimates, **more than half of year-to-date total of irregular entries to Panama from Colombia occurred in this quarter (213K)**; almost half of Venezuelans having departed directly from their country (only transited via Colombia), 91% intending to reach the U.S.

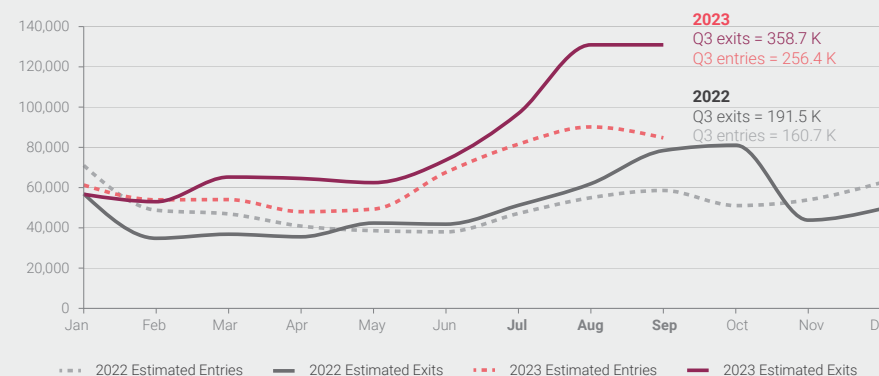
September also set a new record as the month with the greatest number of encounters – over 66,500 – of Venezuelans attempting to cross into the US irregularly from Mexico.

A High Court ruling in **Trinidad & Tobago** considered the *non-refoulement* principle inapplicable in the country, leading to deportation of asylum-seekers and recognized refugees to Venezuela.

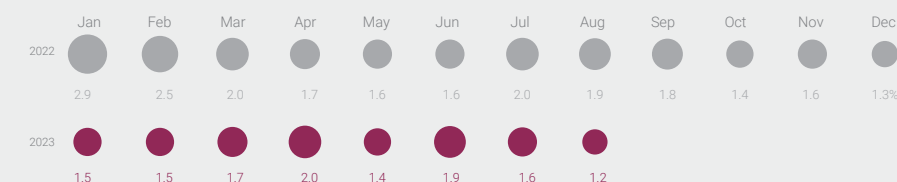
Additional information included in the report

- Regional movement trends, key findings, and analysis, including the impact from policies influencing refugee and migrant flows across the continent.
- Regular and irregular entries/exits of Venezuelans in the 17 R4V countries.
- Northbound movements through Central America and multidirectional movements in South America, identifying main routes used by refugees and migrants.

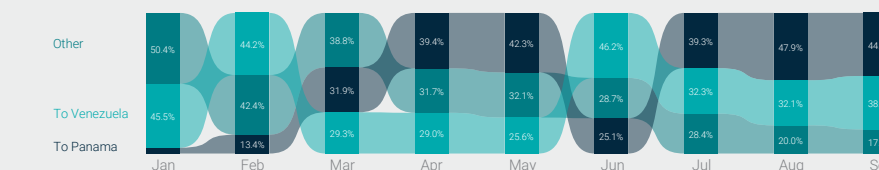
ESTIMATED VENEZUELAN ENTRIES INTO COLOMBIA AND EXITS FROM COLOMBIA



Ratio of entries vs. exits of Venezuelans in the land border with Venezuela (i.e. number of entries to Colombia per 1 exit to Venezuela)



Proportion of total 2023 exits to Venezuela and Panama



Sources:

- Regular flows: [Tableau dashboard](#) on Migration Flows of Foreigners in 2022 and 2023 - Migration Colombia
- Irregular flows: [DTM Wi-Fi project](#) - IOM in context of the GIFMM. Data from 42 Wi-Fi points at 9 departments: Arauca, Casanare, Cauca, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, Santander, and Valle del Cauca. Irregular flows are calculated combining data from i) and ii).

For additional information and analysis on mixed movements in the region covering July to September 2023, please see the quarterly [R4V Movements Report](#).

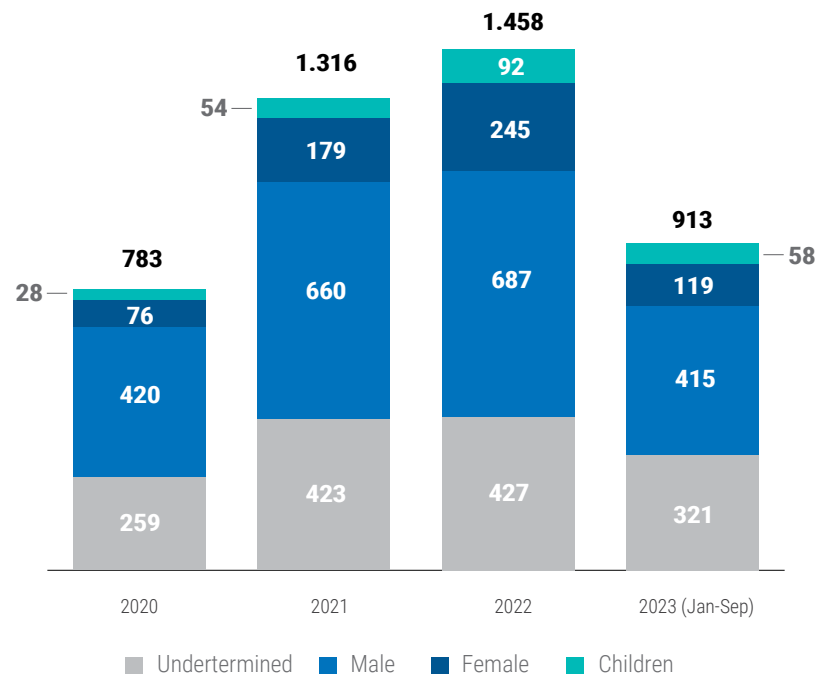




Missing migrants in the Americas

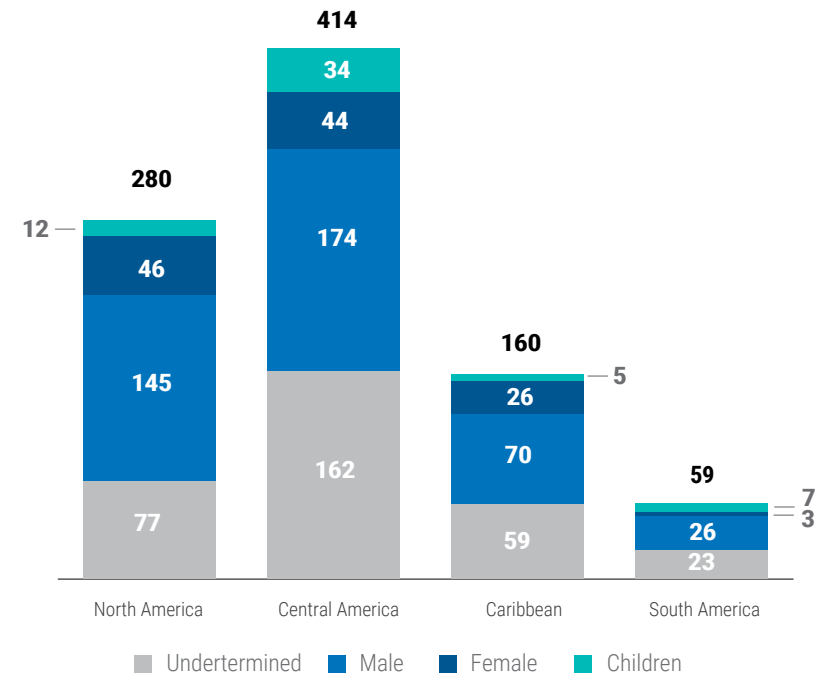
- Since IOM began monitoring deaths and disappearances of migrants and people on the move, between 2014 until 30 September 2023, 8,280 cases have been recorded in the region. Actual figures may be a lot higher as not all deaths are recorded ([MMP, 2023](#)).
- 913 cases were registered in the Americas from January to September 2023. The break-down by sub-region is: Caribbean 160; Central America: 414; South America: 59 and North America: 280 ([Idem](#)).

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



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

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





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




Mixed Movements Colombia

 **287 k**
Exits from Necocli recorded by Maritime companies
from January to September 2023.

 **1,114**
Daily average exits from Necocli recorded by Maritime companies
from January to September 2023.

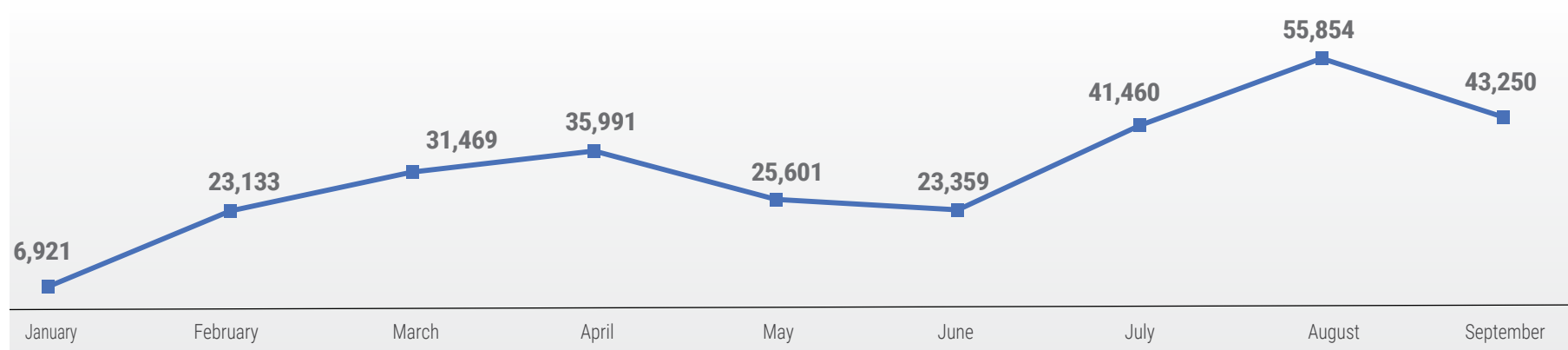
 **38%**
Increase in exits from Necocli
in the third quarter compared to second quarter of 2023.

 **63% VENEZUELAN**
13% ECUADORIAN
11% HAITIAN
5% CHINESE
Most important nationalities using maritime companies.
from January to September 2023.

From July to September 2023, IOM conducted an extensive survey, including 47,479 refugees and migrants in Colombian shelters and those receiving assistance at the Referral and Guidance Points (RGP). The findings showed a steady desire to stay in Colombia among individuals throughout September. However, there was a 2% increase in the inclination to move to the United States from August to September. In contrast, there was a decrease in the intention to move to Chile and Ecuador over the quarter. (Registry of Beneficiary Entries in Shelters and Puntos de Orientación y Referenciación (PRO) in Colombia, IOM Colombia, 2023.).

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

1 January 2023 – 30 September 2023



Source: GIFMM-R4V, 2023



Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

➔ **408,972**

People entered irregularly through the Darien province from January to September 2023.



64% VENEZUELAN
12% ECUADORIAN
9% HAITIAN
4% CHINESE

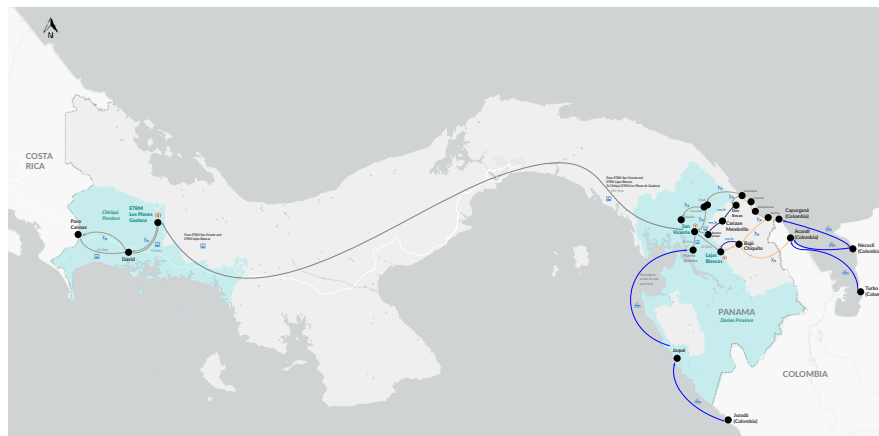
Main nationalities by 30 September 2023 in the Darien.

📈 **75,268**

Irregular entries in the Darien Province were registered in September 2023.

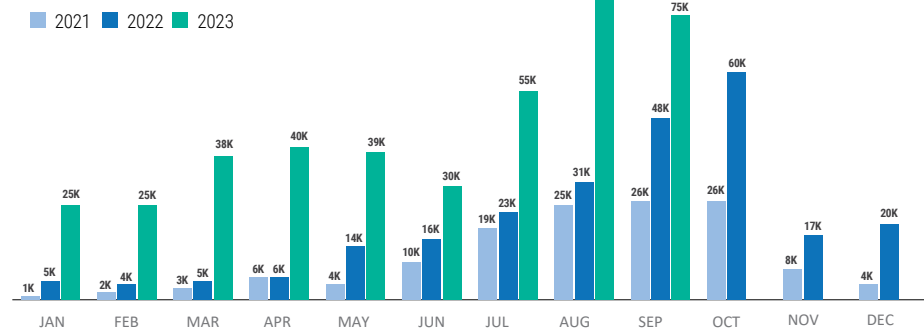
✖ **3 times**

more irregular entries in the Darien by 30 September 2023, compared to the same period of 2022.

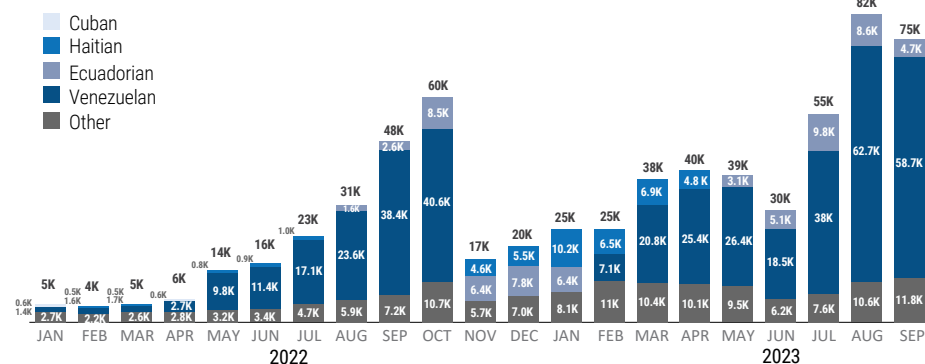


Source: [UNHCR, 2023](#).

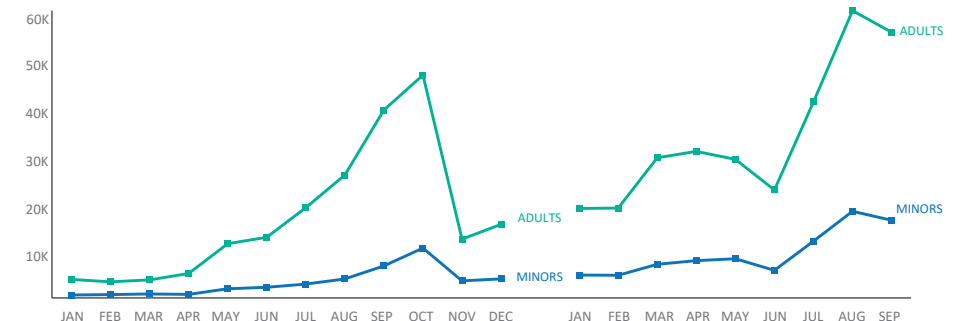
Irregular entries Darien | 2021 - 30 Sep 2023



Irregular entries by nationalities | 2022 - 30 Sep 2023



Irregular entries by age groups | 2022 - 30 Sep 2023



Source: [Migraciones Panama](#).



Mixed Movements Panama – Darien



327

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between July and September 2023, entering Panama from Colombia in the Darien province (Migration Reception Centers Lajas Blancas, Los Planes, San Vicente and Paso Canoas).



49%

Men



51%

Women



32

Average age



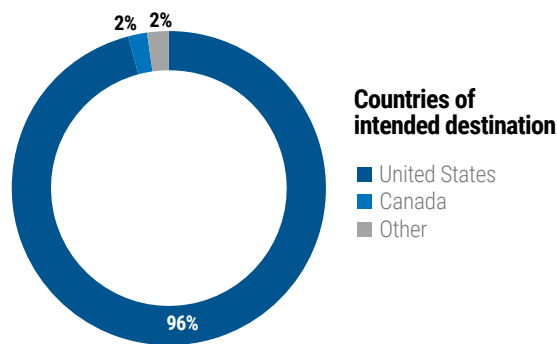
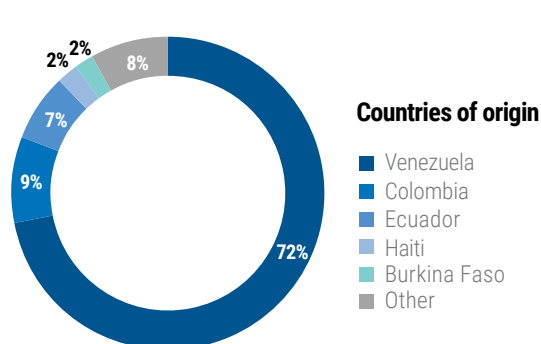
18

Different nationalities interviewed



35%

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



Food security



87%

of people faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies.

46% have regularly skipped meals and 41% spent whole days without eating.

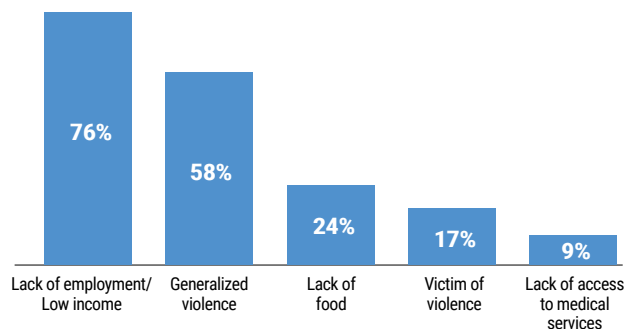


69%

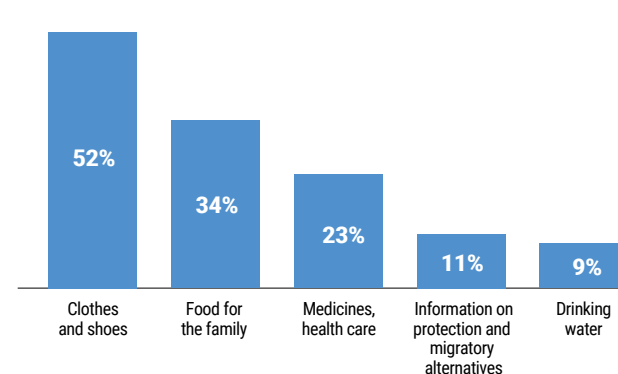
Have an insufficient food consumption.

56% consumed one meal only and 13% none the day before the interview.

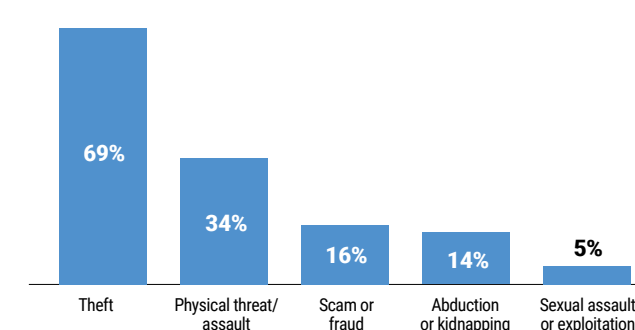
Main reasons to leave country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main protection incidents in the Darien (More than one option could be selected)





Mixed Movements Panama – Darien & Chiriqui



1,461

Individuals were interviewed at temporary migratory reception stations Darien and Chiriqui by OIM, between July and September 2023.



56%
Men



44%
Women

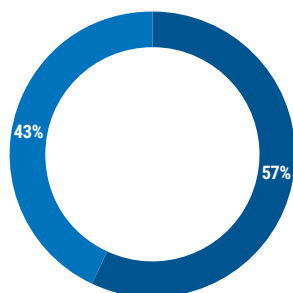


69% VENEZUELAN
17% ECUADORIAN
8% COLOMBIAN
5% HAITIAN

Main nationalities interviewed



31
Average age



Intention to return to country of origin

■ Yes
■ No



75%

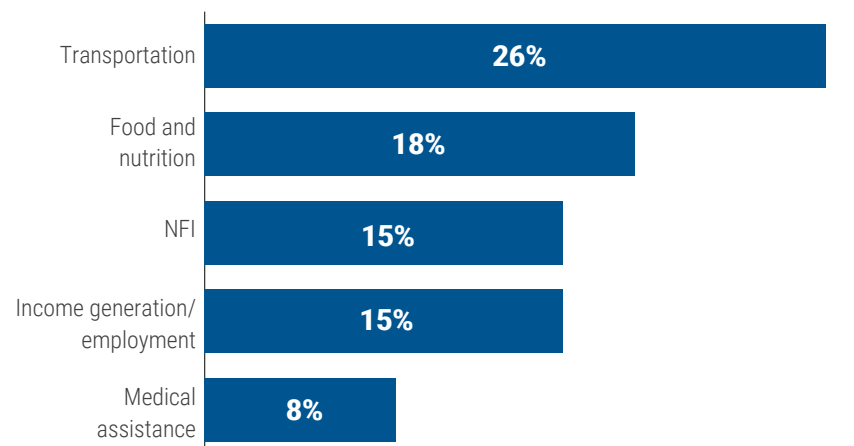
of interviewed individuals have completed secondary education



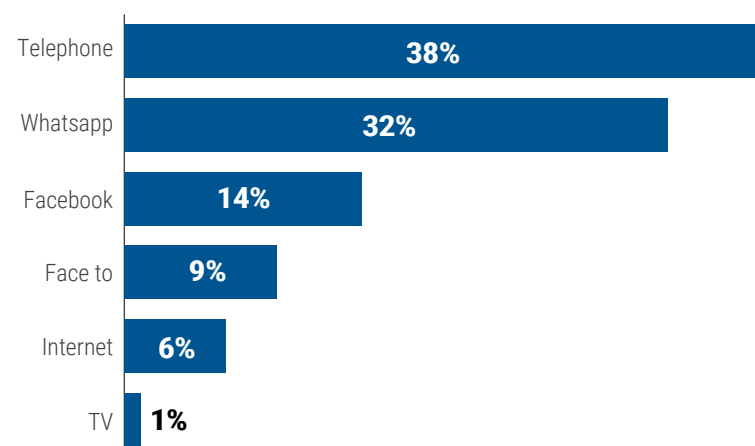
96%

of individuals mentioned the United States of America as their primary destination.

Main needs



Information channels used by refugees and migrants



Mixed Movements Costa Rica



2,597

Individuals interviewed in shelters in San José, by OIM, between July and September 2023.



86% VENEZUELAN
5% ECUADORIAN
4% COLOMBIAN
3% HAITIAN

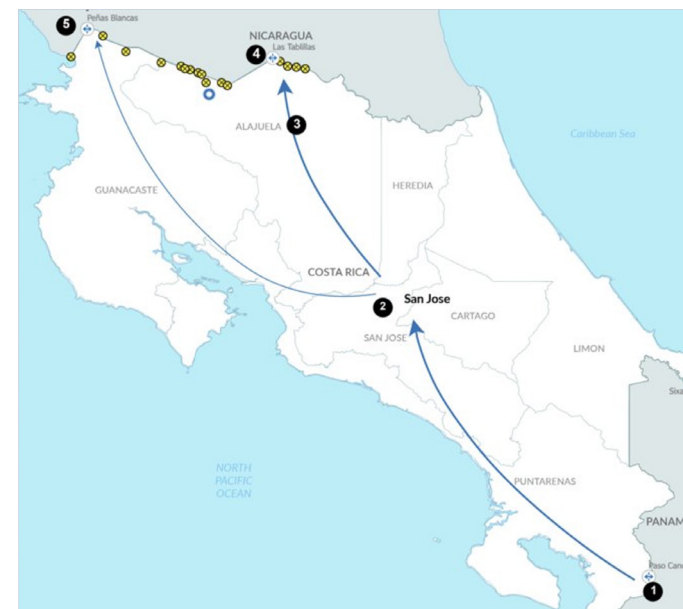
Main nationalities interviewed in shelters.



44%
Women



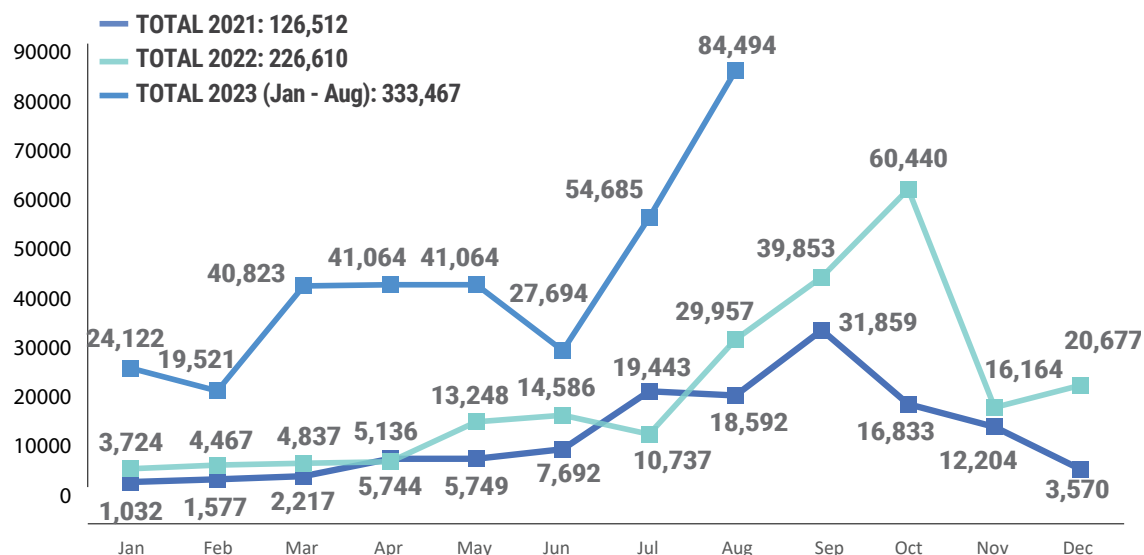
56%
Men



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.

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

Recorded departures of refugees and migrants from Panama to Costa Rica



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

*Data available as of August 2023.

During August 2023, 84,494 people departed Los Planes ETRM for Costa Rica as part of the migratory flow mobilising through the Americas. The majority entered mainly through Paso Canoas, on the border with Panama (99%). The daily average number of departures was 2,712, reaching a daily peak on August 26th with 4,722 exits, and a minimum on August 27th with 1,309 exits. It is worth noting that currently the number of departures between January and August 2023 (333,422) exceeded the record total departures for 2022 (226,610) by 47 percent ([DTM, 2023b](#)).



Mixed Movements Costa Rica



613

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between July and September 2023.

Interviews took place in Ciudad Neily, Paso Canoas and Los Chiles.



55%

Men



43%

Women



2%

Non binary



30

Average age



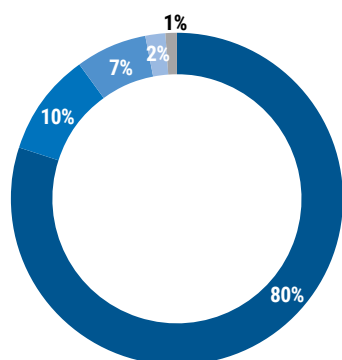
45%

Reported that the fear of generalized violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin.



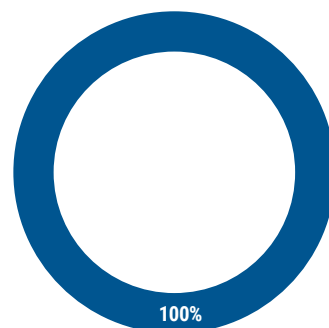
46%

Reported to have experienced protection incidents in the route.



Countries of origin

- Venezuela
- Ecuador
- Colombia
- Haiti
- Other



Countries of intended destination

- United States

Food security



80%

of people had food security issues in the last month.

55% spent whole days without eating and 25% have regularly skipped meals.

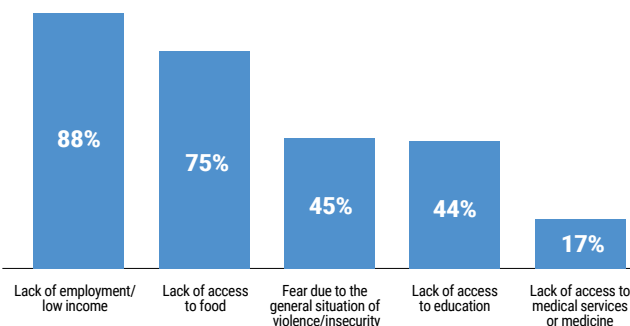


73%

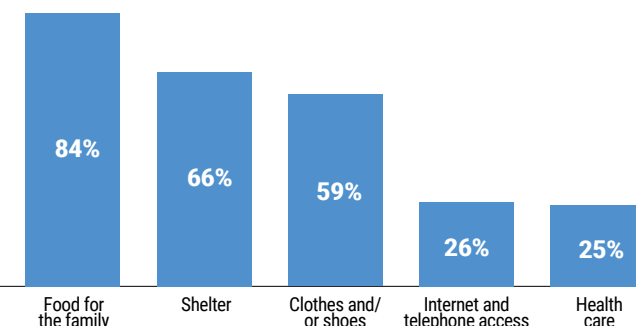
Have an insufficient food consumption.

41% consumed one meal only and 32% none the day before the interview.

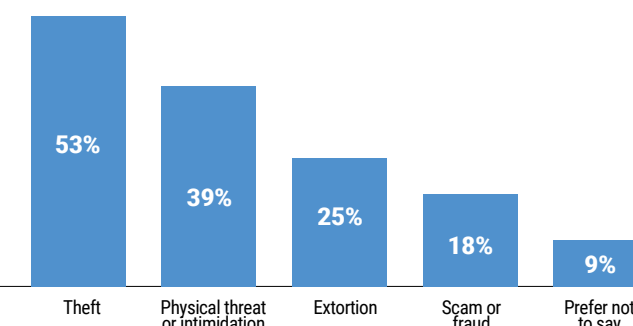
Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main protection incidents during the route (More than one option could be selected)





Mixed Movements Honduras



585

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between July and September 2023.



58%

Men



41%

Women



1%

Non binary



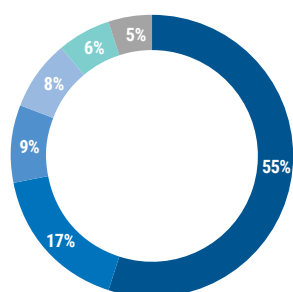
32

Average age



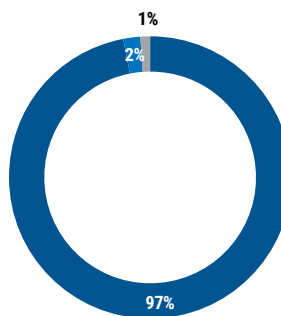
39%

Reported to have experienced protection incidents during their journey.



Countries of origin

Venezuela
Cuba
Colombia
Ecuador
Haiti
Other



Countries of intended destination

United States
Canada
Other



44%

of people have food security issues in the last month.

24% have regularly skipped meals and 20% spent whole days without eating.

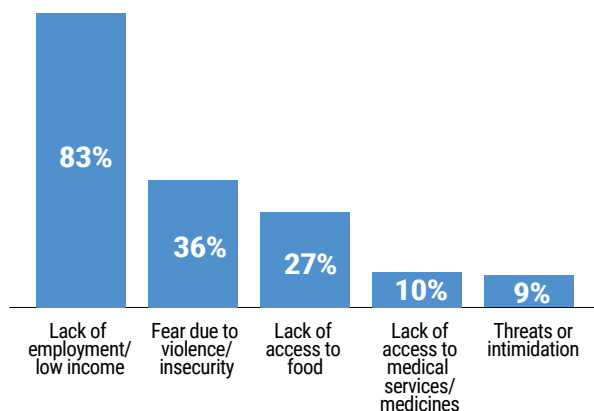


35%

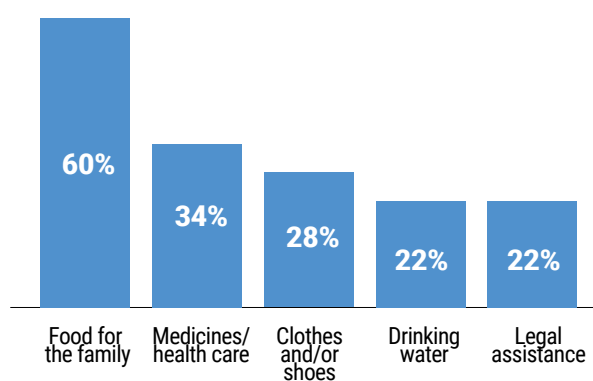
Have an insufficient food consumption.

29% consumed one meal only and 6% none the day before the interview.

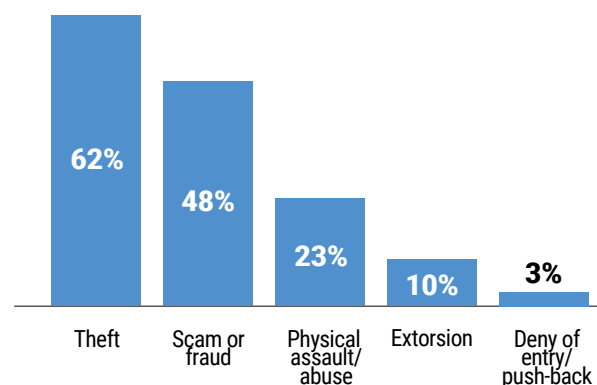
Main reasons to leave the country of origin
(More than one option could be selected)



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



Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Honduras (105 people who suffered protection incidents)





Mixed Movements Guatemala



1,896

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between July and September 2023.

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



61% Men



38% Women



1% Non binary



30 Average age



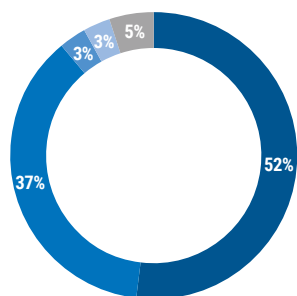
78%

Reported to have experienced protection incidents in the route.



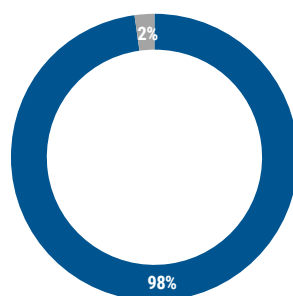
34%

Reported that the fear of generalized violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin.



Countries of origin

■ Venezuela
■ Honduras
■ Ecuador
■ Colombia
■ Other



Countries of intended destination

■ United States
■ Other

Food security



77%

of people had food security issues in the last month.

69% have regularly skipped meals and 8% spent whole days without eating.

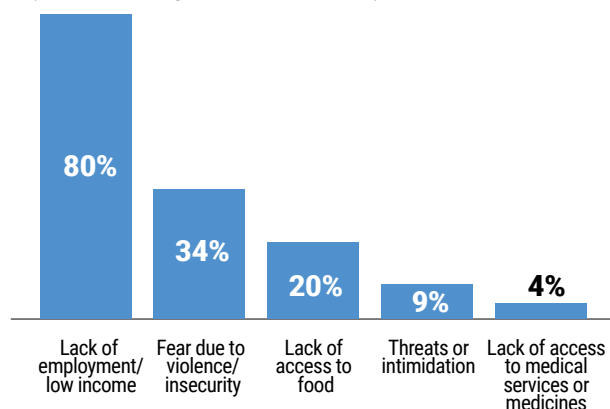


60%

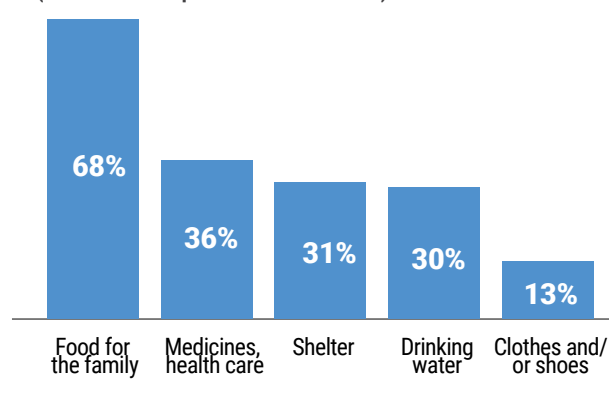
Have an insufficient food consumption.

54% consumed one meal only and 6% none the day before the interview.

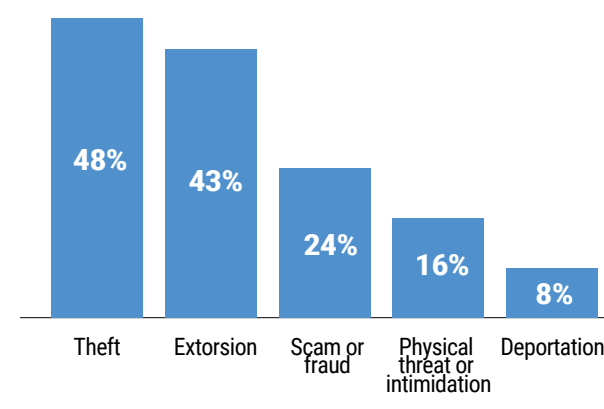
Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main protection incidents during the route (More than one option could be selected)





Mixed Movements Guatemala



3,658

Individuals were interviewed by DTM Guatemala between July and September 2023.



58%

Men



42%

Women



31

Average age



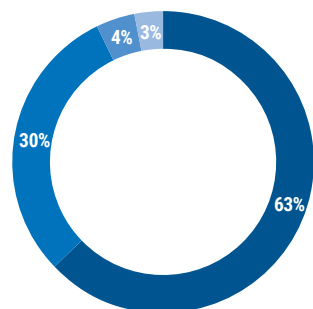
6%

of women were pregnant or breastfeeding.



5%

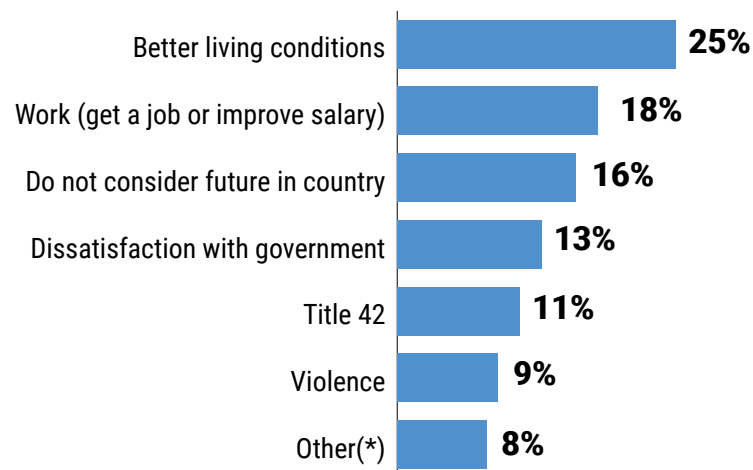
people interviewed reported suffering from a chronic or severe disease.



Countries of origin

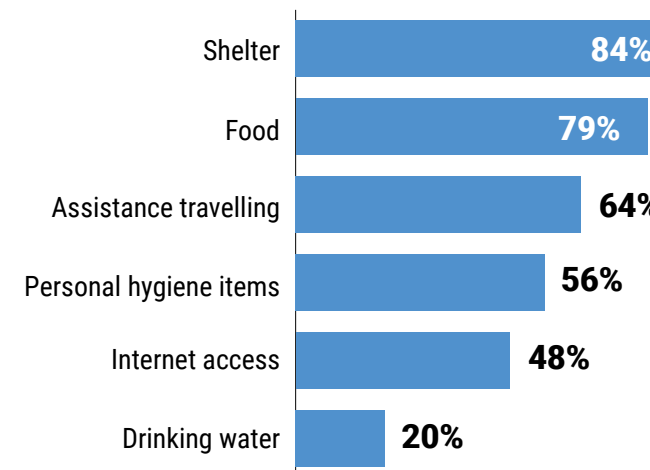
- Venezuela
- Honduras
- Ecuador
- Colombia

Main reasons to leave the country of origin



*"Other" category includes: Improving access to food; threats; discrimination; improving education; devaluation of education; currency devaluation; improving currency; improving wages and income; and some feel persecuted for their persecuted for their political activities in their country.

Main needs now and to continue the journey



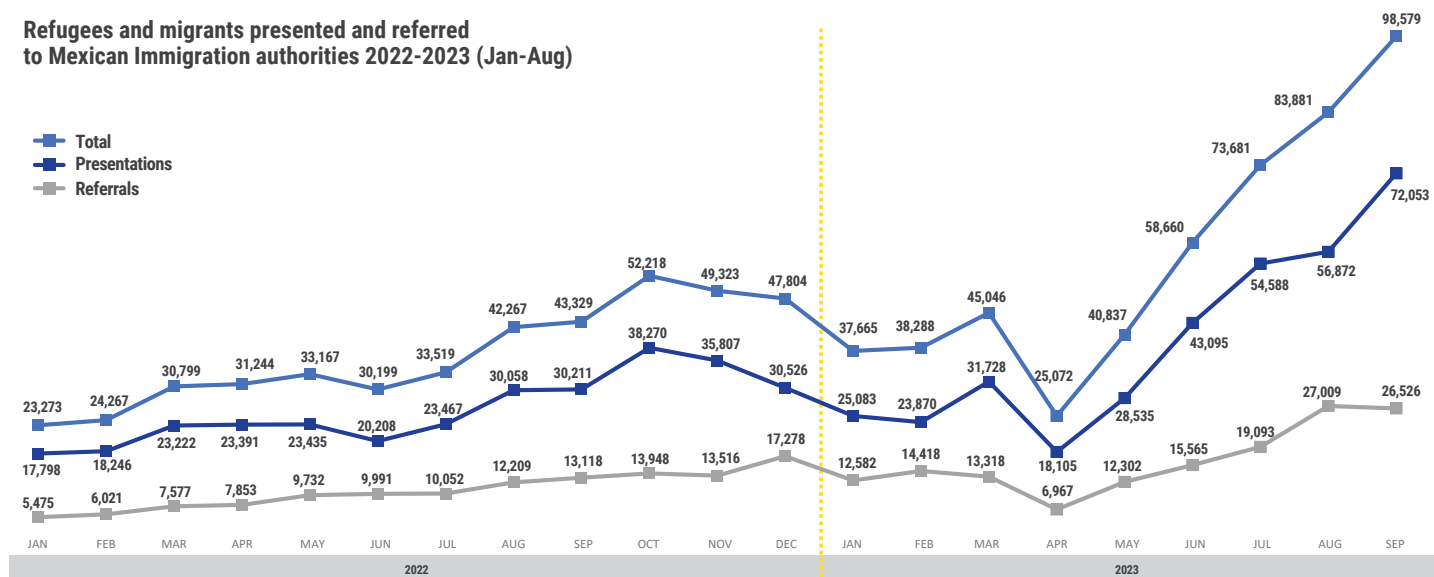
Note: The interviewees had the possibility of selecting several options, so the percentages will not add up to 100%.



Mixed Movements

Refugees and Migrants presence in Mexico (presentations and referrals)

Refugees and migrants presented and referred to Mexican Immigration authorities 2022-2023 (Jan-Aug)



72%

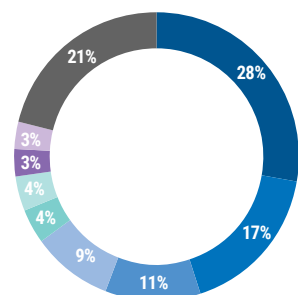
Increase of presentations and referrals of refugees and migrants from January to September 2023 in Mexico

compared with the total events of refugees and migrants with irregular situation in the same period in 2022.

98,579

September is the month with the highest number of irregular immigrant events compared to the last two years.

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

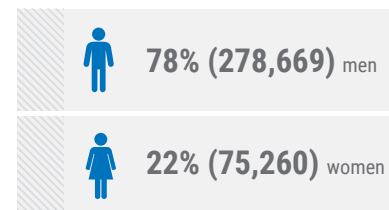


Main nationalities

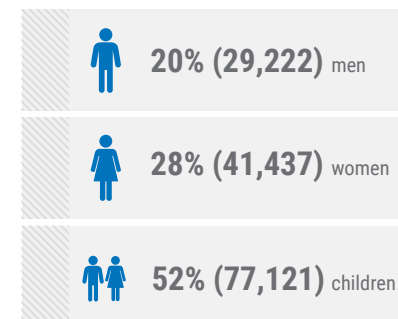
- Venezuelan
- Honduran
- Guatemalan
- Ecuadorian
- Haitian
- Colombian
- Salvadoran
- Cuban
- Other

Totals by demographic groups (Jan - Sep 2023):

Presentations



Referrals



28% VENEZUELA
17% HONDURAS
11% GUATEMALA
9% ECUADOR
4% HAITI

Main countries of origin from January to September 2023.



Asylum trends in Mexico

115,343

Asylum applications were lodged in Mexico from January to September 2023, an increase of 31% compared to the same period in 2022 (COMAR, 2023).



33% HAITI
27% HONDURAS
11% CUBA
6% OTHER
4% EL SALVADOR

Top countries of origin in 2023 (COMAR, 2023).



27 k

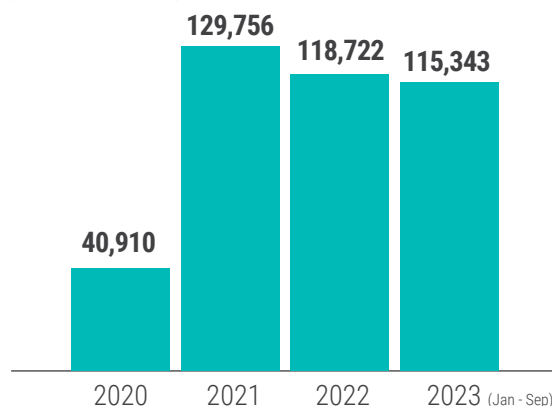
Asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023.



71%

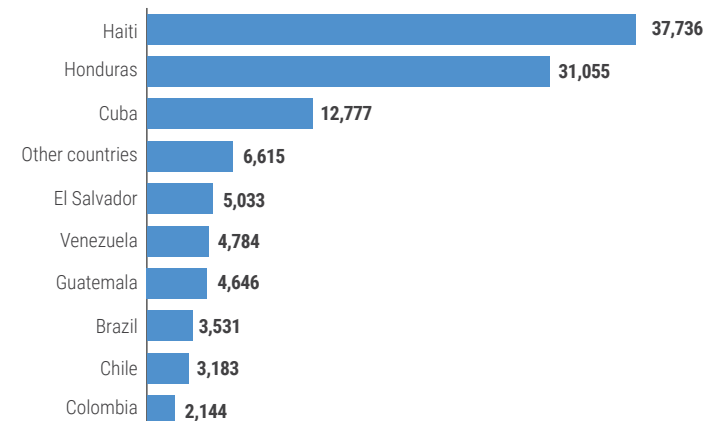
of asylum-seekers interviewed by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023, have specific protection needs.

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



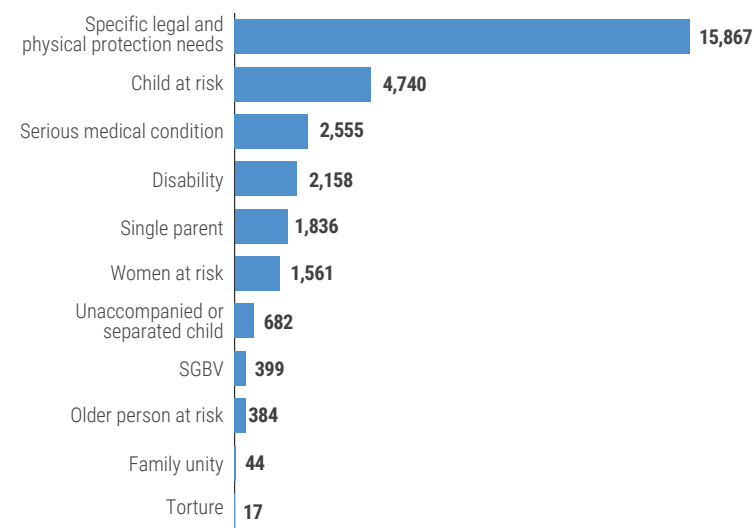
Source: COMAR, 2023.

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



Source: COMAR, 2023

Mexico: Asylum-seekers with protection needs registered by UNHCR in Jan-Jun 2023



Source: UNHCR, 2023.



Mixed Movements Mexico



1,390

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between July and September 2023

Interviews took place in 18 cities across Mexico.



50% Men



50% Women



33 Average age



51%

Reported that being a victim of violence, threats or intimidation was one of the main reasons to leave the country of origin.

43% cited lack of employment.



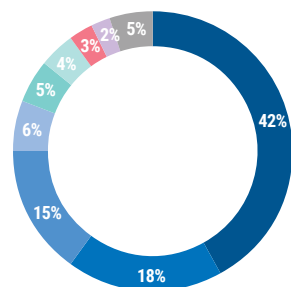
53%

Reported to have experienced protection incidents in the route.



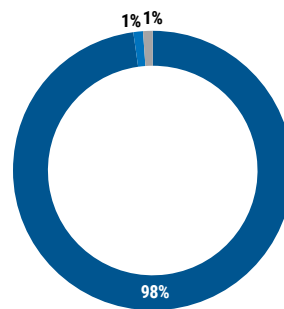
67%

Reported one of their main needs was food for their family.



Countries of origin

■ Honduras
■ Venezuela
■ Cuba
■ Guatemala
■ El Salvador
■ Haiti
■ Colombia
■ Ecuador
■ Other



Countries of intended destination

■ United States
■ Canada
■ Other

Food security



39%

of people had food security issues in the last month.

31% have regularly skipped meals or 8% spent whole days without eating.

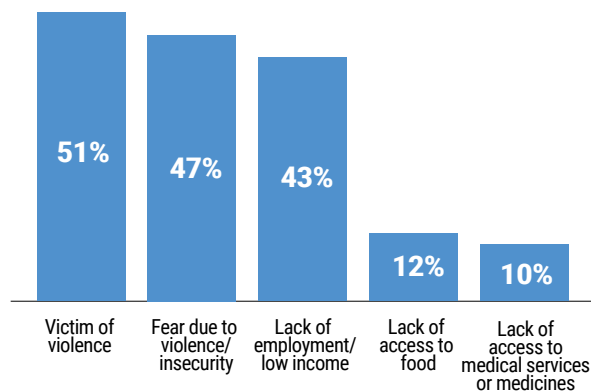


19%

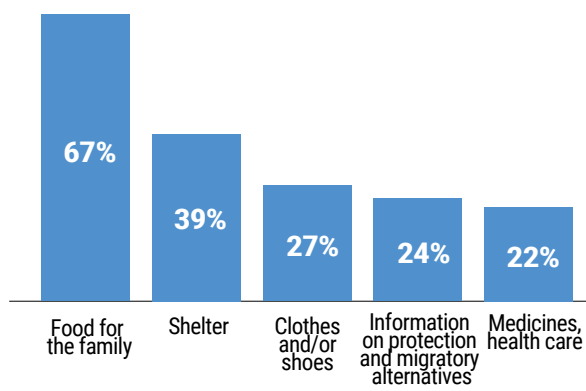
Have an insufficient food consumption.

17% consumed one meal only and 2% none the day before the interview.

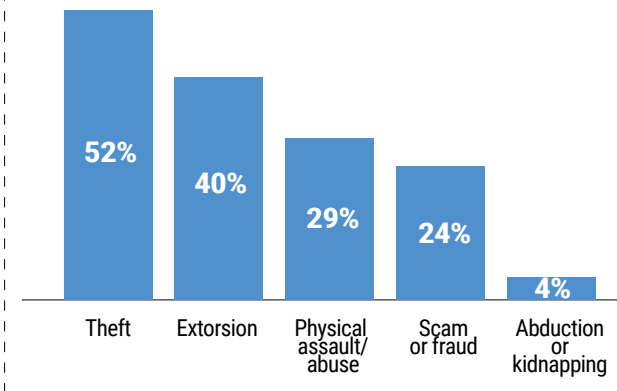
Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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 (579 people who suffered protection incidents)





Mixed Movements Mexico South Border



1,322 Individuals were interviewed by IOM in Tapachula and Tenosique between July and September 2023.



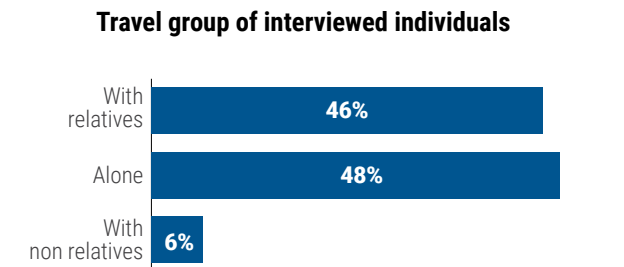
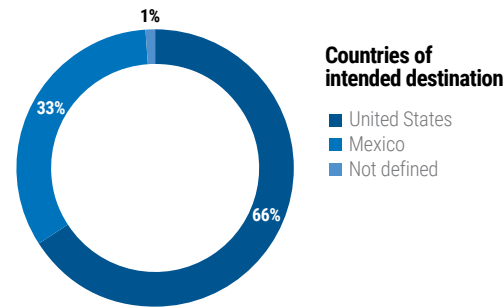
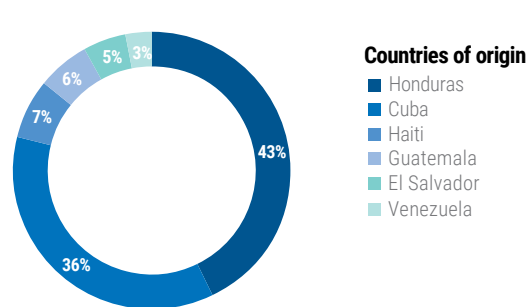
66% Men



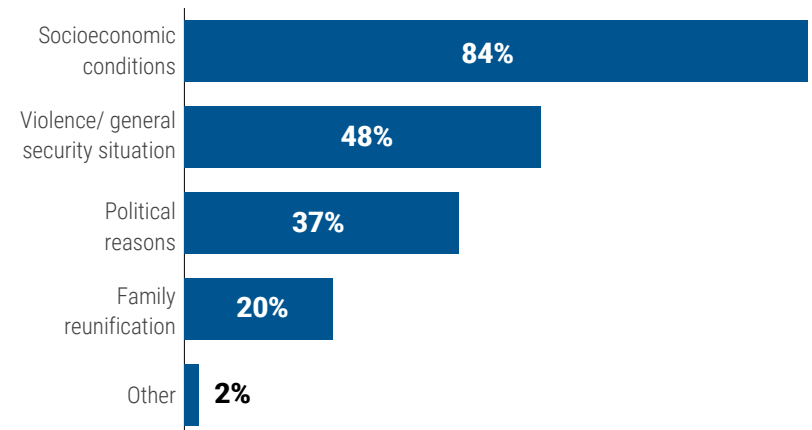
34% Women



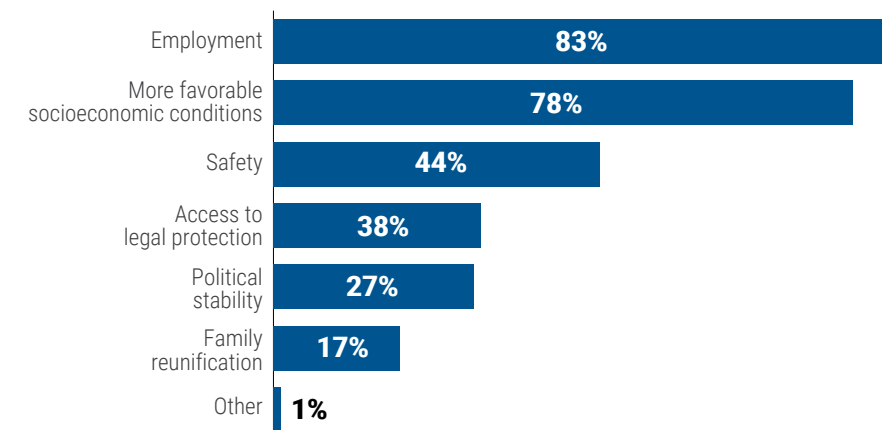
42% Were between 26 and 35 years old.



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



Main reasons to choose country of destination (More than one option could be selected)





Mixed Movements Mexico North Border



1,099 Individuals were interviewed by IOM in Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana between July and September 2023.



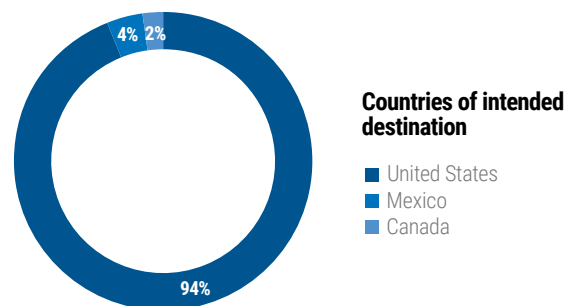
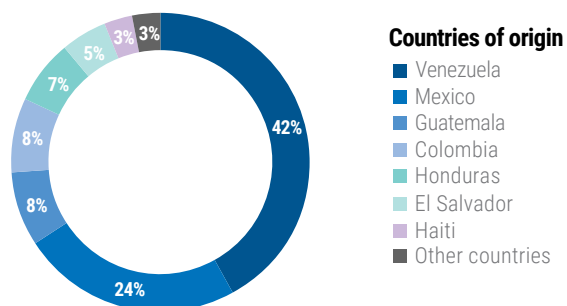
61% Men



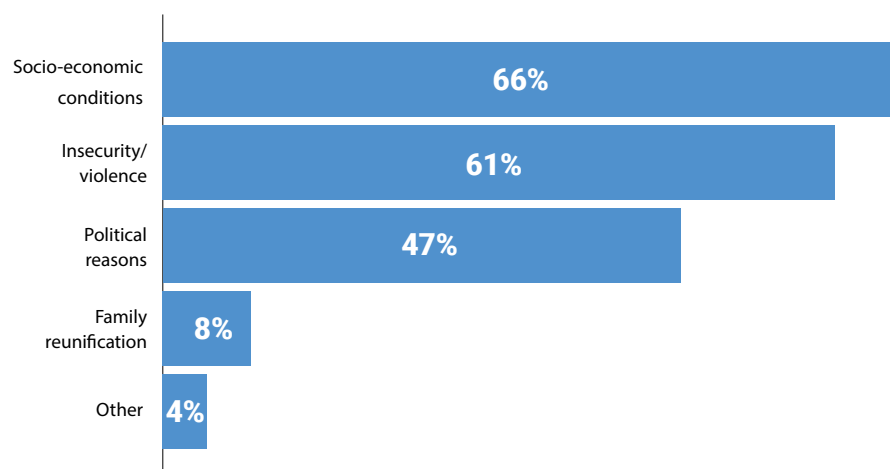
39% Women



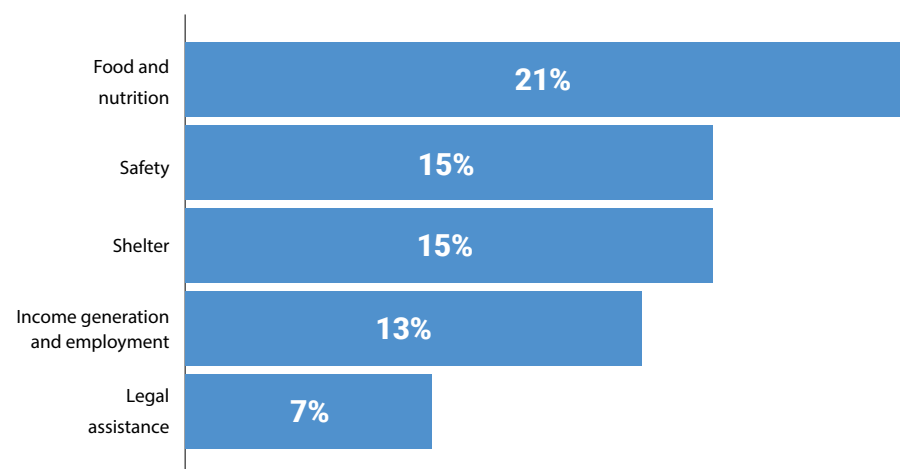
33 Was the average age



Main reasons to leave the country of origin



Main needs





Land Border Encounters in Southwest in United States

↓ **6%**

Decrease in the encounters at the Southwestern United States border by September 2023 (1.756.652),

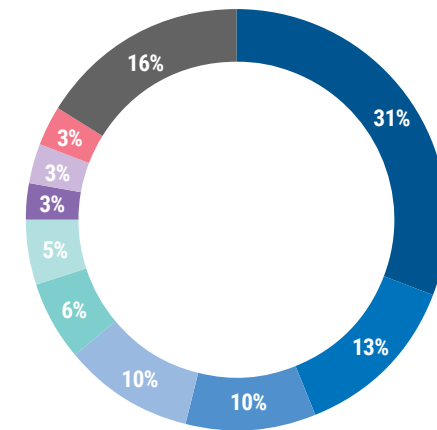
in comparison to encounters by September 2022 (1.860.009).



31% MEXICAN
13% VENEZUELAN
10% GUATEMALAN
10% HONDURAN
6% COLOMBIAN

Main nationalities from January to September 2023.

Main country of origin in United States Southwest land border encounters from January to September 2023



■ Mexico
■ Venezuela
■ Guatemala
■ Honduras
■ Colombia
■ Ecuador
■ Haiti
■ Peru
■ El Salvador
■ Other



59%

Were adults travelling alone and 35% moving in family units.

from January to September 2023



6%

Were unaccompanied children and adolescents.

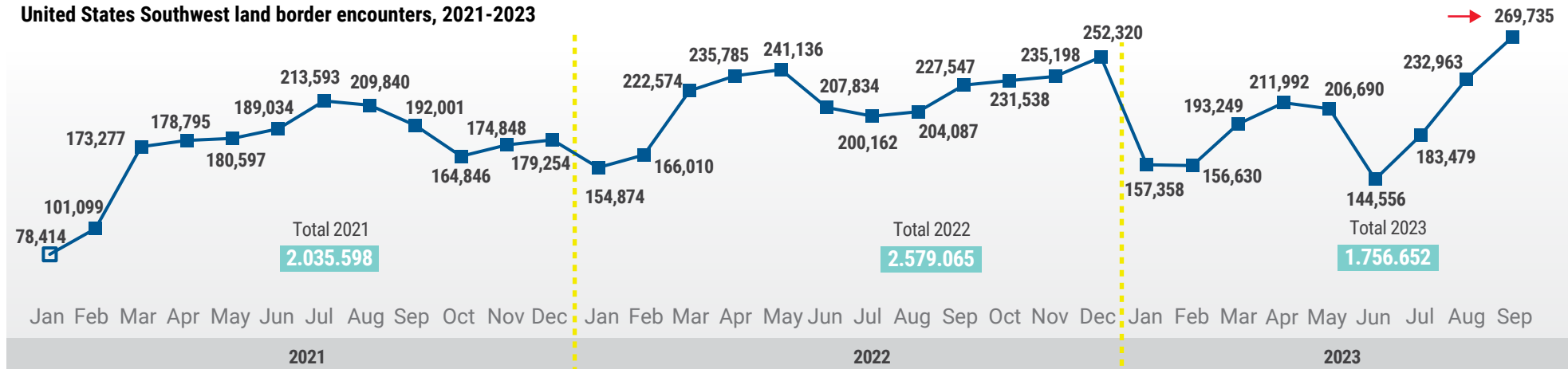
from January to September 2023



16%

Monthly increase from August to September 2023. September (269,735) is the month with the highest number of encounters recorded so far in 2023.

United States Southwest land border encounters, 2021-2023



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)

 **98,856**

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

from January to September* 2023.

 **39%**

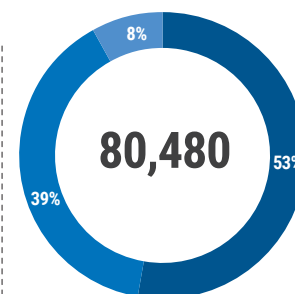
Decrease in total returns from January to July 2023

in comparison to the same period in 2022.



53% GUATEMALA
39% HONDURAS

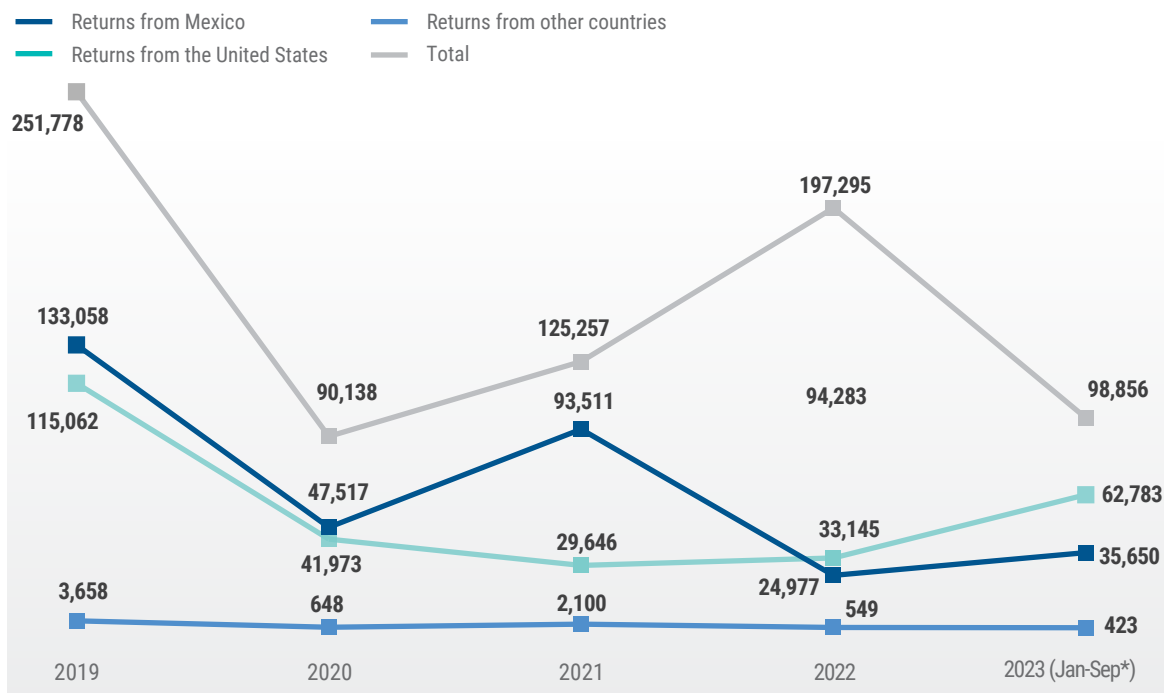
were the countries with the higher figures of returns from January to July 2023.



Returns by destination country (Jan - Jul)

■ Guatemala
■ Honduras
■ El Salvador

Returns from Mexico, United States and other countries, 2019-2022 (January - September*)



Returns 2022
(January - December)

Returns 2023
(January - July)



61% (120,243)
Men



21% (41,192)
Women



18% (35,860)
Children and adolescents

	68% (54,849) Men
	20% (15,931) Women
	12% (9,700) Children and adolescents

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

* Figures for Honduras have a cut-off date as of July 2023.