




PANAMA: DARIEN PROVINCE CROSSINGS

 **97%**
Decrease
Q1 2025 compared
to Q1 2024.


PANAMA: REVERSE FLOWS

 **4,172**
People recorded
moving southward.
(March 2025)

HONDURAS: IRREGULAR ENTRIES

 **89%**
Decrease
Q1 2025 compared
to Q1 2024.

U.S. - SOUTHWEST BORDER ENCOUNTERS

 **85%**
Decrease
Q1 2025 compared
to Q1 2024.

A brief snapshot of the regional context is attached to the IBC Human Mobility Report for the last quarter of 2024. It highlights recent policy shifts that have had a significant impact on migration trends, movement dynamics, and access to international protection. This information will be further developed in the IBC Human Mobility First Quarter Report, to be released for the period January–March 2025.

In the first months of 2025, cross-border population movements across the Americas continued to decline—particularly northbound movements—though dynamics varied across countries. Key developments included:

Irregular entries into Panama through the Darien dropped sharply in the first quarter of 2025, with only 2,831 people recorded—a 97% decrease compared to the same period in 2024—reflecting the impact of heightened border controls and regional deterrence measures. March 2025 registered just 194 entries, the lowest monthly figure since 2020.

Irregular entries into Honduras also dropped sharply in the first quarter of 2025, with only 14,270 individuals recorded between January and March—an 89% decrease compared to the same period in 2024 (133,518 entries). This represents the lowest quarterly total since 2021.

As of April 2025, the Mexican government has not released updated statistics on events involving individuals in irregular status in Mexico since August 2024. The most recent data on asylum applications was published in December 2024, reporting a total of 78,975 claims during the year.

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), land encounters at the U.S. Southwest border dropped sharply in the first quarter of calendar year 2025. Monthly encounters fell from 61,448 in January to 11,709 in February, and further to 11,017 in March—totaling 84,174 encounters in Q1 2025. This represents 85% decrease compared to the same period in 2024, when encounters totaled 555,467 (176,195 in January, 189,913 in February, and 189,359 in March). March 2025 recorded the lowest number of monthly encounters in at least four years, significantly lower than March figures in 2024 (189,359), 2023 (193,249), and 2022 (222,574).

In response to changes in migration policies implemented since January 2025, a considerable number of people have been impacted—particularly those who were en route to or seeking entry into the United States through the CBP One process. Many remain stranded at various points between Panama and the U.S.–Mexico border, weighing their options.

Reverse Movements: Following recent policy changes and their impact on movement dynamics, a growing number of individuals from various nationalities, including Venezuelans, Ecuadorians, and Colombians, have been reported moving southbound. Since January, increased transit of people heading south has been observed at key border points, accompanied by a rising number of individuals seeking access to national asylum systems.

Increasing number of refugees and migrants are reportedly opting for maritime routes from Panama back to Colombia to avoid the treacherous jungle crossing. Additionally, since mid-January 2025, reverse flows have been observed, and by the end of March, the Government of Panama had registered 4,172 individuals moving southward.



Overview of key figures and trends

↘ **302 K**

People entered Panama through Darien from January to December 2024 (42% decrease compared to 2023).



69% VENEZUELAN
6% COLOMBIAN
5% ECUADORIAN
4% CHINESE

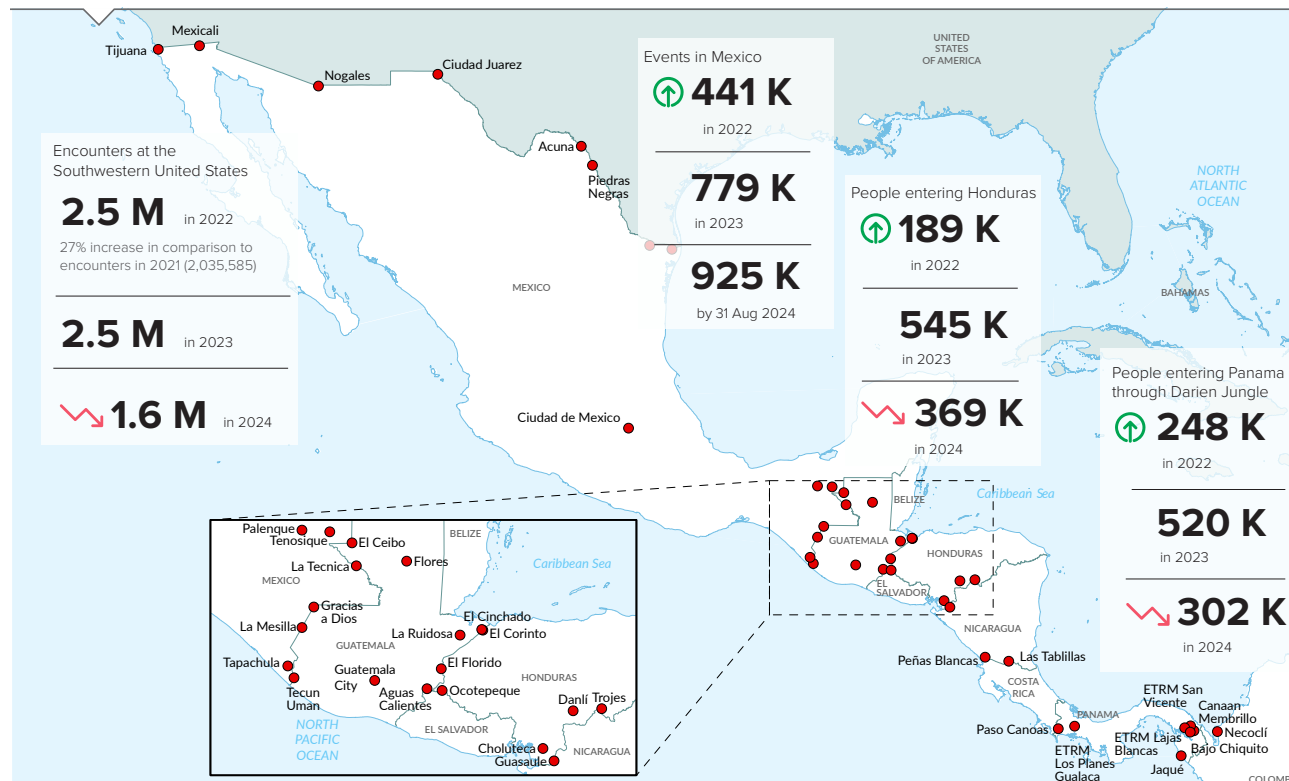
Main nationalities registered in Darien from January to December 2024.

→ **369 K**

People entered Honduras between January and December 2024 (a decrease of 32% compared to the same period of 2023)

↘ **1.6 M**

Encounters recorded at the Southwest border of the United States of America from January to December 2024.



In 2024, human mobility across Central America and Mexico has shown an overall decline in key figures if compared to 2023, as well as quarterly figures from one year to the other.

In **Panama**, 302,000 individuals crossed through the Darien Province from January to December 2024, reflecting a 42% decrease from the prior year. The decline was particularly sharp in this reporting period, with over 38,000 individuals recorded between October and December, compared to 111,000 in the same period of 2023—a 66% drop. This decline is attributed to a combination of factors, including migration policies and practices, enhanced enforcement efforts and border controls, as well as shifting regional dynamics. However, alternative migration routes have continued to emerge, particularly maritime smuggling from San Andrés to 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.

Sources: SENAFRONT: Panama, UNHCR, 2024.

Overview of key figures and trends

In **Honduras**, irregular entries reached approximately 370,000 in 2024, representing a 32% decrease compared to 2023. The fourth-quarter data shows a particularly sharp decline, with over 57,000 individuals recorded between October and December, representing a 72% reduction compared to the same period in 2023.

Meanwhile, **Mexico** recorded over 79,000 asylum claims—a 44% decline from the previous year—likely influenced by adjustments in documentation and processing procedures. At the Mexico-U.S. Southwestern border, 1.6 million encounters were reported in 2024, marking a 35% decrease from 2023. The quarterly figures from October to December further highlight this trend, with 297,000 encounters recorded, reflecting a 164% decrease if compared to the same period in 2023.

This report draws on official government data, assessments, and monitoring efforts, emphasizing the heightened protection risks faced by individuals on the move. Many remain vulnerable to threats such as theft, harassment, extortion, and physical violence throughout their journeys, underscoring the importance of sustained regional cooperation and humanitarian support.

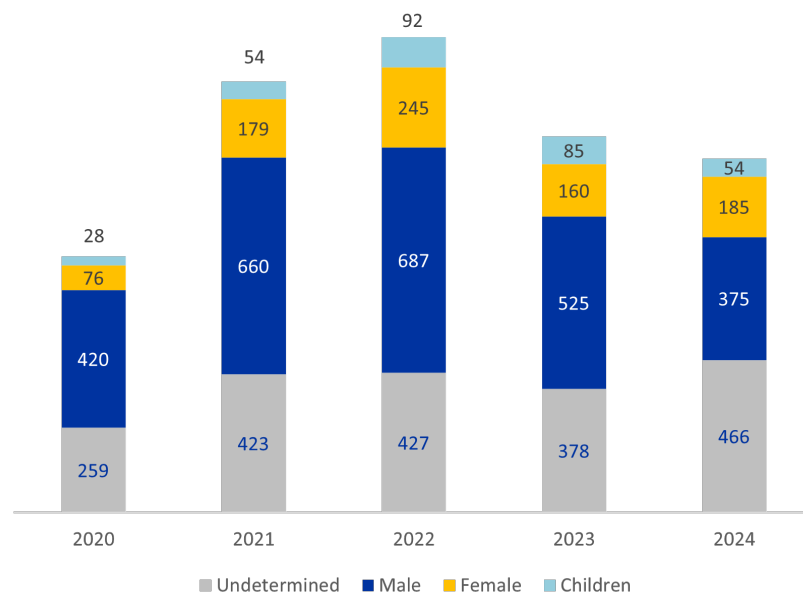




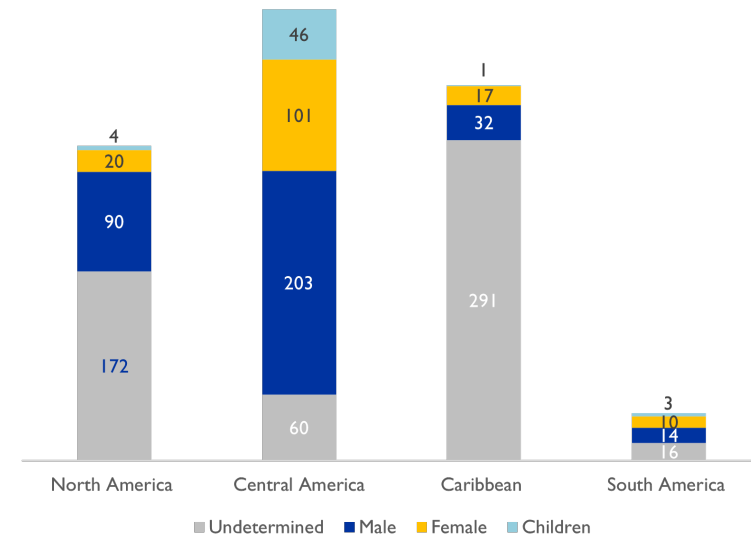
Missing migrants in the Americas

- Since IOM began monitoring deaths and disappearances of migrants and people on the move, between 2014 until December 2024, 9,992 cases have been recorded in the region. Actual figures may be a lot higher as not all deaths are recorded ([MMP, 2025](#)).
- Drowning is the most common cause of death in the region.

Total of missing people on the move recorded in the Americas by sex and age group (2020-2024)



Total of missing people on the move recorded in the Americas by subregion, sex and age group (2024)



Source: *Missing Migrants Project, 2025*

Note: All data used is from the Missing Migrants Project database, accessed on 4/30/2024. All MMP data are updated on an ongoing basis, including in some cases retroactively for previous years as new data are reported



Panama – Darien

➔ **38,907**

People have entered irregularly through Darien from October to December 2024.



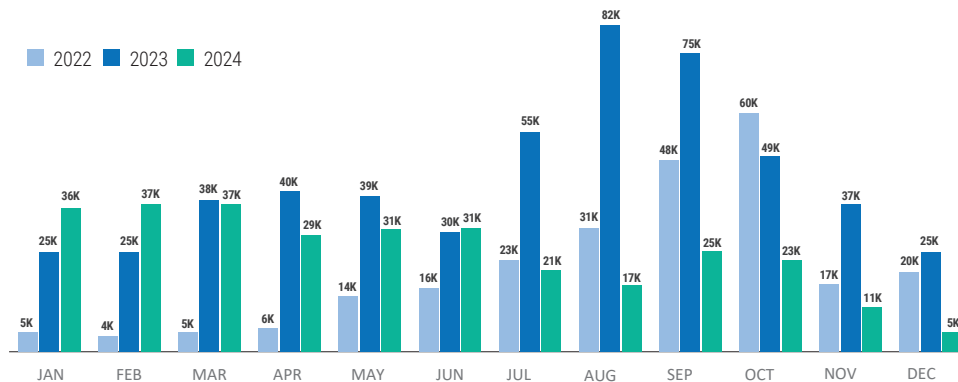
81% VENEZUELAN
4% COLOMBIAN
3% ECUADORIAN
1% NEPALI
1% PERUVIAN

Main nationalities in Darien in Q4 2024.

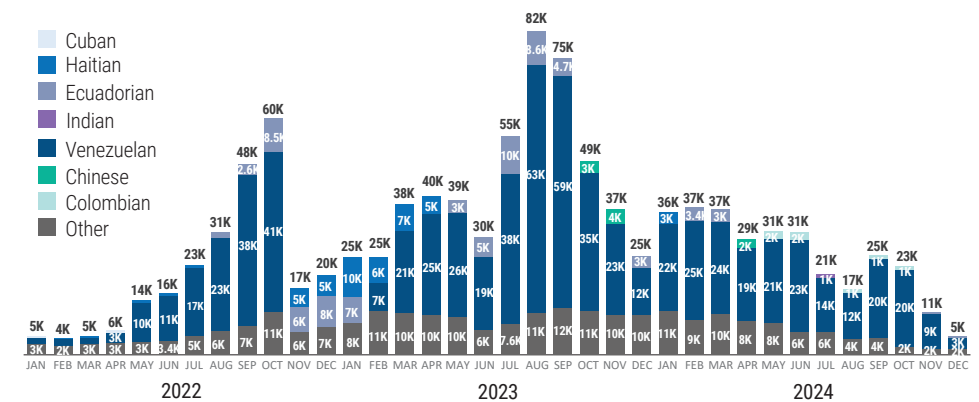
📉 **4,849**

Irregular entries in Darien in December, representing the lowest number in 2024.

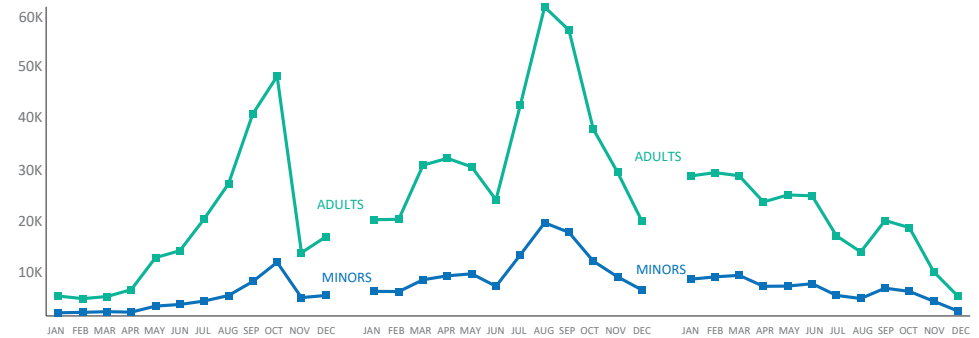
Irregular entries Darien | 2022 - 2024



Irregular entries by nationalities | 2022 - 2024



Irregular entries by age groups | 2022 - 2024



Source: *Migraciones Panama.*



Panama



1,147

Individuals interviewed
Mixed Movements Monitoring
UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF
Entering Panama from Colombia in the
Darién province (Migration Reception
Centers Lajas Blancas and San Vicente)



40%

Men



60%

Women



38

Different
nationalities
interviewed



2% Pregnant women
8% Breastfeeding women
1% Separated children
Specific needs



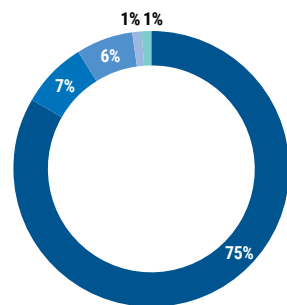
53%

left country of
origin due to
violence (to self
or generalized)



39%

Experienced or
witnessed
protection
incidents
during journey.



Countries of origin

■ Venezuela
■ Colombia
■ Ecuador
■ Haiti
■ Peru

Food security



70%

had food security issues and
resorted to severe coping
strategies last week

13% limited adult food consumption for
children; 15% went whole day without
eating; 42% regularly skipped meals.

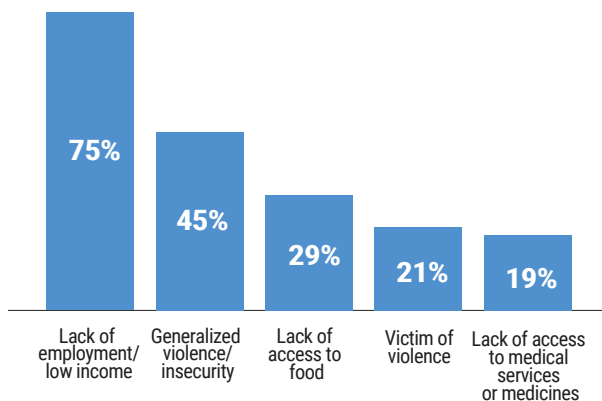


40%

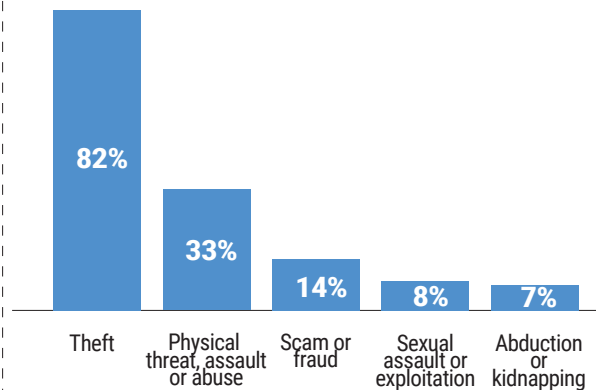
had insufficient food
consumption the day before
the interview

35% consumed only one meal and 5%
consumed no meal the day before the
interview

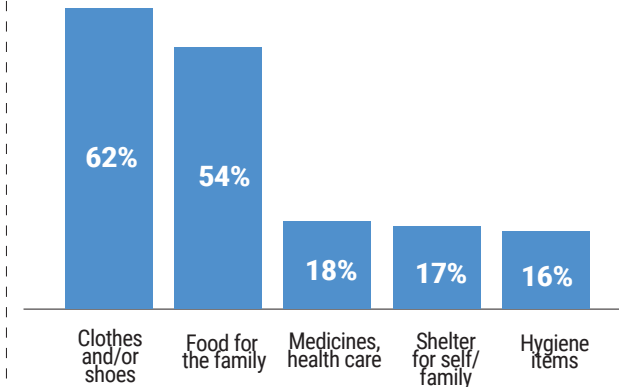
Main reasons to leave country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main needs (More than one option could be selected)





Costa Rica

2,295

Individuals interviewed by IOM between October and December 2024.



89% VENEZUELAN
6% COLOMBIAN
2% ECUADORIAN

Main nationalities interviewed.



39%
Women



61%
Men

Source: Interactive data dashboard on migrants moving through the Americas in Costa Rica

Recorded departures of refugees and migrants from Panama to Costa Rica

324,846

Refugees and migrants in 2024

529,348

Refugees and migrants in 2023

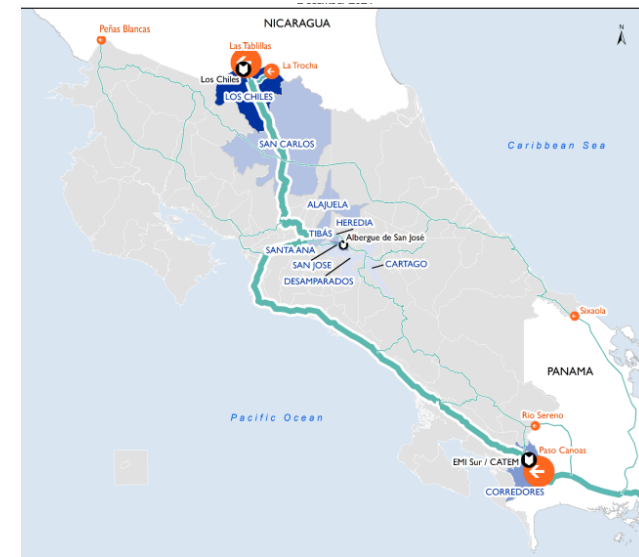
226,610

Refugees and migrants in 2022



*In July 2022, not all data was collected due to road closures in Panama. Source: Government of Panama, 2023.

**Data for August 31, 2023, was not available, so a weekly moving average was used.



Legend

Border Crossing

- < 35
- 2,096
- 4,193 – 6,283

Surveys

- 35
- 92
- 454

Route

- Direct Route EMI Sur - Los Chiles
- Alternative Route

Stranded individuals per canton

- < 9
- 11 - 84
- 140
- 200

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.

According to the IOM in Costa Rica, an estimated 6,353 people from the migratory flow across the Americas entered the country in December 2024, with an average of approximately 205 individuals arriving per day. Nearly 99% of these entries took place through Paso Canoas, located on the border with Panama.

The main route identified was from EMI Sur (southern border) to Los Chiles (northern border), typically undertaken by bus. The journey costs around \$30 USD per person and usually takes less than a day.

Source: Flow monitoring of people on the move across the Americas in locations of high transit and presence of migrants in Costa Rica - December 2024 | Displacement Tracking Matrix



Costa Rica



676

Individuals interviewed
Mixed Movements Monitoring
UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF



40%

Men



60%

Women



1% Pregnant women
2% Breastfeeding women

Specific needs



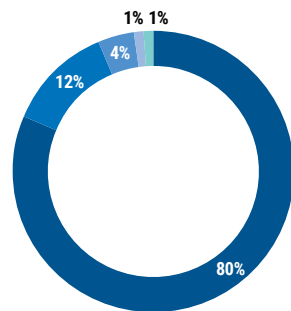
68%

left country of origin due to violence (to self or generalized)



74%

Experienced or witnessed protection incidents during journey.



Countries of origin



Food security



75%

had food security issues and resorted to severe coping strategies last week

10% limited adult food consumption for children; 17% went whole day without eating; 48% regularly skipped meals.

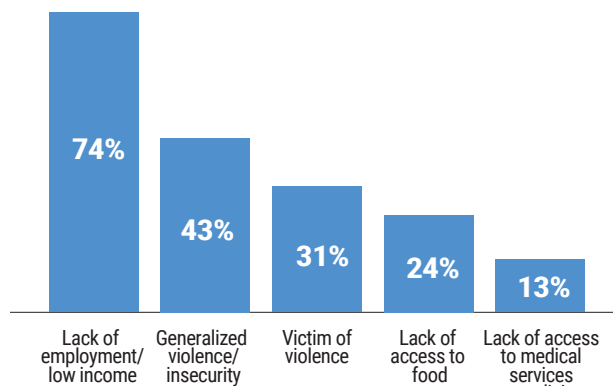


55%

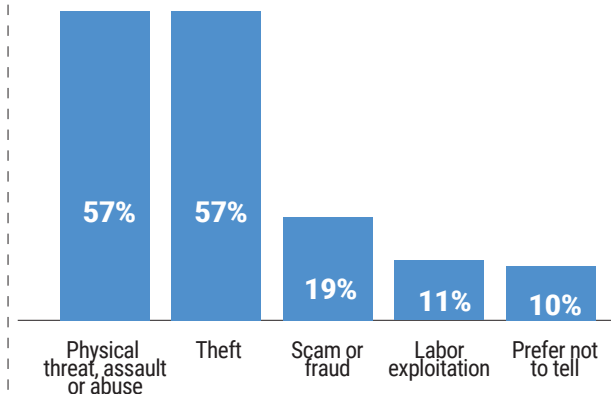
had insufficient food consumption the day before the interview

39% consumed only one meal and 16% consumed no meal the day before the interview

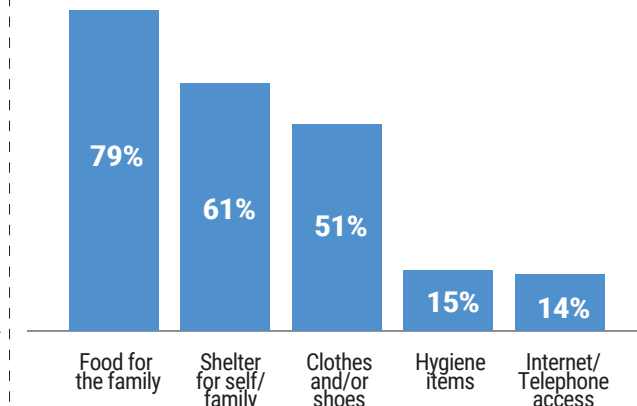
Main reasons to leave country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main needs (More than one option could be selected)





Honduras



451

Individuals interviewed
Mixed Movements Monitoring
UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF



48%

Men



51%

Women



1%

Non binary/
Prefer not
to say



4% Pregnant women
5% Breastfeeding women
1% Separated children
Specific needs



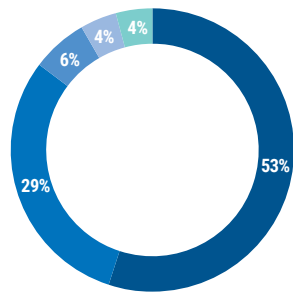
31%

left country of
origin due to
violence (to self
or generalized)



55%

Experienced or
witnessed
protection
incidents
during journey.



Countries of origin

■ Venezuela
■ Cuba
■ Colombia
■ Ecuador
■ Haiti

Food security



36%

had food security issues and
resorted to severe coping
strategies last week

6% limited adult food consumption for
children; 13% went whole day without
eating; 17% regularly skipped meals.



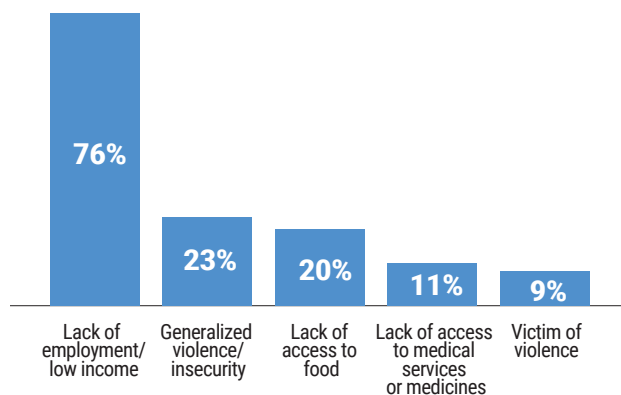
14%

had insufficient food
consumption the day before the
interview

13% consumed only one meal and 1%
consumed no meal the day before the
interview

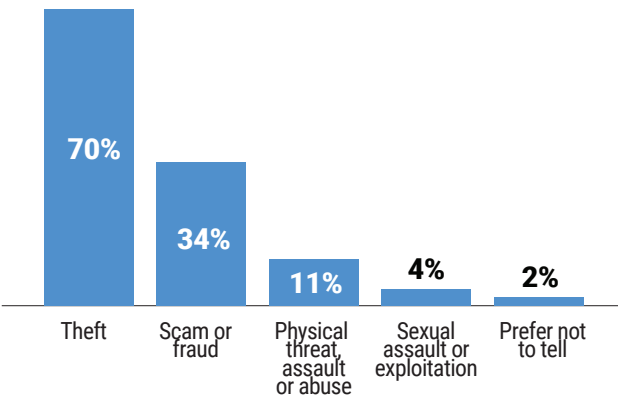
Main reasons to leave country of origin

(More than one option could be selected)



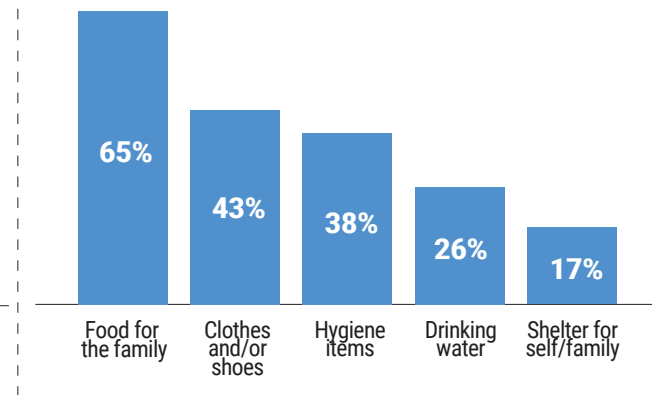
Main protection incidents in the route

(More than one option could be selected)



Main needs

(More than one option could be selected)





Guatemala



1,538

Individuals interviewed
Mixed Movements Monitoring
UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF

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



58%

Men



42%

Women



3% Pregnant women
6% Breastfeeding women
Specific needs



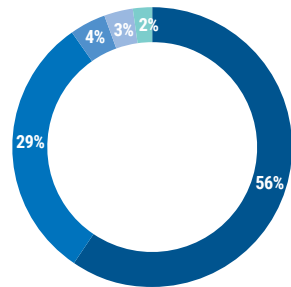
58%

left country of origin due to violence (to self or generalized)



65%

Experienced or witnessed protection incidents during journey.



Countries of origin

■ Venezuela
■ Honduras
■ Mexico
■ Colombia
■ El Salvador

Food security



68%

had food security issues and resorted to severe coping strategies last week

9% limited adult food consumption for children; 29% went whole day without eating; 30% regularly skipped meals.

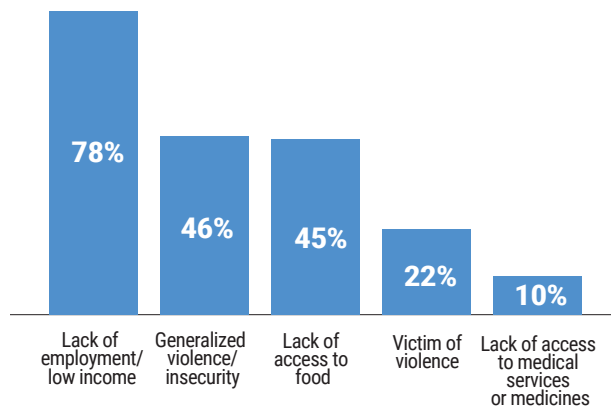


56%

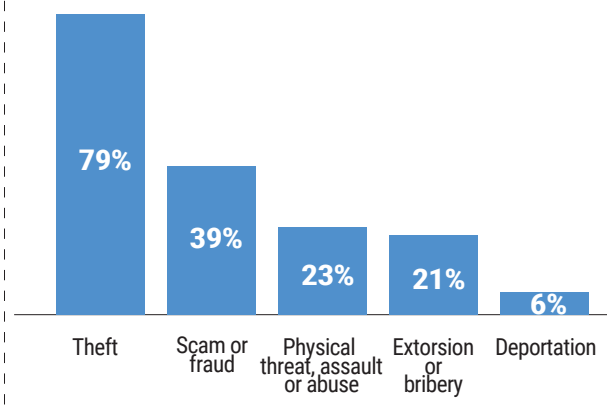
had insufficient food consumption the day before the interview

48% consumed only one meal and 8% consumed no meal the day before the interview

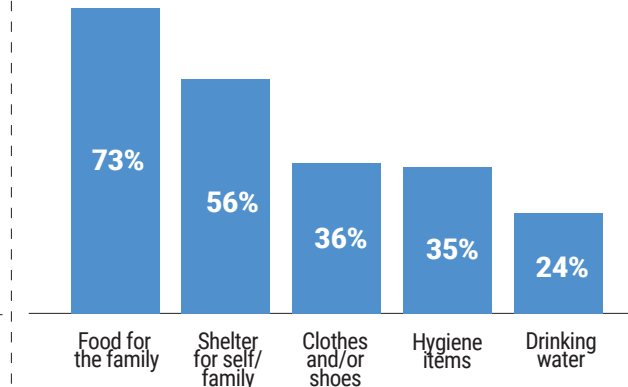
Main reasons to leave country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main needs (More than one option could be selected)





Guatemala



733

Individuals were interviewed by DTM Guatemala between October and December 2024.



70%

Men



30%

Women



43%

Were between 26 and 35 years old.

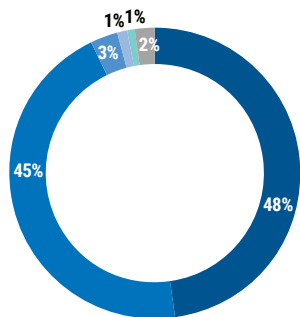


34%

of people interviewed reported having completed secondary education.

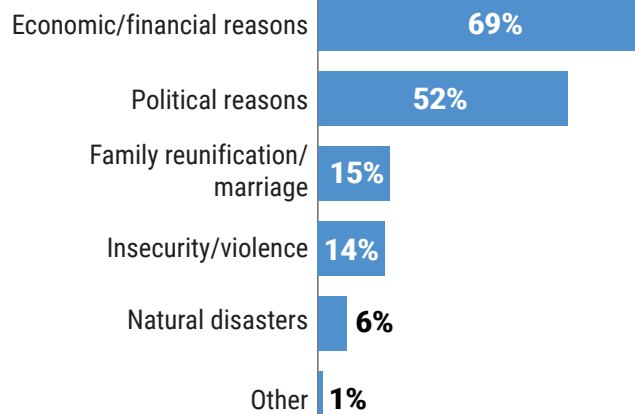
Source: Interactive data dashboard on migrants in transit through the Americas

Main reasons to leave country of origin

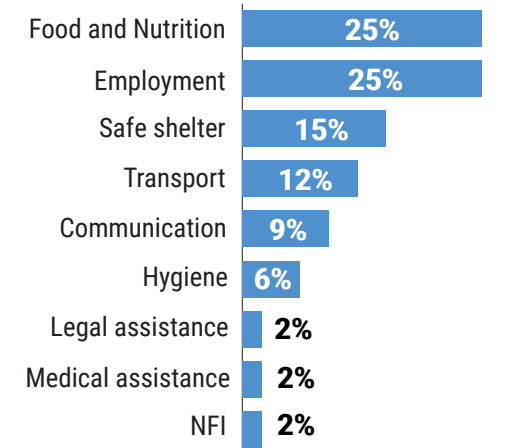


Countries of origin

- Venezuela
- Honduras
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Other



Main needs now and to continue the journey



Source: Interactive data dashboard on migrants in transit through the Americas



Asylum trends in Mexico

78,975

Individuals applied for asylum in Mexico from January to December 2024, a decrease of 44% compared to the same period in 2023 (COMAR, 2024).



35% HONDURAS
22% CUBA
14% HAITI
7% EL SALVADOR
7% VENEZUELA
15% OTHER

Top countries of origin in 2024 (COMAR, 2024).



36 K

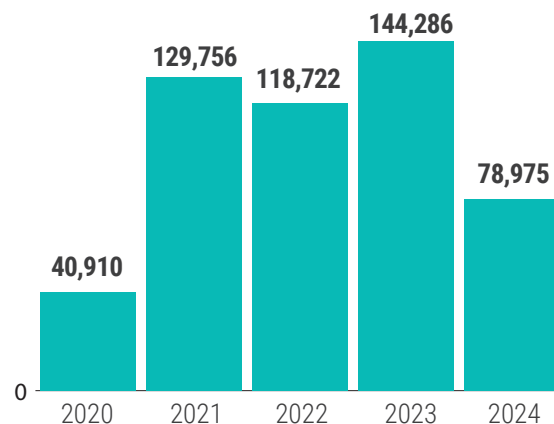
Asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR in Mexico from January to December 2024.



69%

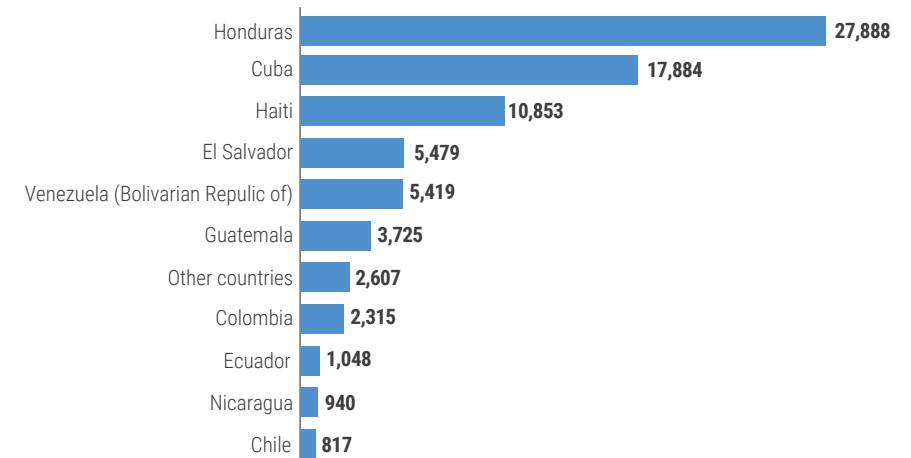
of asylum-seekers interviewed by UNHCR in Mexico from January to December 2024, have specific protection needs.

Asylum Applications in Mexico 2020-2024 (all nationalities)



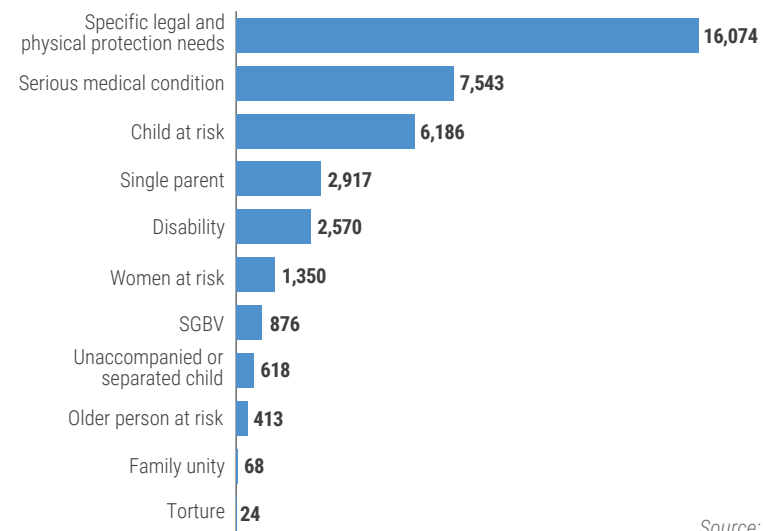
Source: COMAR, 2024

Top 10 Asylum applications in Mexico by country of origin in 2024



Source: COMAR, 2024

Mexico: Asylum-seekers with protection needs registered by UNHCR in 2024



Source: UNHCR, 2024



Mexico



1,241

Individuals interviewed
Mixed Movements Monitoring
UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF

Interviews took place in 18 cities across Mexico in both South and North borders.



47%

Men



53%

Women



1%

Non binary/
Prefer not
to say



3% Pregnant women
5% Breastfeeding women
3% Separated children
Specific needs



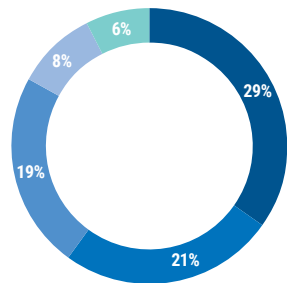
80%

left country of
origin due to
violence (to self
or generalized)



65%

Experienced or
witnessed
protection
incidents
during journey.



Countries of origin

■ Honduras
■ Venezuela
■ Cuba
■ Haiti
■ Guatemala

Food security



28%

had food security issues and
resorted to severe coping
strategies last week

5% limited adult food consumption for
children; 6% went whole day without
eating; 17% regularly skipped meals.



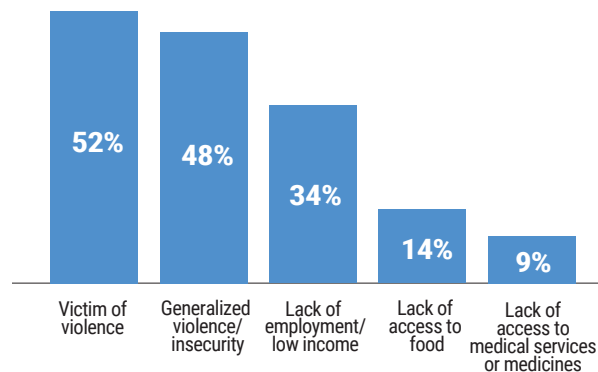
18%

had insufficient food
consumption the day before
the interview

17% consumed only one meal and 1%
consumed no meal the day before the
interview

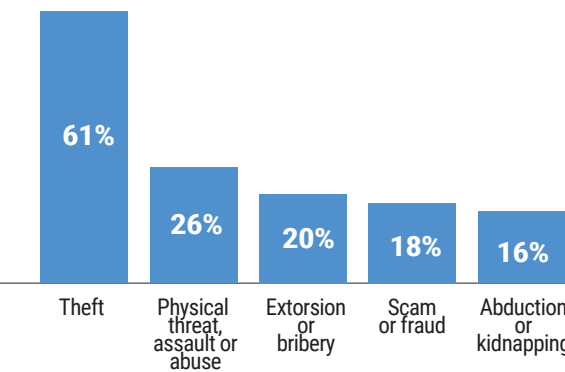
Main reasons to leave the country of origin

(More than one option could be selected)



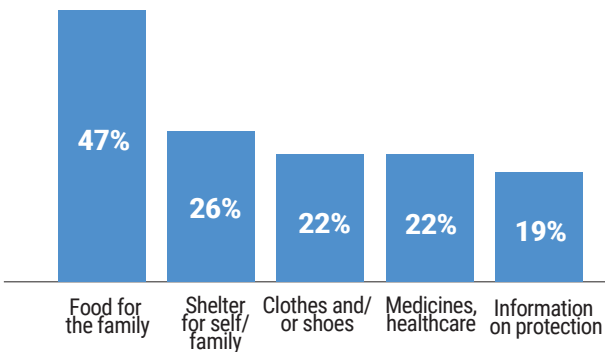
Main protection incidents during journey

(More than one option could be selected)



Main needs

(More than one option could be selected)





Mexico South Border



595

Individuals were interviewed by IOM in Tapachula between October and December 2024.



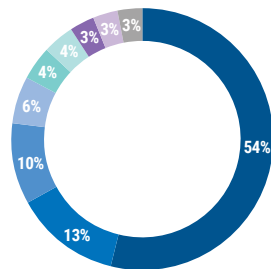
57% Men



43% Women



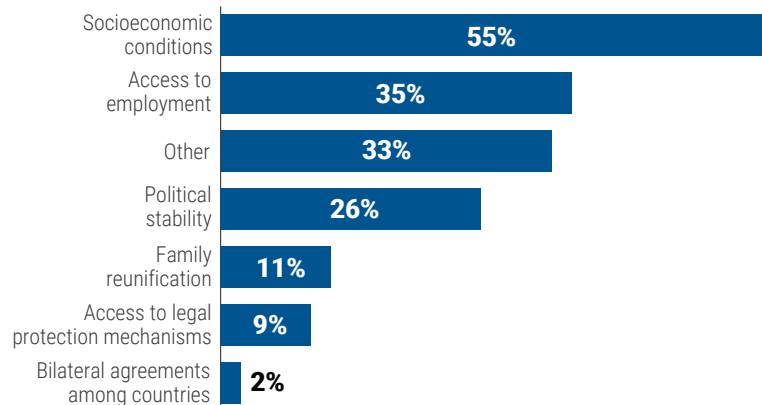
46% Were between 26 and 35 years old



Countries of origin

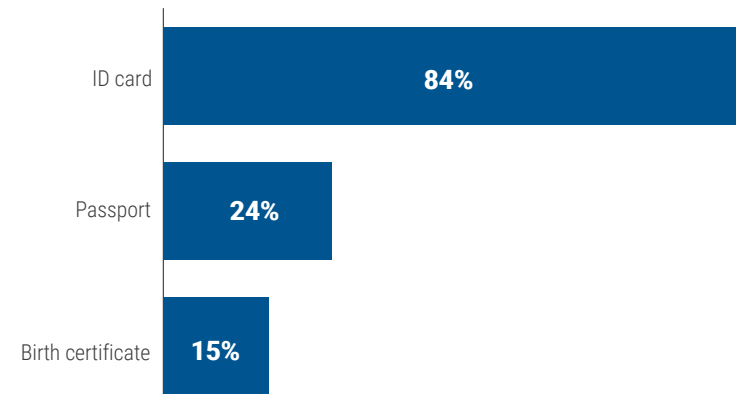
- Venezuela
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- El Salvador
- Ecuador
- Nicaragua
- Peru
- Other

Main reasons to leave the country of origin



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

Identity documents held by respondents



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



Mexico North Border



627

Individuals were interviewed by IOM in Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana between October and December 2024.



51% Men

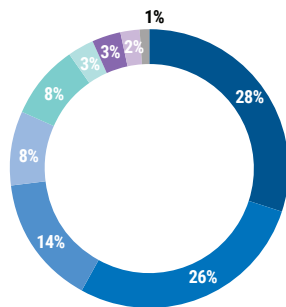


49% Women



38%

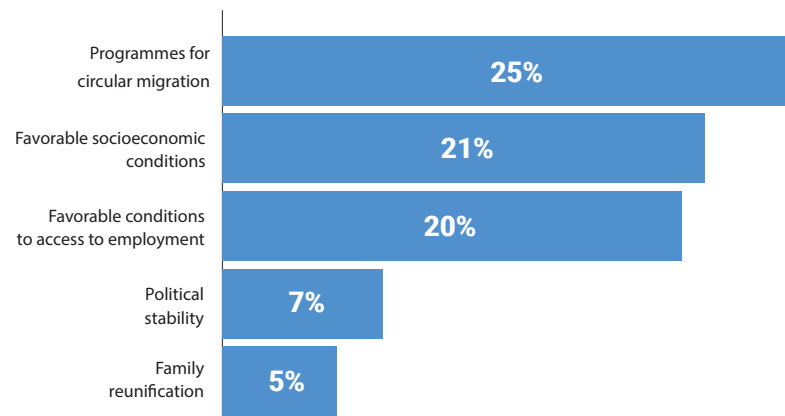
Were between 26 and 35 years old



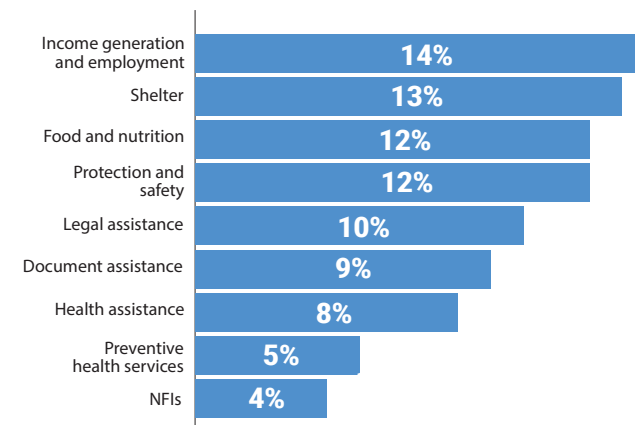
Countries of origin

- Mexico
- Venezuela
- Honduras
- Guatemala
- Colombia
- El Salvador
- Nicaragua
- Cuba
- Haiti

Main reasons to leave the country of origin



Main needs



Source: Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana (2024) [Interactive data dashboard on migrants in transit through the Americas](#)

Source: Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana (2024) [Interactive data dashboard on migrants in transit through the Americas](#)



Land Border Encounters in Southwest in United States

 **1,646,259**

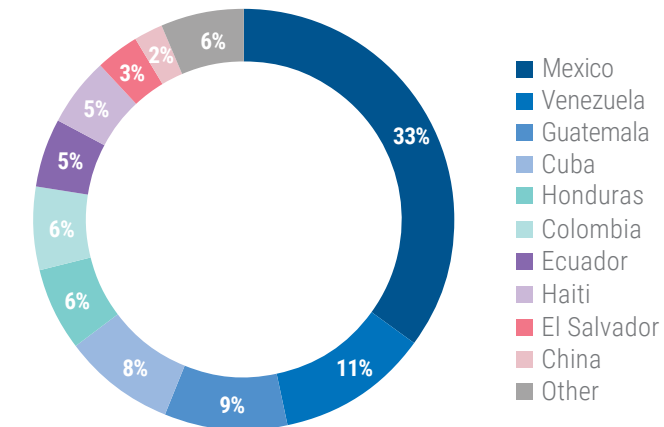
Encounters at the Southwestern border of the United States between January and December 2024



33% MEXICAN
11% VENEZUELAN
9% GUATEMALAN
8% CUBAN
6% HONDURAN

Main nationalities from January to December 2024.

Main country of origin in United States Southwest land border encounters from January to December 2024



59%

Were adults travelling alone and 38% moving in family units.
from January to December 2024



6%

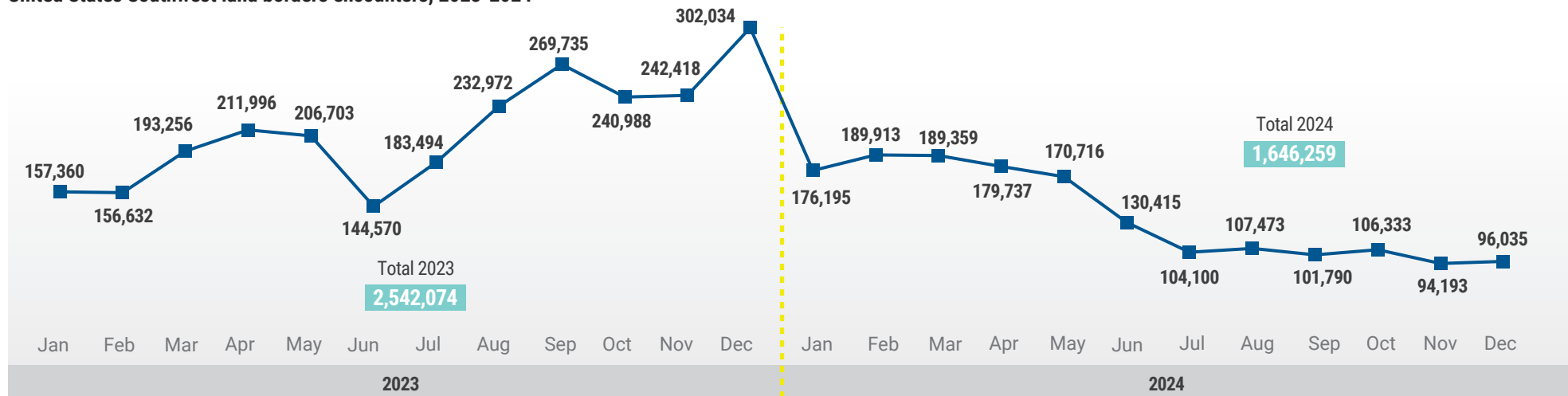
Were unaccompanied children and adolescents.
from January to December 2024



35%

Decrease in the encounters at the Southwestern United States border by December 2024
in comparison to encounters by December 2023 (2,541,959).

United States Southwest land borders encounters, 2023-2024





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

 **138,937**

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

Between January and December 2024.



55% GUATEMALANS
34% HONDURANS
11% SALVADORANS

Were the countries with higher figures of returns from January to December 2024.

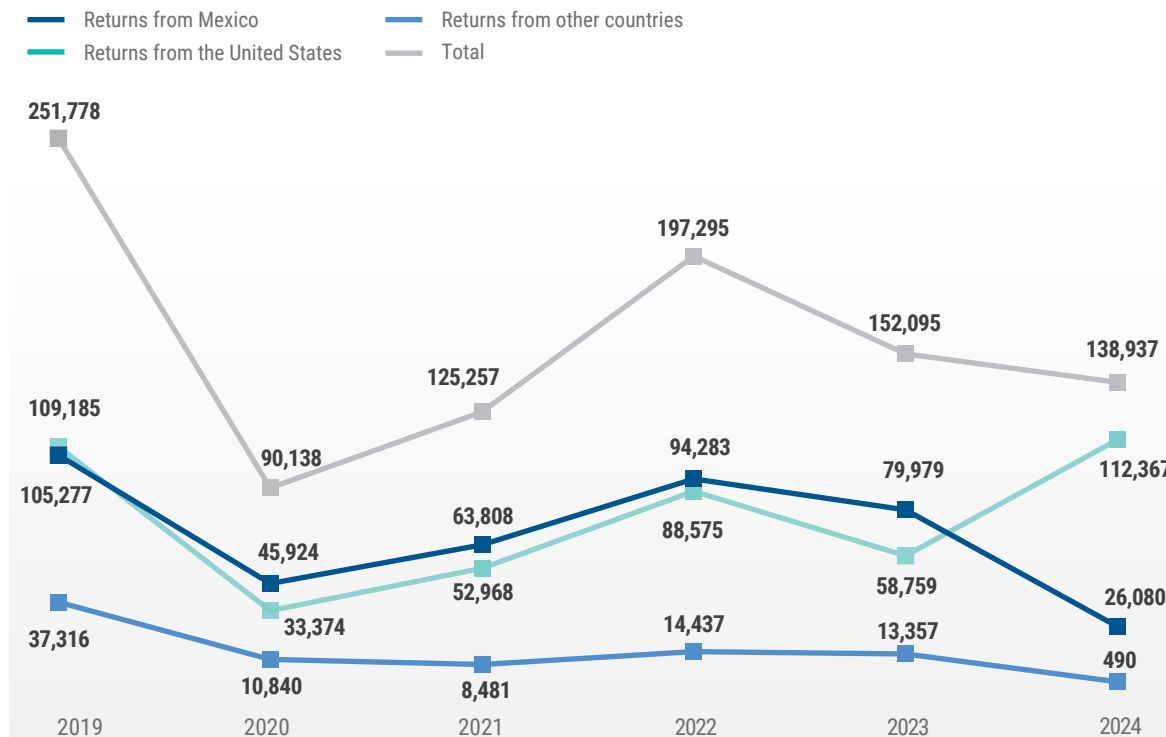


9%

Decrease in total returns from January to December 2024

in comparison to the same period in 2023.

Returns from Mexico, United States and other countries, 2019-2024 (January-December)



Returns disaggregation 2022
(January - December)



61% (120,243)
Men



21% (41,192)
Women



18% (35,860)
Children and adolescents

Returns disaggregation 2023
(January - December)

58% (88,958)
Men

22% (33,109)
Women

12% (30,028)
Children and adolescents

Returns disaggregation 2024
(January - December)

75% (89,817)
Men



25% (30,226)
Women



14% (14,357)
Children and adolescents



Children and Adolescents


 **16,570**
Individuals interviewed
Mixed Movements Monitoring
UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF
between April and December 2024 in Mexico,
Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa
Rica, Panama and Chile

 **53%**
Travelling with
family.
 **38%**
Travelling with
children in
family.

 **63% adults** (20,845)
37% children (12,412)
Family composition
 **4%** 0 - 6 months
40% 6 months - 5 years
57% 6 - 17 years
Age breakdown of
children

 **5% Pregnant women**
8% Breastfeeding women
4% Separated children from family
Specific needs
Percentage of respondents

Health



 **63%**
Infants fully vaccinated
0-6 months of age (N=327)

79%
Children fully vaccinated
6 months to 5 years of age (N=3,804)

Education

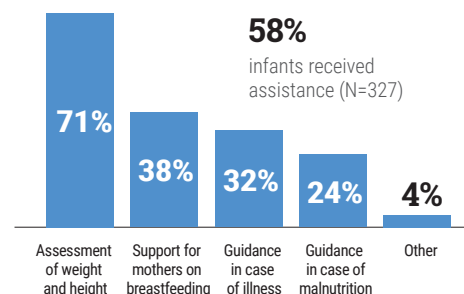
 **18%**
Children not receiving education
6 to 17 years of age, referred to the country where
they lived before starting the journey (N=3,096)

Nutrition

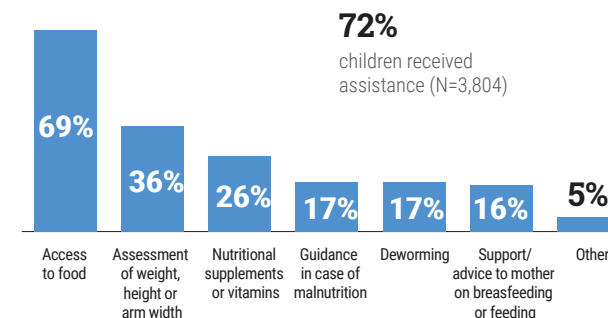
 **47%**
Infants
exclusively
breastfed
0-6 months of age
(N=316)
 **58% Severe**
37% Moderate
5% No food poverty
Food poverty
6 months to 5 years of age (N=3,772)

Note: questions are asked about a random children of a given age group in the family. The response is extrapolated to all children in the family of that age group.

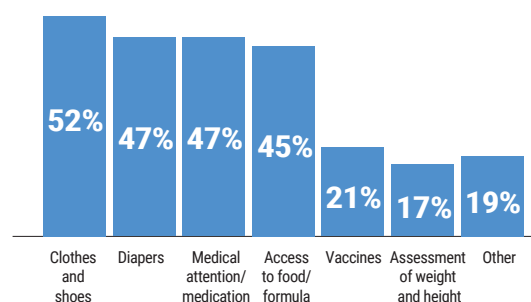
Humanitarian assistance (0 - 6 months) (More than one option could be selected)



Humanitarian assistance (6 months - 5 years) (More than one option could be selected)



Main needs (0 - 6 months) (Up to 3 options could be selected)



Main needs (6 months - 17 years) (Up to 3 options could be selected)

