

## ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAM

IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return Program aims to achieve the voluntary, orderly and humane return of migrants who can not or do not want to stay in their countries of transit or destination and wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

Since November 4th, 2018, IOM has provided voluntary return assistance to 1791 people, 107 of which are unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.

**Voluntary return assistance**

**1791**

**Unaccompanied children and adolescents**

**107**

## COUNTRIES OF RETURN

In Mexico, most cases were registered in Mexico City (50%) and Tapachula (20%). The remaining cases were registered in Tijuana (19%), Ciudad Juárez (4%), Monterrey (3%), Piedras Negras (2%), Guanajuato (1%), San Luis Potosí (1%), Celaya, Guadalajara and Saltillo (<1%). The number of registered cases is steadily increasing in Northern Mexico, specifically in Ciudad Juárez.

All unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents registered in Mexico have benefited from assisted voluntary returns through air transportation, considering their serious situation of vulnerability.

As for the case of Guatemala, the Voluntary Return Programme has operated from the border with Mexico, in Tecun Umán, and by land only. The 83 per cent of migrants registered in Guatemala returned to Honduras and 17 per cent to El Salvador.

Regarding means of transportation, 79 per cent of migrants have been returned by ground transportation, 7 per cent by air transportation (unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents) and 14 per cent have alternately used air and ground transportation during their assisted return.

## Transportation Methods

By land



**79%**

By land and air

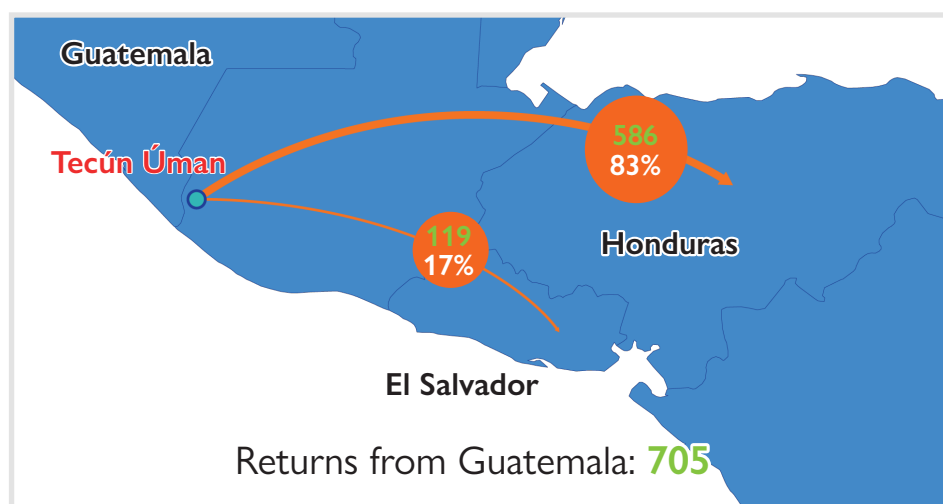


**14%**

By air

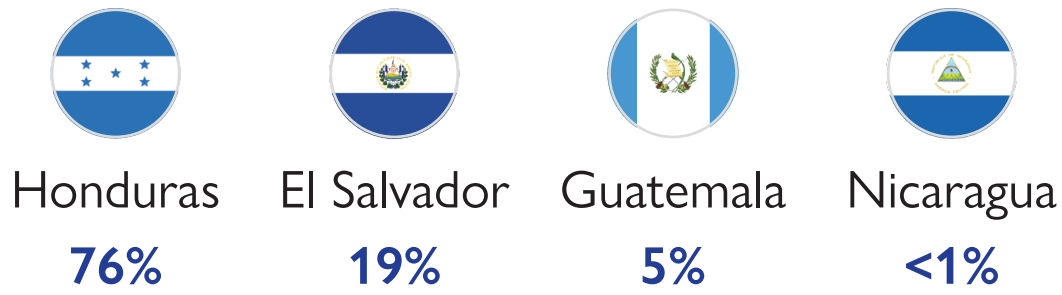


**7%**



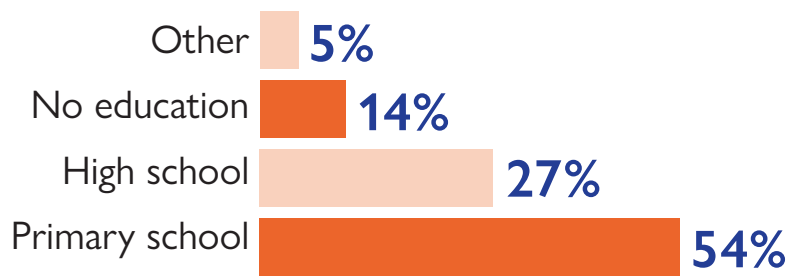
PROFILE OF ASSISTED PEOPLE

Nationalities

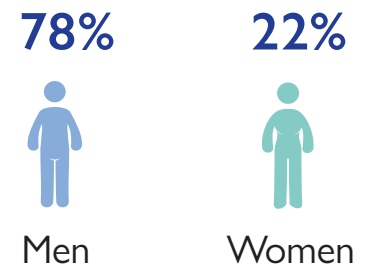
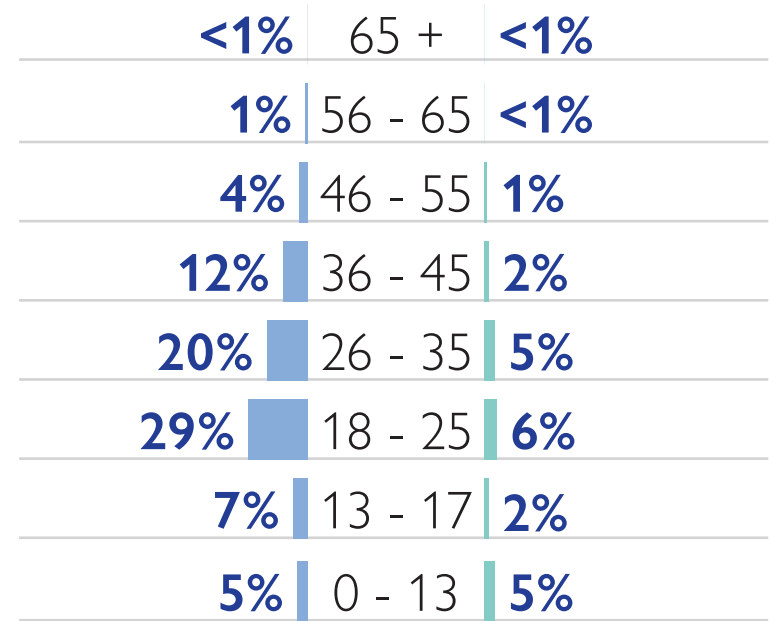


Most of the people who have been assisted are of Honduran (76%) or Salvadoran nationality (19%). The 78 per cent of migrants are men and 22 per cent are women, of these ages are concentrated between 18 and 45 years (77%).

Education



Migration status



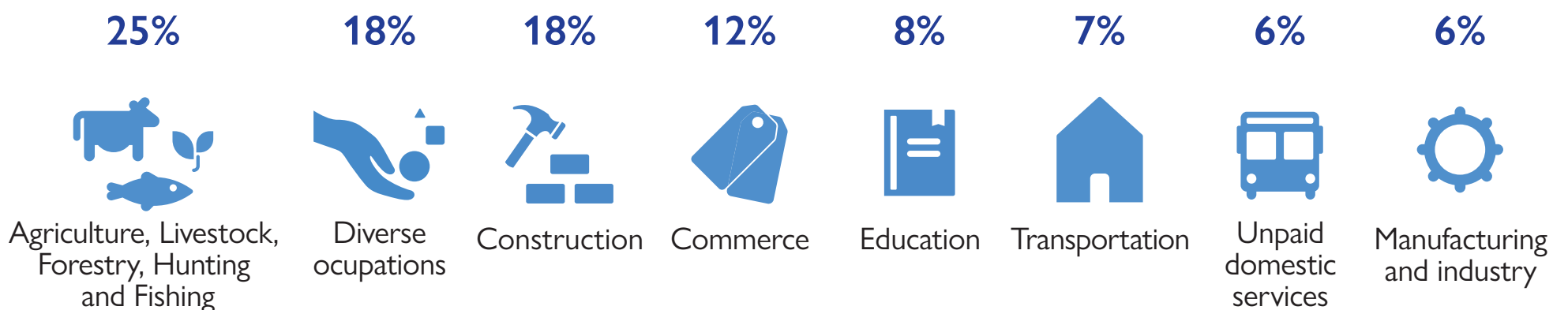
At the time of their voluntary return, most migrants had an irregular migration status (85%) of which 65 per cent were located in Mexico and 35 per cent in Guatemala.

The predominant educational level is primary level (54%), comprised by a 19 per cent of women and 81 per cent of men. At the secondary level (27%), 20 per cent are women and 80 per cent are men. The 14 per cent has no education, 50 per cent of them are children under 5 years of age, while 50 per cent are adults who did not have access to basic education (13% are women, 87% are men).

In addition, the agricultural sector is positioned as the area in which most people have worked in their countries of origin (25%), followed by various occupations (18%) and the construction sector (18%). With respect to the various occupations of migrants, activities related to tourism, mechanics, safety, forestry, mining, among others, are mentioned.

In the agricultural sector, people with primary education (69%) are followed by secondary education (17%). In the construction sector, people have primary education (60%) and secondary education (25%) mainly. In the various occupations sector it can be identified that people have primary education (46%) and secondary education (39%) mainly.

Occupation Sector



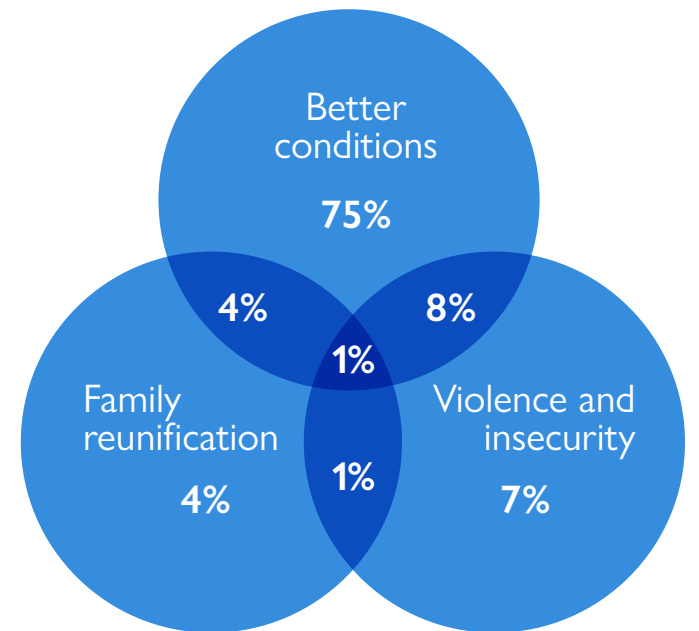
### REASONS FOR MIGRATING

In the following graph, three categories are used to summarize the main reasons for migration. The need for improving their living conditions has been highlighted as the main reason for the mobilization of these migrants, as many of them referred to conditions of unemployment and inequality in their countries of origin.

Secondly, violence and insecurity is another important cause which explains the mobilization of people through the caravans, many of them mentioned being threatened by gang members.

Finally, some people specified that their reason for joining the caravans is their desire to find relatives in the destination country.

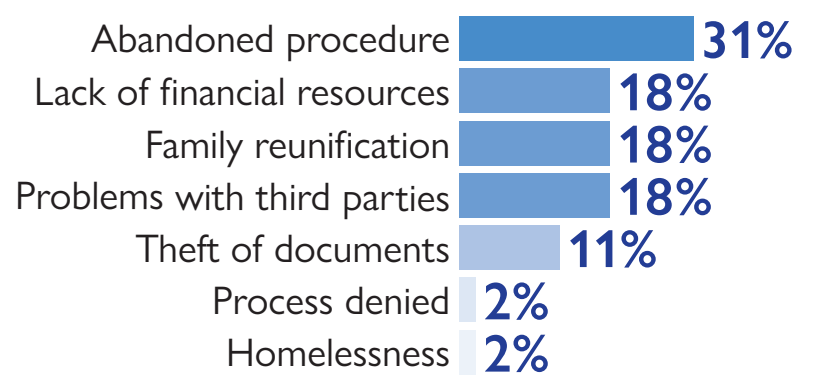
### Reasons for migrating



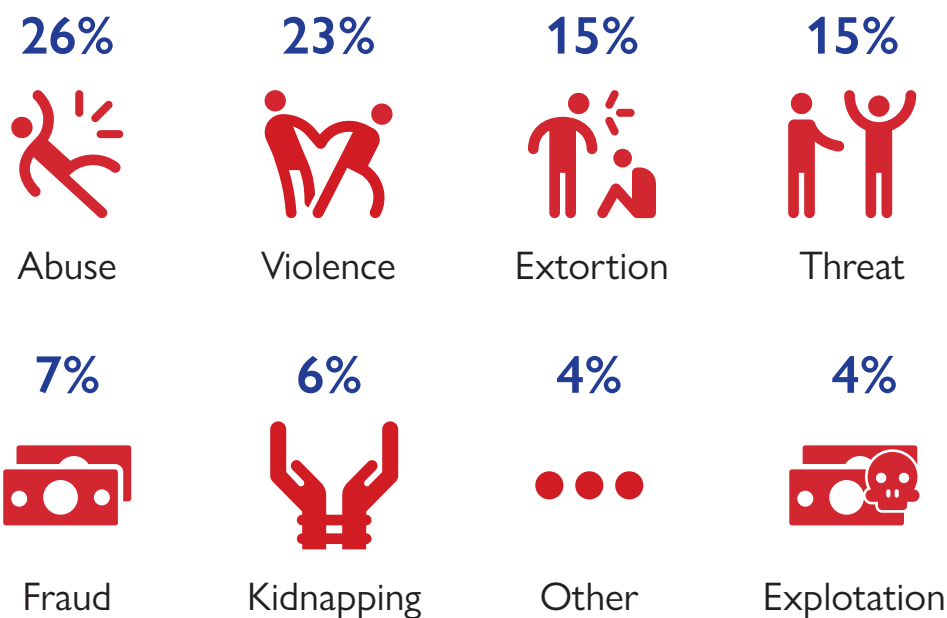
### REASONS FOR RETURNING

Migrants reported that, during their journey, they experienced abuse (26%), violence (23%), extortion (15%), threat (15%), fraud (7%), kidnapping (6%), and exploitation (4%).

### Reasons for returning



### Plans when returning home



Five per cent of migrants had already requested or started an application for the regularization of their migratory status in Mexico. However, all of them decided to return to their country of origin, reporting the following reasons for leaving Mexico: (31%) abandonment of the application, (18%) reported scarcity of financial resources, family reunification (18%), (18%) problems with third parties, (11%) reported that their identity document had been stolen, process denied (2%), and (2%) homelessness <sup>1</sup>.

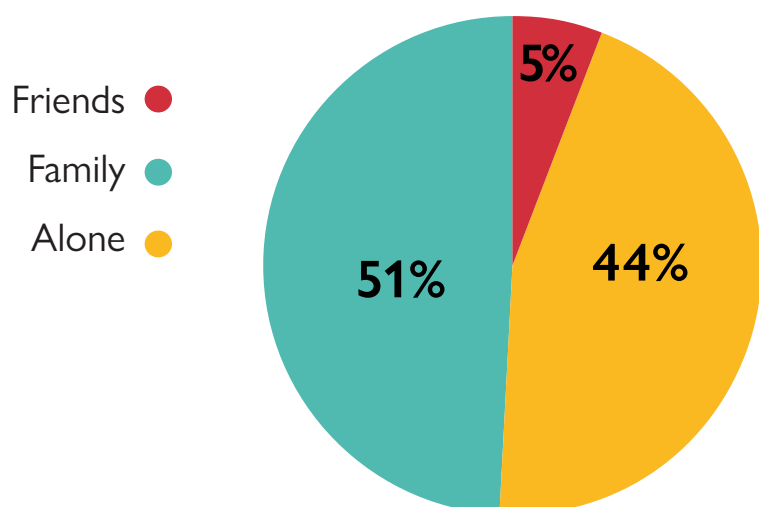
With regard to the intentions after returning to their country of origin, migrants wished to start looking for a job (59%), return to home (22%), reunite with their families (11%), study (7%) and healthcare (1%).

<sup>1</sup> Considering that data has been collected starting from March 2019, the representativeness of the following information is equal to 10% of the total amount of registered returns.

### RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE WHO TRAVEL

The following chart shows the kinship among the people who are part of the migrant caravan. In the first category, the data shows that most migrants are travelling with first-degree relatives, meaning parents, siblings and children (51%), followed by migrants that are travelling alone (44%), and a smaller percentage of migrants (5%) who reported to be traveling with friends or acquaintances.

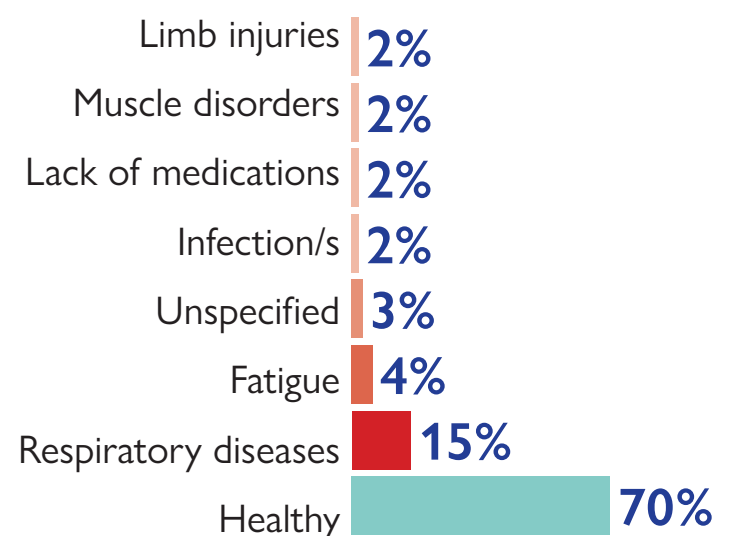
Regarding migrants who are travelling with family members, 28 per cent are minors between 0 and 17 years of age, and 19 per cent are under 13 years of age.



### HEALTH CONDITION

In regard to the health conditions of migrants, the majority self-perceived as healthy, however, at the time of the screening process it was revealed that approximately 15 per cent suffered from respiratory diseases, as well as from infections and affectations in muscles and extremities.

Moreover, the survey allowed IOM staff to assess that migrants had suffered from specific health conditions during the journey, such as anxiety, nervousness, dehydration and burns.

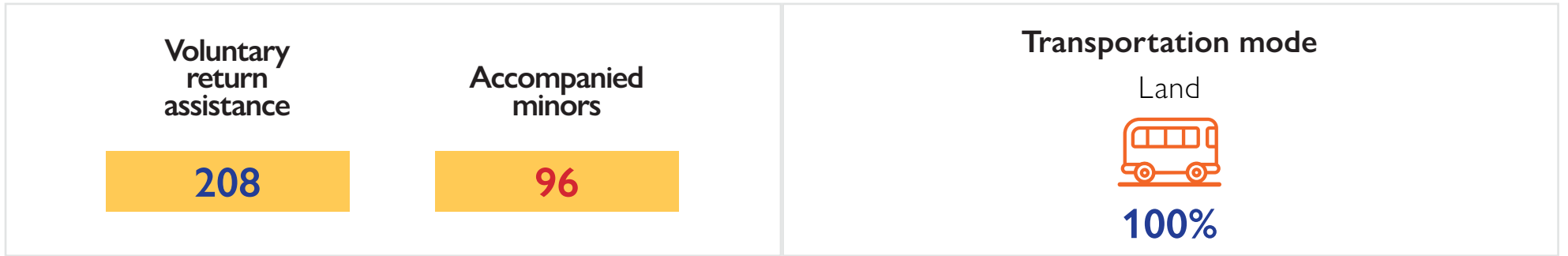


## MIGRANTS WHO WITHDRAW FROM THE "MIGRANT PROTECTION PROTOCOLS (MPP)" OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

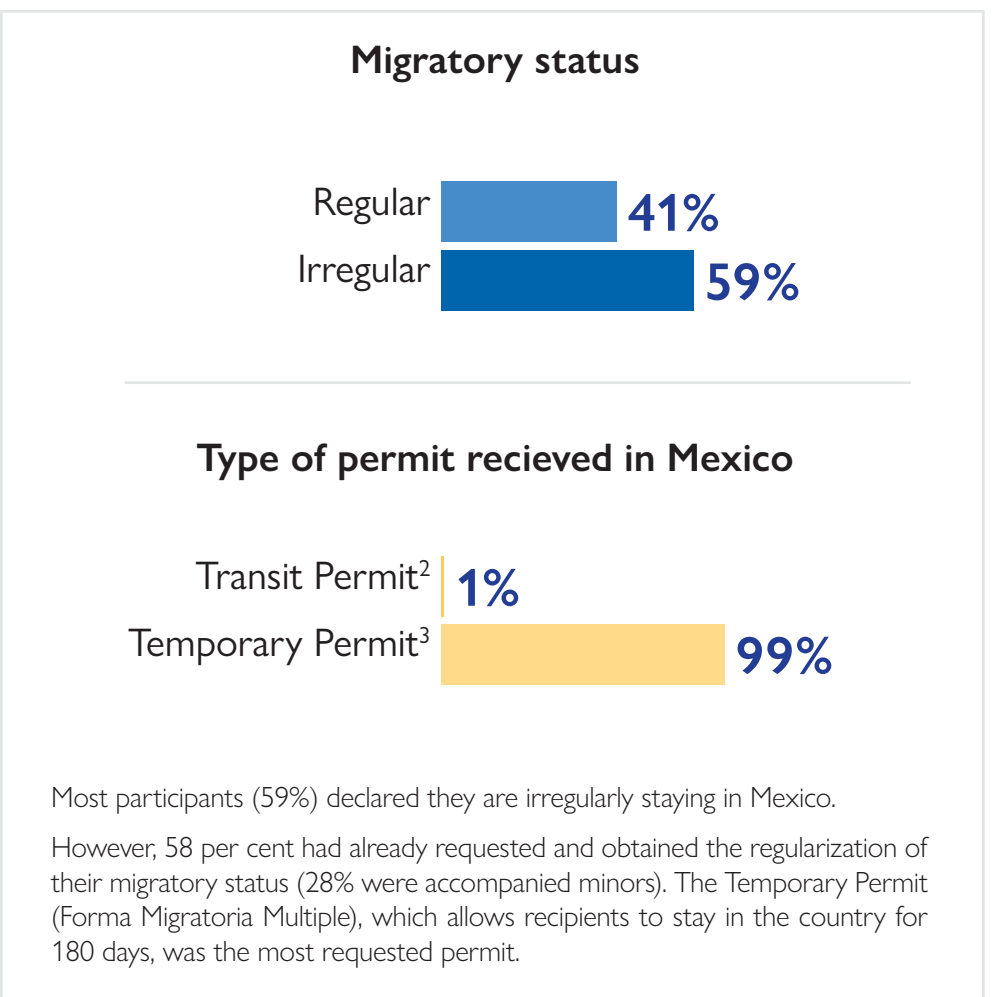
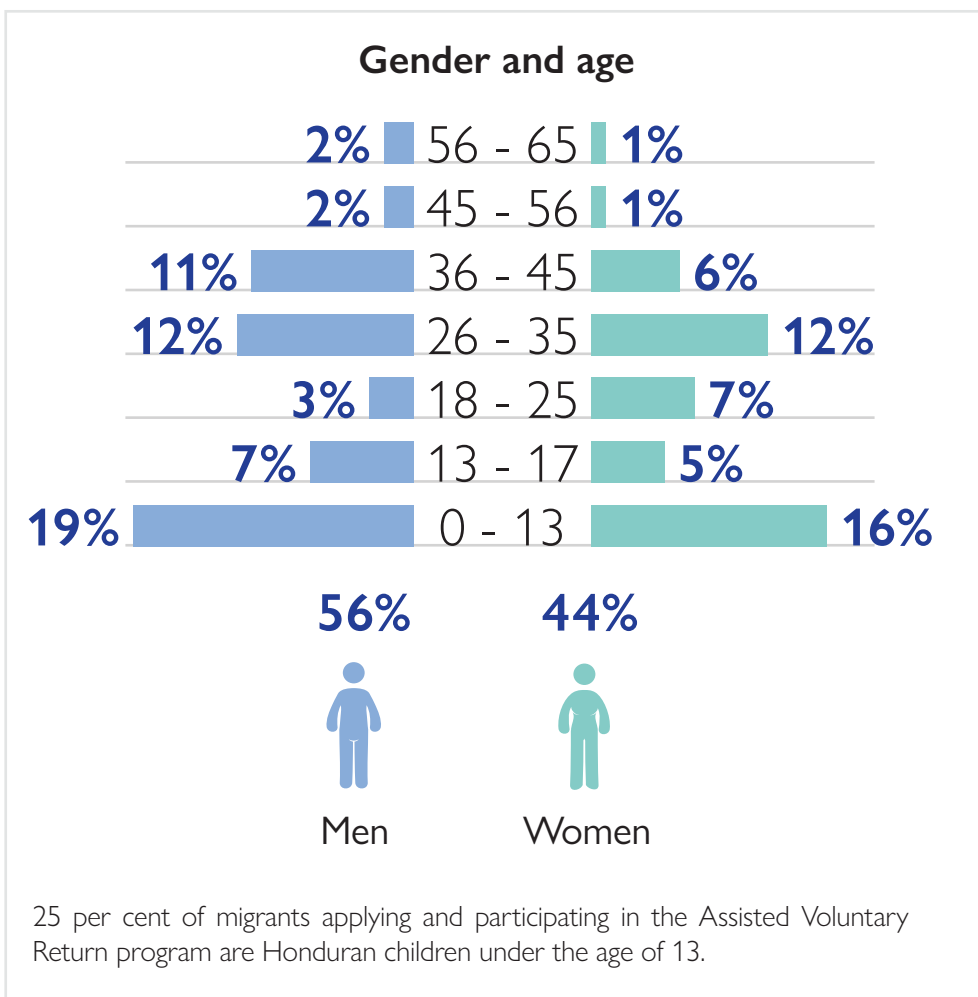
The Assisted Voluntary Return Program implemented in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, aims at advising and assisting migrants who desist from adhering to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) of the U.S.

to collaborating organizations and institutions. Since July 1st 2019, IOM has registered 208 assisted voluntary return cases, of which 72 involved accompanied minors.

A pivotal component of the program is to provide participants with reliable information on the consequences of abandoning the MPP related process and to refer special cases



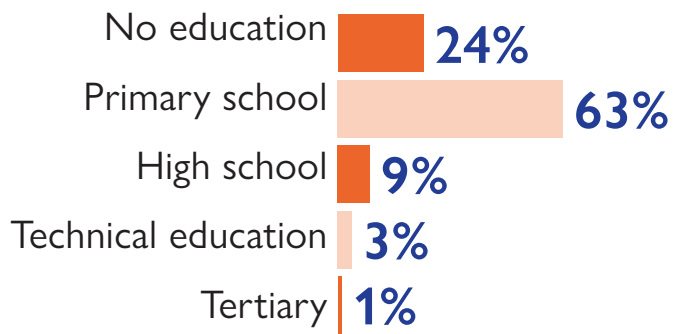
## MIGRATORY PROFILE



<sup>2</sup> It refers to the permit known as "Oficio de Salida" for more information please visit <https://www.gob.mx/tramites/ficha/salida-del-territorio-nacional-de-personas-extranjeras/INM637>

<sup>3</sup> It refers to the permit known as "Forma Migratoria Multiple" for more information please visit <https://www.inm.gob.mx/fmme/publico/solicitud.html>

### Level of education



With regards to educational attainment, most migrants (63%) attended Primary school: 38 per cent of them completed.

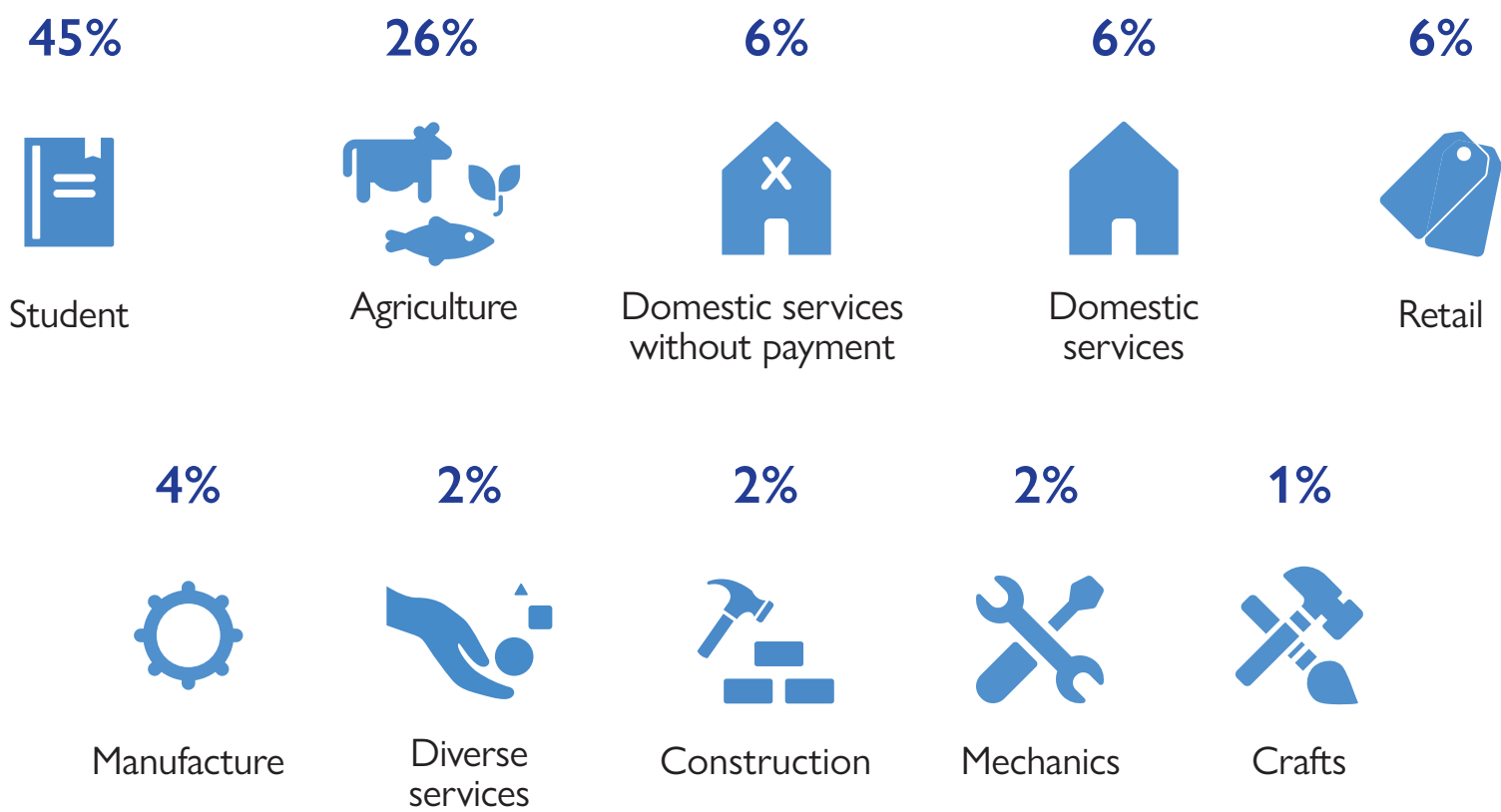
It must be noted that 11 per cent of migrants without formal education are children under the age of 5 who have not entered formal schooling, while 89 per cent are either children between the age of 8 and 12 (6%), 13 and 17 (11%) or adults (83%) who never received formal education.

### Occupational sector

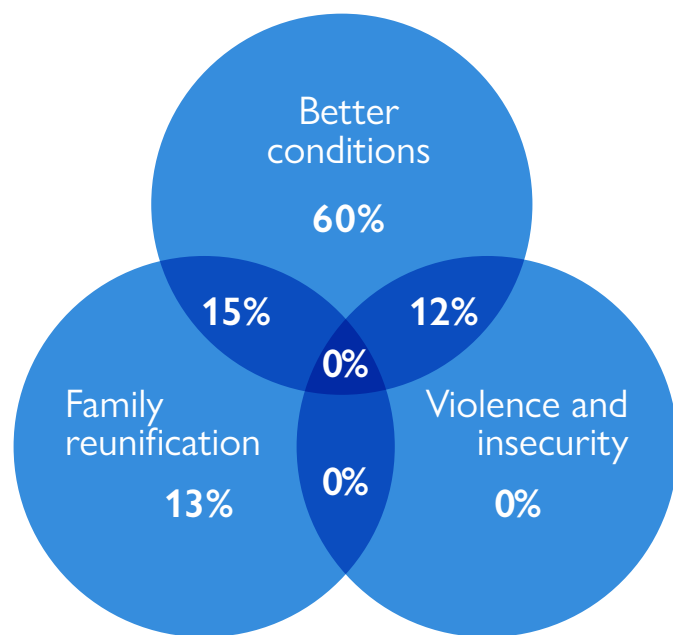
Most migrants applying for assisted voluntary return declared to be students: 58 per cent were children under the age of 13, 30 per cent children aged 14 to 17, and 3 per cent were adults between 36 and 45 years old.

All migrants performing paid and unpaid domestic work, as well as migrants

working in crafting and forestry are women. On the other hand, 100 per cent of people working in auto mechanics, construction and manufacturing are men. Among agricultural worker, 78 per cent were men and 22 per cent were women. In the retail sector, 60 per cent were female workers and 40 per cent male workers.

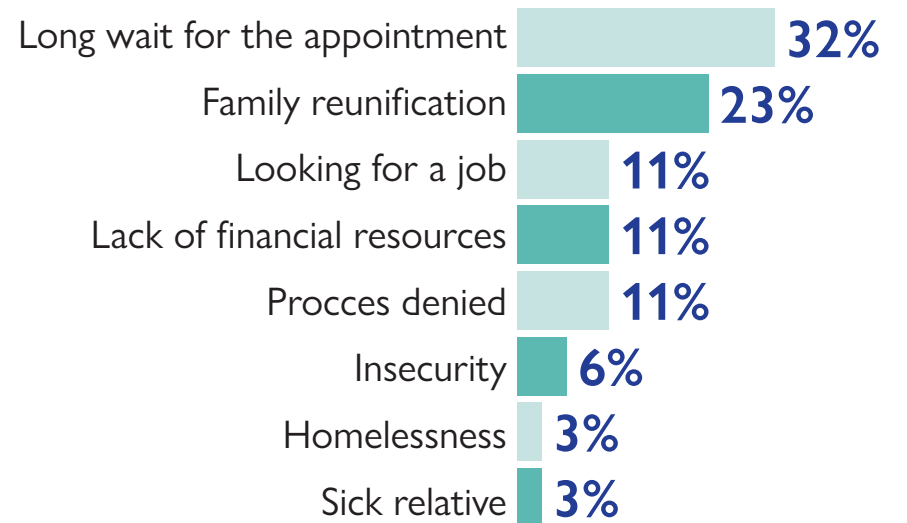


### Reasons for migrating



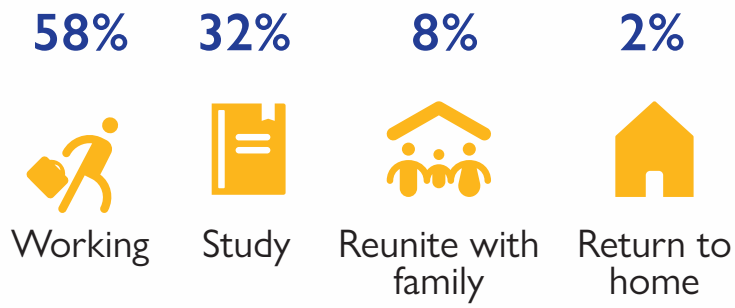
As reported in the graph, seeking better living conditions and job opportunities (58%), and access to higher education (32%), were the main reasons for leaving the country of origin.

### Reasons for returning



The main factors leading migrants to apply for assisted voluntary return are: family reunification (23%), long waiting time for refugee cases resolution in the U.S. (31%) and economic difficulties (11%).

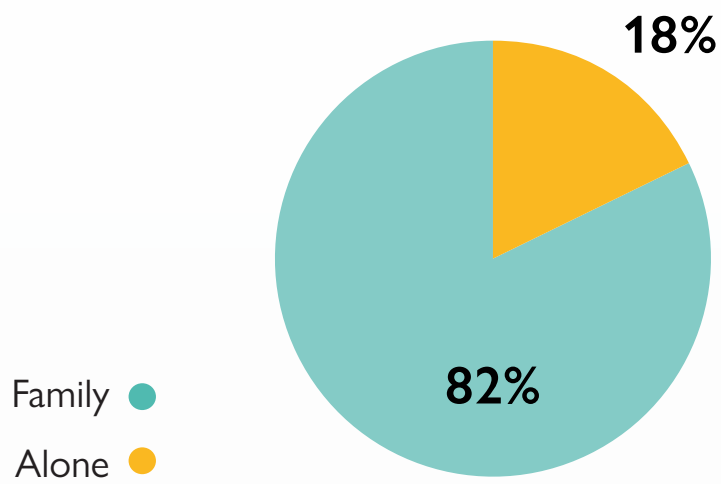
### Intentions in the country of origin



The majority of participants (100%) whose main purpose was to seek better living condition and job opportunities in the country of destination is planning to look for a job in the country of origin.

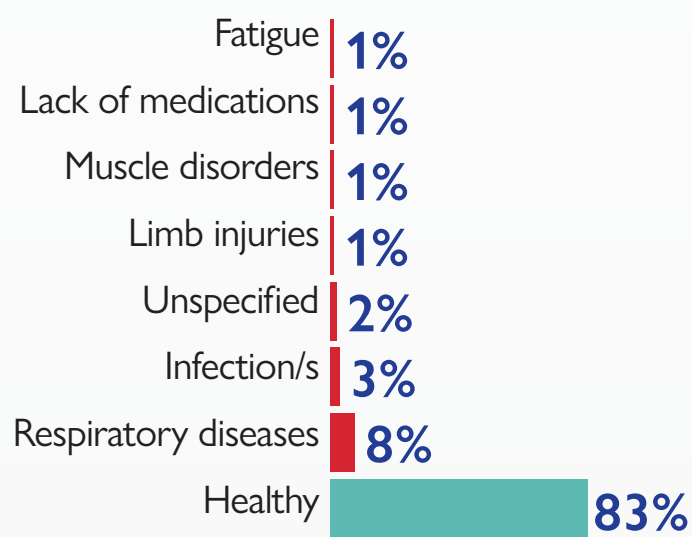
32 per cent of migrants whose main purpose was to pursue higher education is planning to go back to school once they reach the country of origin. Among them, 38 per cent is under the age of 13.

### Relationship with those who travel



As displayed in the graph, 83 per cent of participants is traveling with at least one family member. Among migrants traveling alone (18%), only 9 per cent are women.

### Health condition



Even though most migrants reported to be in good health conditions, IOM staff could identify numerous cases of dehydration and sunburn, especially among children.

It has to be noted that 100 per cent of migrants suffering from infections and 60 of those suffering from respiratory conditions were children under the age of 13.