



Mixed Movements

Overview of key figures and trends

+196 k

People entered Panama through the Darien province in the first half of 2023. (109k only in the Q2)



51% VENEZUELAN
17% HAITIAN
13% ECUADORIAN
4% CHINESE
Main nationalities in 2023 in the Darien.



Highest value of irregular entries in the Darien province in the second quarter in

HISTORY



40 k

Individuals crossed the Darien during April 2023

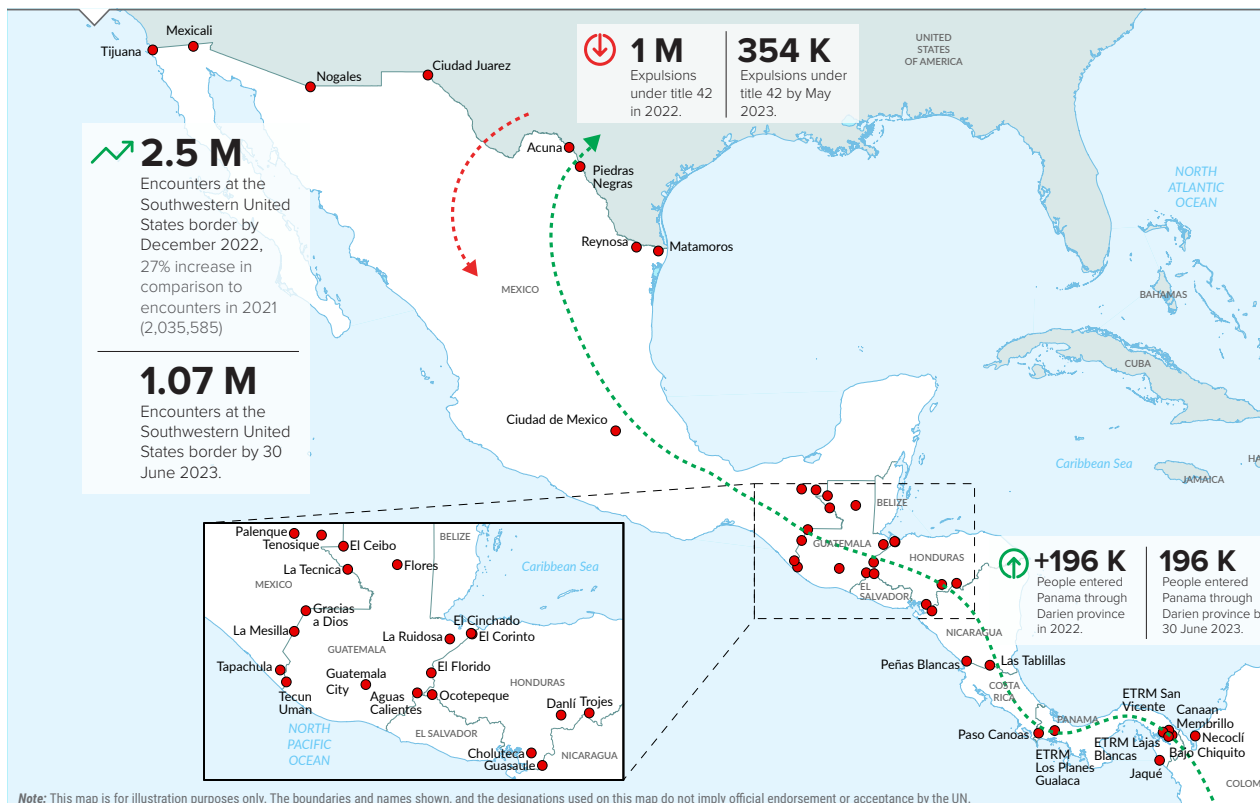
+75 k

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



354 k

Expulsions from the United States under Title 42 by 11 May 2023 when title was lifted



Sources: SENAFRONT: Panama, UNHCR, 2023.

A record number of individuals engaged in mixed and onward movements are consistently being reported as arriving in the Darien region. During the second quarter of 2023, 108,981 arrivals have been officially registered. This marks an increase of 20% compared to the first quarter.

In the first half of 2023, close to 200,000 arrivals have been documented in the Darien, with 40,000 arrivals in April alone. This escalation represents a staggering 634% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The Panamanian authorities have estimated that 400,000 refugees and migrants are expected to cross by the end of the year. The main nationalities crossing the Darien remain the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti, and Ecuador. There is a noticeable increase in the arrival of extracontinental nationalities, including by Chinese, Afghan and Nepali nationals.

The number of people on the move reported missing in Central and North America (332) in 2023 remains a clear sign of the level of risks and hardship faced by people engaged in mixed movements across the region.



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



Mixed Movements

Overview of key figures and trends

According to official figures, more than 135,000 people entered Honduras irregularly during the first half of 2023. Venezuela (38%), Ecuador (14%), Haiti (13%), Cuba (8%), and China (3%) are the main nationalities.

As observed through various data collection efforts, most people's intention is to reach the United States. At the same time, in Mexico, over 74,000 new asylum claims were registered in the first half of 2023, a 28% increase when compared to the same period in 2022. The primary nationalities of asylum seekers in Mexico this year include Haiti (40%), Honduras (24%), Cuba (7%), and Venezuela (5%). It is relevant to mention, however, that the fact the individuals apply for asylum in Mexico does not necessarily mean they all intend to remain in Mexico in the medium or longer term.

By June 2023, more than 1.07 million encounters were reported at the U.S. Southwest land border, a 13% decrease compared to the same period in 2022. The primary nationalities include Mexico (36%), Venezuela (10%), Honduras (8%), Guatemala (8%), Colombia (7%), and Ecuador (4%). The decrease may be partly attributable to the new measures implemented as of 12 May by U.S. authorities for individuals who cross unlawfully the Southwestern border including expedited removal, a 5-year bar from reentry and a presumption of ineligibility for asylum, absent an applicable exception. At the same time the U.S. government announced a significant expansion of refugee resettlement and other lawful pathways including a humanitarian parole program for nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. In June 2023, the Safe Mobility Offices (SMO) initiative was launched in Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala by the U.S. Government with the support of UNHCR and IOM to expand access to refugee resettlement and other lawful pathways of admission to the U.S. Additional information on the program is available [here](#).

Providing essential 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.

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.

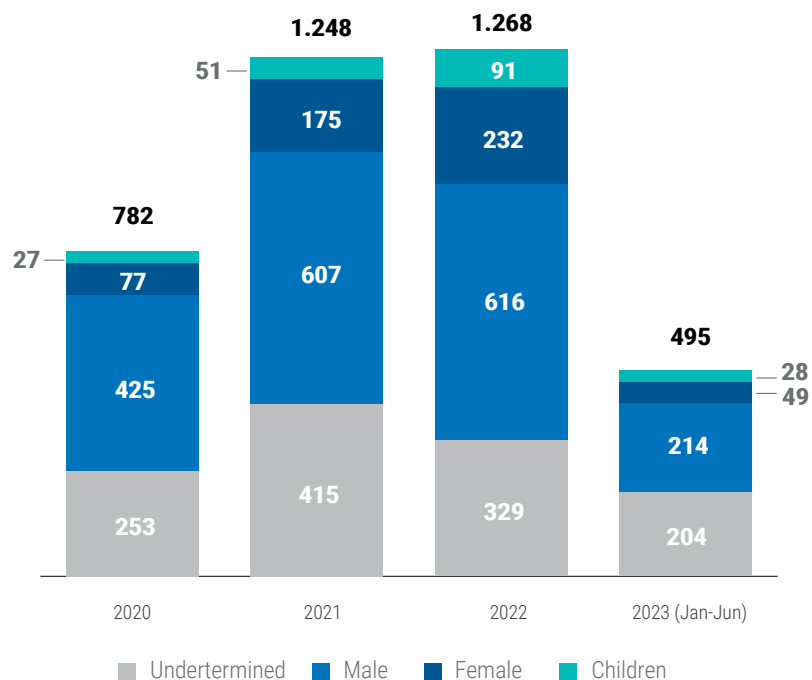




Missing migrants in the Americas

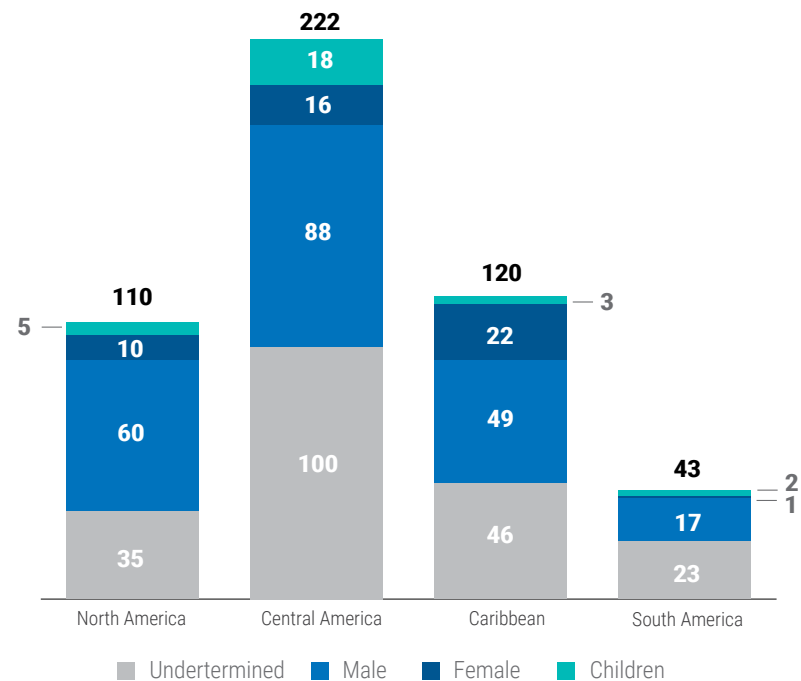
- Since IOM began monitoring deaths and disappearances of migrants and people on the move, between 2014 until 30 June 2023, 7,867 cases have been recorded in the region. Actual figures may be a lot higher as not all deaths are recorded ([MMP, 2023](#)).
- During the first half of 2023, 495 cases were registered in the Americas. The break-down by sub-region is: Caribbean: 120; Central America: 222; South America: 43 and North America: 110 ([Idem](#)).

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



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

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



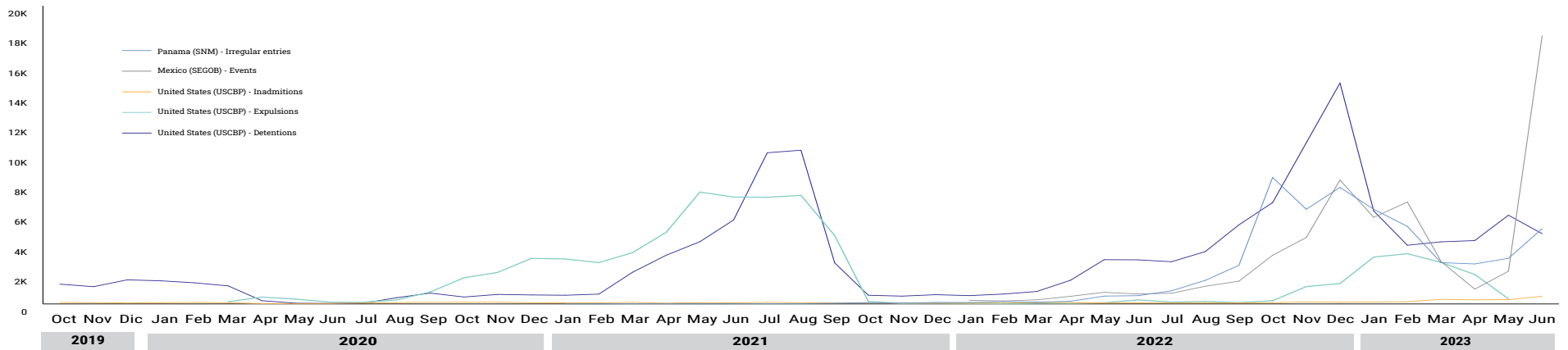
Source: [Missing Migrants Project](#), 2023.



Mixed Movements Ecuador

Trends in movements from and to Ecuador

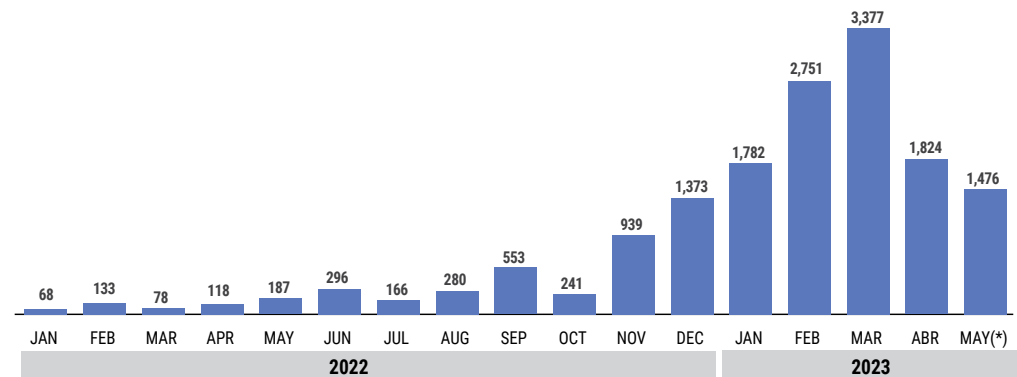
Events reported by Migration Authorities of Panama, Mexico and the United States involving Ecuadorians



Source: [Migraciones Panama, México - Unidad de Política Migratoria, United States \(U.S.\) Customs and Border Protection \(U.S.\) Department of Homeland Security.](#)

- Since the last part of 2022 an important increase in Ecuadorian outflows has been observed either through official exits or irregularly.
- Ecuadorian irregular movements could be observed through indirect sources such as registers of deportees received by the Ecuadorian Government from different countries and reported events by migration authorities from Panama, Mexico and the United States.
- Considering deportees received by Ecuadorian authorities, it is noticed an increasing trend from November 2022 to March 2023, with a peak of 3,377 deportees received.
- Apprehensions by United States authorities increased drastically between September and December 2022; as well as a similar trend during the same period reported by the Mexican immigration authority.

Deportees Received by Ecuadorian Government



Source: Internal Report by Migration Authorities, Ministerio del Interior de Ecuador, 2023

(*) Up to 22 May 2023



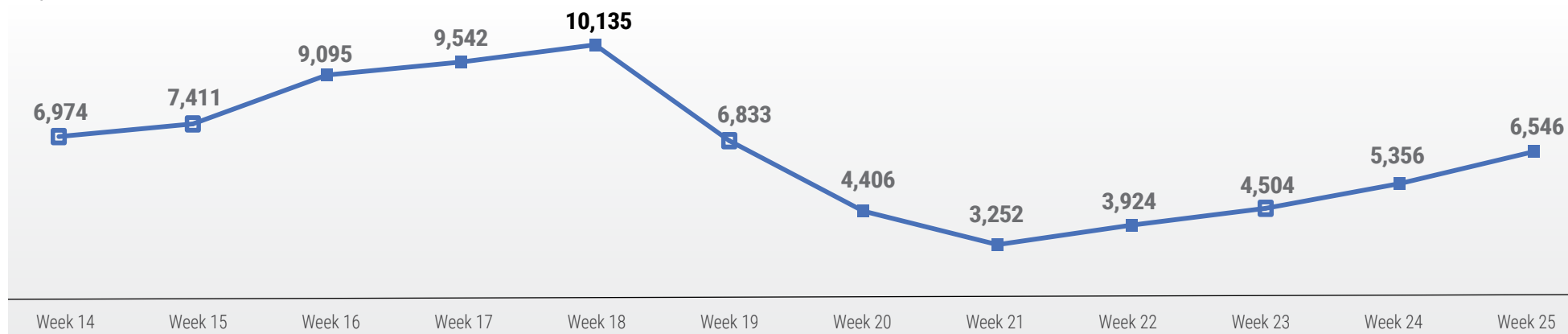
Mixed Movements Colombia

Necoclí, a small town situated in the department of Antioquia on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, has garnered attention since 2021 due to the significant influx of thousands of people who initiate their journey there, setting sail towards the shores of Panama. Subsequently, these individuals undertake an arduous journey by foot through the jungle in the Darien Province.

The subsequent line chart illustrates the weekly flow of individuals from various nationalities departing from Necoclí to Panama during the second quarter of 2023. Notably, there has been a 10% increase in comparison to the first quarter. Moreover, the month of July 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 77% surge in comparison to the total flows recorded in June 2023, which amounted to 23,359 individuals.

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

1 April 2023 – 30 June 2023



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

→ 227 k

Venezuelans entered Colombia
in the first half of 2023 via official border points.

← 220 k

Venezuelans exited Colombia
in the first half of 2023 via official border points.

↗ 20%

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

🔍 31,817

Exits registered by the Colombian Government
in June 2023. 17 per cent less than in March 2023.

Source: [Migración Colombia, 2023](#).



Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

196,371

People entered irregularly through the Darien province by 30 June 2023.



51% VENEZUELAN
17% HAITIAN
13% ECUADORIAN
4% CHINESE

Main nationalities by 30 June 2023 in the Darien.



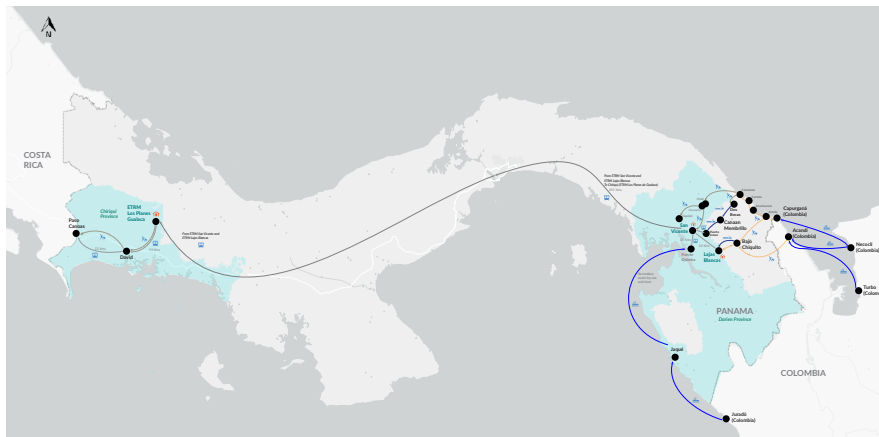
29,722

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

4 times

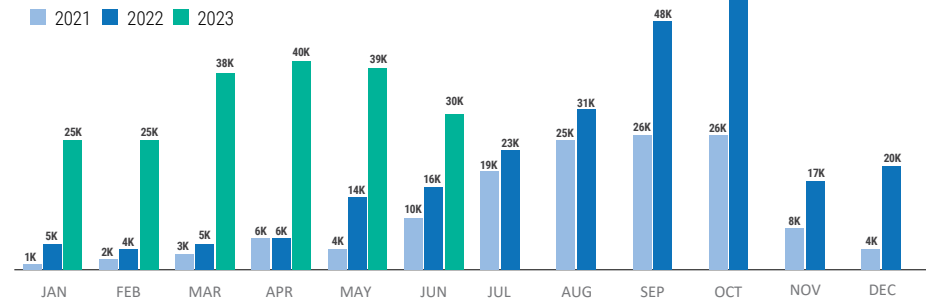
more irregular entries in the Darien by 30 June 2023, compared to the same period of 2022.

Based on the DTM monitoring study conducted at the Migratory Temporal Reception Center (ETRM) in Darien and Chiriquí provinces, between 10-30 April 2023, 561 people were interviewed, of which 89% mentioned economic reasons as a motivating factor for migrating, in addition, the main needs identified were transportation (34%), medical assistance (20%) and food (18%). (DTM, 2023)

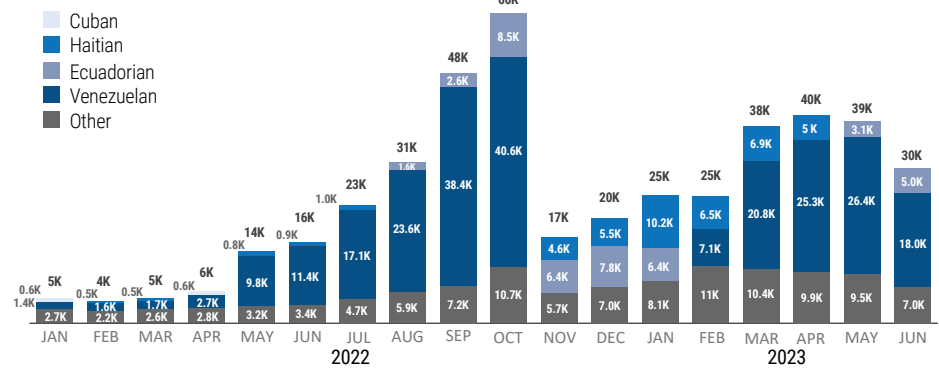


Source: UNHCR, 2023.

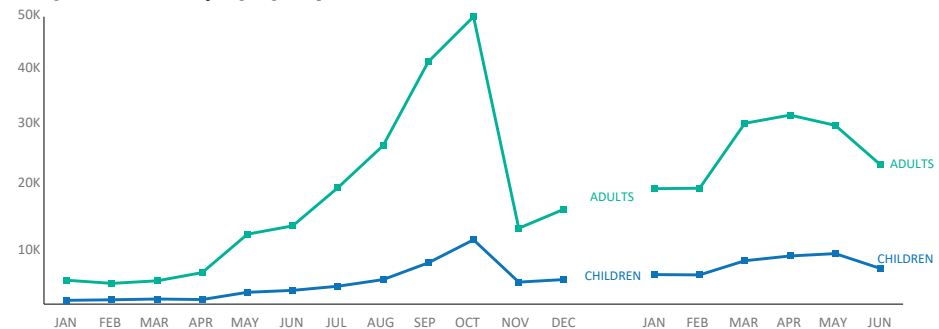
Irregular entries Darien | 2021 - 30 Jun 2023



Irregular entries by nationalities | 2022 - 30 Jun 2023



Irregular entries by age groups | 2022 - 30 Jun 2023



Source: Migraciones Panama.



Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

315
 Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023, entering Panama from Colombia in the Darien province (Migration Reception Centers Lajas Blancas and San Vicente).

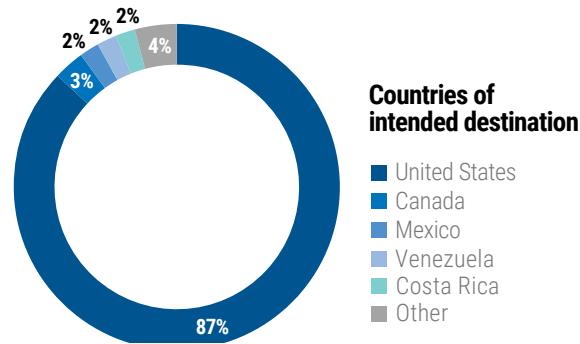
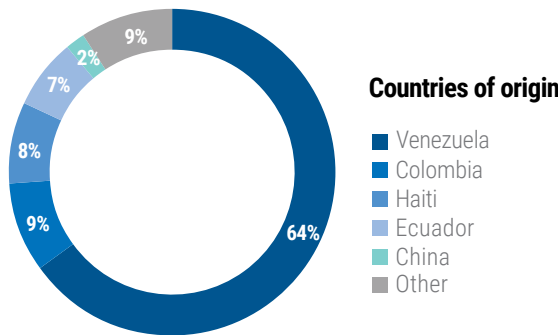
67%
 Men

33%
 Women

32
 Average age

22
 Different nationalities interviewed

33%
 Reported to have experienced protection incidents during their journey through the jungle.

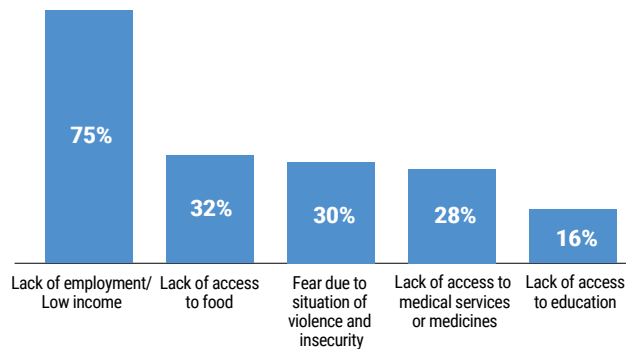


Food security

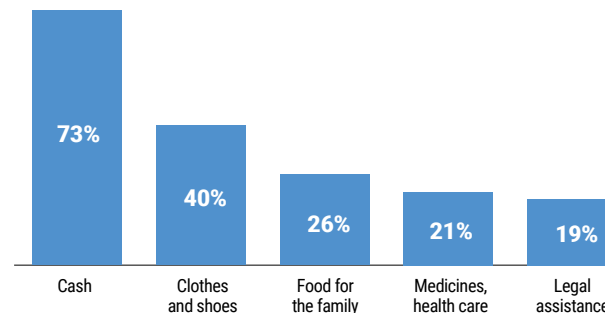
82%
 Faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies.
 46% have regularly skipped meals and 36% spent whole days without eating.

70%
 Have an insufficient food consumption.
 52% consumed one meal only and 18% none the day before the interview.

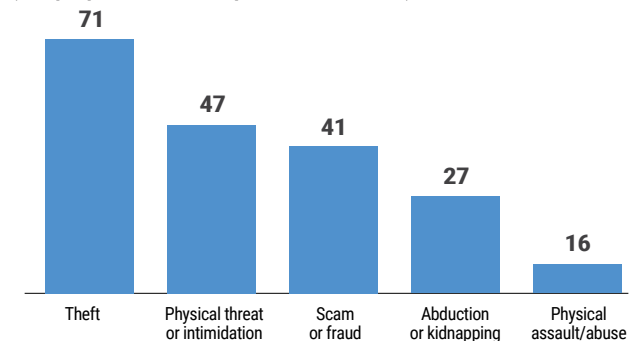
Main reasons to leave country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main protection incidents in the Darien (103 people who suffered protection incidents)



Source: *Mixed movement monitoring UNHCR-WFP, Panama, 2023.*



Mixed Movements Costa Rica



1,985

Individuals interviewed in shelters in San José, by OIM, between January and 30 June 2023.



84% VENEZUELAN
7% CUBAN
4% HAITIAN
3% ECUADORIAN

Main nationalities interviewed in shelters.



45%

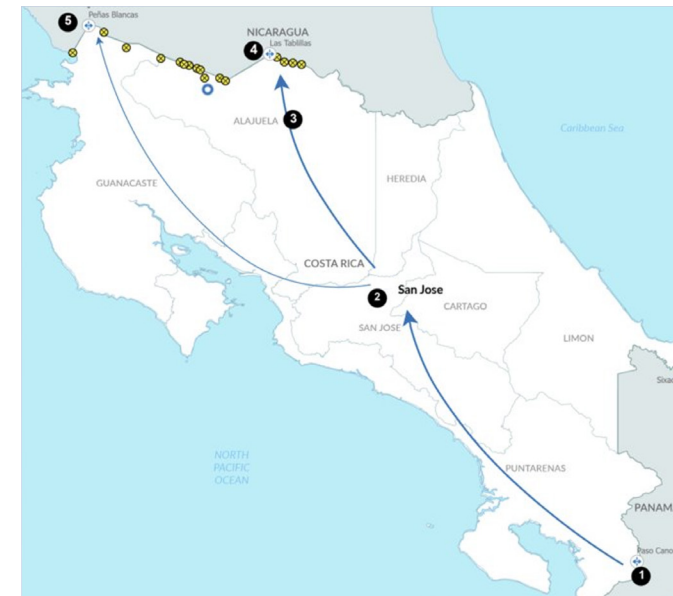
Women



55%

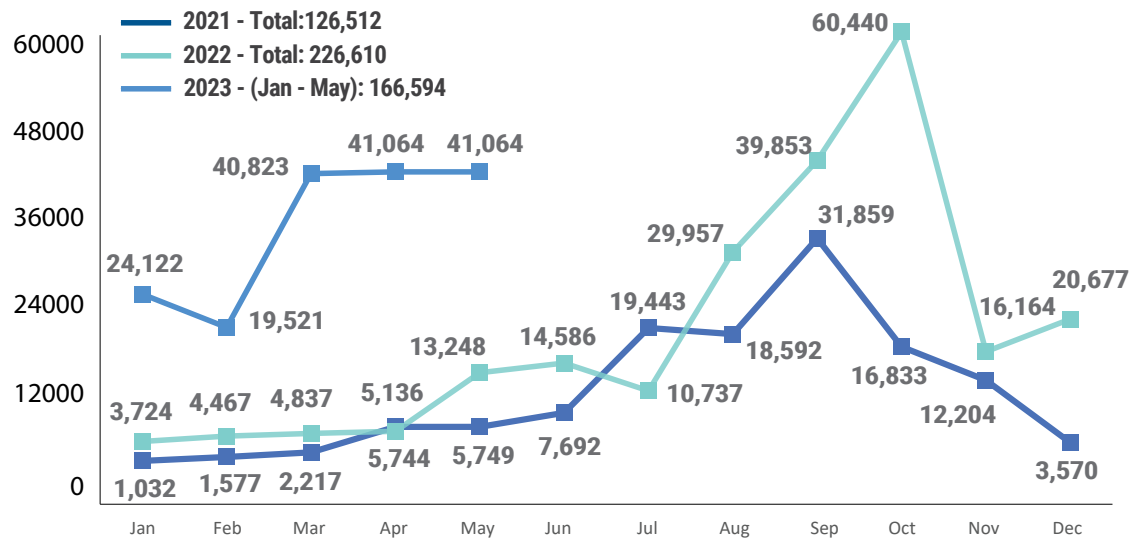
Men

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 May 2023, 41,064 people departed Los Planes ETRM for Costa Rica as part of the migration flow in Costa Rica, 41,064 people as part of the migratory flow in mobility through the Americas, entering mainly through Paso Canoas, on the border with Panama (99%). Paso Canoas, on the border with Panama (99%). The daily average number of departures was 1,325 and the median was 1,317, peaked on day 3 with 2,384 departures and reached a low of 474 on day 31 ([DTM, 2023b](#)).



Mixed Movements Costa Rica



623

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023.

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



53% Men



47% Women



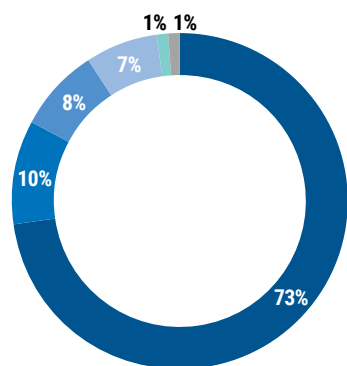
28 Average age



69% Reported that the fear of generalized violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin.

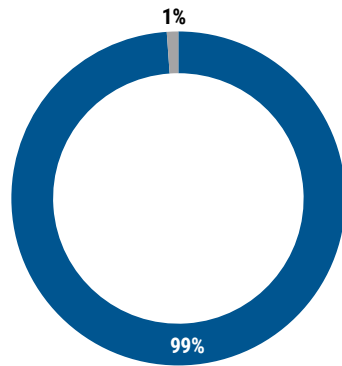


31% Reported to have experienced protection incidents in other countries along the route.



Countries of origin

- Venezuela
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Haiti
- Afghanistan
- Other



Countries of intended destination

- United States
- Other

Food security



88% Faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies.

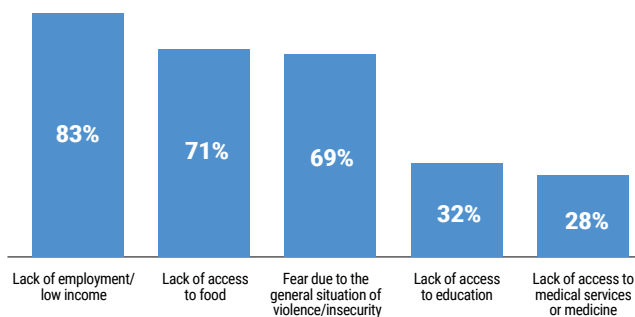
60% spent whole days without eating and 28% have regularly skipped meals.



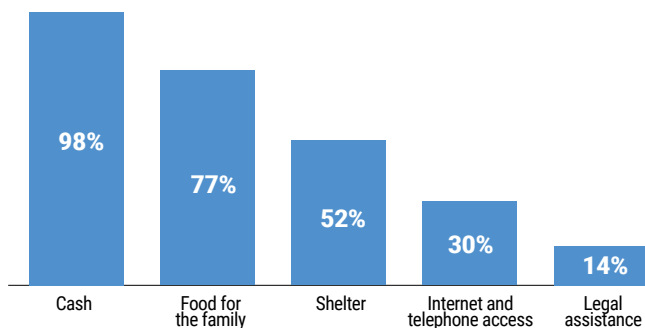
75% Have an insufficient food consumption.

42% consumed one meal only and 33% none the day before the interview.

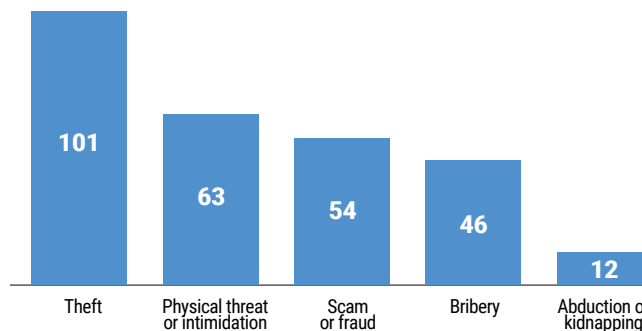
Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Costa Rica (196 people who suffered protection incidents)





Mixed Movements Honduras



292

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023



51%

Men



48%

Women



1%

Non binary



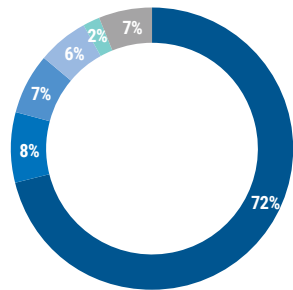
32

Average age



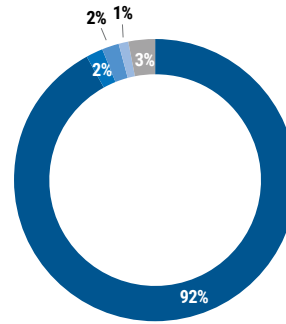
32%

Reported to have experienced protection incidents during their journey.



Countries of origin

- Venezuela
- Ecuador
- Colombia
- Cuba
- Haiti
- Other



Countries of intended destination

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



53%

Faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies.

29% have regularly skipped meals and 24% spent whole days without eating.

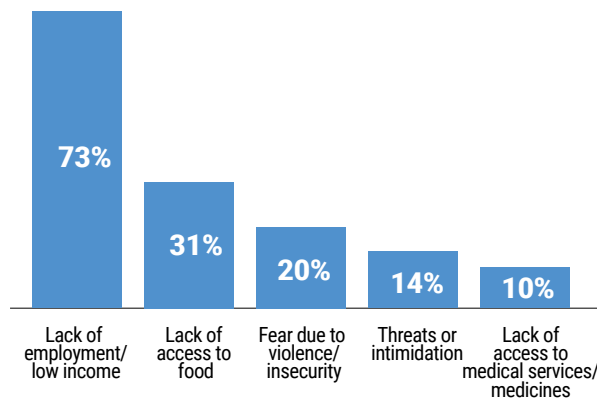


36%

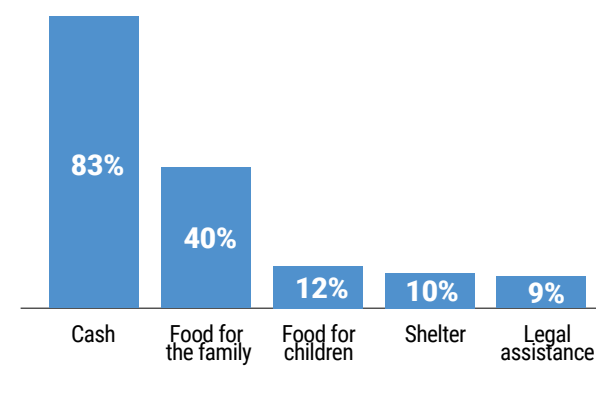
Have an insufficient food consumption.

32% consumed one meal only and 4% none the day before the

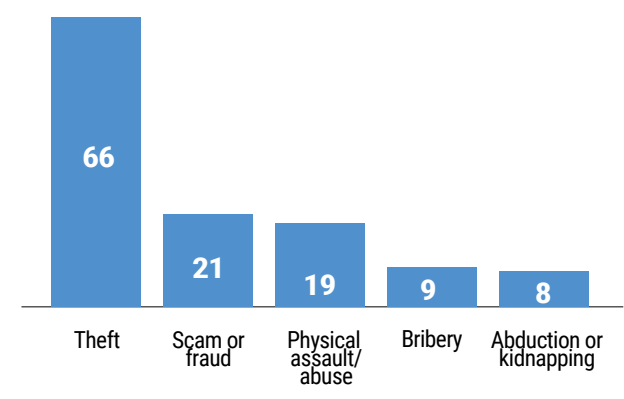
Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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

2,295

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023.

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

64% Men

36% Women

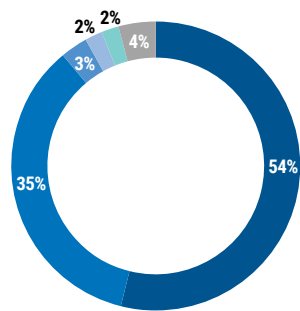
30 Average age

52%

Reported to have experienced protection incidents in Guatemala.

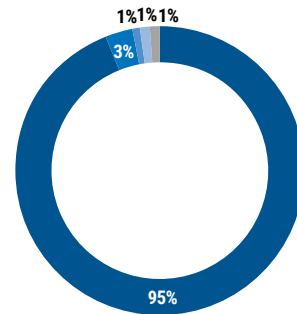
33%

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



Countries of origin

- Venezuela
- Honduras
- Colombia
- Nicaragua
- Ecuador
- Other



Countries of intended destination

- United States
- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Other

Food security

81%

Faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies.

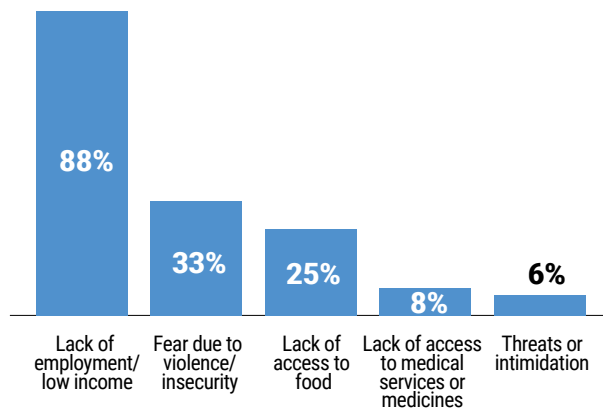
72% have regularly skipped meals and 9% spent whole days without eating.

55%

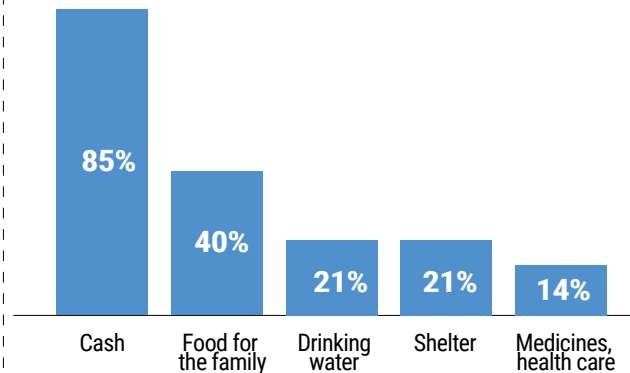
Have an insufficient food consumption.

48% consumed one meal only and 7% none the day before the interview.

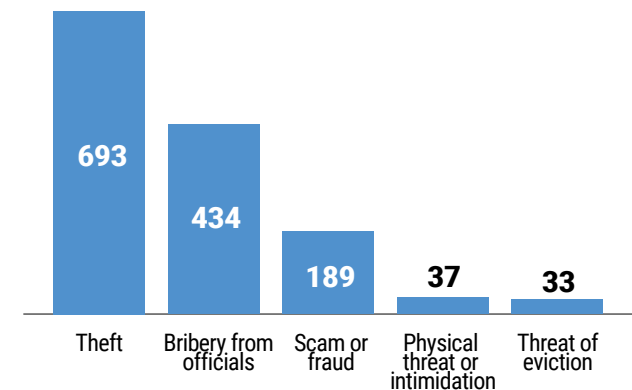
Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected)



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



Main protection incidents in Guatemala (1,192 people who suffered protection incidents)



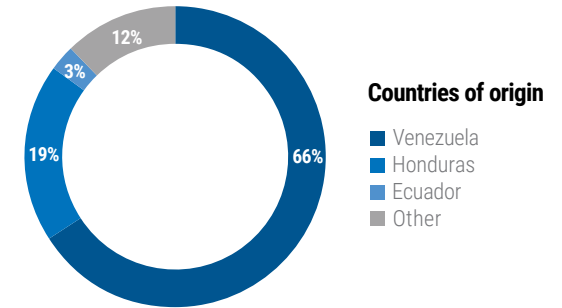
Source: Mixed movement monitoring UNHCR-WFP, Guatemala, 2023.



Mixed Movements Guatemala

1,027
individuals were interviewed by DTM Guatemala between April 21 and May 31, 2023.

56% Men **44%** Women



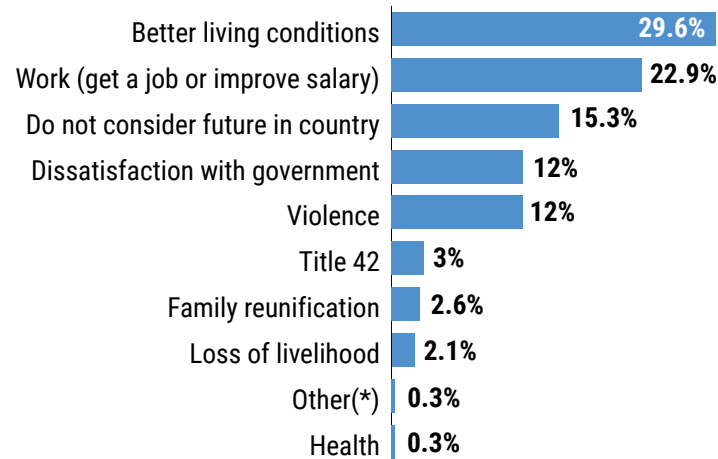
92.7%
travel group representatives interviewed are literate

Identified vulnerabilities

5.4%
of the women were pregnant

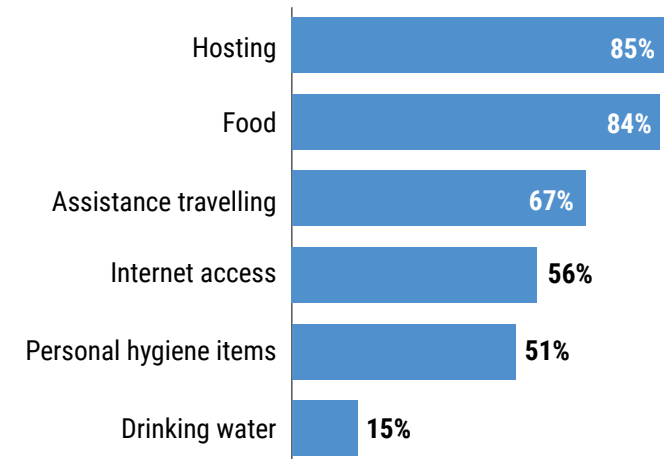
6.2%
people interviewed reported suffering from a chronic or severe disease

Drivers



In the other category are: Improving access to food; threats; discrimination; improving education; devaluation of education; currency devaluation; improving currency; improving wages and income; and some feel and some feel persecuted for their persecuted for their political political activities in their country.

Main needs of refugees and migrants



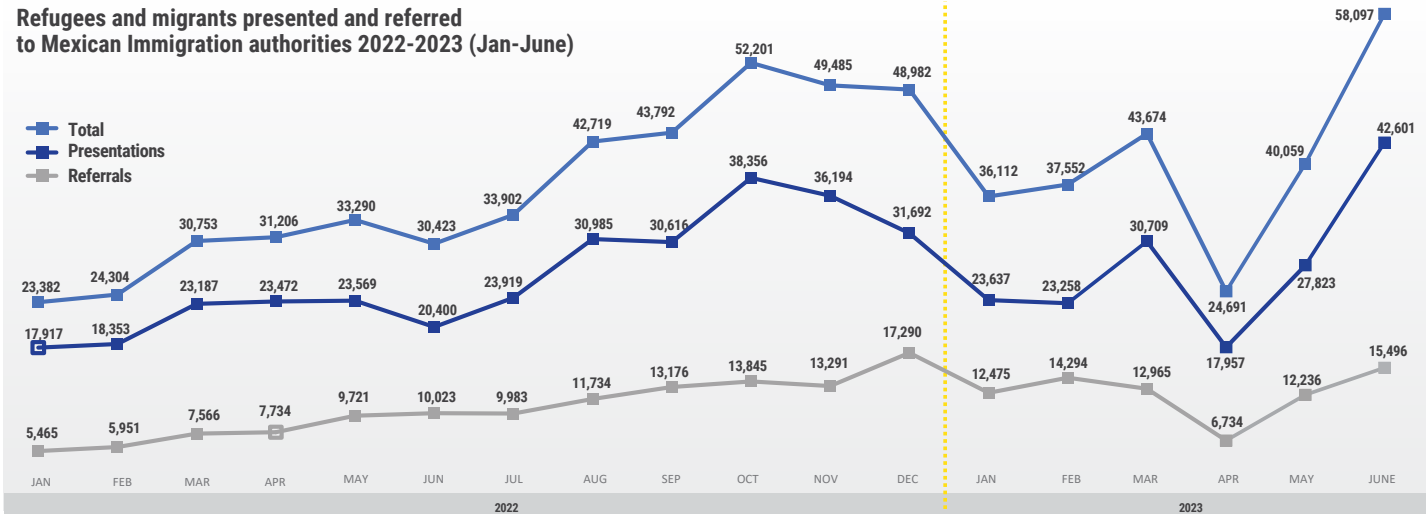
Note: The interviewees had the possibility of selecting several options, so the percentages will not add up to 100%.



Mixed Movements

Refugees and Migrants presence in Mexico (presentations and referrals)

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



39%

Increase of presentations and referrals of refugees and migrants by June 2023 in Mexico

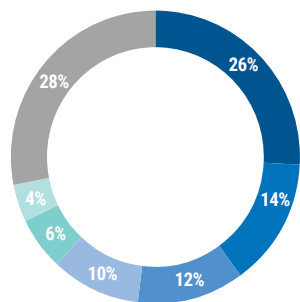
compared with the total events of migrants with irregular situation in the same period in 2022.



26% VENEZUELA
14% HONDURAS
12% GUATEMALA
10% ECUADOR
6% HAITI

Main countries of origin

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

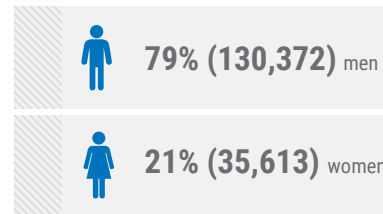


Main nationalities

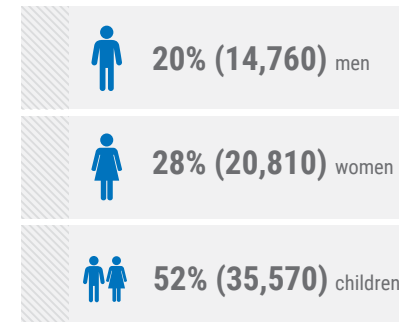
- Venezuelan
- Honduran
- Guatemalan
- Ecuadorian
- Haitian
- Colombian
- Other

Totals by demographic groups:

Presentations



Referrals



Source: [Unidad de Política Migratoria, 2023.](#)



Asylum trends in Mexico

74,764

Asylum applications were lodged in Mexico from January to June 2023, an increase of 28% compared to the same period in 2022 (COMAR, 2023).



40% HAITI
24% HONDURAS
7% CUBA
5% VENEZUELA

Top countries of origin in 2023

While in 2022, most asylum-seekers were Hondurans, Cubans, Haitians and Venezuelans (COMAR, 2023).



16 k

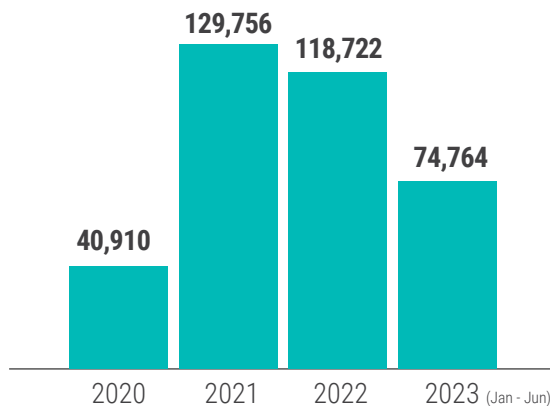
Asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023.



71%

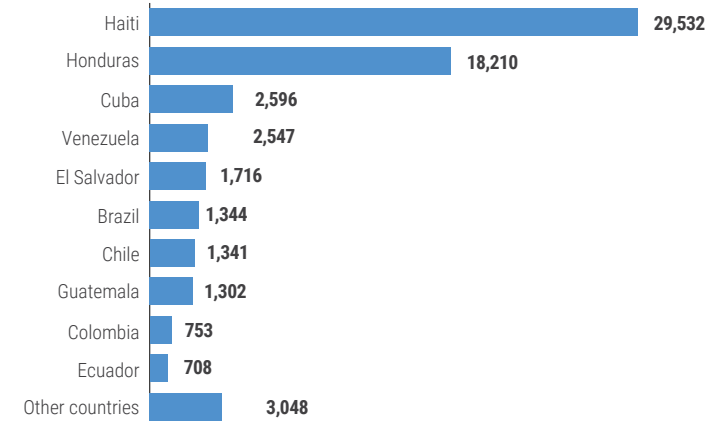
of asylum-seekers interviewed by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023, have specific protection needs.

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



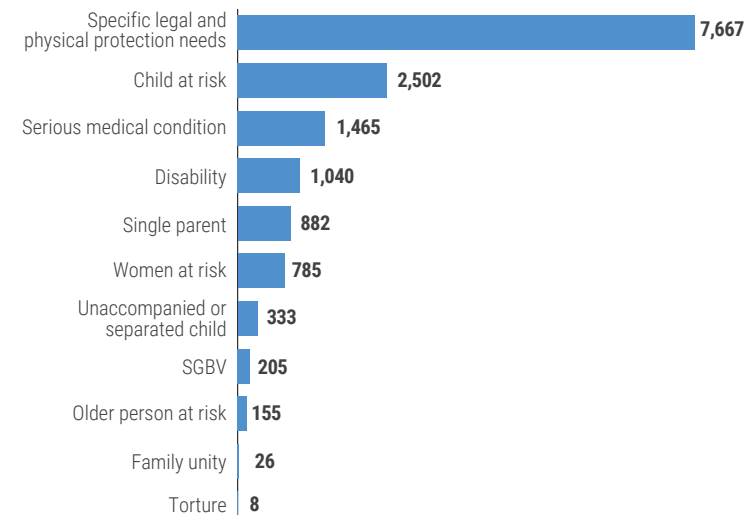
Source: COMAR, 2023.

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

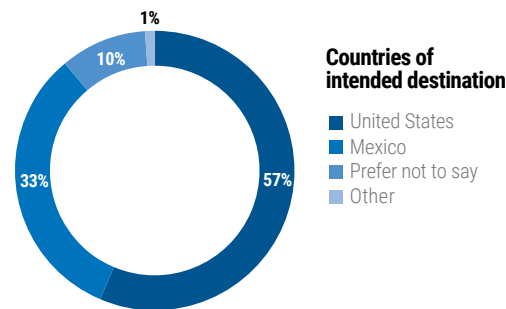
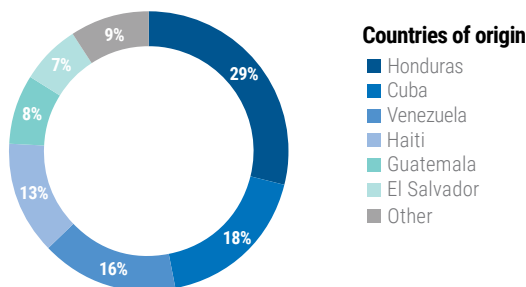
1,940
Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023
Interviews took place in 18 cities across Mexico.

54% Men
46% Women
33 Average age

56%
Reported that violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin.
53% cited lack of employment.

1 in 3
Individuals interviewed declared their intention to conclude their journey in Mexico.

64%
Reported one of their main needs was food for their family.

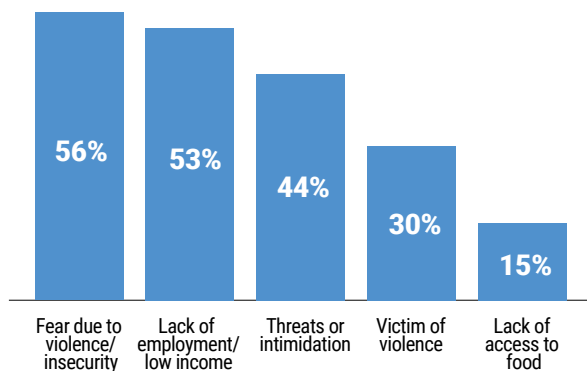


Food security

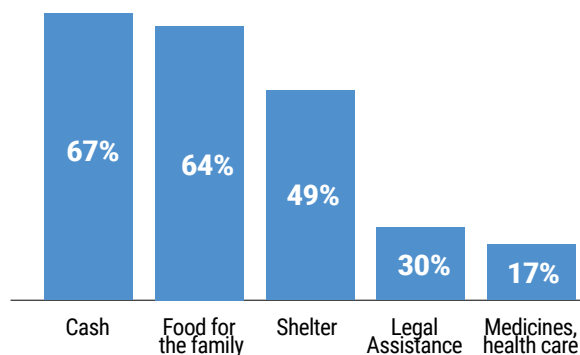
51%
Faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies.
44% have regularly skipped meals or 7% spent whole days without eating.

26%
Have an insufficient food consumption.
24% consumed one meal only and 2% none the day before the interview.

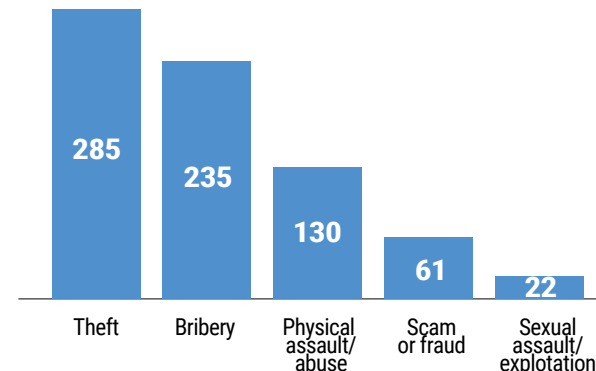
Main reasons to leave the country of origin
(More than one option could be selected)



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



211 Individuals were interviewed by DTM Mexico in Tapachula in May 2023.



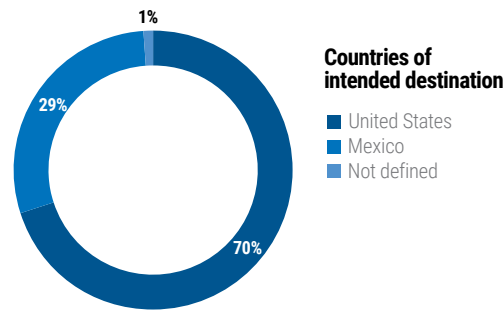
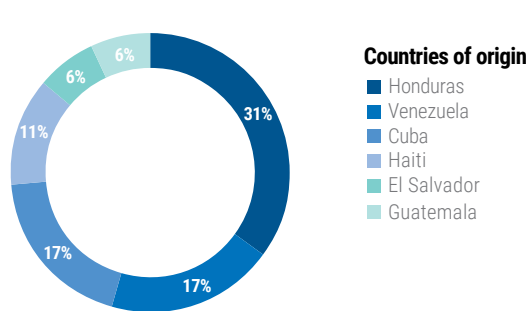
56% Men



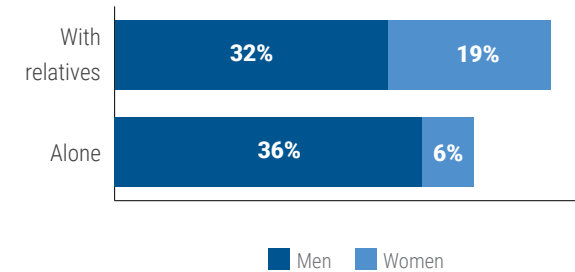
44% Women



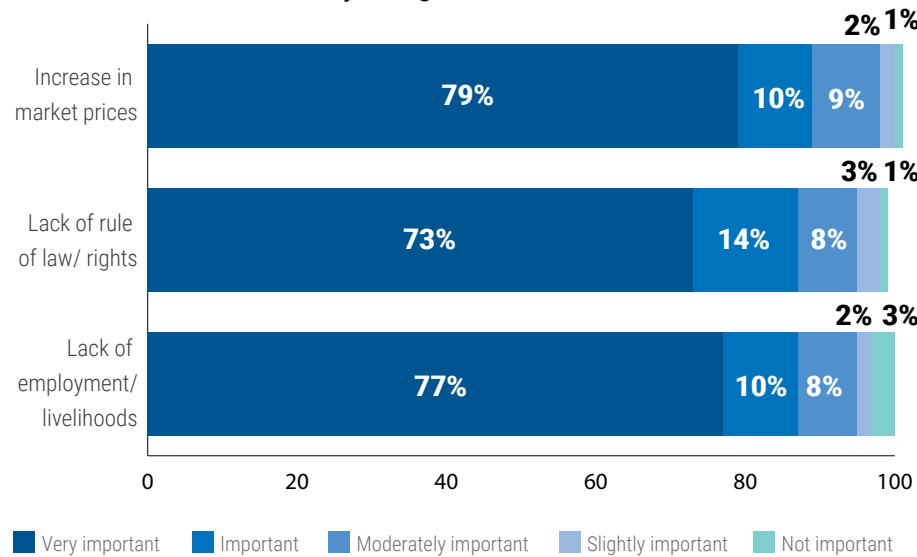
41% Were under 24 years old.



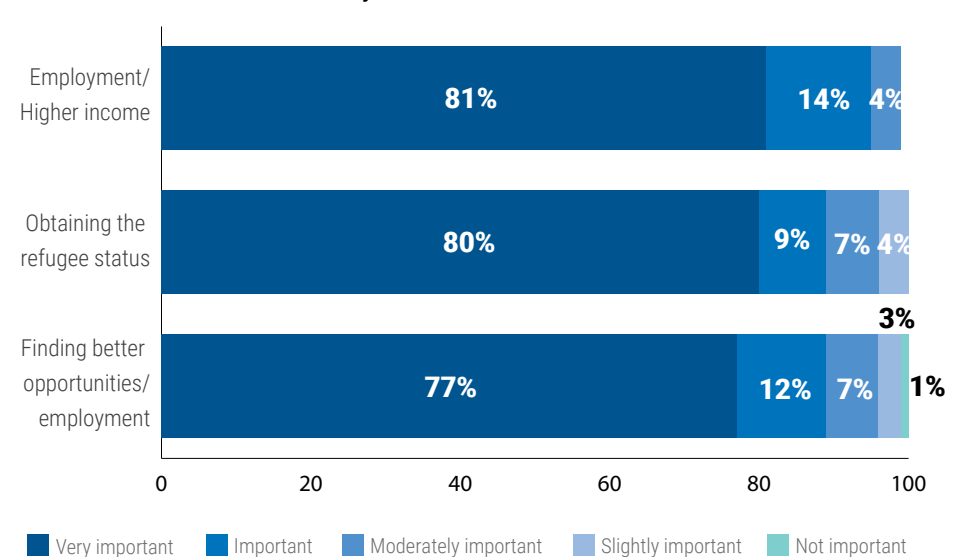
Travel group of interviewed individuals



Main reasons to leave the country of origin



Main reasons to choose country of destination





Mixed Movements Mexico North Border



408 Individuals were interviewed by DTM Mexico in Ciudad Juarez in May 2023.



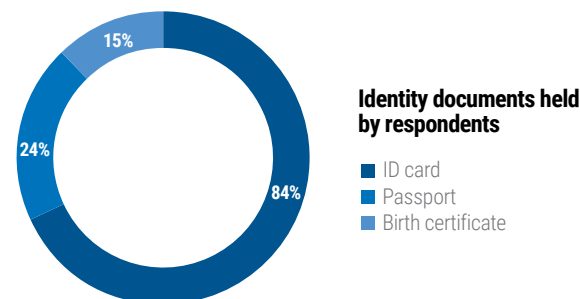
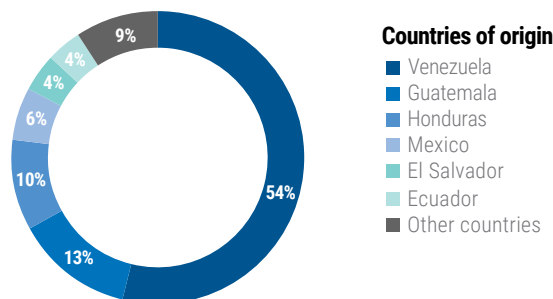
66% Men



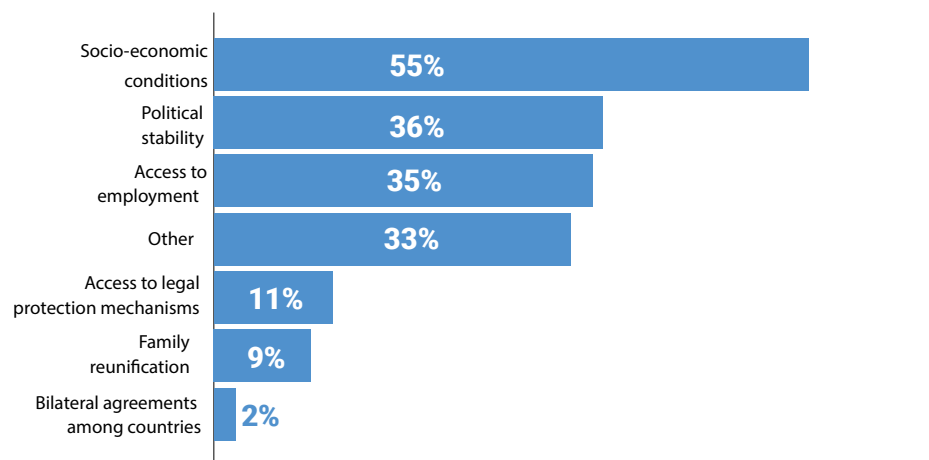
34% Women



26 Was the average age



Main reasons to leave the country of origin



71% Claims to have used the CBP ONE app.



66% of those who have used the app have done so to register for one of the available processes. However, only 20% do not know the process to which registration was attempted.



56% of those who have used the application have made a decision based on CBP One.

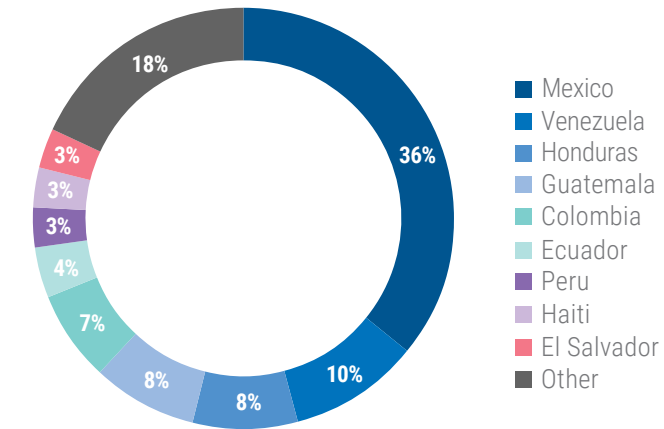


Land Border Encounters in Southwest in United States

13%
 Decrease in the encounters at the Southwestern United States border by June 2023 (1.070.528),
 in comparison to encounters by June 2022 (1.228.213).

36% MEXICAN
10% VENEZUELAN
8% HONDURAN
8% GUATEMALAN
7% COLOMBIAN
 Main nationalities

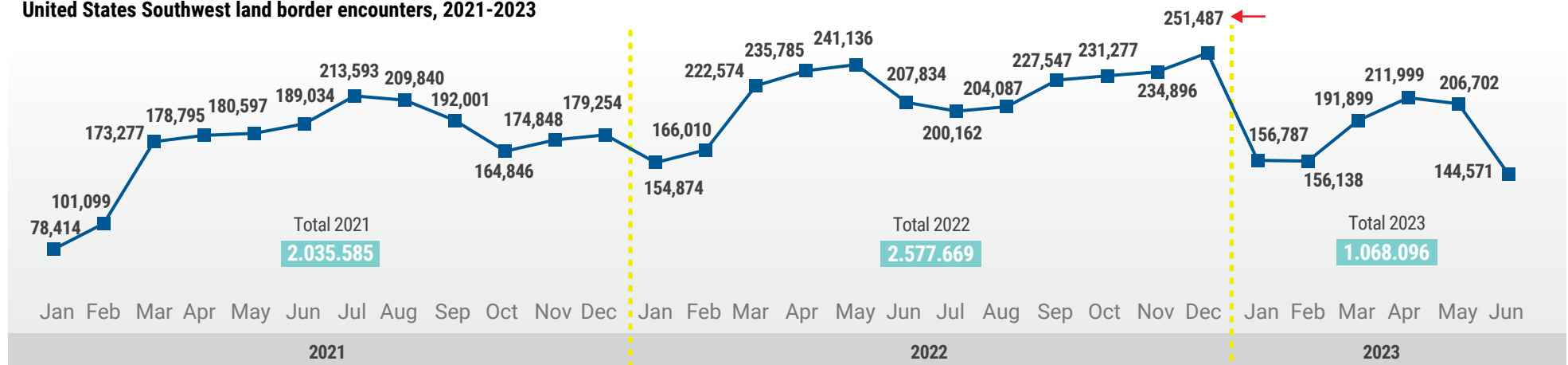
Main country of origin in United States Southwest land border encounters in 2023



67%
 Were adults travelling alone and 27% moving in family units.

6%
 Were unaccompanied children and adolescents.

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)

70,407

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

from January to June 2023.

37%

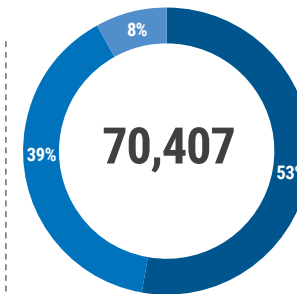
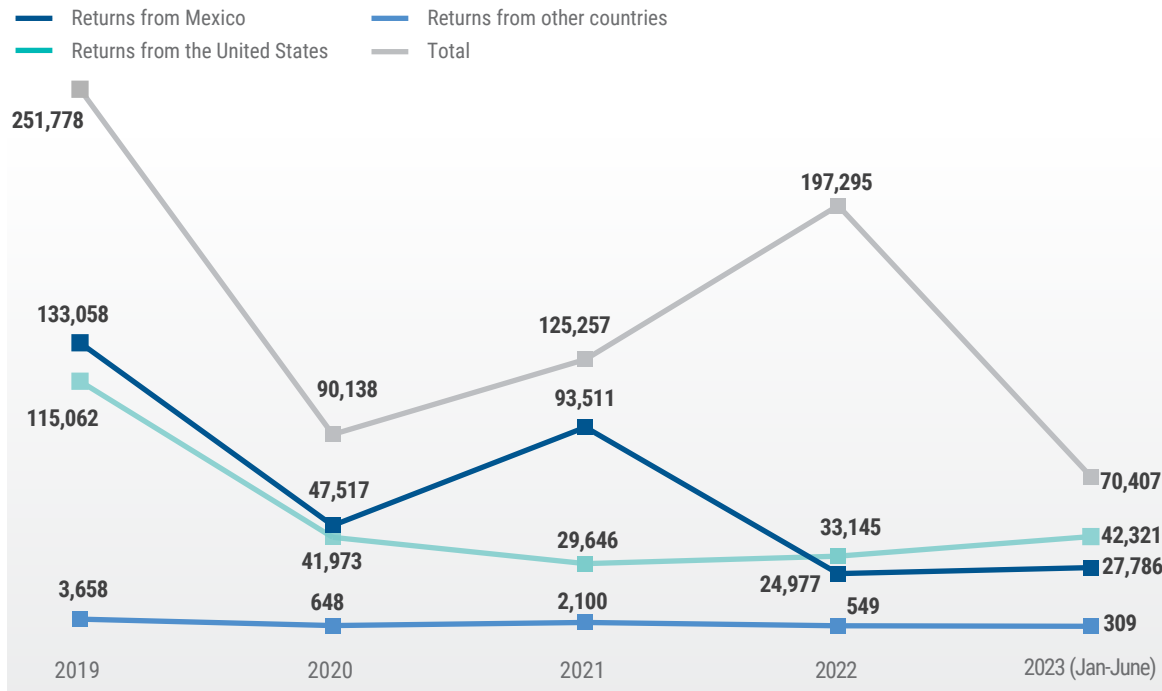
Decrease in the total of returns in January and June 2023, in comparison to 2022.



53% GUATEMALA
39% HONDURAS

were the countries with the higher figures of returns.

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



Returns by destination country (Jan - June)

■ Guatemala
■ Honduras
■ El Salvador

Returns 2022 (January - December)

Returns 2023 (January - June)

	61% (120,243) Men	69% (48,690) Men
	21% (41,192) women	20% (13,766) women
	18% (35,860) Children and adolescents	11% (7,951) Children and adolescents

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