

RECENT MIGRATION TRENDS IN THE AMERICAS

JUNE 2022

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Cover photo: Puerto Limón, Panama Migrants from all over the world dreaming of US arrive extenuated in Puerto Limón after braving dangerous Darien Gap. © IOM March 2022 / Gema CORTES.

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RECENT MIGRATION TRENDS IN THE AMERICAS

JUNE 2022



Ecuadorians returning to their country due to the crisis in Ukraine | @ IOM Ramiro AGUILAR, Ecuador, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks to inform the discussions at the Summit of the Americas in June 2022 by providing background on migration on the continent and in particular recent dynamics pending data availability. The Global Compact of Migration recognized in the objective 1 the need to collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies and interventions which guarantee that migration takes in a safe, orderly and regular manner. Data are the foundation for designing evidence-based public policies, informing public discourse, monitoring and evaluating implementation of commitments over time and developing concrete actions which maximize the benefits of migration.

As of mid-2020, several countries in the Americas hosted important numbers of immigrants, in particular in Northern America, with the highest number of international migrants worldwide residing in the United States, as well as South America. Various countries on the continent have experienced significant emigration, notably in Central American and the Caribbean. Intra-regional migration is high in South America, demonstrating that the region also accounts for a considerable number of emigrants that have moved to other countries or outside the region (UN DESA, 2020). At the same time, the United States – Mexico border is the deadliest land border worldwide (IOM MMP, 2021), underlining the need to ensure that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and regular manner.

Both immigrants and emigrants played and continue to play an important role in the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and make contributions to human development more generally in societies in destination countries and origin communities, despite often having been the most affected by the public health emergency

In terms of vulnerability, as of early May 2022, more than 5 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants were hosted by other countries on the continent, mostly in South America (R4V,

2022). According to indications from IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)¹ data in Chile, the main transit route from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereafter Venezuela) to Chile is via the Andean corridor. However, routes on the continent continue to be dynamic.

Drivers of migration, such as poverty, inequality, slow economic growth, lack of decent jobs, labour market needs in destination countries, political instability, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, environmental degradation, climate change, violence, human rights violations, insecurity, and family ties continue to push migrants to move elsewhere on the continent or immigrate to the Americas from other regions. Due to border closures, visa requirements and lack of documentation, public health requirements and a general lack of regular pathways for some nationalities, many migrants from within the continent and others, traverse borders on the continent irregularly. Crossings across the Darien gap between Colombia and Panama spiked in 2021 to an all-time high (nearly 134,000) compared to the past decade (nearly 118,000), predominantly by Haitians and Cubans and children of Haitians (SNM, 2022a). In 2022 irregular entries into Panama via this dangerous jungle stretch continue, but with Venezuelan refugees and migrants representing the majority who then tend to transit via Central America to the North. Other current routes include migrants from the Caribbean directly moving via Central American countries such as Nicaragua and Honduras.

Such journeys pose high protection risks and increase migrants' vulnerability. These transit movements pose challenges for migration governance that can only be addressed in a holistic, gender-responsive regional approach, ensuring the protection of the rights of migrants and in particular of the most vulnerable, including children and LGBTIQ+ persons. In response to movements of Venezuelans in particular, many countries in Latin America have created regularization programmes and are using existing regional agreements or exceptional visa categories. The latter also applies to migrants from countries such as Haiti, Cuba and Ukraine.

¹ The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a modular system that IOM uses to capture, process and disseminate information on human mobility, routes and places of displacement, the degree of vulnerability and the main needs of protection of these populations.

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INTRODUCTION

Migration in the region takes place in a context marked by deep historical, political, economic and social ties between countries, significant internal and intraregional socioeconomic disparities, political instability, insecurity, and violence in some countries, as well as severe and frequent natural hazards compounded by slow-onset environmental changes. The COVID-19 pandemic, the restrictions on international and domestic mobility, socio-economic consequences and health risks have led to changes in human mobility patterns, accelerating existing ones and raising new challenges for migration governance in the Americas. Governments and authorities have implemented primarily route restrictions which limit the entry of travelers arriving from, transiting through or having been to specified countries or other territories. Visa requirements modified by governments also affected international mobility in the Americas (IOM; MPI, 2022a).

At the same time, migrants have been key parts of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and make important contributions during the recovery as well as to human development more generally.

Inequality, political crises, insecurity, and instability in the region and globally as well as natural disasters continue to impact countries on the continent, representing important push factors. Recent increases in inflation in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2021 not seen since the global financial crisis in 2008 (ECLAC, 2022a) ² and food insecurity (Idem; FAO, 2022) continue to add to existing drivers of mobility and are expected to rise further in the next months. Over the past 2.5 years, the migration of Venezuelan nationals to South American countries, albeit at a slower pace than in previous years, continued: as of April 2020, around 4.3 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants were recorded in Latin America, according to data from the [Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela \(R4V\)](#), while by April 2022 there were more than 5 million, representing an increase of almost 20 per cent within two years. The actual figure may well be higher (R4V, 2022). Changes in mobility in the region include the return of Venezuelans to their country of origin, where, as of December 2021, almost 28,000 Venezuelans had returned according to official figures ([Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 2021](#)). In the case of these returns, it is not known how many returnees plan to stay or are leaving again.

On the other hand, it is worth mentioning the sharp increase in irregular crossings by Caribbean, South American and extra-continental migrants via the Colombia-Panama border through the Darién gap with the intention of reaching North America, reaching record levels in 2021, representing serious risks and threats to their physical integrity and human rights (SNM, 2022a).

This report aims to provide an overview of migration and mobility trends in the Americas as of May 2022, highlighting key overall dynamics and spotlighting more recent ones, to inform discussions at the Ninth Summit of the Americas in June 2022. It does not claim to be comprehensive but hopes to provide existing and updated data and information to support policy discussions.

The first section provides a general overview based on internationally comparable estimates available, for mid-2020. Section two focuses on more recent trends including of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, Haitians, Cubans and migrants from within and other continents moving. Section three presents data on regular migration pathways such as residency permits, and other specific visa categories/programmes and recent protection programmes for Ukrainian nationals. The fourth section highlights the contribution of migrants to human development. The last section details available information on natural disasters and other data on human mobility in the context of environmental degradation and climate change. Where available, the report presents data disaggregated by sex and age to foster gender-responsive migration governance, taking the best interests of the child into consideration.

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

Based on international and latest comparable data available from the [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(UN DESA\)](#), as of mid-2020, one out of four (26 per cent) of all international migrants worldwide resided on the American continent, amounting to a total 73.5 million. The main destination region is North America, led by far by the United States which hosts the largest number of international migrants worldwide (almost 51 million) and Canada (8 million), followed by South America (Argentina with 2.3 million, Colombia 1.9 million, among others, see table 1). Intraregional migration is particularly high in South America, where almost four out of five migrants are estimated to reside in another country in the American sub-region (79%) (UN DESA, 2020). Furthermore, migrants have moved on to other countries on the continent, a tendency further detailed in the next section.

The international migrant population on the continent represented 7.2 per cent of the total population in mid-2020, which is double the world average (Idem), indicating the importance of immigration in the region. Female international migrants represented 51.3 per cent of all international migrant population in the continent, which is higher than the global average of 48.1 (Idem), indicating that slightly more women than men migrated to or within the continent. By mid-2020 an estimated 47.2 million emigrants from the Americas resided elsewhere, including in other countries on the continent. Emigration is particularly high from some countries in Central America and the Caribbean (Idem, see table 1).

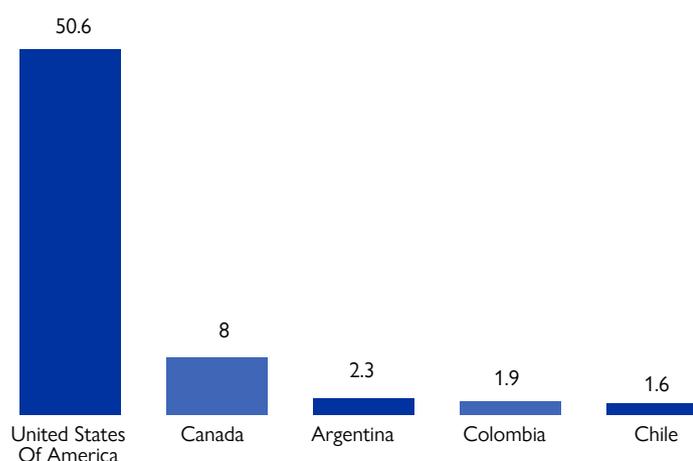
² Excluding Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Venezuela hereafter), Haiti and Suriname as their inflation rates have been much higher consistently and would thus affect representativeness for the regional dynamics.

TABLE 1: TOTAL NUMBER OF MIGRANTS AND MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN BY SUB-REGION AT MID-2020³

SUB-REGION	TOTAL NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS	MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN	TOP 5 COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST IMMIGRANT POPULATION	TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF EMIGRATION
South America	10,887,474	Venezuela: 4,103,204 Colombia: 1,329,616 Paraguay: 749,084 Bolivia : 635,043 Peru: 534,230	Argentina: 2,281,728 Colombia: 1,900,000 Chile: 1,645,015 Venezuela: 1,300,000 Peru: 1,200,000	Venezuela: 5,400,000 Colombia: 3,000,000 Brasil: 1,900,000 Peru: 1,500,000 Ecuador: 1,000,000
Central America	2,302,001	United States: 861,487 Nicaragua: 395,784 Venezuela: 218,960 Colombia: 99,665 Guatemala: 93,792	Costa Rica: 520,729 Panama: 313,165 Guatemala: 84,311 Belize: 62,043 El Salvador: 42,767	El Salvador: 1,599,058 Guatemala: 1,368,431 Honduras: 985,077 Nicaragua: 718,154 Costa Rica: 150,241
Caribbean	1,605,148	Haiti: 567,956 United States: 230,255 France: 108,253 Venezuela: 95,834 Dominican Republic: 77,714	Dominican Republic: 603,794 Trinidad and Tobago: 78,849 Bahamas: 65,583 Barbados: 34,869 Antigua and Barbuda: 29,386	Haiti: 1,769,671 Cuba: 1,757,300 Dominican Republic: 1,608,567 Jamaica: 1,118,931 Guyana: 438,413
North America	58,708,795	Mexico: 10,939,885 India: 3,444,419 China: 2,883,364 Philippines: 2,696,634 Viet Nam: 1,585,458	United States: 50,632,836 Canada: 8,049,323 Mexico: 1,197,624	Mexico: 11,185,737 United States: 2,996,223 Canada: 1,292,329

Source: UN DESA, 2020.

GRAPH 1: COUNTRIES WITH THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT POPULATION IN THE AMERICAS BY MID-2020 (IN MILLIONS)



Source: UN DESA, 2020.

³ For purposes of comparability, this table shows data from the UN DESA international migrant stock that may differ from other sources.

MIGRANT DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES

Migration journeys are not always safe and, in many cases, lead to the loss of life. IOM's Missing Migrant Project (MMP) recorded 1,248 deaths in 2021 in the Americas, a 57 per cent increase compared to the 796 deaths and missing migrants registered in 2020. During the first four months of 2022, 279 deaths and missing migrants were reported in the Americas, while for the same period of 2021 there were 356 ([Missing Migrants Project \(MMP\), 2022](#)). In the first Quarter of 2022, seven deaths were registered at the border point of Colchane (Chile-Bolivia), including three Venezuelans (R4V, 2022). Several incidents also affected Haitian migrants travelling by boat in the Caribbean Sea, with the most notable accident causing eleven deaths near the Puerto Rican coast in May 2022. The true scale of migrant deaths and disappearances remains difficult to estimate given significant time taken in reporting and under-reporting. In general, most deaths and missing migrants were reported for North America, which is also due to data coverage issues. The border between the United States and Mexico, 3,145 kilometers long, covers a

variety of landscapes from urban areas to deadly deserts and rivers with strong currents. Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives during migration between 2014-2020, the largest number recorded by IOM's MMP on any land border worldwide and thus making it the most dangerous according to the data ([IOM, MMP, 2021](#)).

Although much of the data on deaths and those missing are not disaggregated by sex yet, available data covering 60 per cent of the reported cases for 2021 and 2022 in the Americas show that 22 per cent were women and 78 per cent men. 5 per cent of the victims registered were children under the age of 18. Making migration safe needs to be a priority in the region, taking into account that the data points to higher recorded deaths and missing persons among men and protect in particular also children. It is worth noticing that as a result of the National Search Commission (CNB) efforts, alongside the families of missing migrants and the civil organizations that accompany them, a Search Taskforce for Missing Migrants was created in the scope of the National Search System for Persons (SNBP) last November 2021 in Mexico.

TABLE 2: AVAILABLE DATA DISAGGREGATED BY SEX ON MISSING AND DECEASED MIGRANTS REGISTERED BY THE IOM MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT IN 2021 AND JANUARY-MARCH 2022, BY SUB-REGION

SUB-REGION IN THE AMERICAS	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEAD AND MISSING MIGRANTS	WOMEN	MEN	CHILDREN (UNDER 18)
Caribbean	296	32%	68%	5%
South America	183	28%	72%	5%
Central America	402	19%	81%	7%
Northern America	646	22%	78%	2%
Total for the Americas	1527	22%	78%	5%

Source: IOM Missing Migrants Project, 2022.

2. RECENT KEY TRENDS IN THE REGION

As the latest comparable estimates for the continent date two years back (to mid-2020), this section highlights more recent data where possible. Given the magnitude, information on Venezuelans refugees and migrants is presented, together with data on Haitians, Cubans and migrants from other

regions if available and by destination/transit country, ordered geographically from south to north. Those migrants tend to be particularly vulnerable due to a lack of access to regular pathways, sanitary health requirements that impact mobility, lack of access to necessary documentation and information.

⁴ Data collection on migrant fatalities face specific limitations, as the majority of deaths are of migrants travelling by irregular means, bodies are not always found quickly and deaths may not be systematically reported to authorities. Also, when deaths occur at sea or in other bodies of water, many of the deceased may not be recovered. Few official sources collect and publish data on migrant deaths. Often incidents come to light through media sources, which may have incomplete and infrequent coverage. Furthermore, data on missing migrants tend to over-represent parts of the world where there is better media coverage and official reporting of deaths (IOM Missing Migrants, 2022).

VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

MAP 1: VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (MAY 2022)*

1.84 M	Colombia
1.29 M	Peru
513.9 K	Ecuador
448.1 K	Chile
345 K	Brazil
Central America & Mexico	
121.6 K	Panama
83.0 K	Mexico
29.9 K	Costa Rica
The Southern Cone	
170.3 K	Argentina
20.6 K	Uruguay
12.4 K	Bolivia
5.92 K	Paraguay
The Caribbean	
115.3 K	Dominican Republic
28.5 K	Trinidad and Tobago
24.5 K	Guyana
17.0 K	Aruba
14.2 K	Curacao
Other Countries	
1.05 M	



5.08M

Approx. Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Latin America and Caribbean

6.13M

Total approx. Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the world including the United States and Canada

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: May 2022, more information available in: <http://R4V.info>

82%

of Venezuelan refugees and migrants live in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

60%

of all Venezuelan refugees and migrants worldwide live in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

Around 924,416

Venezuelan refugees and migrants live in North American, Central American, and Caribbean countries: Out of these 50 percent live in United States, 14 percent in Panama, and 13 percent in the Dominican Republic.

As of April 2022

2,708,994

residence permits and regular stays have been granted, 90 per cent of these permits have been issued in Latin American and Caribbean countries (R4V, 2022).*

COUNTRIES WITH THE MAJORITY OF PERMITS GRANTED AS OF MAY 2022



Fuente: R4V, 2022.

* Note: May cover, in some countries, residence permits not currently in force, but also duplication or triplication of cases (a person with more than one permit granted). It does not cover tourist stay permits.

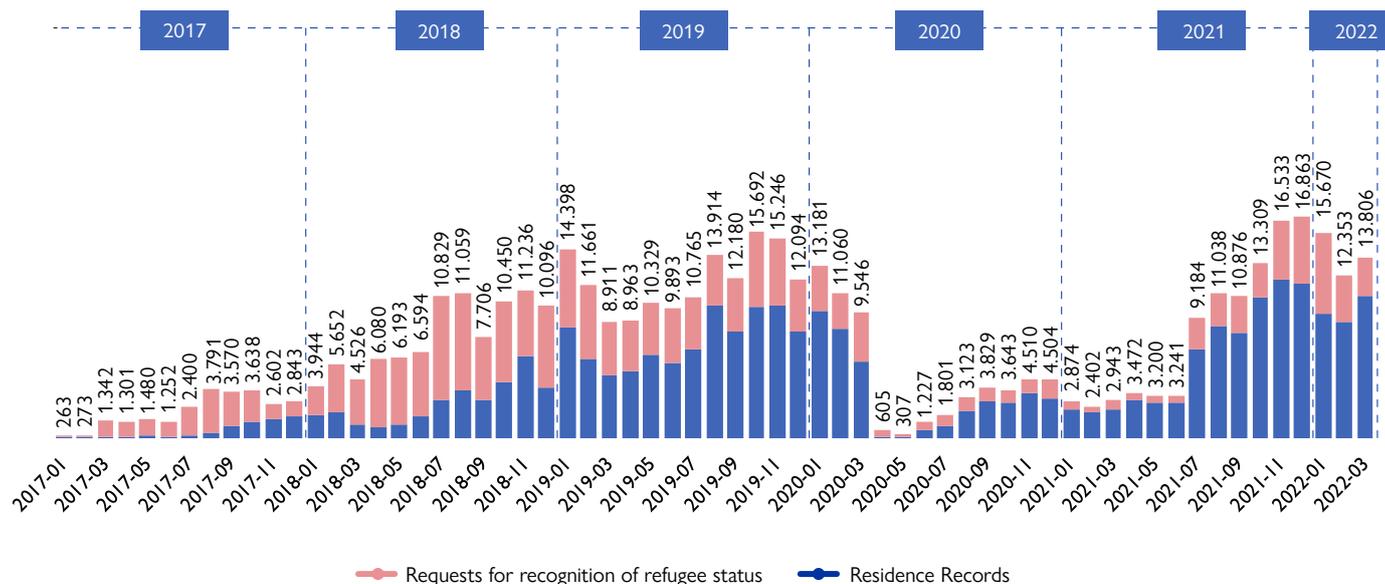
DATA AVAILABLE BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION / TRANSIT

Brazil

Since 2017, Brazil has become one of the top five destination countries of Venezuelan migration in Latin America (see map 1). As of April 2022, Brazil hosts approximately 345,000

Venezuelan refugees and migrants, 78 per cent of whom have entered the country through the Northern border in the state of Roraima (IOM, 2022b). The Brazilian Federal Government has responded to the situation by establishing a national humanitarian response, Operation Welcome (*Operação Acolhida*, in Portuguese), to provide emergency assistance to this population in need.

GRAPH 2: NUMBER OF RESIDENCE PERMITS AND ASYLUM CLAIMS OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN BRAZIL PER MONTH AND YEAR (JANUARY 2017 - MARCH 2022)



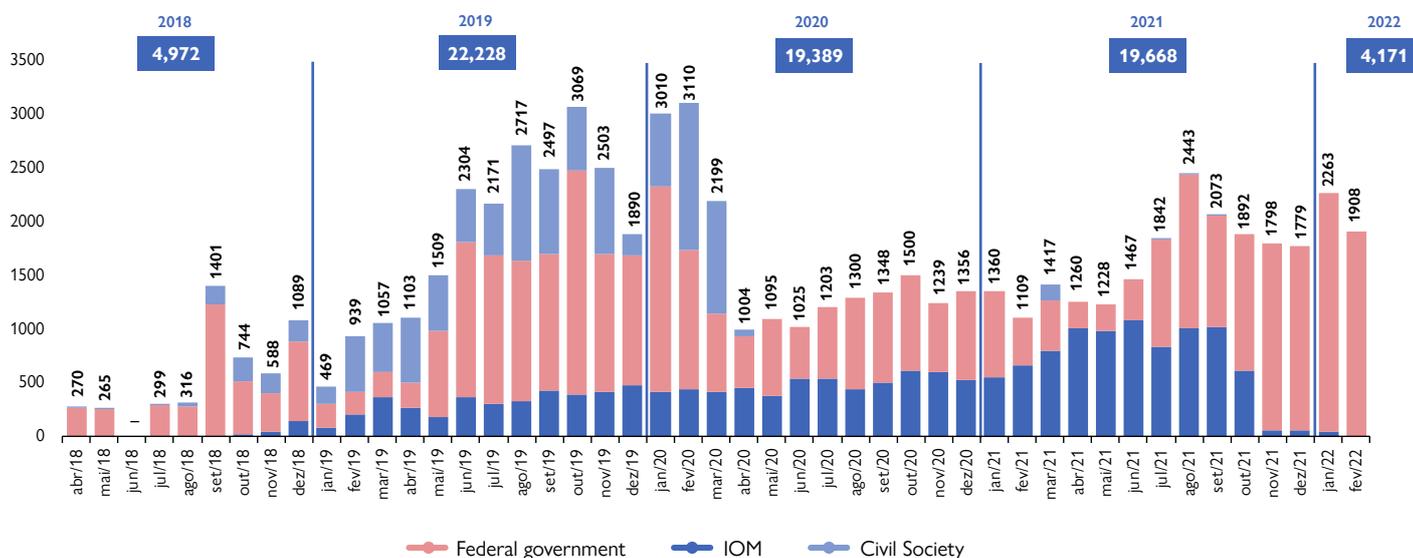
Source: CG-CONARE E STI-MAR, 2022

Operation Welcome has also assisted eligible Venezuelan refugees and migrants located at the Northern border to safely relocate to other cities in Brazil (for family reunification, employment or other reasons), thus facilitating their socio-economic integration in the country. To date, more than 74,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants have been voluntarily relocated from Roraima into other states with the support of the Brazilian Government, UN agencies and civil society organizations (IOM, 2022d). Concerning the profile of the population assisted, the majority (89%) travelled in family groups. 47 per cent were women and 38 per cent were children. Main destination states are Paraná, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul and Sao Paulo, followed by Mato Grosso and Minas Gerais.

IOM Brazil has deployed DTM tools to perform flow monitoring and collect demographic data on Venezuelan refugees and

migrants. In the state of Roraima, surveys have been conducted since 2018. Data from the latest [DTM Round May 2021](#) showed that 87 per cent of the respondents lived in rented accommodation and 65 per cent were either employed or self-employed - however, only 6 per cent of those were employed in the formal labour market, and 76 per cent reported their economic situation worsened during the pandemic (IOM, 2021a). The [DTM conducted in the state of Amazonas](#) showed that 58 per cent of the respondents earned less than the minimum wage, and 36 per cent had difficulty accessing food items in the previous months (IOM, 2021b). More recently, IOM Brazil also deployed a National DTM focused on indigenous Venezuelan migrants, with 3,319 indigenous Venezuelans interviewed. The [R4V Platform](#) estimates that 6,000 indigenous people from Venezuela have migrated to Brazil, belonging to the Warao, E'ñepá, Ka'riña, Pemón (Taurepang), Wayuu, Ye'kwana, and Baniva ethnic groups.

GRAPH 3: NUMBER OF VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS SUPPORTED WITH VOLUNTARY RELOCATION IN BRAZIL PER MONTH AND YEAR



Source: CG-CONARE E STI-MAR 2022

Chile

May 1st, 2022, the Government of Chile normalized cross-border transits with the reopening of all international Points of Entry (PoEs) that had been previously closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency (*Suramérica Abierta, 2022*).

During 2021 and the beginning of 2022, with the border closures, a considerable increase -when compared to 2020 figures- of migrants and refugees entered Chile through unofficial PoEs along the north of the country. Colchane, a small town along the shared border with the Plurinational State of Bolivia (hereafter Bolivia), in the northern Tarapacá Region, was the principal access point.

In January 2022, IOM conducted a [DTM in northern regions of the country](#) (Arica y Parinacota, Tarapacá, Antofagasta, and Coquimbo), with a total number of 300 Venezuelan refugees and migrants surveyed. Those surveyed were found to be predominately in transit to other locations in the country (*IOM, 2022c*).

Main findings of the 6th DTM Report:

- **Age composition:** Of the total number of Venezuelans surveyed, 70 per cent were between the ages of 18 and 34 years old. Those over 45 years of age represented 9 per cent of all respondents (4% men and 5% women). In total, 81 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed were of working age.
- **Duration of stay:** About half of all respondents (56%) declared to have arrived in Chile less than a month before surveyed, with 29 per cent between one and six months, and a further 15 per cent over six months. These findings highlight that the majority of Venezuelans surveyed had only recently arrived in Chile.
- **Transit routes:** All Venezuelans surveyed (100%) declared to have entered Chile by land, with 98 per cent stating that Chile was their destination country, reinforcing integration needs. The

capital of Santiago was the predominant city for final destination (42%), followed by the city of Arica as a distant second (18%). 82 per cent of the migrants surveyed traveled with a member of their family, with 71 per cent traveling with children.

- **Countries of stay before entry into Chile:** Data recollected indicates that 50 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed stated to have resided in Peru before entering Chile, followed by Colombia (45%), Ecuador (30%), Bolivia (14%), and, lastly, Brazil (2%). As such, these preliminary insights point toward the Andean Corridor as a main route of transit between Venezuela and Chile.
- **Documentation:** A majority of those surveyed (80%) stated that a Venezuelan national identification card was the only identification document used for border crossings, while 18 per cent stated to be in possession of a passport and a final 2 per cent declaring to be without any identification documents at the time of the survey.
- **Challenges during migration routes:** Nearly 1 out of every 10 Venezuelans surveyed (7%) declared to have been forced to worked against their will during their journey prior to arriving in Chile. Additionally, 28 per cent of those surveyed confirmed to have witnessed emotional or physical abuse, followed by a further 17 per cent reporting to have witnessed gender-based acts of violence (a figure equally reported between male and female respondents).
- **Difficulties in Chile:** An alarming 84 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed highlighted the lack of economic resources as their main difficulty in Chile, followed by the availability of safe places to sleep and access to food and water (53%), and means of transport (41%). These indicators point to considerable socio-economic integration needs and vulnerabilities.
- **Reasons for travelling to Chile⁵:** Economic mobility-associated motives are predominant factors of attraction, with 76 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed indicating work

opportunities as the main reason for travelling to Chile. Furthermore, 38 per cent reported reasons pertaining to family reunification, 15 per cent cited reunification with friends and acquaintances, and a final 12 per cent declared their intention to settle in Chile.

- **Discrimination⁶:** Prior to arriving in Chile, almost 60 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed stated to have suffered discriminated, with a vast majority (97%) citing nationality-based discrimination followed by 14 per cent citing economic-based conditions.
- **Pregnant women and healthcare:** Of the total number of Venezuelans surveyed, 3 per cent were pregnant women, of whom 60 per cent had not received pre-natal healthcare.
- **Leading short-term needs⁷:** Findings highlight that 72 per cent of Venezuelans surveyed required assistance with employment and income generation, followed by 51 per cent stating to be in need of food and legal assistance.

Child and young migrants identified along the routes through Chile: The majority (72%) of the people surveyed reported traveling with at least one child or adolescent. When disaggregated by age, 68 per cent of the children and adolescents in travel groups were between 0 and 9 years old, 25 per cent were between 10 and 14 years old, and 7 per cent were between 15 and 17 years old. When asked about the education of children and adolescents,

and as a result of the displacement process, 68 per cent of those surveyed stated that children and adolescents have not completed their formal education on a continuous basis.

Peru

On 14 February 2022, after two years of being closed, the border between Peru and Ecuador was reopened. Since 2019, Peru requires a visa for Venezuelans to enter the country. (IOM, 2022d). According to DTM data, among 1,740 Venezuelan refugees and migrants entering Peru via Tumbes using non-official crossings, 62 per cent were men and 38 women (Idem).

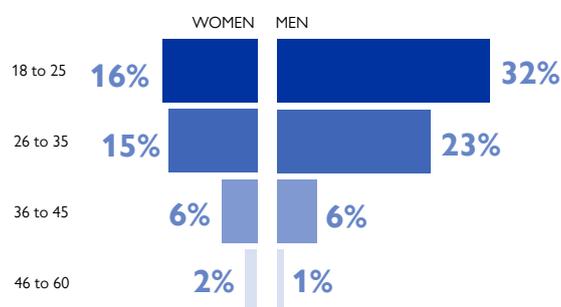
The majority of women (58%) travels in family groups, while 86 per cent of men travel in non-family groups.

Origins: 45 per cent of the interviewed persons used to reside in Colombia prior to entering Peru, 28 per cent in Venezuela and 27 per cent in Ecuador.

Main destinations inside Peru: Lima 60 per cent, Tumbes 9 per cent, Piura 6 per cent, Trujillo 6 per cent and Chiclayo 5 per cent.

Main final destinations countries: 56 per cent responded that Peru was their final destination, and in second place Chile with 43 per cent (Idem).

GRAPH 4: INTERVIEWED RESPONDENTS BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS



Source: IOM DTM Peru Flow Monitoring on Venezuelan Population - Round 14, March 2022

TABLE 3: TRAVELLING MODE BY SEX

TYPE OF GROUP	MEN	WOMEN
Family Group	42%	58%
Non- Family Group	86%	14%

Source: IOM DTM Peru Flow Monitoring on Venezuelan Population - Round 14, March 2022.

⁵ Multiple choice question, percentages may exceed 100%.

⁶ Multiple choice question, percentages may exceed 100%.

⁷ Multiple choice question, percentages may exceed 100%.

Ecuador

According to [Ecuador's Ministry of Government \(2022\)](#), in 2021 10,530 entries from Venezuelan nationals were registered through official Points of Entry (PoE) into the country, and 18,723 exits at the same time. Between January-May 2022, officials recorded 7,411 entries and 11,921 exits, likely indicating higher figures for 2022 than for 2021 if current trends continue. In terms of importance, the main PoE's are the international airports of Quito and Guayaquil, followed by the International Bridge in Rumichaca at the northern border with Colombia.

- Considering the profiles of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, data collected through DTM surveys in 2021 and 2022 show that this group is predominantly young, and approximately three quarters are between 18 and 39 years old. More than half of this surveyed population identifies as male, while less than 1 per cent identify as non-binary ([IOM DTM Ecuador, 2022](#)).
- Border closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be associated with an observed rise of irregular crossings into the country: from 43.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2021 to 58.3 per cent in the same period for 2022. Surveys show that nearly 8 out of 10 Venezuelan migrants have an irregular migratory status, so entries are likely much higher than those registered officially ([Idem](#)).

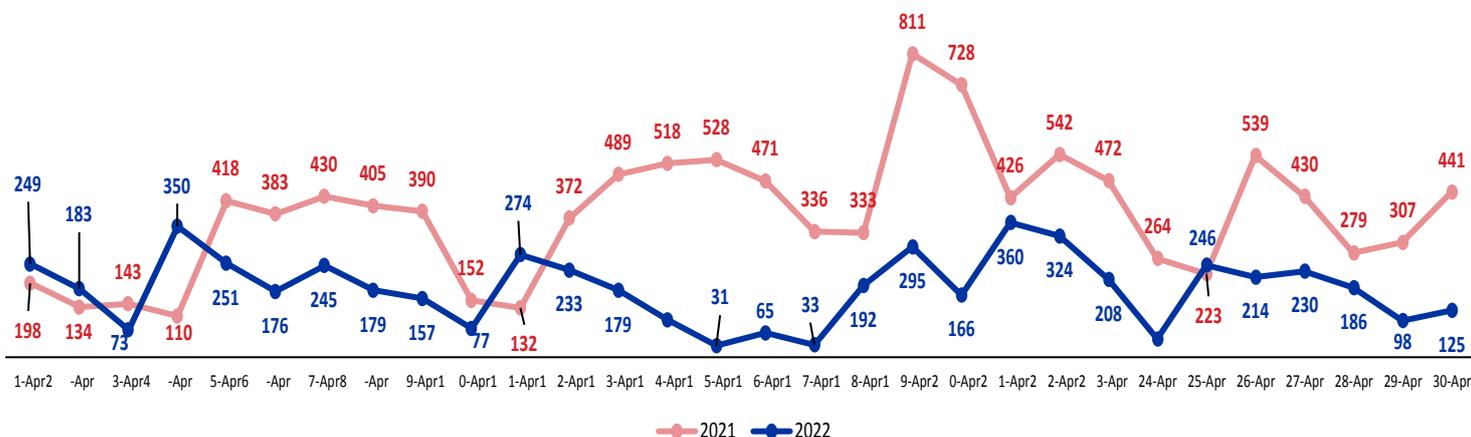
- Almost half of the surveyed population in February-March travelled with close relatives, and do not see Ecuador as their final destination (50.9% indicating indicating Peru as their destination, 25.8% Chile and 12.3% other countries including Venezuela and Argentina) ([Idem](#)).
- In terms of the labour status of the surveyed population, 20.8 per cent said they were unemployed ([Idem](#)).
- By February-March 2022, only 12.1 per cent had not received a COVID-19 vaccine, marking a huge decrease since June 2021 where almost 95 per cent stated not having received any vaccine ([Idem](#)).

Colombia

According to official data, in 2021 260,000 Venezuelan nationals entered Colombia and 250,000 exited via air, land and sea borders. The most dynamic month was December 2021, when 22 per cent of the entries and 20 per cent of the exits took place ([Migración Colombia, 2022a](#)).

As part of IOM's humanitarian response addressed to refugees and migrants from Venezuela, IOM used the DTM approach and interviewed 5,548 Venezuelan nationals in 24 shelters run by IOM distributed in 13 departments in Colombia in April 2022 where they received humanitarian assistance⁹ ([IOM DTM Colombia, 2022](#)).

GRAPH 5: VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN COLOMBIA APRIL 2021 AND APRIL 2022



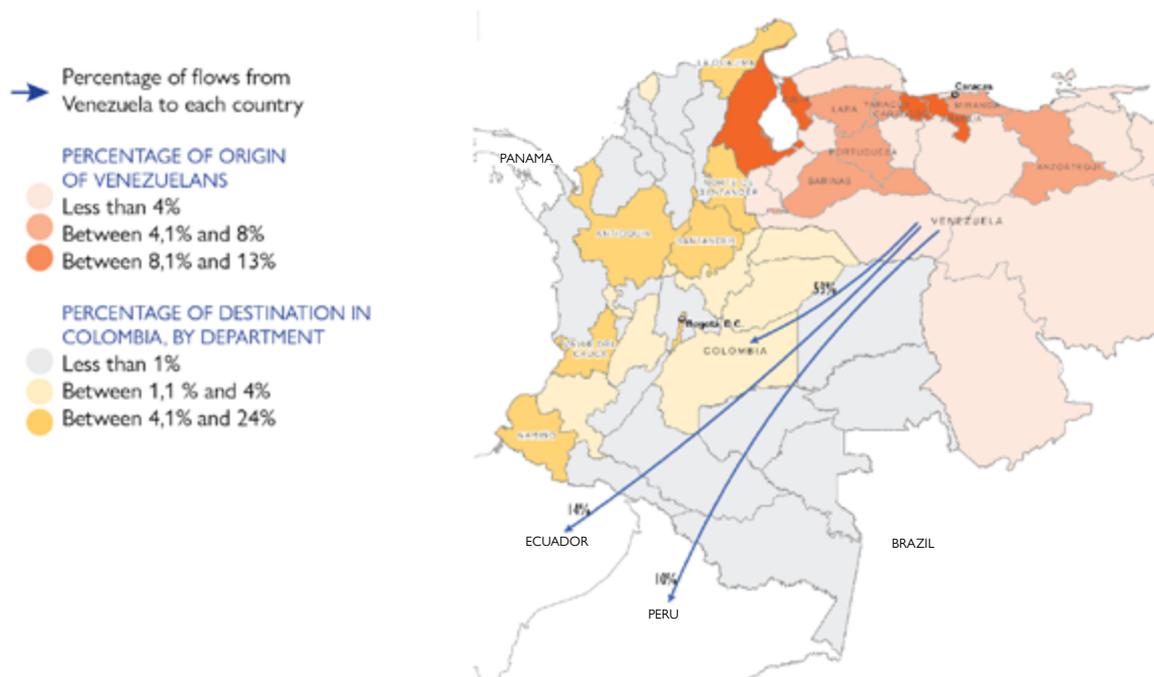
Source: IOM DTM Colombia - Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela - Flow Monitoring Emergency and Stabilization Program, April 2022

According to the accommodation registers for April 2022, the flow of Venezuelan nationals decreased from 11,404 to 5,548 compared to the same month of the previous year, and the analysis for March 2022 shows a decrease in the inflow of Venezuelan national migrants ([Idem](#)).

⁸ The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a modular system that IOM uses to capture, process and disseminate information on human mobility, routes and places of displacement, the degree of vulnerability and the main needs of protection of these populations. Neither DTM deployed in Colombia nor in Peru show results from a probabilistic surveys nor sampling. Data on both country sections is non probabilistic.

⁹ Interviewed Venezuelan refugees and migrants per Assistance shelter: Antioquia (130), Arauca (166), Atlántico (37), Bogotá D.C. (131), Bolívar (21), Casanare (781), Cundinamarca (198), La Guajira (411), Nariño (1,057), Norte de Santander (2,017), Santander (304), Tolima (101), Valle del Cauca (194).

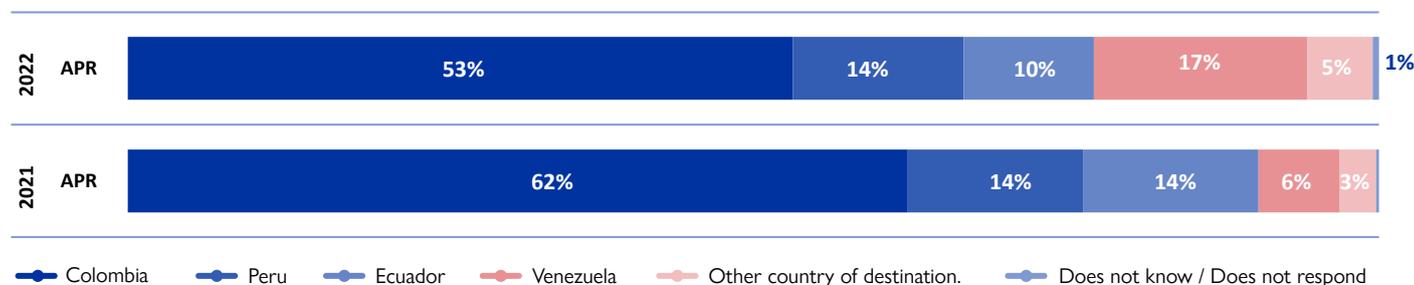
MAP 2: MAIN STATES OF ORIGIN IN VENEZUELA AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES



Source: IOM DTM Colombia - Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela - Flow Monitoring Emergency and Stabilization Program, April 2022.

The following data compares the daily distribution during April (*Idem*) 2021 and April 2022 of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, indicating so far lower numbers that month in 2022 than in 2021.

GRAPH 6: DESTINATION COUNTRIES FOR VENEZUELAN REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS (APRIL 2021 VS APRIL 2022)



Source: IOM DTM Colombia - Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela - Flow Monitoring Emergency and Stabilization Program, April 2022.

82 per cent of the interviewed Venezuelan nationals indicated that they entered Colombia directly from Venezuela, highlighting new or repeat movements. A smaller proportion came from other countries such as Peru (10%), Ecuador (6%) and Chile (2%).

Compared to April 2021, in April 2022 9 per cent less respondents indicated that their destination country was Colombia. At the same time, comparing April 2021 and 2022, the intention of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to move on to Peru remained the same (14%). In contrast, the percentage of those intending to return to Venezuela has increased by 11 per cent, which could explain why less Venezuelans intend to remain in Colombia and thus return instead (*Idem*).

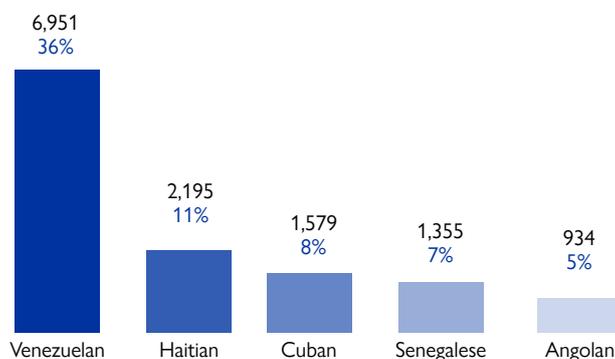
Crossing via the Darién Gap: Colombia – Panama Border

Transits from South America to North America of migrants from the Caribbean, Asia and Africa have been developing for around a decade. Migration flows have reached a record-high and surpassed the last 10 years combined in 2021 due to the socioeconomic crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, disasters, and political instability in countries of origin and residence (*IOM, 2021c*). Some nationals from Haiti, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and African and Asian countries already living in Latin America, and others that arrived more recently, were forced to migrate or made the decision to migrate to other destinations in the north of the continent (*Idem*). Certain migrants from the Caribbean and African and Asian countries have children who are nationals

of a South American country, so they are not exclusively migrants from the Caribbean and other regions, but also nationals from South American countries in transit to North America (*Idem*).

Due to the lack of accessible regular routes for most of these migrants from other continents and the Caribbean, these movements tend to occur in an irregular manner (*Idem*). 2021 registered almost 134,000 irregular crossings

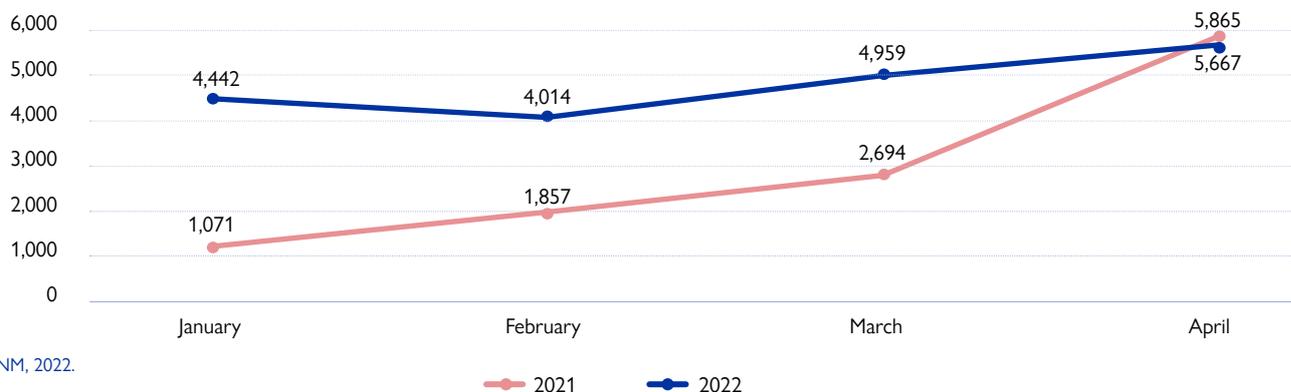
GRAPH 7: MAIN NATIONALITIES IN IRREGULAR TRANSIT THROUGH THE BORDER WITH COLOMBIA TOTAL 2022



Source: Prepared by IOM based on tránsito irregular de extranjeros por la frontera con Colombia between 2010 y 2021 of SNM Panama to December 2021.

* Includes all other nationalities identified and those yet to be identified by SENAFRONT - Darien Regional. (1) Children of Haitian nationals whose birth records correspond to these countries.

GRAPH 8: IRREGULAR ENTRIES BETWEEN JANUARY AND APRIL 2021 AND 2022 VIA THE DARIEN



Source: SNM, 2022.

from Colombia to Panama via the Darién Gap, a figure higher than the sum of the previous 11 years (amounting to almost 118,000). During 2021, Haitian was the main nationality representing 62 per cent of the total number of entries, followed by Cuban with 14 per cent, then Chilean with 7 per cent and Brazilian with 6 per cent (mostly representing children of Haitian-born parents) (SNM, 2022a). Venezuelan is the main nationality for 2022, followed by Haitian, Cuban, Senegalese and Brazilian (in particular Brazilian children born to Haitian parents) (SNM, 2022b).

According to official data for January-April 2022, 811,502 regular entries¹⁰ into Panama were registered. This figure is almost three times the one observed during the same period 2021, which shows higher international mobility after the

pandemic (SNM, 2022a; 2022b). Official figures for January-April 2022 registered 19,092 irregular entries, higher than those recorded for the same period in 2021, reaching 11,487. This represents an increase of 66 per cent (SNM, 2022b). It is important to recall that 2021 had the highest number of irregular entries so if the current trend for 2022 continues, 2022 will have higher number of irregular entries (*Idem*), increasing male dominance in these flows.

Between January and April 2022, men represented almost three out of four (74%) of all persons crossing the Darien, while women only made up 26 per cent. Compared to the same period in 2021, this shows an 8 per cent decrease in the share of men, who represented 66 per cent in 2021 (*Idem*).

¹⁰ Regular entries refer to visits rather than individual records of people, which means that a person can enter several times through an official point and be recorded as one visit.

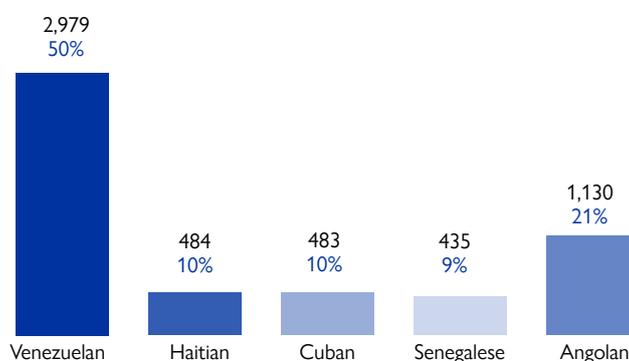
Risks and vulnerabilities during the journey via the Darién Gap

The duration of the journey varies between 6 and 10 days, depending on the season, and the trek includes crossing hills and rivers with strong currents (IOM, 2021c). The lack of basic services, such as drinking water and medical care along the way, leads to a situation of extreme vulnerability. Risks associated with the characteristics of the road put children at particular risk of diarrhea, respiratory diseases and dehydration (UNICEF, 2021a). A major risk factor is the presence of criminal gangs in the Darién Gap that expose migrants to violence, including sexual abuse, human trafficking

and extortion (Idem). The dangers of crossing the Darién rainforest are also associated with geographical and climatic factors such as being a thick tropical rainforest with an ecosystem that gathers dangerous animals and insects (IOM, 2021c). According to UNICEF, the use of sexual violence against women and minors as an instrument of intimidation has increased (UNICEF, 2021).

Between January 2021 and April 2022, 56 deaths and missing of migrants have been registered in the Darién Gap. Available figures indicate that out of those 33 who have been identified, approximately 40 per cent were female, 30 per cent male and, 30 per cent children (Missing Migrants Project (MMP)).

GRAPH 9: MAIN NATIONALITIES IDENTIFIED IN TRANSIT THROUGH THE PASO CANOAS BORDER TO COSTA RICA, MARCH 2022.



Source: OM DTM, Flow Monitoring of people in mobility situation through the Americas, round 5-April 2022.

Note: The Others category includes the following countries of origin: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, and Somalia.

Paso Canoas Border, Panama-Costa Rica

According to the flow monitoring DTM in the Paso Canoas border applied between 1 and 30 April 2022:

- About 5,136 people were recorded as departing from Panama heading to Costa Rica through the Paso Canoas border, which represents a 6 per cent increase in flows compared to the previous month (4,837 people leaving Panama in March 2022 according to DTM) (IOM, 2022e).

Main findings:

- Most of the migration flow is composed of men (76% men and 24% women). The average age is 32 years, with a majority of people (81%) between 26 and 45 years of age (Idem).
- The main countries of residence of the people identified in mobility at the Paso Canoas border (countries where people lived for one year or more before starting their journey), are Venezuela (44%), Colombia (11%), Brazil (8%), Ecuador (8%), Peru (7%) and 22 per cent among 10 other countries. (Idem)
- Based on the same DTM report, the identified route of migrants interviewed begins in Brazil and Bolivia, continuing to Peru (mainly to the city of Lima), and then to Quito in Ecuador. From Ecuador, the route forks into two routes; one to Medellín and the other to Necoclí in Colombia. Another route directly leads from Venezuela to Colombia, mainly to Medellín. From Medellín, there is one flow that indicates heading directly to David in Panama, and two others that

travel to Necoclí or Darién in Panama, and from there, the routes are distributed among various transit cities reported in Panama, mainly through the communities of Puerto Limón, Panama City, Gualaca and Chiriquí (Idem).

- Regarding the countries of destination, the United States of America was identified as the main destination country (83%), followed by Mexico (17%), among others (Idem).
- Lack of economic resources and access to food and services were the main difficulties identified in the migration process of the migrant population moving through the Americas, while during their stay in Costa Rica, access to food, access to health and security became important (Idem).

Costa Rica-Nicaragua

The irregular mixed flow monitoring DTM in Las Tablillas border point, applied from October 26th, 2021, to February 15th, 2022, obtained the following key findings:

- Las Tablillas is the monitoring point that records a higher proportion of outflows than inflows (78% of its recorded flows are outflows), indicating it is primarily used to leave the country.
- The flow of persons in transit through the Americas in Las Tablillas was constant in December 2021, January and the first half of February 2022.
- The main reasons for migration, for both men and women, are family reunification and the search for better economic conditions (IOM, 2022f).

Nicaragua-Honduras

According to the Instituto Nacional de Migración of Honduras (INM for its acronym in Spanish), approximately 400 people have entered daily through irregular border crossing points in the municipality of Trojes (on the border of Honduras, coming from Nicaragua) from January to April 2022. They are not receiving immediate assistance due to several reasons: lack of personnel in the migration delegations in the municipalities of Trojes and Danlí, an increase in requests to complete the procedures and pay the administrative fine or to have the vulnerability test applied and be exempted from the fines and considering that migrants cross the border at night (IOM, 2022g).

According to the Catholic Church, most of the groups entering the territory continue to be made up of a high percentage of males (67%), of whom 59 per cent are over 17

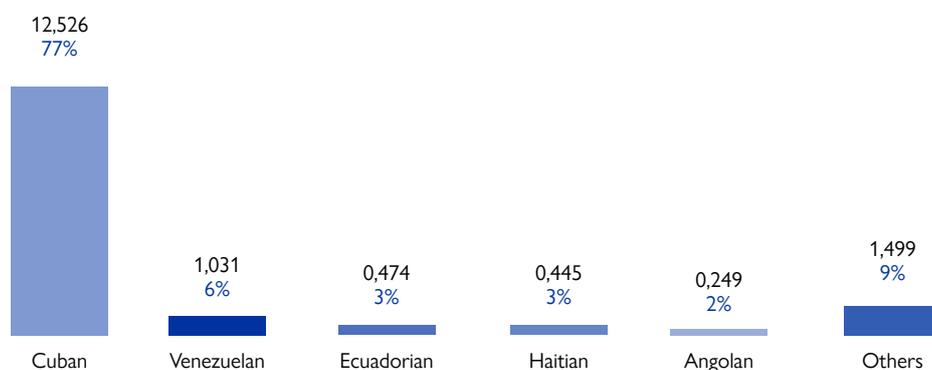
years of age and 7 per cent under 17 years of age, and 33 per cent of females, 27 per cent over 17 years of age and 7 per cent under 17 years of age (Idem).

The INM delegation in Danlí has informed that many Cuban migrants in irregular situations pay the administrative fine of 200 US dollars; however, the rest of the nationalities request the application of the vulnerability test due to economic limitations for the payment of the fine (Idem).

On November 22, 2021, the Nicaraguan Ministry of the Interior established free entry visas for Cubans.

This facilitates the entry and transit of these migrants in Honduras (Ministerio de Gobernación de Nicaragua, 2021).

GRAPH 10: MAIN NATIONALITIES IDENTIFIED IN IRREGULAR CONDITIONS IN HONDURAS



Source: Migración Honduras, 2022.

Note: The "Others" category includes: 170 Senegalese, 149 Nicaraguans, 125 Brazilians, 93 Bangladeshi and 962 non-specified records.

Based on information from the INM, between 1 January and 6 April 2022, a total of 16,214 migrants in irregular conditions have been identified in Honduras. 64 per cent of the total were people between 21 and 40 years old. In addition, 7 per cent of the total were minors between 0 and 10 years (Migración Honduras, 2022).

Tapachula, Mexico

The latest DTM executed in March 2022, in the Guatemala-Mexico border, observing 1141 migrants, 871 in Tapachula and 270 persons in Tenosique, presented the following key results:

- Access to health services shows a differentiated behavior among cities because migrants in Tapachula receive care mainly at government health centers, while in Tenosique NGOs are the main means of accessing medical services. On the other hand, the main obstacles reported by those who were not able to access medical services in both cities are lack of information and lack of money (IOM, 2022h).
- Tapachula is the city most frequented by extra-regional

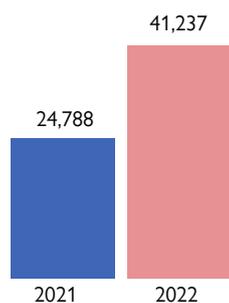
migrants because it is a city with an important offer of medical services. However, Tenosique has begun to be a point of passage for other nationalities (idem), such as Haitians who traditionally were not detected in this city.

- The predominant group surveyed was between 26 and 30 years of age (25%), followed by the group between 18 and 25 years of age (23%) (Idem).
- The analysis by city shows that the highest percentage of young people (between 18 and 25 years of age) was found in Tenosique, while in Tapachula the distribution is more equitable between the ages of 18 to 40 (Idem).
- 74 per cent of respondents were refugee claimants in Mexico (Idem).
- 7 per cent of women were pregnant only 71 per cent of them have received mother-child care (Idem).
- 21 per cent of migrants reported suffering from one or more non-communicable diseases, mainly cardiovascular (Idem).
- Between the two cities, the distribution of migrants by nationality is uneven. People coming from the Central American region were mainly identified in the city of Tenosique, while

¹¹ http://www.politicamigratoria.gob.mx/es/PoliticaMigratoria/Boletines_Estadisticos

those from the Caribbean, South America, and Central and Southeast Africa were surveyed mostly in Tapachula (*Idem*).• The highest percentage of the migrant population has completed primary school (33%) and high school (29%), while 16 per cent have a university or postgraduate degree. About five per cent have no education at all; this category is represented mostly by men (75%) (*Idem*).

GRAPH 11: RETURN EVENTS OF MEXICANS FROM THE UNITED STATES, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021-2022



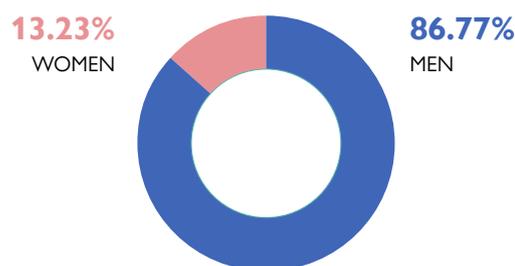
Source: UPM, 2022.

According to the Migration Policy Unit (Unidad de Política Migratoria, in Spanish), during the first months of 2022, there has been a continuous increase in return events of Mexicans from the United States. Comparing data from January and February 2021 with the same period of the current year, an increase of 66.35 per cent stands out; during this period, in 2021 24,788 events were registered, while in 2022 there have been 41,231, of which 86.8 per cent are men, and 13.2 per cent are women (*UPM, 2022*). Likewise, the Migration Policy Unit has published that during the first months of 2022, 46,688 events of foreign persons presented to the migratory authority have been registered. The main nationalities of the people presented are: Honduran (25%), Guatemalan (24.7%) and Cuban (11.8%).

Mexico

After the apparent stagnation of migratory flows that occurred in 2020 because of the pandemic and the closure of borders, since 2021 there has been a continuous increase in presentation events by U.S. and Mexican authorities, showing figures higher than 2019. The trend remains constant in 2022 (as of May).

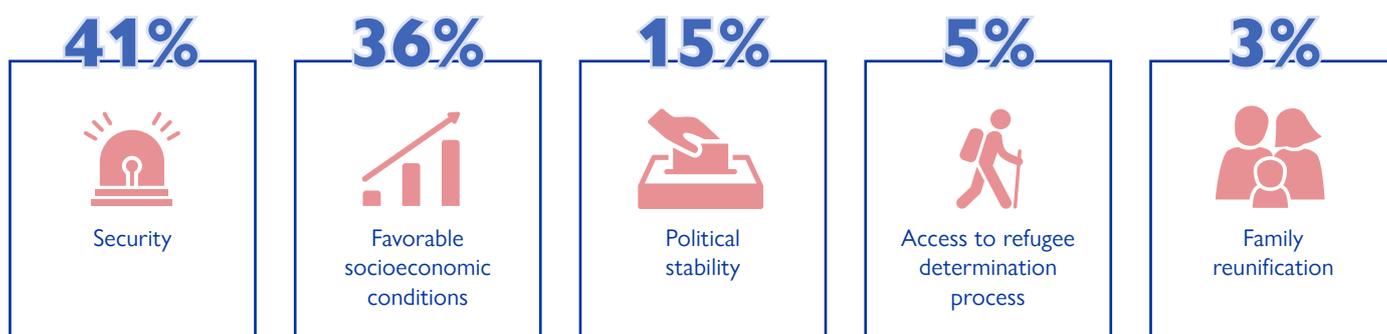
GRAPH 12: RETURN EVENTS OF MEXICANS FROM UNITED STATES, JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021-2022, BY SEX



Source: UPM, 2022.

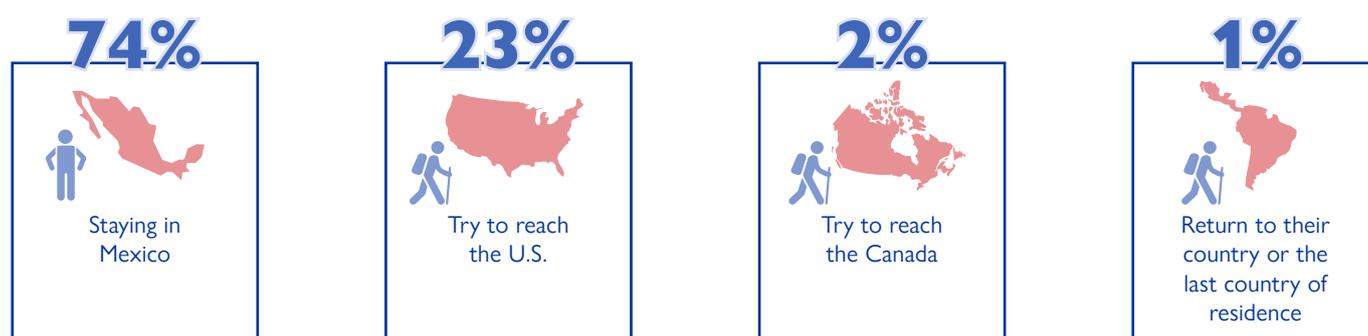
From October to December 2021, IOM carried out a data collection exercise using the DTM in order to collect reliable and disaggregated information on the migratory flows of people of Haitian origin in Mexico. Among the most relevant findings, it stands out that the main countries of the last residence of those surveyed are Brazil (50%) and Chile (46%). The factors that motivated them to migrate are associated with security issues, favorable socioeconomic conditions, political stability, access to refugee determination processes, and family reunification. Currently, 85 per cent of migrants of Haitian origin in the country are unemployed and in search of employment. However, of the total number of people interviewed, three out of four Haitians (74%) expressed their desire to stay in Mexico, highlighting the importance of supporting their integration (*IOM, 2022h*).

GRAPH 13: RESULTS OF THE DTM ON HAITIANS IN MEXICO - MIGRATION DRIVERS



Source: UPM, 2022.

GRAPH 14: RESULTS OF THE DTM ON HAITIANS IN MEXICO - INTENTIONS IN MEXICO



Source: UPM, 2022.

In terms of migratory flows of Venezuelan migrants to Mexico, there has been a significant reduction of arrivals since the visa enforcement in January 2022 for Venezuelans. As a result of the Visa Decree, air arrivals decreased by 86.49 per cent for the period between December 2021 to January 2022, and February to March 2022 in Mexico.

RETURNS

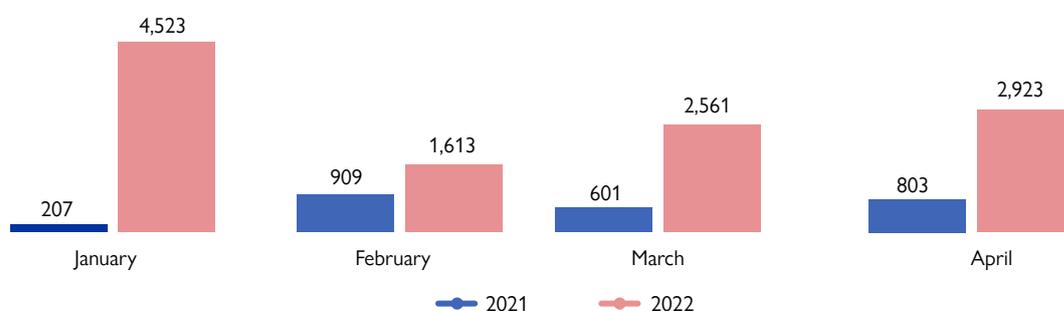
HAITI – FORCED RETURNS STATISTICS

As of 30 April 2022, IOM Haiti had assisted more than 11,600 migrants with reception and post-arrival assistance in all of 2022, in addition to nearly 20,000 assisted in 2021. The vast majority of those returned by air and sea arriving in Port-au-Prince or Cap-Haïtien since the beginning of 2021 were returned on flights from the United States, while smaller proportions were returned by air and sea by other countries and territories in the region, mainly from the Bahamas Cuba, Mexico and Saint Kitts and Nevis (IOM, 2022i, IOM, 2022j). Of all those forcibly returned between the beginning of 2021 and the end of April 2022, 57 per cent were adult men, 25 per cent were adult women and 18 per cent were minors (9% girls and 9% boys) (Ibid). Most of the returned migrants

previously resided in Chile or Brazil and were returned by the United States after journeying northward (IOM, 2022i).

Based on voluntary registration records collected between October 2021 and February 2022, 20 per cent of the 9,260 migrants returned in this period were born outside of Haiti (most of these between the ages of 0 and 2) (IOM, 2022j). Close to 90 per cent of respondents reported the intention to migrate again following return, with most citing lack of economic opportunities (94% of those intending to leave again), safety and security (67%) and the recent increase in kidnapping (61%) as the key reasons for not wanting to remain (IOM, 2022j). While the main immediate need expressed by returned migrants across the country are financial assistance (28%) and housing (22%), 70 per cent of those returned to Port-au-Prince expressed safety and security as one of their three top priority needs (IOM, 2022j). A phone survey conducted at the start of 2022 with adult migrants repatriated between September and December 2021 showed that over three in five adult returned migrants relied on assistance from family and friends as their main source of income, with only eight per cent reporting that they had worked to earn income in the 30 days prior to data collection (IOM, 2022i).

GRAPH 15: FORCED RETURNS BY AIR AND SEA TO HAITI RECORDED DURING 2021-2022 (JANUARY- APRIL)



Source: IOM, 2021i; 2022j.

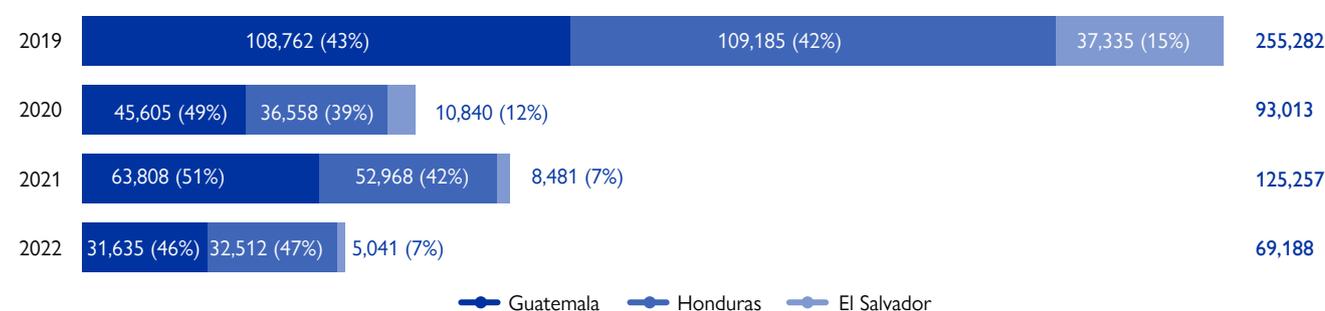
Along the land border with the Dominican Republic, it is estimated that several thousand migrants are deported in accordance with the 1999 bilateral Protocol or expelled every month, with anecdotal evidence of an increasing trend since the last quarter of 2021.

RETURNS TO COUNTRIES OF NORTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA

• During 2021, approximately 125,257 migrant returns¹¹ to northern Central American countries were recorded, an increase by 39 percent compared to the total number of returns in 2020.

- 73 per cent of returns in 2021 were sent from Mexico and 27 per cent from the United States. During January - April 2022, Mexico was the country from which most returns took place. Of the more than 69,000 returns recorded between January-April 2022, Mexico has returned 57 per cent of Central American migrants and the United States 43 per cent. (Northern Triangle Migration Information Initiative (NTMI), 2022)
- The total number of returned migrants between January-April of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, has shown an increase of 265 per cent for El Salvador, 124 per cent for Guatemala and 83 per cent for Honduras (Idem).

GRAPH 16: RETURNS TO GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND EL SALVADOR, 2019-2022 (JANUARY-APRIL)



Source: NTMI, 2022.

UNITED STATES SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER ENCOUNTERS

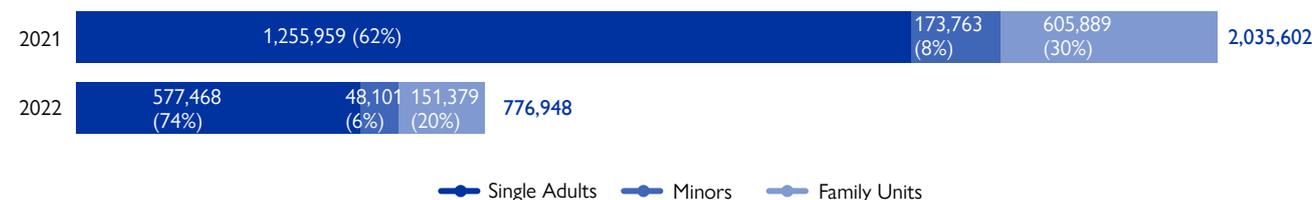
Asylum The Encounters statistics reflect the migration control actions carried out by the US Border Protection and Offices of Field Operations (OFO), including Title 8 Apprehensions (temporary detainment of a person who is not lawfully in the United States, which may or may not result in a detention procedure), Title 8 inadmissions (refers to individuals encountered at ports of entry who are seeking lawful admission into the United States but are determined to be inadmissible), and Title 42 Expulsions (refers to individuals encountered by USBP and OFO and expelled to the country of last transit or home country in the interest of public health) (CBP, 2021).

According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP, 2022), during the first quarter of 2022, records of encounters

have been continuously increasing. In January 2022, 154,816 encounters were registered, 165,900 in February, 222,144 in March and 234,088 in April. When comparing data for January-April 2021 with the same period for 2022, an increase of 46 per cent is observed: since in 2021, in that period, 531,585 events were registered, while 776,948 were registered in 2022. (Idem)

On 21 March 2020, expulsions under Title 42 became effective, this implied that individuals encountered by US Border Protection and Offices of Field Operations (OFO) were expelled to the country of last transit or home country in the interest of public health. In total, there were 234,088 encounters along the southwest land border in April 2022 – surpassing March's record-setting total of 222,144, the highest total in 22 years (Idem).

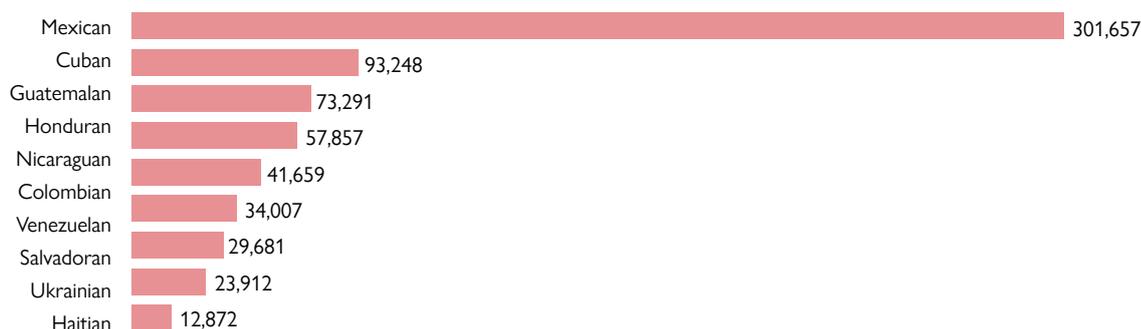
GRAPH 17: ENCOUNTERS ON THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES BORDER, BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS, 2021-2022 JANUARY-APRIL



Source: CBP, Southwest Land Border Encounters, 2022.

¹¹ The numbers of returns presented do not consider information on voluntary returnees but only forced returns.

GRAPH 18: TOP 10 NATIONALITIES WITH THE HIGHEST RECORDS OF ENCOUNTERS IDENTIFIED IN 2022 (JANUARY -APRIL)



Source: CBP, Southwest Land Border Encounters, 2022.

For 2021 the top 10 countries of origin of migrants encountered were: Mexico (706,647), Honduras (353,504), Guatemala (311,814) El Salvador (116,448), Venezuela (106,755), Nicaragua (86,316), Ecuador (82,113), Brazil (78,983), Cuba (53,825) and Haiti (37,765), historically Central American nationalities have accumulated the highest number of encounters, i but for the period from January-April 2022 the trend has been changing, with now the nationality with the highest number of encounters being Mexican followed by Cuban. (CBP, 2022).

From 2020 onward, and continuing into 2022, Mexican nationals (mainly adults traveling alone) have again been the most identified group amongst registered encounters, encompassing as high as 66 per cent (362,251) of total encounters in 2020, 35 per cent in 2021 and 39 per cent in the first four months of 2022. Large numbers of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) continue to be encountered at the southwest US

border – after reaching 37,916 in 2020, the total increased to 172,436 in 2021 and 47,324 already in the first four months of 2022. (Idem)

On 1 April 2022 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States, in consultation with the DHS, announced the termination of its Title 42 Public Health Order which had suspended the right to introduce migrants into the United States as a COVID-19 mitigation protocol (CDC, 2022). Under this order, as of 23 May 2022, DHS was due to no longer process families and single adults for expulsion pursuant to Title 42, instead processing them for removal under Title 8 (Ibid). However, a US District Judge issued a nationwide injunction blocking the end of Title 42 (Aguilera and Carlisle, 2022).

As such, the policy – and consequently, Title 42 expulsions – remain active at the time of writing.

3. REGULAR PATHWAYS

While irregular movements dominate political agendas and media reporting, the vast majority of migrants enter countries on the continent regularly. Asylum and migratory regularizations processes (both ordinary and extraordinary) are in themselves considered a protection mechanism and one of the most effective ways to guarantee migrants' human rights and a more perdurable socio-economic integration of foreign populations in hosting societies. In Latin America in recent years, several countries have adopted major regularization programmes, especially for Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

This section presents available data on those regular pathways (ordinary and extraordinary mechanisms), established through regional and bilateral agreements, extraordinary visa policies, among other measures.

VISAS AND PERMITS GRANTED IN SOUTH AMERICA

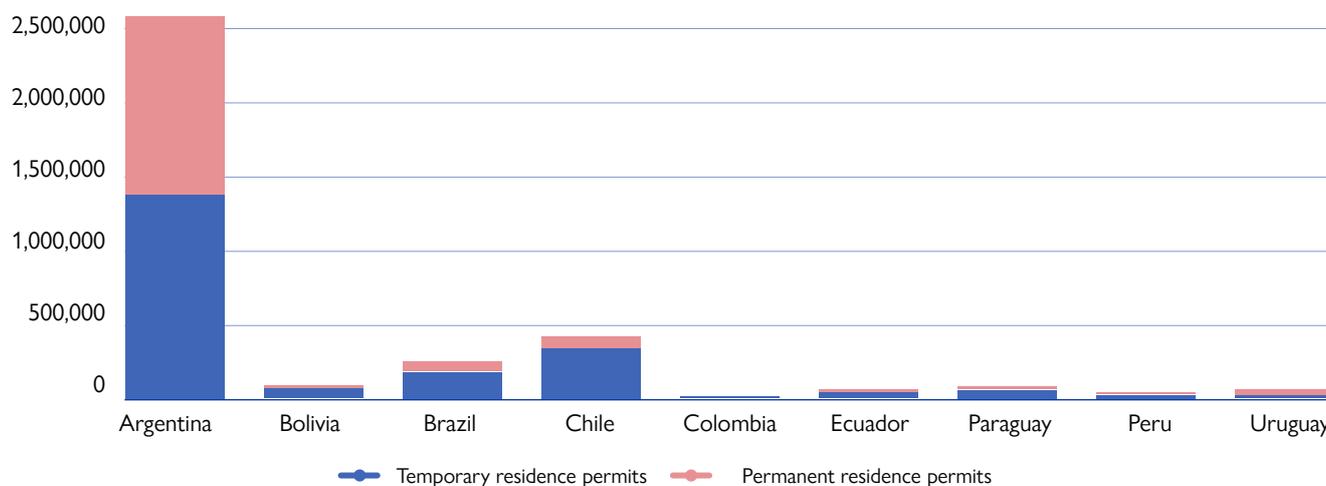
In 2002, countries in South America took a fundamental step towards achieving the free movement of people and advancing the rights of migrants through the Agreement on Residence for Nationals of the States Parties of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile (then extended to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela¹²).

The Agreement established common rules for citizens from signatory countries soliciting residency in another signatory member. The rules include “MERCOSUR nationality” criteria that, jointly with the lack of criminal records and the presentation of certain personal records, constitute the basic requisites for obtaining residency. The Agreement also exempts migrants in irregular situations who meet the criteria and obtain residency from paying penalties or monetary sanctions for their irregularity (IOM, 2022k).

The Agreement facilitates managing residence permits and visas, easing the procedures and reducing application-processing times. Since its entry into force in 2009 and until

¹² The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was suspended from MERCOSUR in 2016.

GRAPH 19: CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF RESIDENCIES (TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT) GRANTED THROUGH THE MERCOSUR RESIDENCE AGREEMENT, PERIOD 2009 - 2020



Source: Information provided by South American migration authorities and Ministries with jurisdiction over the issue, 2021.

2020 (until which data are available), more than 3.3 million residence permits were granted, with Argentina issuing the most, followed by Chile and Brazil (IOM, 2022L).

As concerns Venezuelan nationals, Argentina and Uruguay use the MERCOSUR agreement and apply it to those nationals. Other countries, use extraordinary regularization measures for Venezuelans.

From May 2021, when the Temporary Protection Statute was implemented in Colombia, until May 2022, 1.38 million Venezuelan citizens have accessed to a regular status, representing 52 per cent of more than 2 million applicants (Migración Colombia, 2022b). In Brazil, between January 2017 and March 2022 200,000 residencies have been granted to Venezuelan migrants, 90 per cent correspond to a two-year permit and 10 per cent for an undetermined period (IOM, 2022b). Ecuador and Peru also implement regularization programmes for Venezuelan refugees and migrants.

Brazil also continues to be a destination country for nationals from Haiti. Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Brazil offered a regular pathway through humanitarian visas and other legal options to facilitate migration and regularize migrants from that country. According to official data, there are approximately 150,000 to 200,000 Haitians registered in Brazil. The vast majority is single (76%) and male (62%), between the ages of 25 and 40 years old (59%) (IOM, 2021e).

VISAS AND PERMITS GRANTED IN THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN

Permanent Resident Cards (Green cards)

Lawful permanent resident (LPRs) status, also known as a “green card,” legally authorizes non-citizens to live permanently

within the United States. LPRs may also apply to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements.

According to data from the United States Department of Homeland Security, between Fiscal Years (FY) 2016 and 2020 (spanning October through September), nearly 1.9 million nationals of Central America, North America and the Caribbean newly obtained lawful permanent residence (“green cards”) in the United States, the largest proportion of whom were nationals of Mexico (41%), Cuba (14%), Dominican Republic (14%), El Salvador (6%) and Jamaica (5%). Nationals of the region also receive a notable proportion of the approximately 140,000 employment based LPRs made available in the United States each year. For example, between 12 and 13 per cent of employment-based LPRs issued each year between FYs 2017 and 2020 in the United States were issued to nationals of the region (DHS, 2021).

Data from FY 2021 (October 2020 – September 2021) indicate that 31 per cent of the total 739,000 LPRs issued were issued to nationals of Central America, North America and the Caribbean while nine per cent were issued to nationals of South America (DHS, 2021). As with previous years, nationals of Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and El Salvador featured amongst the top nationalities in the region receiving LPRs in FY 2021 (USCIS, 2021). Brazilians received the largest number of LPRs among South American countries in FY 2021, reaching a total of 17,923 (Ibid).

Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

TPS is a temporary status that may be granted to eligible foreign-born individuals who are unable to return to their country of origin safely due to conditions or circumstances preventing their country from adequately handling their return. Nationals of a country may be designated with TPS due to an ongoing armed conflict, an environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions (USCIS, 2020).

In FY 2021, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) began accepting new applications and renewals for TPS under new and/or extended designations for South Sudan, Myanmar, Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, and Haiti. On August 3rd, 2021, DHS published the new designation of Haiti for TPS for 18 months until February 3rd, 2023.

On August 4, 2021, DHS announced the extension of the initial 180-day registration period to 18 months for applicants under TPS designations for Venezuela, the Syrian Arab Republic and Myanmar. (Congressional Research Service (CRS), 2022)

As of February 16th, 2022, approximately 354,625 foreign nationals, who were residing in the United States, were beneficiaries of the TPS programme. El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Venezuela are the Latin American and Caribbean countries currently designated with TPS.

In March and April 2022, the US Government announced three new 18-month TPS designations for Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Cameroon. DHS estimates that 59,600 Ukrainian nationals, 74,500 Afghan nationals, and 11,700 Cameroonian nationals could be eligible to apply under these designations (CRS, 2022).

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

DACA is an exercise of prosecutorial discretion that allows migrants with unauthorized status who came to the United States as children to request consideration of deferred action (or temporary relief from deportation) and employment authorization for a period of two years, subject to renewal. Deferred action does not provide a person with lawful status in the United States (USCIS, 2021b).

As of December 2021, there were approximately 611,470 active DACA recipients in the United States. Ninety percent of DACA recipients come from the following countries: Mexico

(494,200), El Salvador (23,620), Guatemala (16,100) and Honduras (14,670), in that order (USCIS,2021c).

In addition to these four main countries of origin of active recipients, other countries include significant numbers of people who have been beneficiaries of the DACA program, in that order: Peru (5,770), Republic of Korea (5,740), Brazil (4,670), Ecuador (4,340), Colombia (3,810) (Idem).

MIGRANT WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

According to data from the American Community Survey, an estimated 15.42 million migrant workers from Central America, North America, South America and the Caribbean (including approximately 2.9 million from the Caribbean, 9.9 million from Central America and Mexico, 450,000 from Northern America and 2.3 million from South America) were estimated to be living in the United States as of 2019, roughly three in five of them (58%) male (United States Census Bureau, 2020). Naturalization rates of migrants from the region increased significantly between 2010 and 2019 – increasing from 54 per cent to 63 per cent of Caribbean migrants, 24 per cent to 34 per cent for migrants from Central America and Mexico, 44 per cent to 50 per cent of migrants from Northern America and 44 per cent to 53 per cent for South American migrants (Ibid).

Per data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), 126,840 temporary migrant workers from Central America, Mexico, the United States and the Caribbean were estimated to be living in Canada as of 2021, mainly from Mexico, the United States, Haiti, Jamaica and Guatemala, filling key labour market needs in agriculture and care work and also high-skilled professions, such as doctors or engineers (IRCC, n.d.a; IRCC, n.d.b). Between 2017 and 2021, a total of 120,000 nationals of Central America, North America and the Caribbean obtained permanent residence in Canada (IRCC, n.d.c). Of these, approximately 18 per cent obtained permanent residency through economic/work-based channels (Ibid).

TABLE 4: APPROVED TPS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE BENEFICIARIES

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WITH TPS	APPROVED INDIVIDUALS
El Salvador	193,940
Honduras	58,625
Haiti	42,890
Venezuela	40,400
Nicaragua	3,130

Source: CRS, 2022.



Caribbean Women | © IOM Alejandro CARTAGENA Mexico. 2022

H2A TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES

The H-2A program allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs (USCIS, 2021d).

The United States issued 213,394 H-2A visas in the 2020 fiscal year, up from 204,801 in fiscal year 2019. In 2020, 198,000 or 93 per cent of H-2A workers came from Mexico. Three other countries sent more than 2,000 H-2A workers in 2020: South Africa (5,508 visas), Jamaica (4,659) and Guatemala (2,123) (Department of State, 2021).

Around 258,143 H-2A visas were issued in FY 2021, 97 per cent went to people from Latin American countries: Mexico (239,488), Jamaica (4,872), Guatemala (2,509), Peru (924), and Nicaragua (783), were the countries with the highest number of visas allocated, in that order. The main agricultural sectors employing H-2A workers are vegetables, fruits and tree nuts, field crops, greenhouse and nursery, and animal products (Idem).

H2B TEMPORARY NON-AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES

The H2B visa program allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs (USCIS, 2021d).

Approximately 55,000 H2B visas were allocated to people from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean during fiscal

year 2020. Approximately 94,910 H2-B visas were issued in FY 2021, 92 per cent of the total were allocated to people from Latin American countries. Main countries: Mexico (71,293), Jamaica (8,956), Guatemala (3,464), Honduras (2,233) and El Salvador (953). Top industries employing H2-B workers are resort and hospitality services, retail sales, landscaping, food service and processing, and construction.

On January 28th, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor published a joint [temporary final rule](#) increasing the numerical limit (or cap) on H-2B nonimmigrant visas by up to 20,000 additional visas during fiscal year (FY) 2022 for positions with start dates on or before March 31, 2022.

On May 16, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of an additional 35,000 H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visas during the second half of fiscal year (FY) 2022. These visas are for U.S. employers seeking to employ additional workers on or after April 1st, 2022, through September 30th, 2022. The supplemental H-2B visa allocation consists of 23,500 visas available to returning workers who received an H-2B visa or were otherwise granted H-2B status during one of the last three fiscal years. The remaining 11,500 visas are reserved for nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Haiti, regardless of whether they are returning workers.

REGIONAL VISITOR CARD (TVR) IN MEXICO

The TVR allows nationals or permanent residents of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador to move (enter and exit) across

the southern border of Mexico through points in the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Tabasco, Quintana Roo and Yucatan. The period of stay permitted is up to seven consecutive days within these states. The card is free of cost and valid for five years. The TVR does not entitle the holder to work in Mexico.

In 2021, 64,354 TVRs were issued, of which 97 percent (62,225) were granted to Guatemalans, two percent to Salvadorans and one percent (638) to Hondurans. 93 percent of these TVRs were issued at border points in the state of Chiapas (Unidad de Política Migratoria (UPM), 2021).

Between January-March 2022, 9,574 TVRs have already been issued, 94 percent of the people who have obtained this card come from Guatemala, four percent from Belize, one percent from El Salvador and one percent from Honduras (idem).

CARICOM AND OECS

The free movement of persons is a core component of Caribbean development strategies and is a fundamental element of the organizational structures and regional integration arrangements of both the Caribbean Community

(CARICOM) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The components on free movement of persons for each differ in their provisions and application, but both recognize that free mobility is conducive to economic and regional development (IOM, 2019).

In the Caricom Single Market and Economy (CSME) structure, all nationals from CARICOM countries are granted free movement and a six-month stay upon arrival to any other Member State, under “Facilitation of Travel.” CARICOM nationals also have the right to establish a business in any CSME Member State, referred to as the “Right of Establishment.”

In the OECS, the free movement of citizens of the Protocol of Member States of the Eastern Caribbean Economic Union (ECEU) is allowed, including free mobility of labour.

Figures on “facilitation of travel” indicate that since inception up until 2017, there was a total of 2,040,750 movements facilitated in the region. Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana, represent the biggest sending countries, while Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago are the countries receiving the most CARICOM nationals (Idem).

4. MIGRANTS’ CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the pandemic, migrants have made important contributions as they tend to be overrepresented in critical sectors. For instance, in the United States an estimated almost 70 per cent of the foreign-born work in critical infrastructure sectors, compared to 65 per cent of native workers, according to the Center for Migration Studies based on census data for 2018 (Kerwin and Warren, 2020). Further available data for the United States for 2015-16 indicate that 30.2 per cent of doctors were foreign-born and 16.4 per cent of nurses (OECD, 2019). In addition, a quarter of doctors working in the United

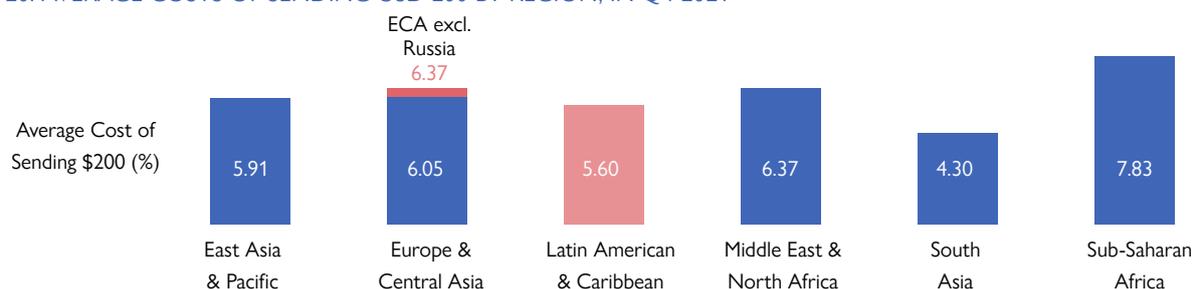
States as of 2017/18 was trained in another country (OECD, 2020), mostly India, Pakistan, but also Caribbean Island states, the Philippines, Mexico and Canada (OECD, 2019).

REMITTANCES

During 2021, remittance inflows saw strong gains in Latin America and the Caribbean (by 25.3%). Mexico was second among the top five recipient receiving countries for remittances worldwide in 2021, with only India having received more remittances. (World Bank, 2022a)

Globally, the average cost of sending USD 200 was 6 per cent in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2021, double of SDG target 10. c that calls for reducing the transaction costs of remittances to less than 3 percent by 2030. After South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean has the lowest average costs compared to other regions worldwide, indicating it is on a better path than most other regions to reaching this target of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations.

GRAPH 20: AVERAGE COSTS OF SENDING USD 200 BY REGION, IN Q4 2021

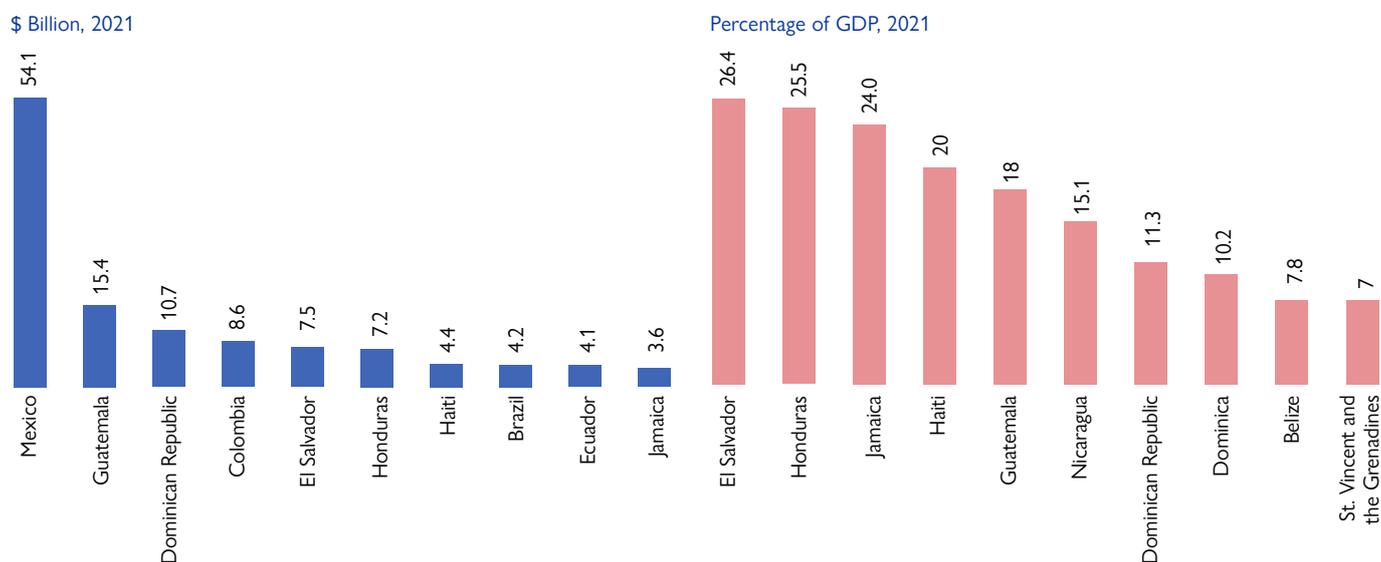


Source: World Bank, 2021b

Officially recorded remittance flows to Latin America reached USD 131 billion in 2021, up 25 per cent from 2020. With improved prospects for the job market in the United States,

remittance flows to the Latin American region are expected to continue growing at 9.1 per cent in 2022 and 7.7 per cent in 2023. (World Bank, 2022c)

GRAPH 21: TOP REMITTANCE RECIPIENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2021



Source: World Bank, 2022.

According to World Bank estimates, migrant remittances registered through formal channels to countries of the Americas increased significantly in 2021. For example, between 2020 and 2021, remittances received in Mexico increased by 25 per cent (reaching USD 54 billion) in Guatemala by 35 per cent (reaching USD 15 billion), in the Dominican Republic by 26 per cent (reaching USD 11 billion), in Colombia by 24 per cent (to USD 9 billion) in El Salvador by 26 per cent (reaching USD 7 billion) and in Honduras by 29 per cent (reaching 7 billion).

Overall, registered remittances inflows to 28 countries and territories of Central America, North America and the Caribbean for which data were available were in excess of USD 117 billion in 2021, compared with USD 96 billion in 2020 (Idem).

Total remittance inflows to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela combined reached USD 24 billion in 2021, compared with USD 19 billion in 2020. The increase in remittance flows was pushed by an important growth in remittances from the United States and to a lesser extent from Spain (Idem)

The World Bank estimates also show that in many countries of the Americas remittances constitute a growing proportion

of total GDP and are by far the largest source of external financing received in the region. It is estimated that as of 2021, migrant remittances constituted 26 per cent of total GDP in El Salvador, 26 per cent in Honduras, 24 per cent in Jamaica, 20 per cent in Haiti and 18 per cent in Guatemala. Remittances represented more than 10 per cent of GDP in 8 countries and territories across Central America and the Caribbean in 2021. (Idem)

DIASPORAS

Diaspora members can make manifold contributions to human development, be it via collective projects, cultural and social remittances. By way of example, the Eastern Caribbean region (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) has some of the highest emigration rates in the world: for every Caribbean national living in their home country there is one person of the Caribbean diaspora living abroad. Members of the Caribbean diaspora are diverse, well-educated, and known for maintaining strong ties with their home countries. This is reflected not only by the high levels of remittances they send home, but also through diasporas' consistent engagement with their communities of origin and interest in supporting the development of their home countries (IOM, 2022n)

MAP 3: MEASURES FOR UKRAINIANS AND NATIONALS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN RETURNED FROM UKRAINE



Colombia

As of 8 April 289 nationals had been evacuated from Ukraine, out of the total of 303 Colombians reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in that country. There were still 14 Colombians in Ukraine and 120 in Poland. 17 nationals have been repatriated and, at the moment, there are no Colombians evacuated who wish to return to Colombia. On 11 March, the Colombian Foreign Ministry announced that, in cooperation with the Government of Ecuador, nine Colombians were included in the third humanitarian flight that arrived in Quito on 14 March.

Ecuador

725 Ecuadorian nationals have returned to the country of which 657 did it via humanitarian flights supported by the government. These flights included citizens from Colombia, Peru, Algeria and 32 family members from Ukraine. IOM supported the transport of nine Colombians to the border (Rumichaca-Ipiales) where they were received by Colombian authorities and IOM staff. On 25 March, a flight arrived in the Ecuadorian capital with 14 people who fled Ukraine: eight Ecuadorian citizens and six Ukrainians.

Argentina

On 8 March, the Government announced measures to facilitate the protection of Ukrainian nationals and their families who wish to enter Argentina, as well as to enable the rapid reunification of Ukrainian citizens with their families. The government enabled the category of temporary resident for humanitarian reasons for affected Ukrainians. As of 26 March, 127 Argentinians had managed to leave Ukraine for different countries, according to the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Peru

The government reported the evacuation of 50 Peruvians from Ukraine, 17 of whom have already returned to the country. On March 24, the Foreign Ministry announced that the Honorary Consulate of Peru in Kiev will issue virtual laissez-passers, in order to facilitate their delivery to nationals and their children.

Mexico and the United States

Brazil

On 3 March Brazil put in place Normative Resolution # 28 which grants humanitarian permits to Ukrainians affected by the conflict. Between 3 - 31 March, Brazil has granted 74 humanitarian visas and 62 residence permits, including 27 for humanitarian reasons to Ukrainians.

Dominican Republic

At the beginning of March 2022, it was estimated that around 3,000 Ukrainian tourists were stranded in the Dominican Republic, the Dominican government guaranteed the accommodation and humanitarian repatriation flights for these tourists. On March 4, the first humanitarian repatriation flight was made with a group of 282 Ukrainian tourists.

Canada

On March 17, 2022, it was announced the launch of the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET), a process that facilitates the entry and stay of migrants of Ukrainian origin and their families in Canada, with the opportunity to stay in the country for up to 3 years with access to work permits.

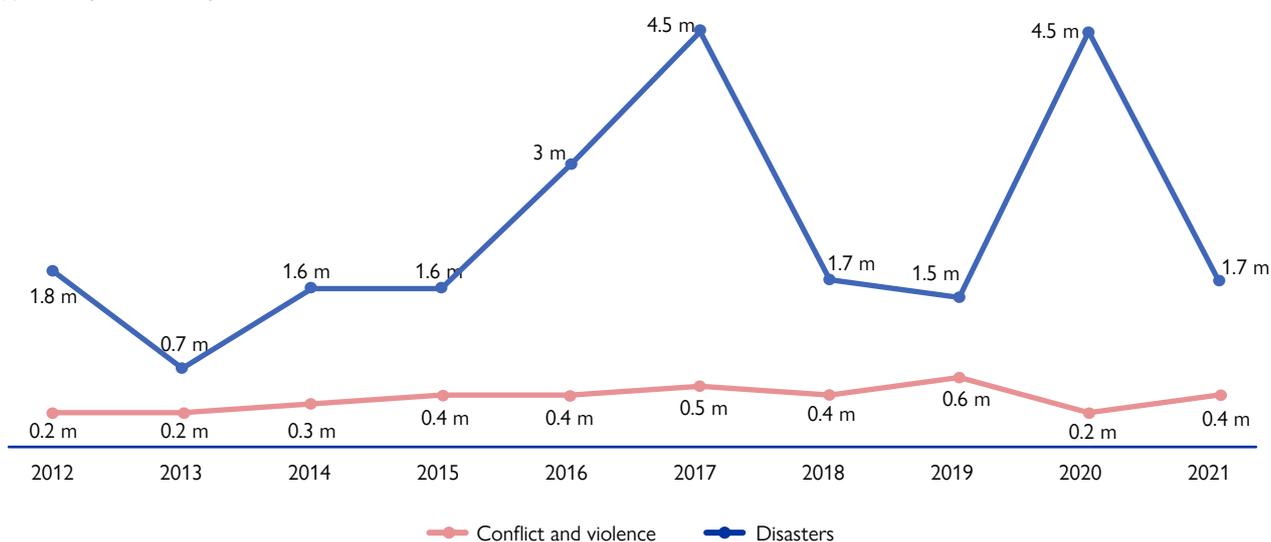
Hundreds of Ukrainian refugees are at the U.S.-Mexico border waiting for U.S. immigration agents to let them in on humanitarian grounds. CBP has announced that Ukrainians may be exempt from the asylum limits policy, designed to prevent the spread of Covid-19 under the application of Title 42. On March 3, 2022, DHS announced the designation of Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months.

5. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AS A DRIVER OF HUMAN MOBILITY

Most climate-related displacement and migration happens within national boundaries, with international movements occurring between neighboring countries sharing borders.

In 2021, disasters provoked 23.7 million new internal displacements worldwide, of which only 1.7 million happened in the Americas. The countries most affected by new disaster displacement in 2021 – including evacuations – were the United States (573,000 new disaster displacements), Brazil (449,000), Haiti (220,000) and Cuba (194,000). Weather related events (notably storms and floods, but also wildfires) remained the prime drivers of disaster displacement in the region in 2021, followed by geophysical hazards (the Haiti Earthquake of early 2021 and the Soufriere Volcano eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines). Protracted displacement is a concern in several countries of the region ([Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre \(IDMC\), 2022](#))

GRAPH 22: NEW INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DUE TO CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE AND DISASTERS IN THE AMERICAS BETWEEN 2012 AND 2021



Source: [IDMC, 2022](#).

The Caribbean, Central and South America are extremely exposed to the impacts derived from climate change, this condition is aggravated by socio-economic and environmental conditions such as poverty inequality, and high population density, deforestation, biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and high dependence of local economies on natural resources. Based on the findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it is notorious how some areas are more sensitive to generate climatic migration such as: the Andes, the dry areas of the Amazonia, northern Brazil, and the northern countries in Central America. ([IPCC, 2022](#))

Central America is a region with a high exposure to the impacts of events related to climate change based on its (hydrometeorological) and geophysical factors. This is also demonstrated by the INFORM Report 2021, which records the level of risk of humanitarian crises and disasters to which countries around the world could be exposed; the 2021 report considers six of the seven countries in the region to be between medium and high levels. These events have the potential to generate major disasters and trigger diverse and significant flows of human mobility such as displacement, international

migration flows, and planned relocation. ([IASC and EC, 2021](#)). Literature reviews highlight the exposure of Central American countries to multiple hazards and their impacts on different forms of mobility ([IOM, 2021g](#)). Recent projections highlight the pressure that climate migration will put on cities of Central America and Mexico under pessimistic scenarios, which requires forward looking and comprehensive action ([Mayors Migration Council, 2022](#))

The Caribbean region is particularly at risk in regard to climate-induced migration, specific hazards resulting from warmer temperatures, such as rising sea levels and more frequent and extreme weather events, make the Caribbean a highly vulnerable sub-region, with many island nations, and coastal communities ([IPCC, 2021](#)). Studies in the Caribbean show the strong gender dimensions of disaster displacement and environmental migration ([IOM and ECLAC, 2021](#)). Evacuations are often leveraged as forms of disaster risk reduction ([IOM, 2022m](#)) and planned relocation processes are increasingly considered as climate adaptation measures of last resorts, with inherent challenges ([IOM, 2021d](#)).

In South America, between 2016 and 2020, Brazil is the country most affected by new displacement due to disasters, with 40 per cent of the total, followed Peru, Ecuador and Colombia, with 16 per cent, 14 per cent and 11 per cent respectively. Climatic or hydrometeorological hazards are the main causes of new displacement due to disasters in the region (64% of the total between 2008 and 2020), compared to geophysical hazards (46%) (SACM, 2022).

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