Mixed Movements Official Data
Honduras

June 2023

Total Irregular Entries 2022:

188,858

Total Irregular Entries Jan-May 2023:

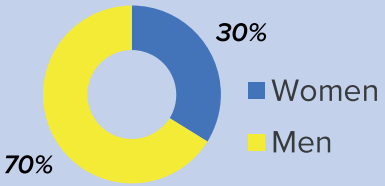
108,736

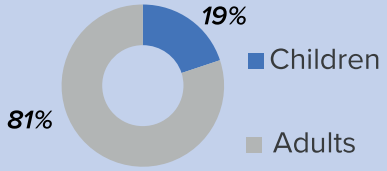
Total number of different nationalities who have entered Honduras irregularly in 2023:

114

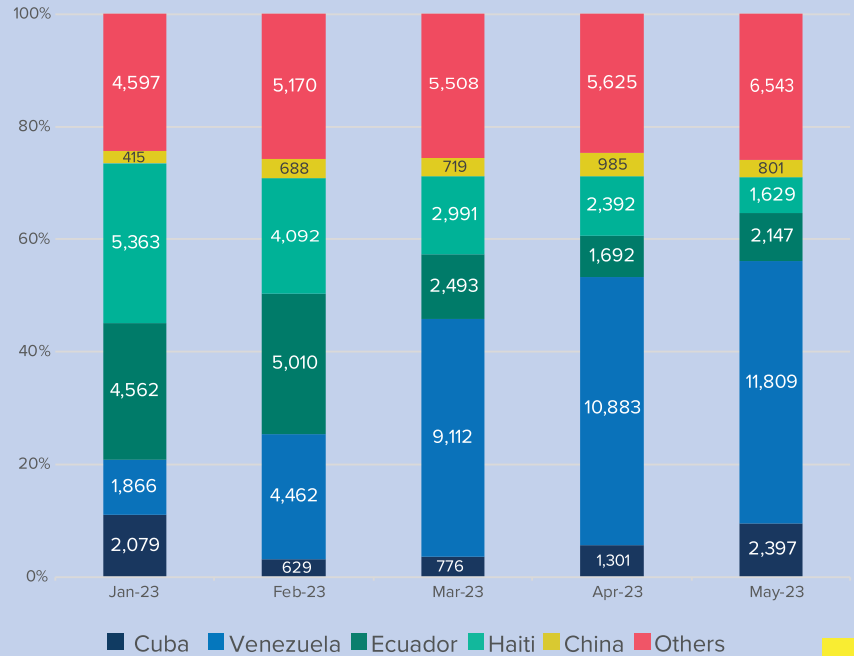
Source: Honduran National Migration Institute

Irregular Entries Jan-May 2023:

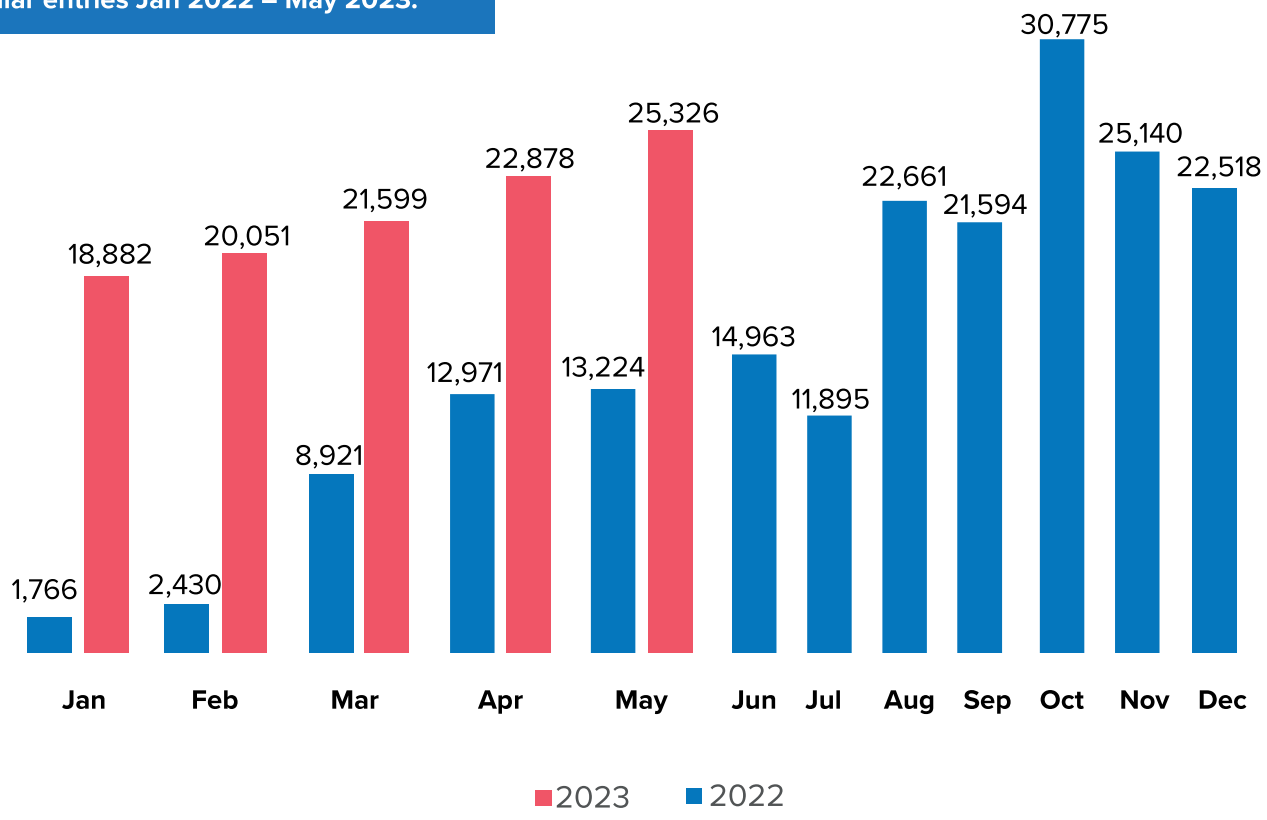




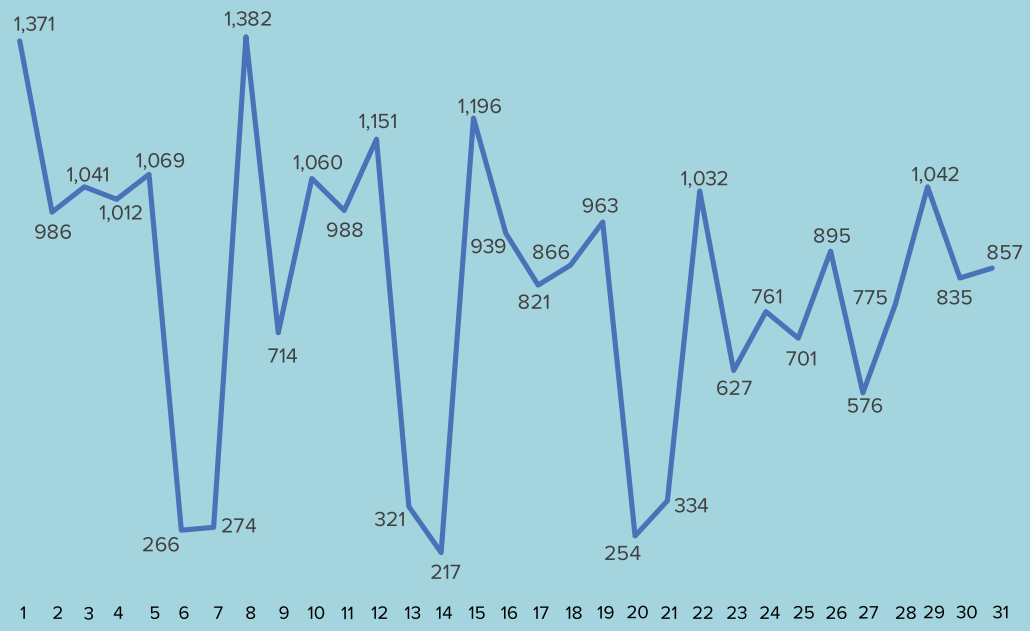
Monthly irregular entries by nationality in 2023:



Irregular entries Jan 2022 – May 2023:



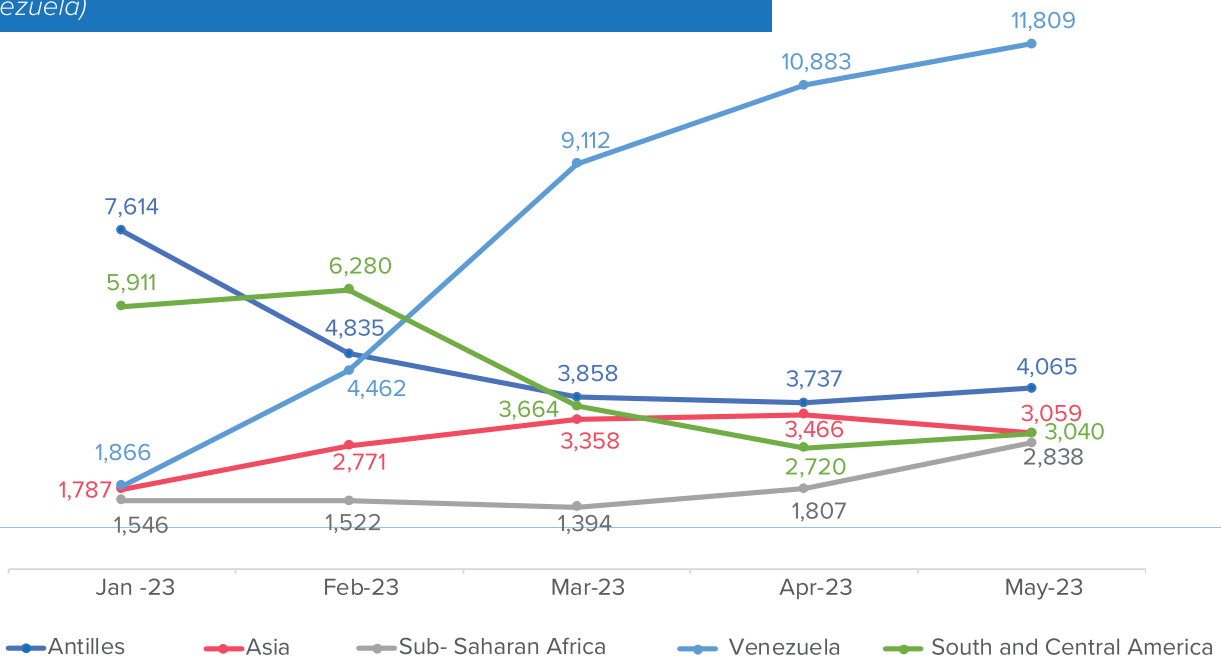
INM Daily Registry of Persons Entering Honduras Irregularly in May 2023:



Irregular arrivals of people in mixed movements happen through blind spots along the southeast border of Honduras, mainly through Danli, Trojes and Choluteca. They can regularize their stay after registration with the National Migration Institute (INM) who grants them a five-day permit to transit the country, according to the amnesty approved in 2022, and renewed in June 2023 until 1 January 2024. INM, except in some delegations, does not work on weekends and therefore registered entries on these days are much lower. The number of persons in mixed movements transiting through Honduras are likely to be higher than reflected in this report, as not all those who enter the country irregularly register themselves with INM.

Source: Honduran National Migration Institute

Monthly irregular arrivals between Jan 2023 - May 2023 by region of origin
(including Venezuela)

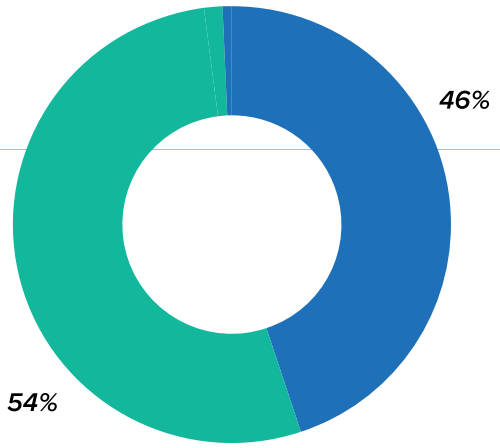


Mixed Movements Protection Monitoring Results

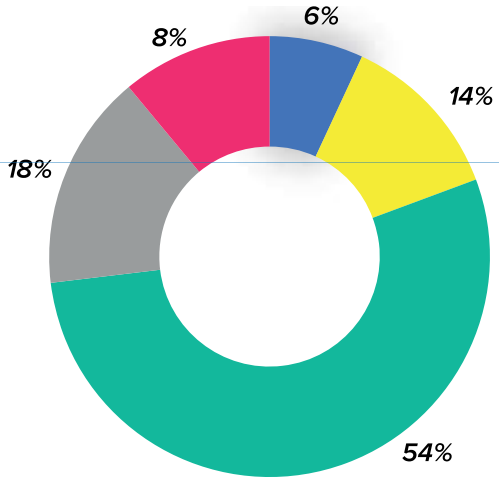
*UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, collects monthly information on the **profiles, vulnerabilities and protection needs** of refugees and migrants who enter Honduras through the border with Nicaragua and transit through the country towards the border with Guatemala. The information is compiled through individual interviews conducted at the main hotspots throughout Honduras, with a focus on the entry and exit borders. The preliminary results presented here are indicative only and should not be interpreted as representative of the total population of refugees and migrants who are part of mixed movements.*

Interviewed Population Data

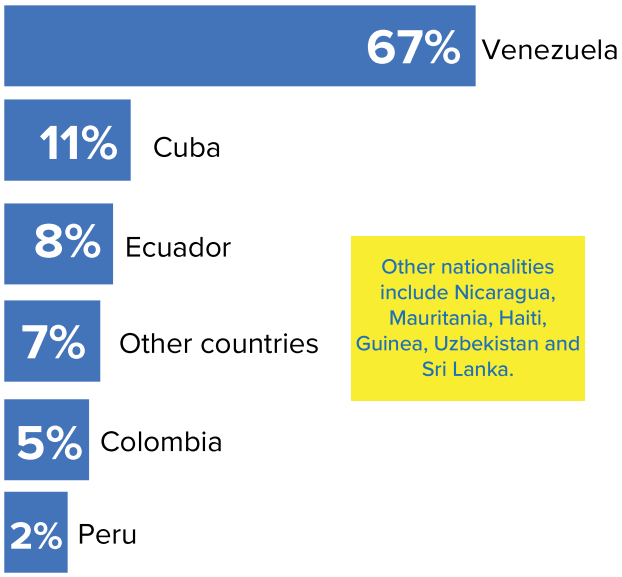
Interviewed Individuals by Sex



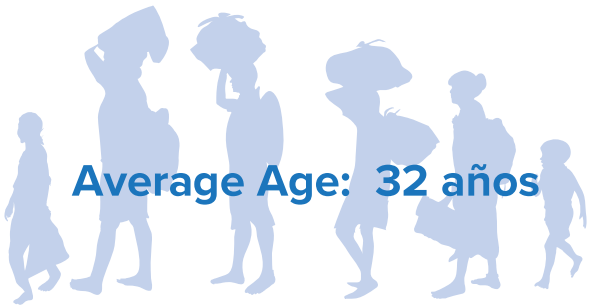
Highest educational level attained



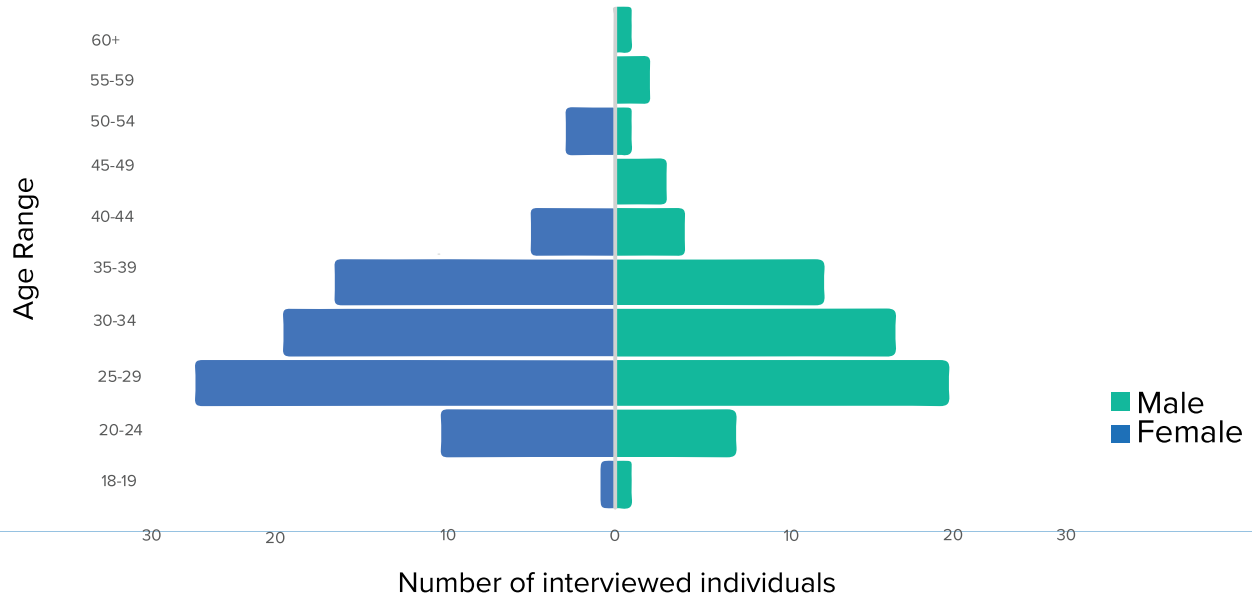
Nationality



Other nationalities include Nicaragua, Mauritania, Haiti, Guinea, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.



Interviewed individuals by age range



62%

of the interviewed individuals left their country of origin/residence

less than four weeks ago

96%

reported an intention to stay in Honduras

for less than a month

(usually, less than a week) to continue their journey to their destination, while 4% will take longer (one or two months) to continue their journey.

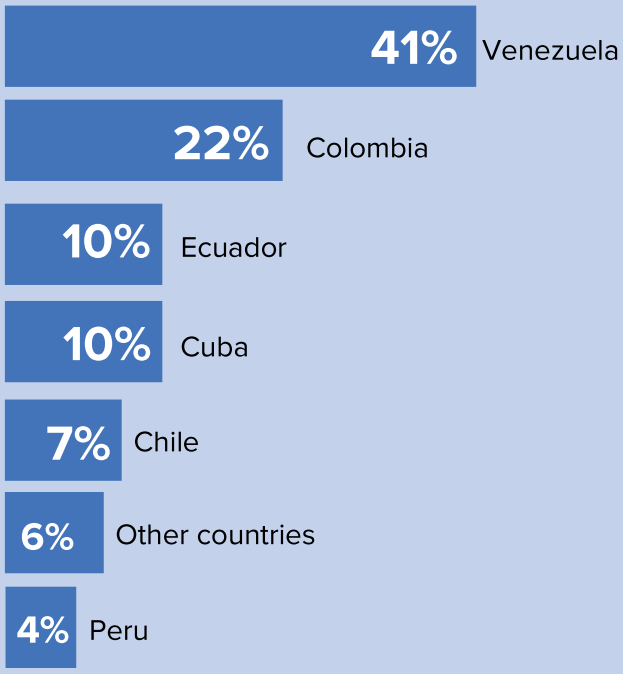
91%

of the interviewed individuals reported **the United States as their intended destination**

15%

of interviewed Venezuelans reported having the **intention to return to their country of origin once the circumstances that forced them to leave are over** and there are better living conditions for them and their family.

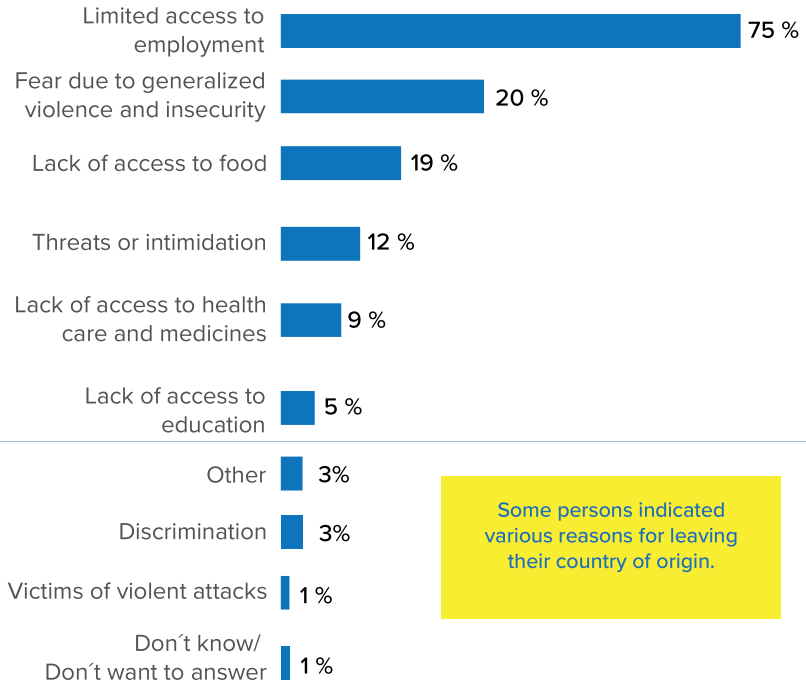
Country of residence in the past year



All interviewed individuals were asked where they lived in the last year to include persons who were residing in their country of origin as well as those living elsewhere.

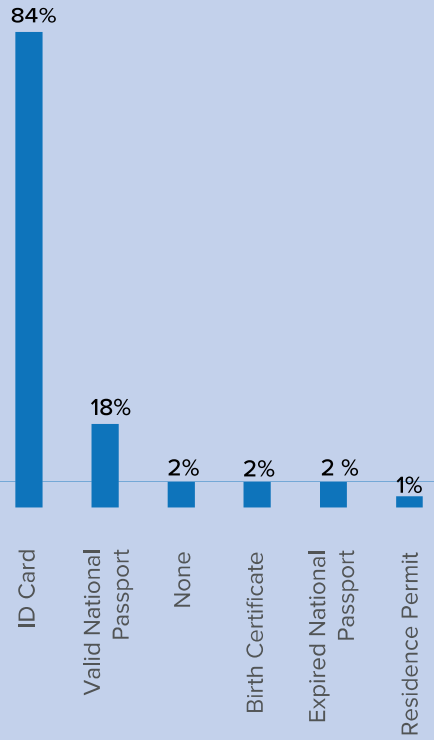
39% of the interviewees lived outside of their country of origin and mainly resided in Colombia (46%), Chile (17%), Peru (9%), Venezuela (8%), Ecuador (7%), Nicaragua (2%), Brazil (2%), Cuba (2%), El Salvador (2%) and other countries (5%).

Reasons for leaving country of origin



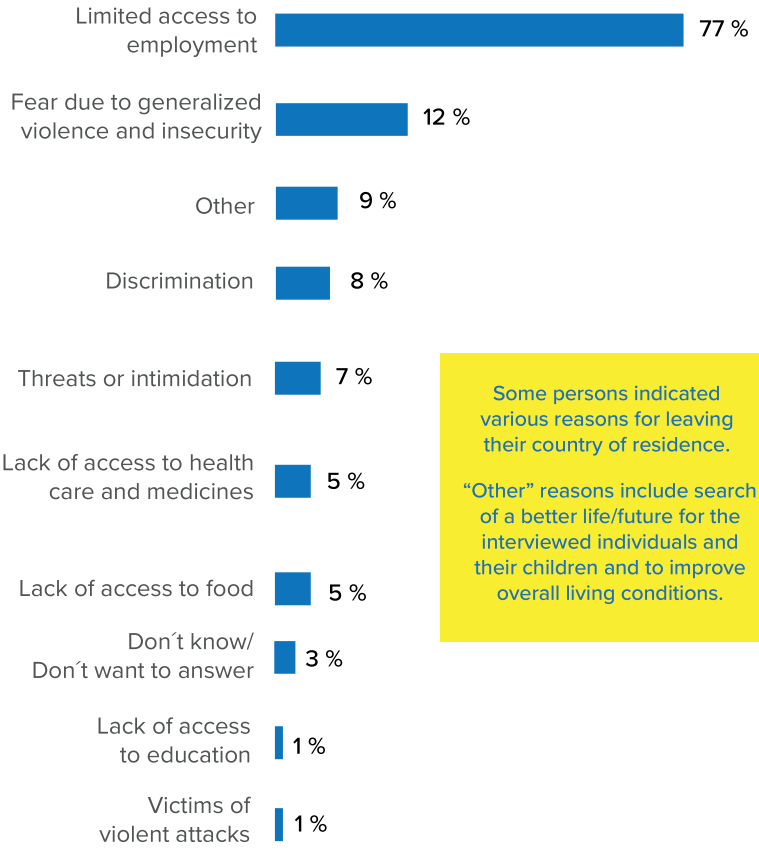
Some persons indicated various reasons for leaving their country of origin.

Documents carried



Reasons for leaving country of habitual residence

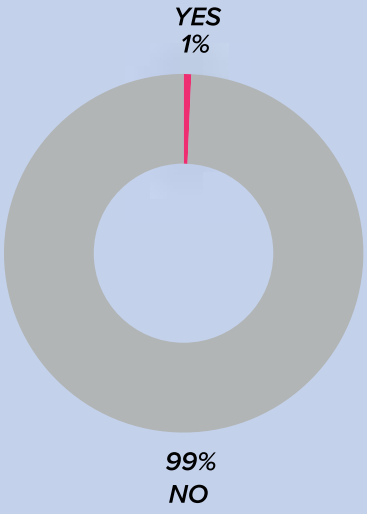
(only includes those who were living outside their country of origin in the past year)



Some persons indicated various reasons for leaving their country of residence.

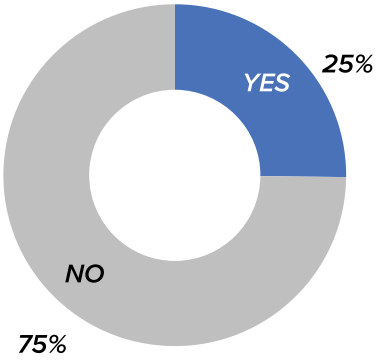
"Other" reasons include search of a better life/future for the interviewed individuals and their children and to improve overall living conditions.

Have you previously applied for asylum?



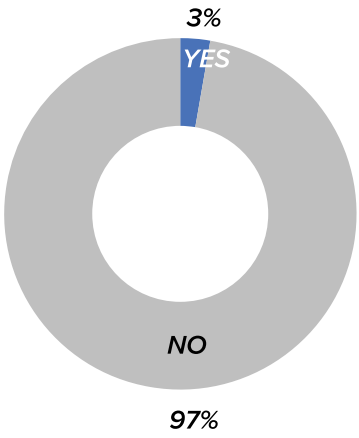
The individual that applied for asylum before, applied in El Salvador.

Did you experience any mistreatment or abuse during the journey before reaching Honduras?



18% of interviewed individuals reported being victims of robbery and 4% of fraud before arriving to Honduras. Additionally, 3% reported being victims of physical assault or abuse.

Did you experience any mistreatment or other forms of abuse at the border or within Honduras?



Within Honduras, 3% of interviewed individuals reported being victims of bribery from officials, physical assault or abuse, and received deportation threats.

Protection Concerns

3% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with a survivor of violence in their group (sexual, physical, or psychological).

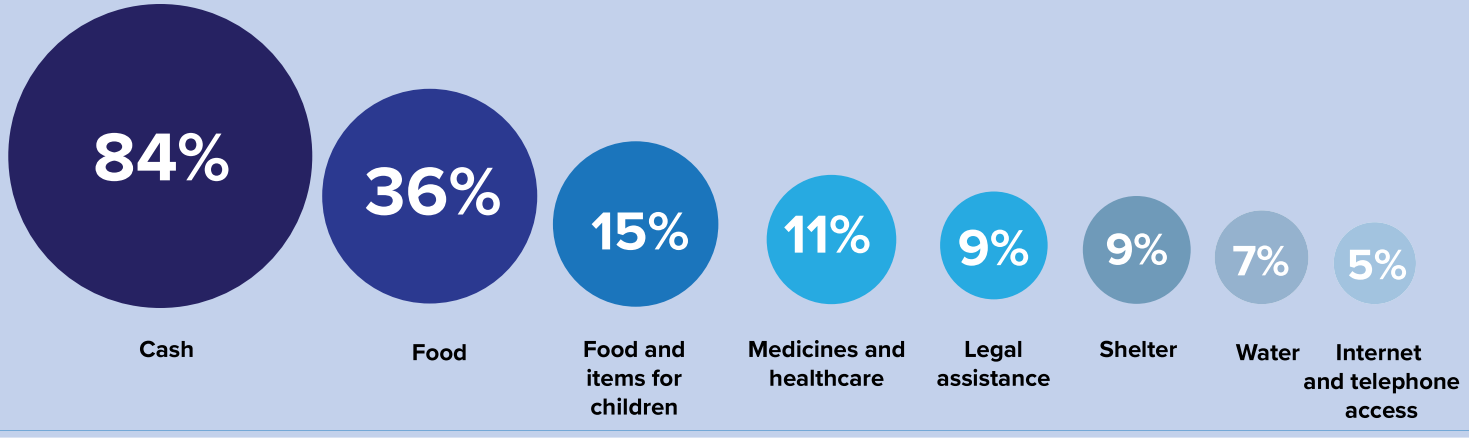
At least 7% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with pregnant or/and lactating women.

Around 7% of interviewed individuals reported having a single parent traveling with children in their group. Also, 2% of the individuals reported having unaccompanied children in their group.

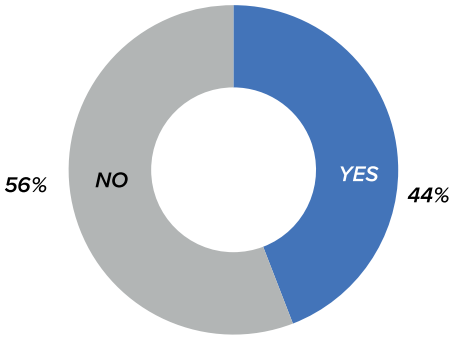
Around 4% of respondents reported traveling with someone with a critical or chronic medical condition.

5% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with someone with a physical disability.

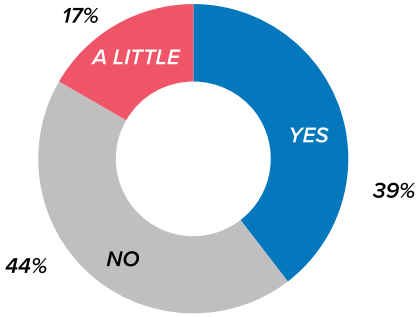
Main needs



Have you been informed of the right to seek asylum in Honduras?

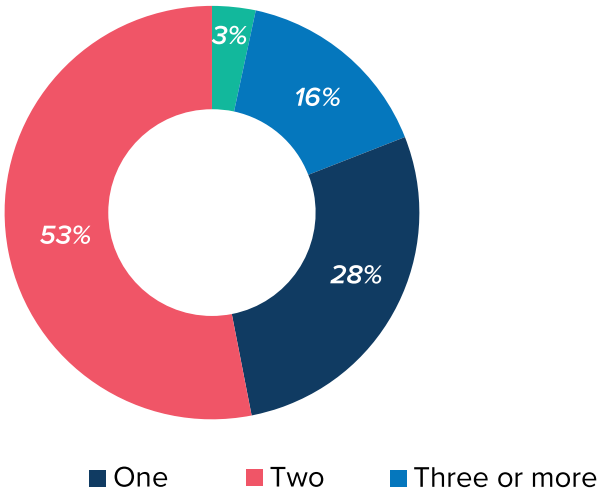


Are you aware of the United States Government's Parole Program?

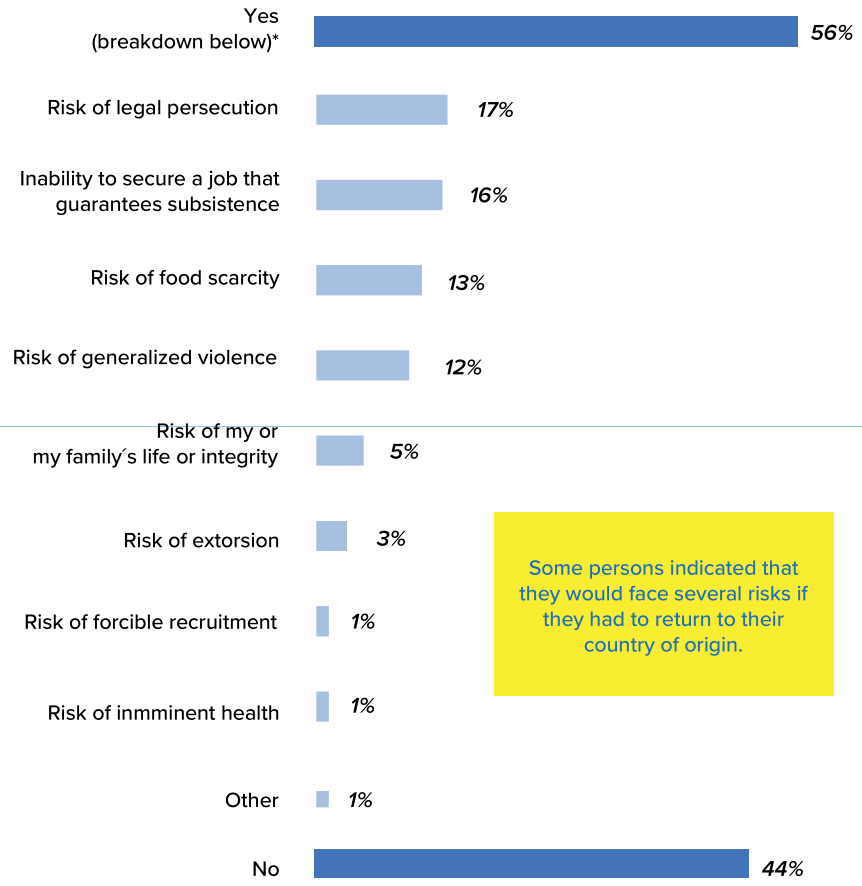


Only citizens of Venezuela, Nicaragua, Haiti and Cuba were asked this question, as the parole program only applies to these countries.

How many meals did you eat yesterday?



Would you encounter any risks if you had to return to your country of origin?



Some persons indicated that they would face several risks if they had to return to their country of origin.

The majority of respondents reported limited access to employment as the main reason for leaving their country of origin (see page 6).

At the same time a significant percentage of people indicated that they would encounter risks if they had to return to their country, including persecution, generalized violence, risk to their life or physical integrity, extortion or forced recruitment. In other words, even if people left their country for employment reasons, it does not mean that they would not face other risks if they had to return to their country of origin.

Another important factor to take into account is that people in mixed movements with protection needs tend to not disclose a lot of information about the reasons that forced them to flee their country of origin.

Main findings of the Focal Group Discussions

UNHCR applies a monthly survey called the High Frequency Survey (HFS) to people in mixed movements who transit through Honduras. The main results of the latest survey carried out in June 2023 can be found in the previous section.

To complement the information provided in the individual interviews, UNHCR organizes Focal Group Discussions with people on the move to obtain more information on their profiles, needs and the risks they face. On 6 June 2023, a Focus Group Discussion was held in Choluteca with people from Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela. The main findings are:

Reason for leaving the country of origin

The majority of the people from the focus group reported that they were forced to leave their country of origin due to threats received from organized crime groups or State authorities because they refused to pay extortion, for example.

Countries transited

Most people crossed more than five countries before arriving in Honduras, where they entered through unauthorized border points. In one particular case, an Ecuadorian mother stated that she decided to take a flight from her country of origin to Nicaragua in order to not expose her daughters to the risks on the land route.

Protection incidents during the journey

The majority of the people reported having suffered some kind of abuse along the way. Some participants stated that persons tried to scam them between the border of Nicaragua and Honduras. In one specific case, a Venezuelan man mentioned that he and his group were deprived of their liberty in the Darien jungle by the same people they had hired to guide them.

Travel costs

The people interviewed expressed that from the time they left their countries of origin until they arrived in Honduras, they had spent between 1,800 and 2,500 USD per person.

Main needs

Most of the people stated that their main need is to obtain financial resources to be able to continue their journey. The remaining persons expressed the need to obtain the transit permit issued by the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM).

Information needs

The majority of the people would like to receive more information on the U.S. Government's Humanitarian Parole Programme. Some persons also indicated the need to receive information on the functioning of the U.S. Government's "CBP One" application, which allows the scheduling of an appointment before arriving at the United States border post.

Main findings of the interviews carried out with key informants

In addition to the individual interviews carried out by UNHCR with people in mixed movements and the Focal Group Discussion held, on 8 and 11 June 2023, in Danli, El Paraiso and Ocotepeque, members of the civil society and local actors working with people in mixed movements were interviewed, through whom the following main findings were obtained:

1 Profiles of people in mixed movements

Key informants indicated that there is currently a high flow of Venezuelans. At the same time, they stated that Venezuelans tend to have lower socio-economic levels compared to other nationalities, which places them in a more vulnerable position.

In terms of age range, the key informants mentioned that the majority of people in mixed movements are between 25 and 40 years old. Despite most of them still being men, a considerable increase of families in transit has been reported. Similarly, the informants observed many pregnant Venezuelan and Ecuadorian women (some with four, five or even eight months of pregnancy).

With regard to people on the move with disabilities or chronic illnesses, the informants reported having identified children with neurological problems, as well as people with diabetes or hypertension who arrive uncontrolled or decompensated because they were not able to take their medication since the crossing of the Darien. People on crutches or in wheelchairs were also observed. Most of the people were observed travelling by public transport or hitchhike.

2 The route

Currently the main point of entry into Honduras is at Las Manos border, in the department of El Paraíso, on the border with Nicaragua. While the vast majority of people do not stop at Las Manos, some people decide to stay for more than a day in Danli in order to collect funds before continuing their journey.

Key informants also indicated that changes in the migration policies of the U.S. Government have an almost immediate impact on mixed flows in Central America.

3 Country of destination

The intention of most people in mixed movements is to reach the United States and a small proportion stated that their final destination is Canada or Mexico.

4 Protection risks and challenges in Honduras

Several local actors indicated that refugees and migrants in transit informed them that Honduras was one of the countries where they were best treated. Currently, there is an amnesty by the Honduran State that exempts persons entering the country irregularly from the payment of an administrative sanction. This has contributed in most people approaching one of the offices of the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM), where they are being issued a five-day transit permit. This has also opened up the opportunity to inform them about their rights in and around INM's delegations.

At the same time, according to key informants, some people continue to be smuggled by organized crime groups who hinder them from receiving information about their rights from Government institutions or humanitarian organizations. Similarly, in Danli, the existence of human trafficking networks for the purpose of sexual exploitation was reported. In addition, it was identified that people in mixed flows are unaware of the existing complaint mechanisms to report violations of their Human Rights.

5 Access to basic services

A new Comprehensive Assistance Centre was set up in mid-January 2023 in Danli by the INM with the support of UNHCR and other actors, where people on the move are provided with primary medical and psychological assistance, information, food and accommodation for one night. However, due to the large number of people on the move the Centre is regularly reaching its maximum capacity. As a consequence, there are still gaps to access the above-mentioned services. Key informants also indicated that there is a need to translate information on the rights of people on the move to different languages for non-Spanish speakers.

6 Main needs

- More information on the available safe spaces and humanitarian services.
- Establish new shelters and increase the capacity of the existing ones.
- Strengthen referral and protection mechanisms for cases in need of medical assistance (including specific medical care for women).
- Awareness-raising campaigns with public transportation companies and host communities on the rights of people in mixed movements.

For up-to-date information on the situation of mixed movements in the Darien crossing that impacts flows in Honduras, please click here.

UNHCR Honduras
Data Sources: UNHCR Protection Monitoring, carried out between 1 and 8 June 2023.
Feedback: Sara Naama, Associate Information Management Officer
Email: naama@unhcr.org