

Highlights of the Month



With **102,008 persons**, the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM) registered the largest number ever of refugees and migrants transiting through the country in a single month (October), which is an increase of 13% in comparison to the previous month.

- In October, Haitians, Venezuelans and Cubans accounted for 86% of the total number of people in mixed movements.
- For the first time since January 2023, Haiti was the main nationality in mixed movements.
- 53% of all people in mixed movements are women and children.



The number of Haitians in mixed movements entering Honduras from July to October **increased 23-fold** (from 1,550 people in July to 35,500 people in October). The sharp increase is mainly related to the direct flights during this period from Haiti to Nicaragua, that were used by people to subsequently head towards the north of the continent.



While most people continue to enter Honduras through the department of El Paraíso, entries through the department of Choluteca **have strongly increased in recent months**. While in August, 2,600 people entered through Choluteca (4% of all entries registered by INM at the national level), in September the figure doubled to 6,300 people (7% of all entries) and tripled again to 21,150 in October (21% of all entries).



At least **48% of the persons** on the move interviewed by UNHCR and its partners stated to be in need of international protection as they were forced to leave their country of origin due to violence and persecution.



19% of those interviewed by UNHCR and its partners reported some people in their group with **specific protection needs** including: breastfeeding or pregnant women, people with a disability or with critical or chronic illnesses, elderly persons, unaccompanied children, among other profiles.



The main needs reported by refugees and migrants in transit are **food, water, clothes and footwear, shelter, healthcare and medicines**.

Official Data

Total Irregular Entries 2022:

188,858

Total Irregular Entries Jan - Oct 2023:

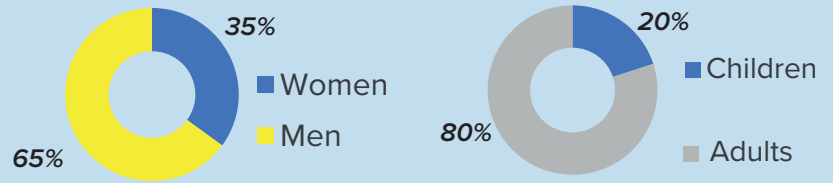
442,619

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

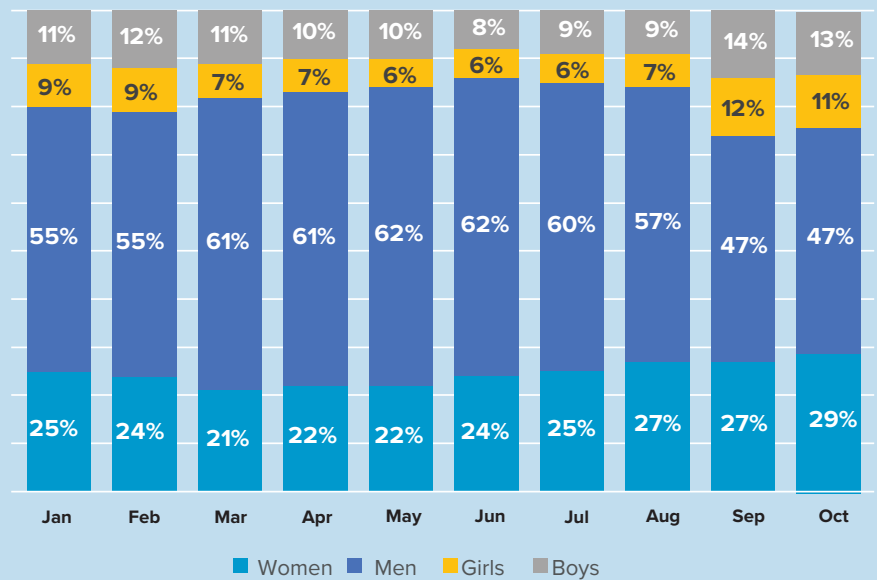
114



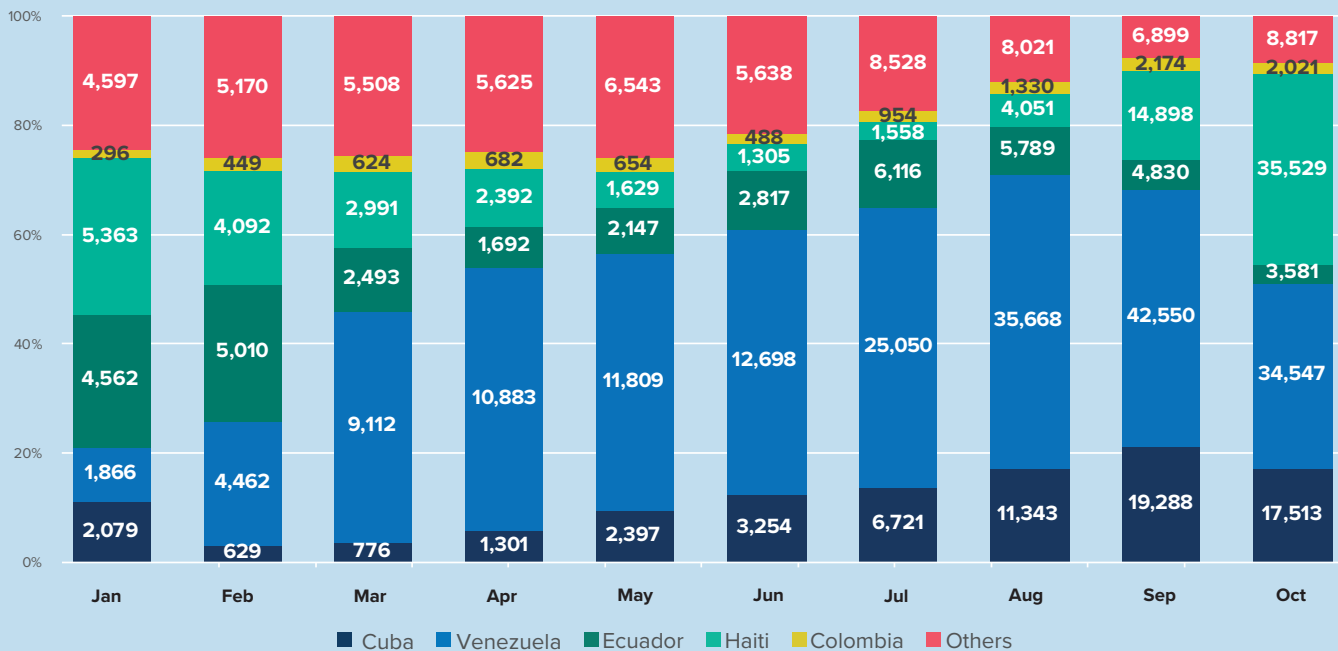
Irregular Entries Jan-Oct 2023:



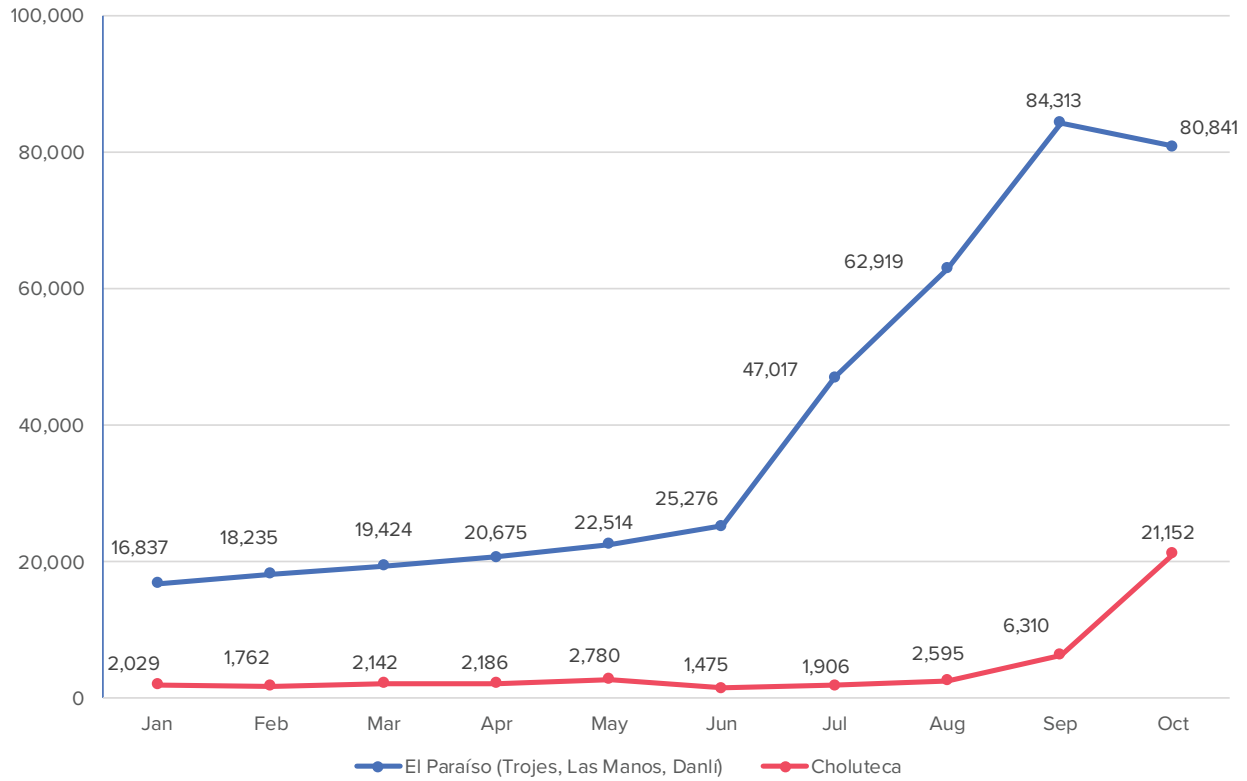
Monthly irregular entries by age and sex in 2023:



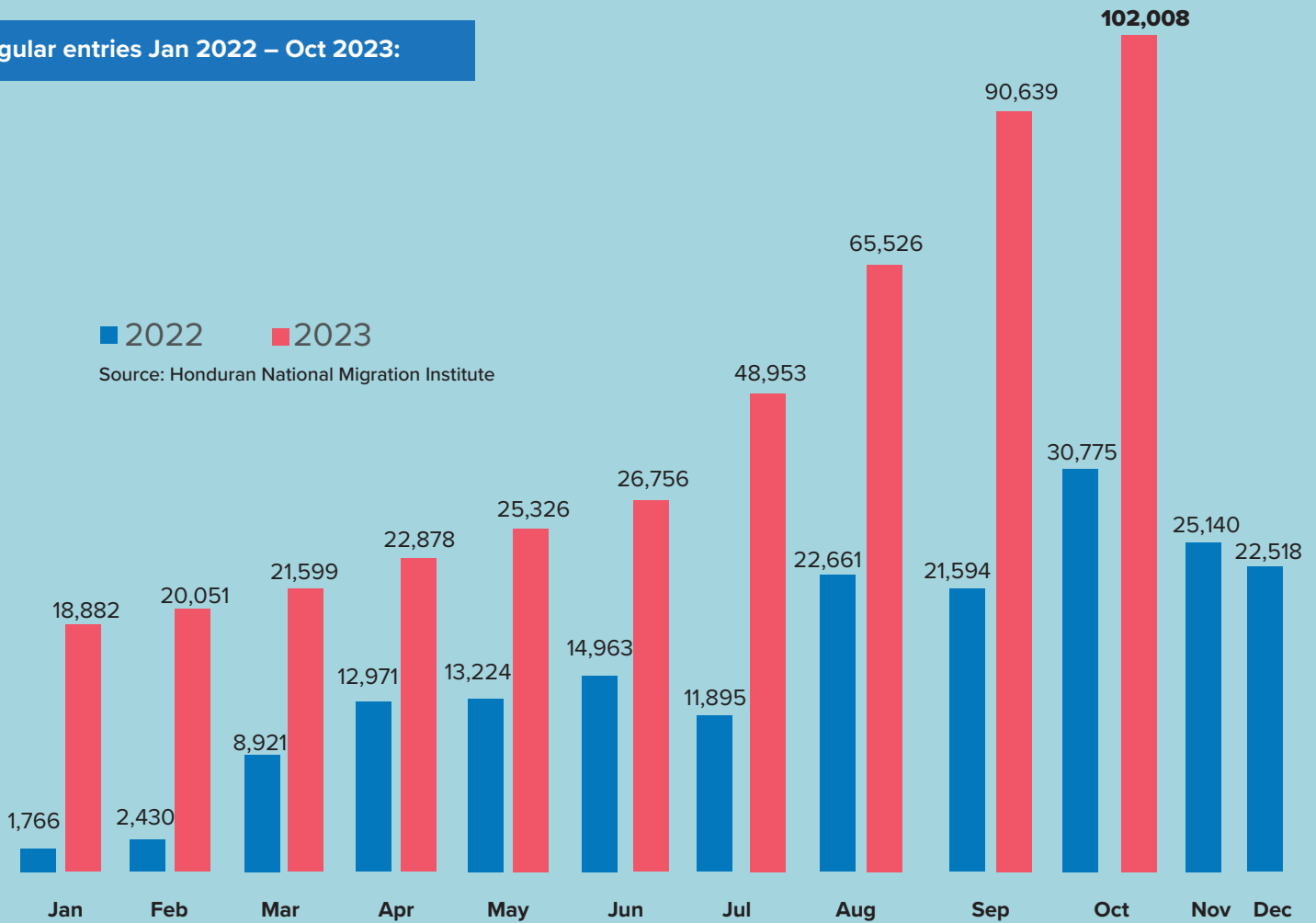
Monthly irregular entries by nationality in 2023:



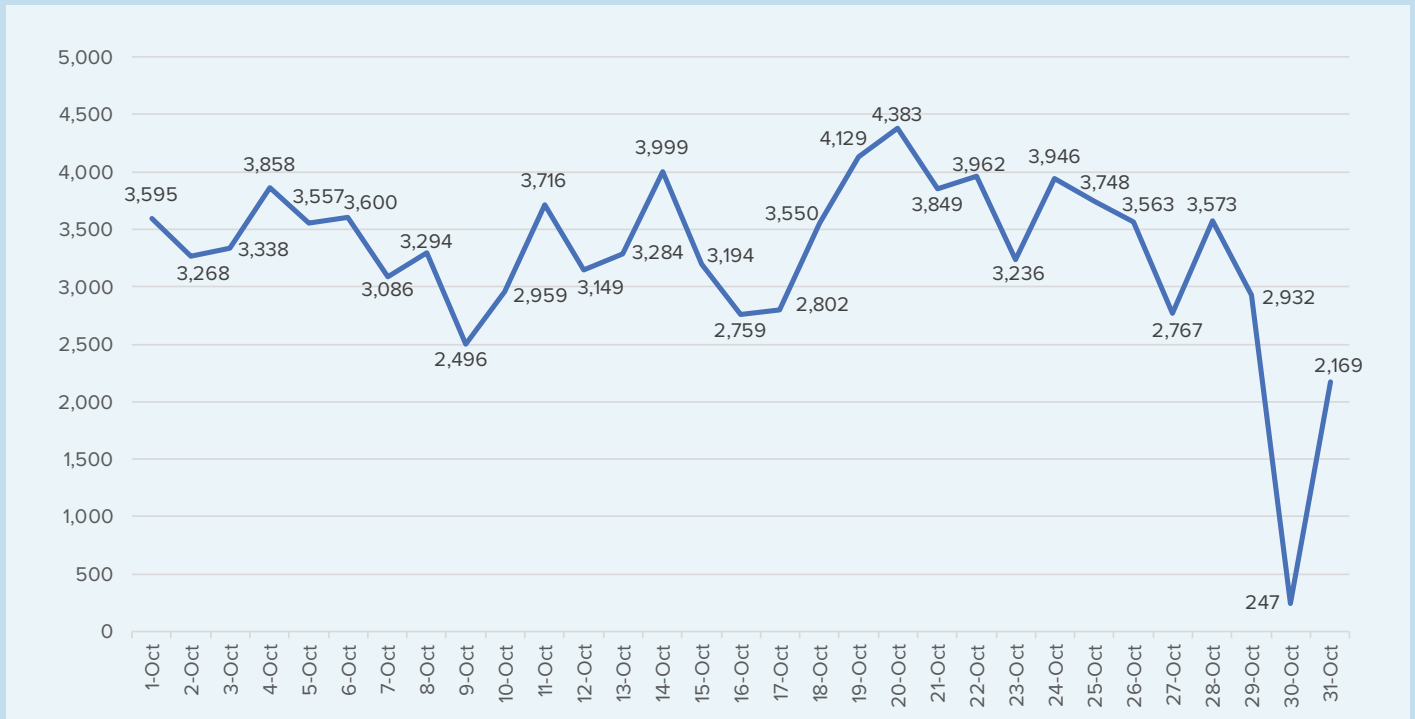
Monthly irregular entries by department in 2023:



Irregular entries Jan 2022 – Oct 2023:



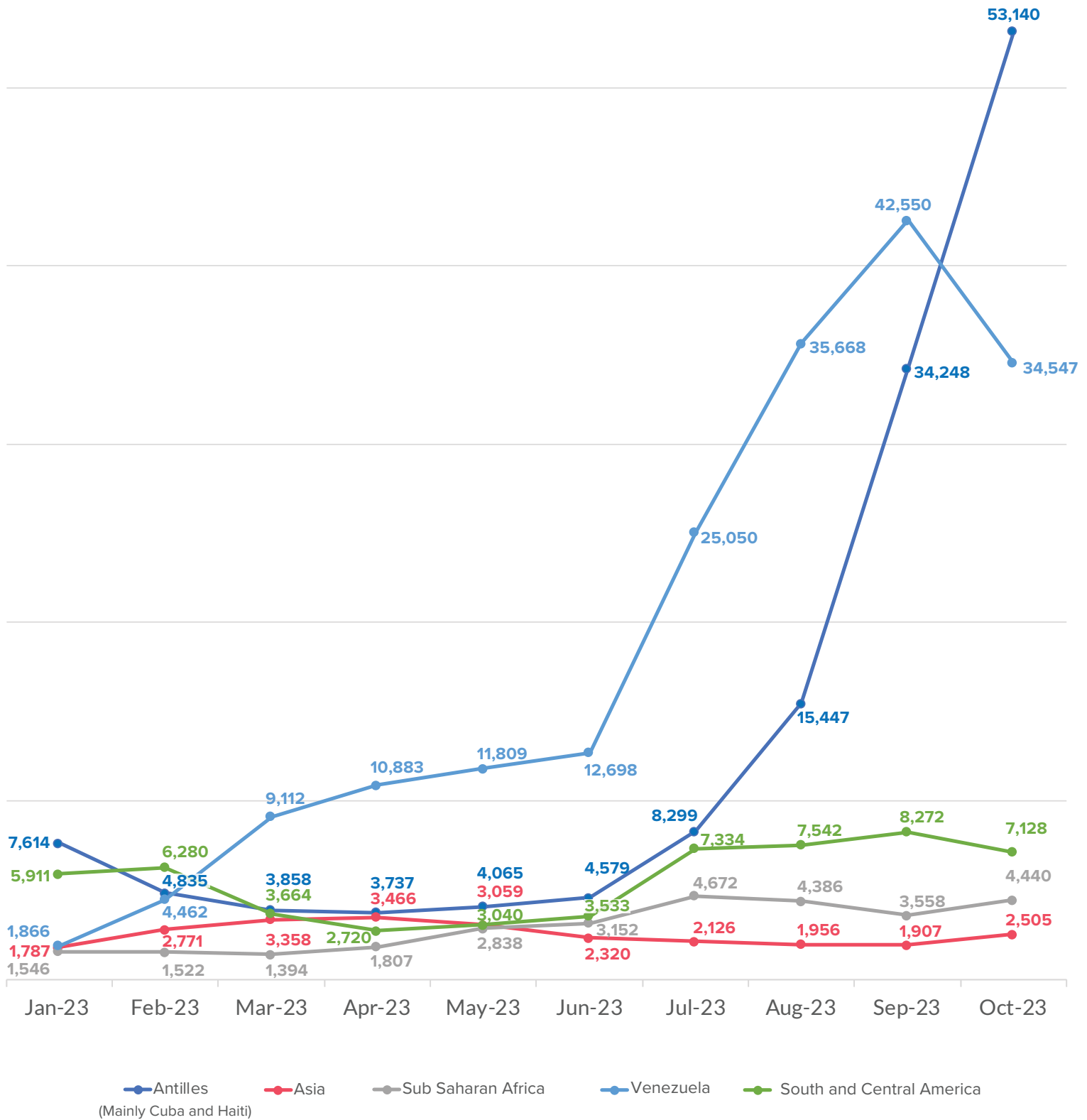
INM Daily Registry of Persons Entering Honduras Irregularly in October 2023



Irregular arrivals of people in mixed movements happen through blind spots along the southeast border of Honduras, mainly through Danlí, 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. The INM previously did not work on weekends, but as of June 2023 they expanded their work hours to include the weekend, resulting in a greater number of registrations. However, the flows of people have also continued to increase, therefore increasing registrations in October. **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.**



Monthly irregular arrivals between Jan 2023 – Oct 2023 by region of origin
(including Venezuela):



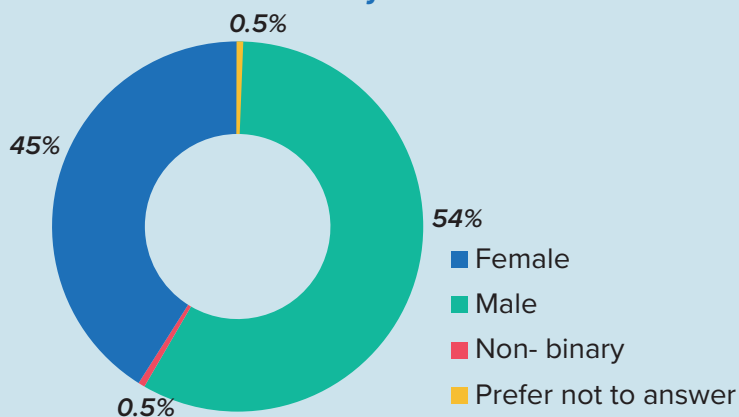
Mixed Movements Protection Monitoring Results

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) 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.



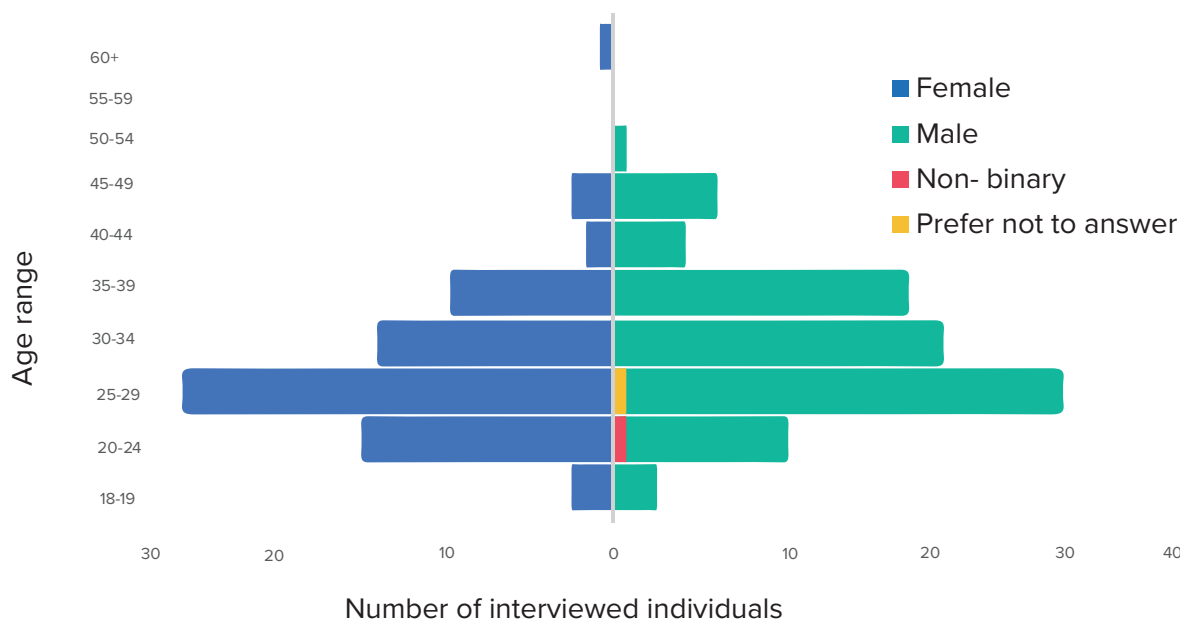
Interviewed Population Data

Interviewed Individuals by Sex

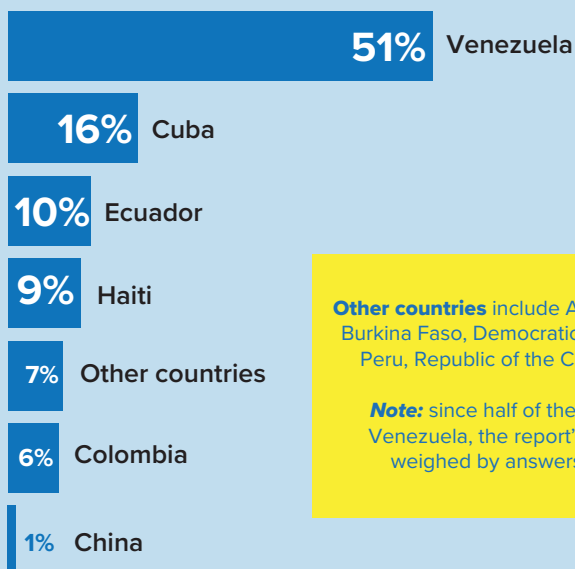


Average age: 31 years old

Interviewed individuals by age range



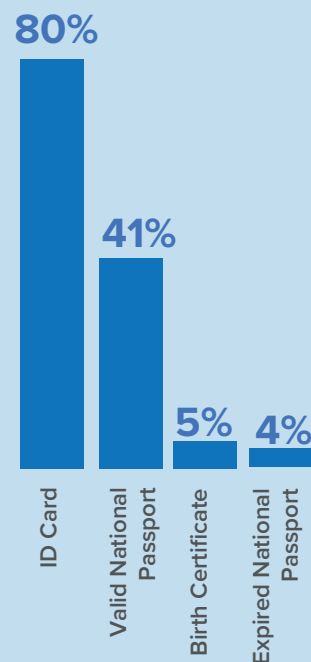
Nationality



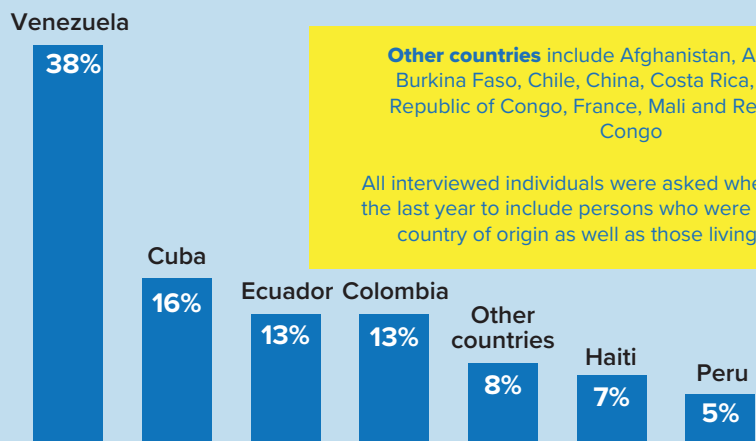
Other countries include Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Peru, Republic of the Congo and Saudi Arabia.

Note: since half of the respondents are from Venezuela, the report's results will be mostly weighed by answers from Venezuelans.

Documents Carried



Country of residence in the past year

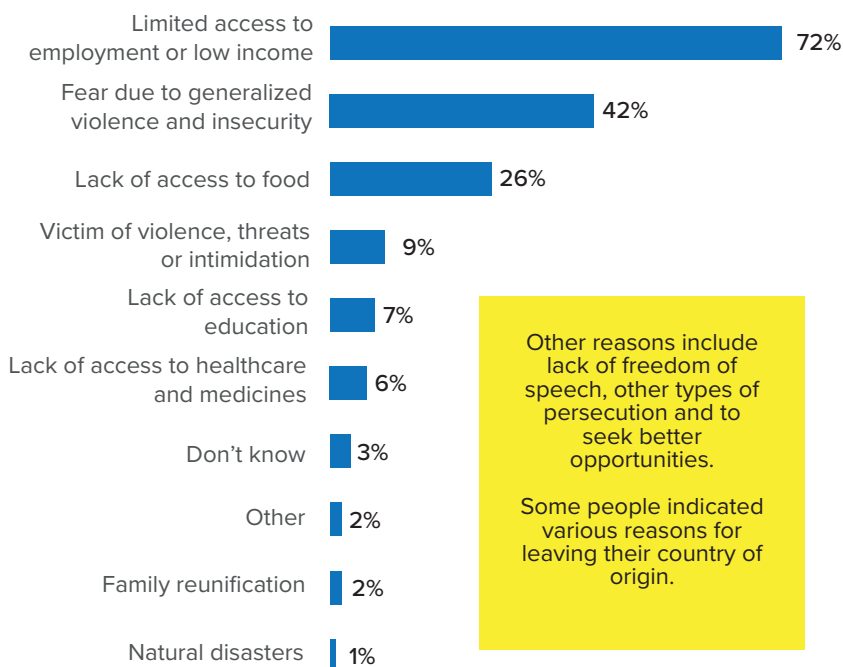


Other countries include Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Mali and Republic of the Congo

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.

16% of the interviewees lived outside of their country of origin and mainly resided in Colombia (38%), Peru (27%), Ecuador (20%), Chile (3%), Costa Rica (3%), Venezuela (3%), Brazil (3%) and France (3%).

Reasons for leaving country of origin

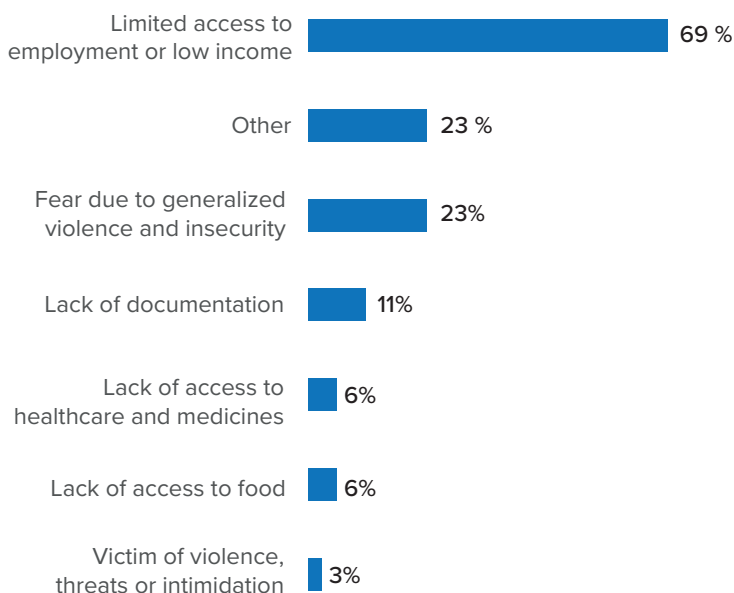


Other reasons include lack of freedom of speech, other types of persecution and to seek better opportunities.

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

Reasons for leaving country of habitual residence

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



Other reasons include discrimination, better opportunities and continuation to final destination.

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



67%

of the interviewed individuals left their country of origin/residence

Less than four weeks ago

100%

reported an intention to stay in Honduras for less than a month

(usually, less than a week) to continue their journey to their destination.

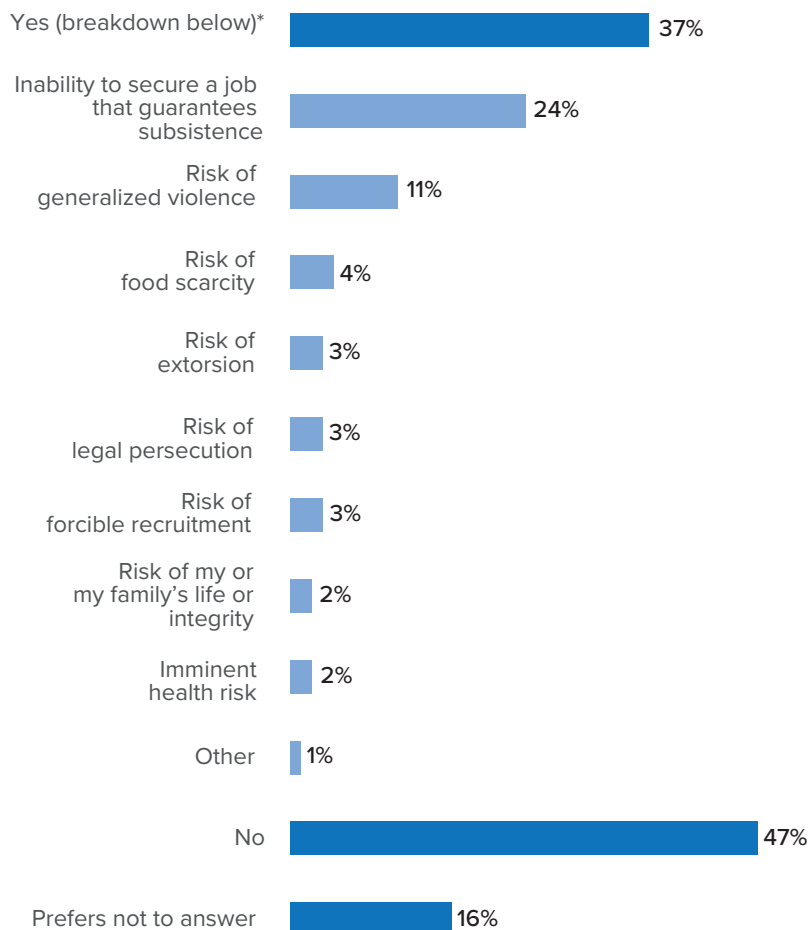
96%

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

4% indicated Canada and Mexico as their intended final destination.



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



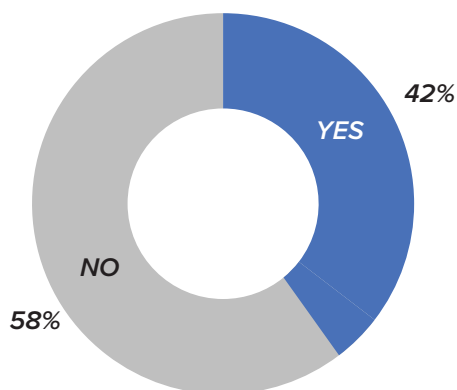
Some persons indicated that they would face several risks if they had to return to their country of origin.

The majority of respondents reported limited access to employment as the main reason for leaving their country of origin (see page 8).

At the same time a significant percentage of people indicated that they would encounter risks if they had to return to their country, including generalized violence, extortion, legal persecution, forcible recruitment and risk to their life or physical integrity. 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. Furthermore, a significant percentage (16%) preferred not to answer the previous question: *Would you encounter any risks if you had to return to your country of origin?*

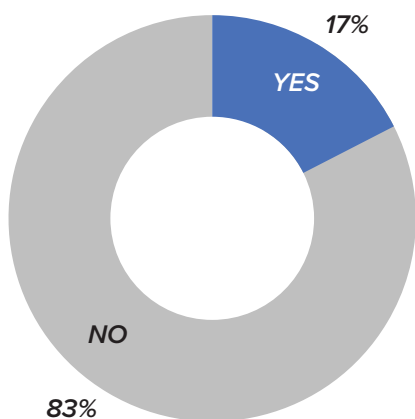
Did you experience any mistreatment or abuse during the journey?



Of the individuals that responded “yes”, 56% reported being victims of theft and 47% of fraud.

Additionally, 25% reported being victims of physical threat or intimidation. Some persons indicated various forms of mistreatment.

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



Within Honduras, of the individuals that responded “yes”, 71% reported being victims of fraud and 32% of theft. Additionally, 10% did not want to mention the type of abuse suffered.

Some persons indicated various forms of mistreatment, with more incidents occurring in the southwest border (Danlí).

Protection Concerns

19% of the interviewed individuals reported traveling with somebody with specific protection needs, including:



1% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with a **survivor of violence in their group** (sexual, physical, or psychological).



At least **5% of interviewed individuals** reported traveling with **pregnant or/and lactating women**.



Around **3%** 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 **1%** of respondents reported traveling with someone with a **critical or chronic medical condition**.

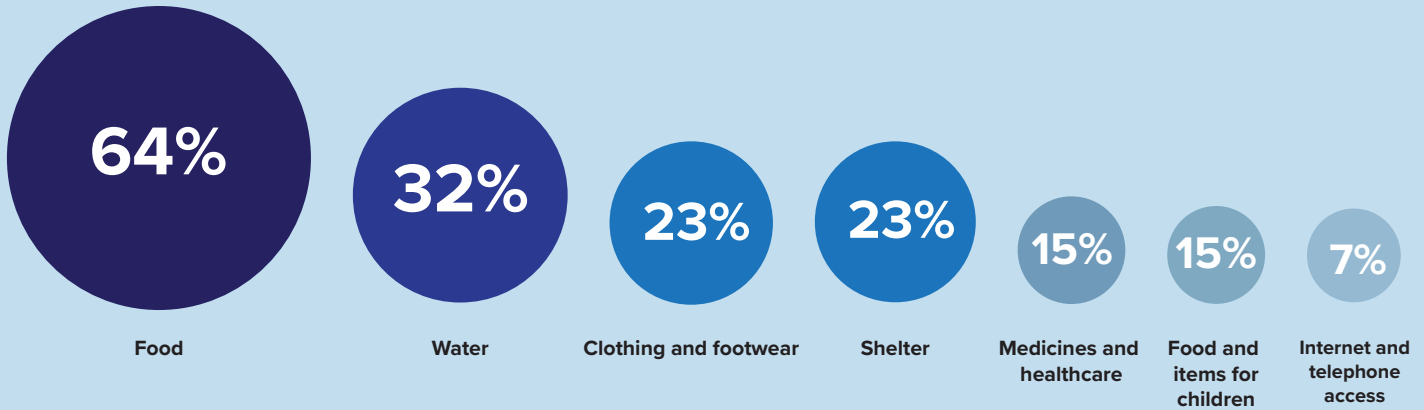


Also, **2%** of the respondents reported traveling with **elderly persons**.

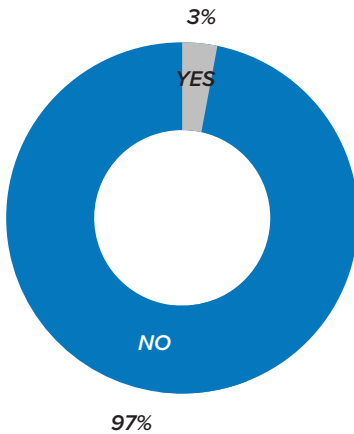


Around **5%** of interviewed individuals reported traveling with someone with a **disability: physical (3%), hearing (1%) and visual (1%)**.

Main Needs

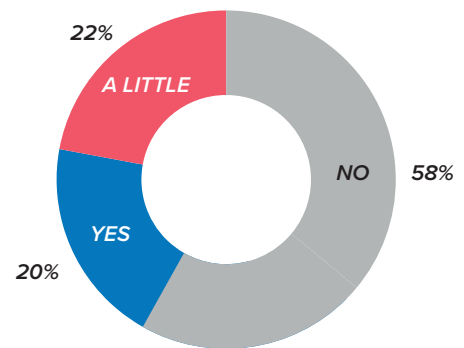


Have you previously applied for asylum?



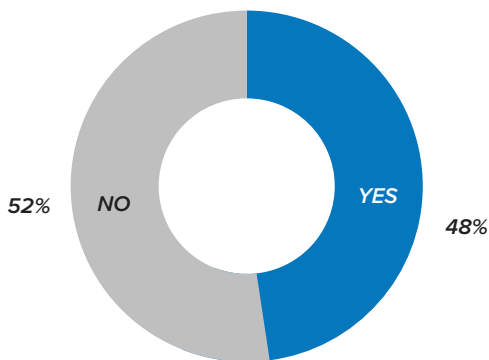
The individuals previously applied in United States, Honduras and Colombia.

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

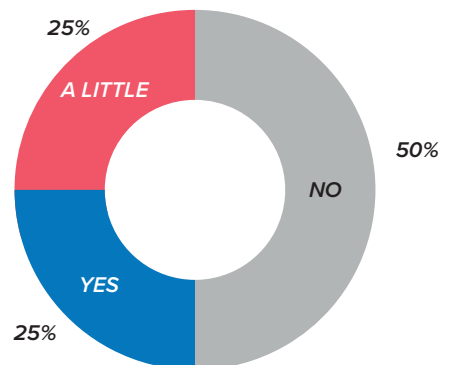


Only citizens of Venezuela, Nicaragua, Haiti and Cuba were asked this question, as the parole program only applies to these countries.

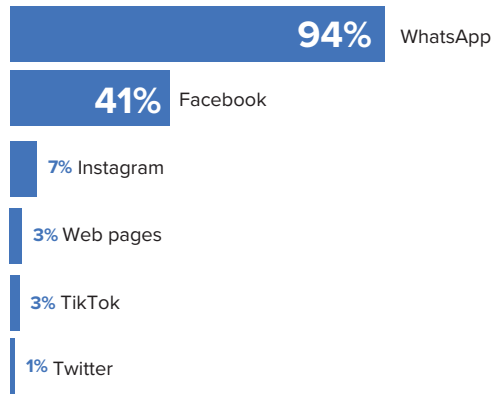
Have you been informed of the opportunity to seek asylum in Honduras?



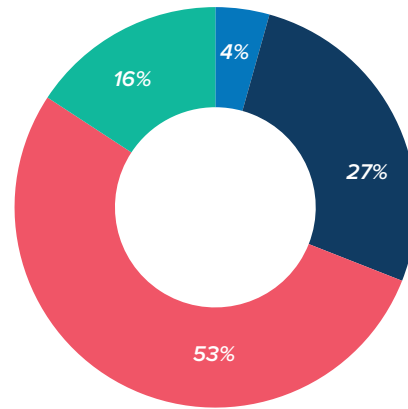
Do you know how the United States Government's CBP One application works?



Which communication platforms do you use to get information during the trip?



How many meals did you eat yesterday?



■ None ■ One ■ Two ■ Three or more



ACNUR/Danielle Alvarez

Main findings of the interview carried out with a key informant

Within the application of the High Frequency Survey (HFS) tool, in addition to the individual interviews carried out with people in mixed movements, UNHCR interviewed a humanitarian actor who provides assistance to people on the move at Machuca, a humanitarian assistance point located in the department of Ocotepeque, a few kilometres from the Agua Caliente border with Guatemala, through whom the following main findings were obtained:

1 Profiles of people in mixed movements

The key informant indicates that the number of people entering and transiting through Honduras has significantly increased in recent months. The main nationalities in mixed movements are Venezuela, Haiti and Cuba. In addition, there are more than 110 other nationalities, including many from African and Asian countries. More than half of the people are women and children. Vulnerable profiles identified include pregnant and breastfeeding women, elderly people and people with disabilities (including persons in wheelchairs).

In terms of language, most people in mixed movements speak Spanish, followed by Haitian Creole, English and Chinese. Non-Spanish speakers often use online translators to communicate.

2 The route

Most people on the move enter Honduras irregularly through the department of El Paraíso (Las Manos, Trojes, Danlí), go to the bus stop in Tatumbula and then travel to the border with Guatemala at Agua Caliente. The means of transport used by most people is the bus.

3 Protection risks and challenges faced by persons on the move

Many people on the move describe the journey through the Darien jungle as a traumatic experience, where they were victims of or observed scams, abuses, robberies or even rapes. In addition, several people on the move reported to the key informant that they saw dead people. Others indicated that while crossing the Darien jungle, the group they were travelling with got separated and they never met again since. According to the key informant, while protection risks affect everyone, women and children face additional risks.

In Honduras, most people mention that they received a better treatment than in other countries. People on the move also indicate that they have received support such as water, food, medical care, shelter and clothing from humanitarian organisations and some state institutions.

Some of the protection risks identified by the key informant in Honduras are the charging of excessive prices for transport, as well as the dissemination of false information by smugglers. In addition, it was reported that people in mixed movements are generally unaware of the existing complaint mechanisms to report Human Rights violations.

4 Access to food and basic services

The key informant indicated that only a small proportion of people in mixed movements consume all three meals a day. Civil society organisations and churches sometimes organise activities to distribute snacks to those who are most vulnerable. However, due to the large number of people they cannot cover all the needs. At the same time, the key informant reported that businesses that sell food charge higher prices to people in mixed movements than what it normally costs.

Furthermore, in the area of Ocotepeque and at the entry points to Honduras (especially Trojes, Las Manos, Danlí), the capacities of the available shelters are very limited. Additionally, at the humanitarian hotspot in Machuca, near the Agua Caliente border, there is a great need to improve water and sanitation services, and the availability of ambulances for medical emergencies.

5 Main needs

According to the key informant, the main needs of refugees and migrants include personal hygiene supplies; food; water; medical care and medicines. Some people also ask for cash. The profiles that most request support are women, children, and elderly people. According to the key informant, people from Venezuela are usually the ones who request the most support.

Non-governmental organisations and some state institutions provide the following humanitarian assistance and protection services at different points along the route in Honduras, these include access to information on people's rights; water and sanitation services; medical and psychological care; nutritional check-ups for children; shelter; personal hygiene supplies; among others. However, due to the sharp increase in the number of people in mixed movements, many of these needs cannot be covered.

6 Country of destination

The key informant mentioned that most people in mixed movements indicate that their country of final destination is the United States. When asked about the route they will use, people usually indicate that they will first go to Esquipulas in Guatemala and from there to Tapachula, Mexico.