

Mixed Movements Darién and Chiriquí

SEPTEMBER 2024

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Key Figures Context



263,296

People have crossed the Darién Jungle as of September 2024.



25,111

People in September.

47 per cent



Of those interviewed by UNHCR and UNICEF left their country due to threats, attacks or generalized violence.

As of 30 September, **263,296** individuals had crossed the Darién jungle, marking a 36 percent decrease compared to the same period last year. Authorities attribute this drop to stricter security measures implemented by Mulino's Government, including the **closure of several unauthorized paths** in Darién, the establishment of a single security corridor at Cañas Blancas, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the US, and the start of a voluntary **repatriation** plan as part of this agreement.

The President stated that despite the overall decrease, the Government has noticed an increasing number of **Chinese** and **Nepalese** entering irregularly. Officials are seeking to establish a deportation agreement with China. On 6 September, officials conducted the first deportation flight to Indira Gandhi Airport in New Delhi, returning 130 Indians who crossed irregularly. By the end of September, the Government had repatriated some 600 people from Colombia, Ecuador, and India.

At the **UN General Assembly**, the President reiterated Panama's call for regional cooperation to address the displacement crisis in Darién. Mulino stated that Panama is experiencing the environmental impact of the increasing irregular movements, and consequent biodiversity damages.

UNHCR's response

UNHCR supports the **Government's response** at the Temporary Reception Centres (ETRM in its Spanish acronym) and to **host communities** in Darién and Chiriquí. With the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), UNHCR offers **legal support** to people with international protection needs and refers individuals requiring specialized assistance to relevant institutions. UNHCR and NRC also provide **information on the asylum system in Panama** and assist with refugee status applications. Through HIAS, UNHCR provides **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** and provides people in transit with **information on the risks of the route** through informative sessions. Through the Panamanian Red Cross (CRP), UNHCR delivers **primary health care** to refugees and migrants at the Government's ETRMs.



In September, UNHCR and NRC trained 109 SENAFRONT officials and staff from the Public Prosecutor Office Administrative branch on international protection and the Agency's mandate. For more information on UNHCR's work in Panama, click [here](#).

Key achievements



3,982

people informed on the risks of the journey



2,236

people received counselling and information on asylum



651

people assisted with primary health care



2,117

Mosquito nets, blankets and sleeping mats distributed to the government and host communities



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UNHCR's initiatives in Darién and Chiriquí

UNHCR conducted missions in Bajo Chiquito, an Emberá-Wounaan Indigenous community, to meet with find community delegates (Delegadas Comunitarias) and gather feedback on a map they prepared with UNHCR's support for its waste management innovation project. The Agency participated in the Indigenous Congress and presented the participatory map, which was well received and serves as a starting point for developing the strategy.

In Darién, UNHCR met with a professor from Panama's University in Darien to discuss the development of a Diploma degree in International Protection of Refugees in Mixed Movements. This initiative could be part of the broader framework of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Chair, a global partnership between UNHCR and local universities to promote teaching and research on forced displacement, human rights, and statelessness.

UNHCR accompanied a US mission from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Darien. UNHCR and the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF) co-hosted a focus group discussion on health and disease control with individuals from Ghana and Equatorial Guinea and briefed participants on refugee protection.

Other achievements



UNHCR's [Help Page](#) registered **8,608 visits** in September. For more information on international protection and asylum, please contact us by [scanning our QR](#).



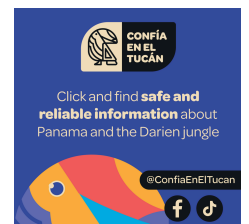
UNHCR with UNICEF, interviewed **533 refugees and migrants** during its monthly mixed movements monitoring exercise in Darien and Chiriqui.



UNHCR, through HIAS, assisted **59 people** with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) related to traumatic experiences crossing the jungle.



[Confía en el Tucán](#) released **14 new social media posts**. In September, the campaign reached **3,428,836 visualizations** on TikTok and Facebook, with **207,374 engagements**.



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