Protection Monitoring

Mexico | April - June 2025

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | WFP World Food Programme | unicef for every child

Background & Methodology

- The Protection Monitoring survey in Mexico regularly collects and analyzes data to identify violations of rights and protection risks for refugees and migrants for the purpose of informing effective responses by UNHCR and its partners.
- During the second quarter 2025, 596 interviews were conducted consisting of 1,155 people.
- Surveys were carried out in 10 locations across Mexico. The Northern region: Juarez, Matamoros, Monterrey, Piedras Negras, Reynosa, Saltillo and Tijuana. The Southern region: Tapachula and Villahermosa.
- The results presented are indicative and should not be interpreted as representative of the total population of refugees and migrants in Mexico.

Highlight

- The reasons for leaving countries of origin continue to show a heightened number of persons fleeing situations of violence and persecution, a number that reached 85% of the total population interviewed. Similarly, a greater number of persons has signaled that they would face risks of violence or persecution if returned to their countries of origin, with 74% of the population stating that they fall in this category.

Demographics

52% Girls & Women

48% Boys & Men

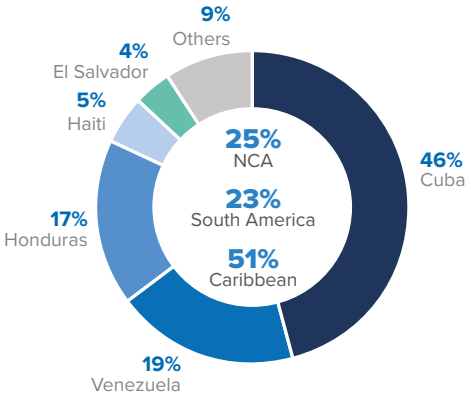
74% Adults

26% Children

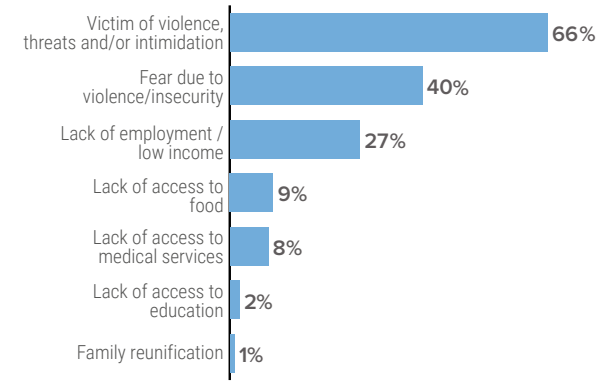
Group composition
28% groups with children
14% groups with children under 5yrs
55% lone adults

Country of Origin

Nationality



*Reasons for leaving**



*Multiple selection question

Risks upon return

69%
of the interviewed individuals expressed facing a risk upon return to their country of origin due to threats, extortion, and/or persecution.

17%
of the interviewed individuals expressed facing a risk upon return to their country of origin due to general violence, and/or discrimination.

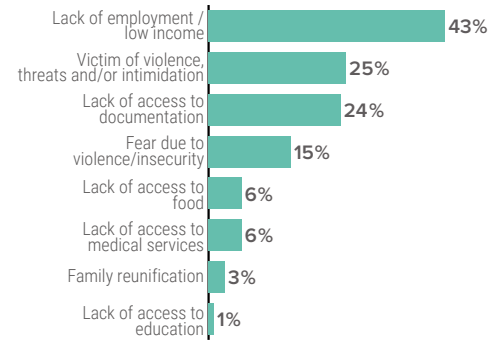
Journey & Incidents prior to arrival in Mexico

The route

11%
of the interviewed individuals reported living in a country other than their country of origin for more than **six months.** Main countries: Colombia, Chile, Peru & Dominican Republic.

34%
of the interviewed individuals described facing a protection incident in countries of transit prior to entering Mexico

*Reasons for leaving last country of residency**



*Multiple selection question

Main protection incidents during transit

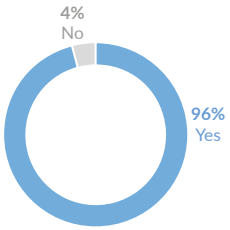
Theft **21%**

Kidnapping **7%**

Extortion **9%**

South

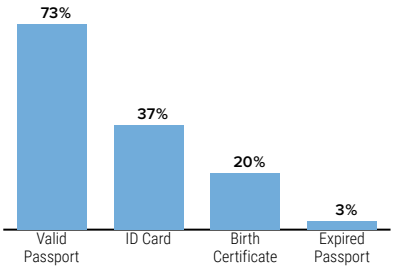
Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)



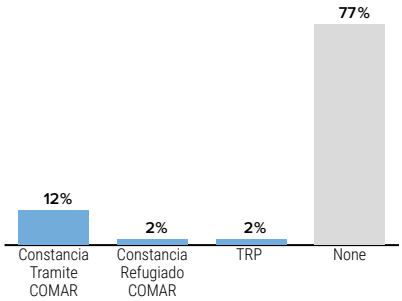
During the second quarter 2025, COMAR received 20,364 new asylum applications, a similar figure compared to the previous quarter, (21,543) but and increase compared to the number observed in Q2 2024 (17,962). 52% of these applications submitted during April-June 2025 were made in Southern Mexico. Main nationalities in the South were Cuba (49%), Venezuela (22%), Haiti (15%) and Honduras (7%).

Source: COMAR

Personal Documentation



Documentation obtained in Mexico



Mexico City

Mexico City remained the second location in the country with the highest number of asylum claims, representing a large proportion of all applications in the country, with an increasing trend compared to the previous quarter. Main nationalities were Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela and Honduras.

Two of the city's three informal settlements were dismantled. Most of the individuals who had been living in those were referred to government-run shelters, which were hosting aproximately 600 people each, mainly families with children. As of June, the remained informal settlement, with a lack of proper infrastructure and services, was accommodating around 500 people—primarily families— with basic proteccion needs unmet. This population is living in extreme vulnerability, facing precarious security and safety, including exposure to theft, extortion, and acts of violence by neighbors or criminal actors.

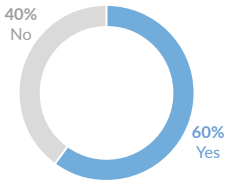
North

Main protection incidents within Mexico

63% of the interviewed individuals in the northern region described having faced a protection incident in Mexico

- **22%** Theft
- **4%** Extortion
- **13%** Intimidation
- **23%** Kidnapping
- **1%** Physical assault
- **5%** Fraud/Scam

Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)



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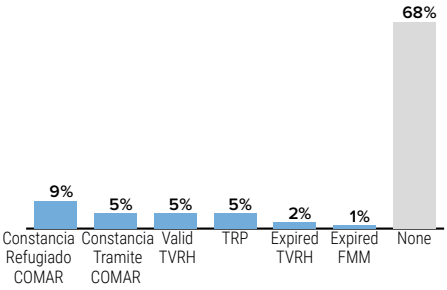

Access all our protection monitoring publications here
Feedback: mexmeim@unhcr.org

In collaboration with:

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | WFP World Food Programme | unicef for every child | JRS Servicio Jesuita a Refugiados México | Frontera con Justicia | Save the Children

Note: The World Food Programme (WFP) does not have field operations in Mexico. All data and information collected in this country is managed by the WFP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Panama City, and are part of the regional initiative for Mixed Movements Monitoring in the Americas.