With 65,526 persons, the Honduran National Migration Institute registered the largest number ever of refugees and migrants transiting through the country in one single month, which is an increase of 34% in comparison to the previous month.

The number of Venezuelans, Cubans and Haitians in mixed movements tripled from June to August. More than 54% of the total number of persons in August were Venezuelans.

At least 43% 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.

The main needs reported by refugees and migrants in transit are food, legal assistance, medical assistance, water, clothes and shoes, shelter, information on the protection services and legal pathways available.

**Highlights of the Month**

**Official Data:**

**Total Irregular Entries 2022:**

188,858

**Total Irregular Entries Jan-Aug 2023:**

249,972

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

114

**Irregular Entries Jan-Aug 2023:**

- Women: 31%
- Men: 69%
- Children: 17%
- Adults: 83%

**Monthly irregular entries by nationality in 2023:**

- Cuba
- Venezuela
- Ecuador
- Haiti
- China
- Other

Source: Honduran National Migration Institute
Irregular entries Jan 2022-Aug 2023:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>1,766</td>
<td>18,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>2,430</td>
<td>20,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>8,921</td>
<td>12,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>12,971</td>
<td>22,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>13,224</td>
<td>25,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>14,963</td>
<td>26,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>11,895</td>
<td>8,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>21,599</td>
<td>21,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>30,775</td>
<td>25,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>22,518</td>
<td>13,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>22,878</td>
<td>25,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>26,756</td>
<td>11,895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Irregular arrivals of people in mixed movements happen through blind spots along the southeast border of Honduras, mainly through Danil, 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 August.

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 - Aug 2023 by region of origin (including Venezuela):
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**
  - Male: 58%
  - Female: 41%
  - Non-binary: 1%

- **Average age**: 31 years

**Total interviews August 2023:** 175
Interviewed individuals by age range

- **Female**
- **Male**
- **Non-binary**

Documents Carried

- **ID Card**: 83%
- **Valid National Passport**: 36%
- **Birth Certificate**: 6%
- **Expired National Passport**: 3%
- **None**: 2%

Nationality

- **59%** Venezuela
- **18%** Cuba
- **10%** Colombia
- **7%** Ecuador
- **3%** Other countries
- **2%** Haiti
- **1%** Nicaragua

Country of residence in the past year

- **Venezuela**: 45%
- **Cuba**: 18%
- **Colombia**: 17%
- **Other countries**: 17%
- **Peru**: 9%
- **Chile**: 5%
- **Haiti**: 3%
- **Brazil**: 2%
- **Dominican Republic**: 3%

Other countries include Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Brazil and China.

16% of the interviewees lived outside of their country of origin and mainly resided in Colombia (50%), Chile (14%), Peru (11%), Ecuador (11%), Brazil (7%), Dominican Republic (4%) and Honduras (3%).

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.

Other countries include Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Brazil and China.
### Reasons for leaving country of origin

- Limited access to employment or low income: 86%
- Fear due to generalized violence and insecurity: 36%
- Lack of access to food: 29%
- Lack of access to healthcare and medicines: 14%
- Victim of violence, threats or intimidation: 10%
- Lack of access to education: 9%
- Family reunification: 2%
- Other: 1%

Some people indicated various reasons for leaving their country of origin.
Other reasons include a lack of freedom of speech.
Please refer to main finding of Focal Group Discussion at the end of this report, for additional information.

### Reasons for leaving country of habitual residence

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

- Limited access to employment or low income: 71%
- Lack of documentation: 29%
- Other: 15%
- Fear due to generalized violence and insecurity: 15%
- Lack of access to food: 9%
- Victim of violence, threats or intimidation: 9%
- Don’t know/Don’t want to answer: 3%
- Lack of access to education: 3%
- Lack of access to healthcare and medicines: 3%

Some people indicated various reasons for leaving their country of residence.
Other reasons include family reunification and seeking better life conditions.
Please refer to main finding of Focal Group Discussion at the end of this report, for additional information.

85% 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) before continuing their journey.
(See pages 10-13)

97% of the interviewed individuals reported the United States as their intended final destination.
3% indicated other countries as their final destination such as Canada and Mexico.
Did you experience any mistreatment or abuse during the journey?

35% YES

65% NO

Of the individuals that responded “yes”, 79% reported being victims of theft and 44% of fraud. Additionally, 24% reported being victims of physical threat or intimidation. Some persons indicated various forms of mistreatment.

Protection Concerns

2% 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 1% of interviewed individuals reported having a single parent traveling with children in their group. Also, 1% 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.

Within Honduras, of the individuals that responded “yes”, 53% reported being victims of theft and 53% of fraud. Additionally, 27% reported being victims of physical threat or intimidation. Some persons indicated various forms of mistreatment. This form of abuse occurs on both the southern and northern borders.

Around 5% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with someone with a disability: physical (3%) and visual (2%).
### Main Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal assistance</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicines and healthcare</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and footwear</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on protection and migratory alternatives</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and items for children</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet and telephone access</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Have you previously applied for asylum?

100% of the interviewees indicated that they have NOT sought asylum previously.

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

- Yes: 35%
- No: 36%
- A little: 29%

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?

- Yes: 56%
- No: 44%

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

- Yes: 40%
- No: 33%
- A little: 27%
Which communication platforms do you use to get information during the trip?

- 90% WhatsApp
- 57% Facebook
- 11% Instagram
- 6% Web pages
- 2% Twitter
- 2% Youtube
- 2% Tik Tok

How many meals did you eat yesterday?

- None: 35%
- One: 26%
- Two: 6%
- Three or more: 33%
UNHCR applies each month a survey called High Frequency Survey (HFS) to people in mixed movements who transit through Honduras. The main results of the latest survey carried out in August 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 8 and 10 August 2023, three Focal Group Discussions were held (two in Choluteca and one in Tegucigalpa) with people mainly from Venezuela and some from Colombia. Of the three Focal Group Discussions conducted, one was carried out with women and two with men. The main findings are:

**Main findings of the Focal Group Discussions with people on the move**

Most of the participants in the Focal Group Discussions expressed that the reason for leaving their country of origin was related to the current generalized crisis in Venezuela. Several people indicated that they were unable to find employment or access certain social rights in their country because of their political opinion. On the other hand, people who set up their own business were forced to pay extortion to different actors, a situation that led to the closure of their businesses and, therefore, the loss of their main source of income and as a consequence to the impossibility to continue residing in their countries.

It is worth noting that, in the Focus Group Discussion carried out only with women, all participants expressed to be in need of international protection, as the reasons that forced them to leave their countries of origin were mainly: extortion, threats and persecution.

A participant illustrated the persecution he suffered in his country of origin by explaining that one of his relatives worked for the police and was threatened with death together with his family for having expressed his intention to resign from his job.

When asked about the last country of residence, almost half of the participants stated that they had lived outside their country of origin (mainly in Colombia, Chile and Peru), before starting their journey to the north of the continent. Among the main reasons for leaving their last country of residence, the persons cited the lack of access to documentation and employment, as well as discrimination.

All participants indicated that the route they took from their country of origin to Honduras was overland through the Darien jungle, crossing at least five countries. Also, the majority indicated that they are currently accompanied by at least one family member. Only a small proportion mentioned to be travelling alone or in the company of friends.

The transportation prices depend on the routes taken. However, participants indicated that they had spent at least 500 USD per person to reach Honduras from their country of origin or country of last residence. The majority stated that they have mainly used public transportation, while a minority in addition indicated that they had travelled by hitchhiking.

The majority of the people reported having suffered incidents such as robbery or attempted robbery before arriving in Honduras, mostly in the Darien jungle. The crossing of the Darien was described by several people as a traumatic experience due to the violence suffered, with people even being found dead on the route. Participants furthermore stated that during their transit through Nicaragua, they were forced to pay extortion in different parts of the country.

Once in Honduras, several participants indicated that they have felt safer and without the need to hide, thus considering the country as a suitable place to rest and recover.
In relation to access to food and potable water along the route, most persons indicated that the main challenge has been the very limited financial resources to purchase them. Several persons mentioned that they had to drink water from rivers and other streams without knowing the source or the quality of the water. In addition, the persons also indicated that they had to ration their food consumption. Only a minority reported that they did not have any problems accessing food.

At the same time, most of the participants in the Focal Group Discussions highlighted the solidarity of the local population as well as of the humanitarian organizations both in Honduras and in other countries through which they have transited. The support received was mainly water, food, shelter as well as other types of humanitarian aid.

All participants stated that their main need was the lack of financial resources to cover their basic needs, including accommodation. In addition, some persons also expressed the need to receive medical assistance.

Most people also indicated that they would like to receive more information on the functioning of the Humanitarian Parole Program and the “CBP One” application of the Government of the United States. One of the participants stated that he has applied for the Humanitarian Parole Program and has been waiting in Honduras for the last several months to be admitted to the Program in order to be able to travel to the United States.

A small number of persons also expressed the need to receive more information on the migration policies of Mexico and Guatemala.

The majority of the participants indicated that their final destination country is the United States. A smaller number mentioned other countries such as Canada.

At the same time, the majority of the persons indicated that they would make the journey again if they were deported, because the root causes that forced them to leave their country of origin have not changed.
Main findings of the interviews carried out with key informants

In addition to the individual interviews carried out with people in mixed movements and the Focal Group Discussions held, UNHCR interviewed seven civil society members and local actors who work with people on the move in Choluteca, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán and Valle, through whom the following main findings were obtained:

Profiles of people in mixed movements

The interviewed key informants stated that persons on the move who enter and transit through Honduras are mainly from Venezuela, Ecuador, Haiti and Cuba. In addition, smaller numbers from African and Asian countries have also been reported. The majority of the persons are men with an average age between 25 and 35 years old. At the same time, a significant number of women with children have also been identified, including pregnant women in need of medical attention for prenatal care.

According to key informants, most people in mixed movements speak Spanish. Non-Spanish speakers generally use online translators on their mobile phones to communicate with members of the local community.

The route

Persons on the move currently enter Honduras from Nicaragua mainly through the borders of Las Manos and Trojes and exit the country towards Guatemala through Agua Caliente border.

Regarding transportation costs, key informants indicated that the cost of crossing Honduras from the Nicaraguan border to the Guatemala border ranges from 40 to 50 USD per person.

Protection risks and challenges faced by persons on the move

Key informants expressed that people in mixed movements usually mention that they suffer most incidents (such as abuses or robberies) before arriving in Honduras. Non-Spanish speakers are reported to be more likely to become victims of abuse or scams.

Regarding incidents happening in Honduras, several key informants stated that, due to the migratory amnesty introduced by the Honduran State which exempts persons who enter the country irregularly from paying an administrative sanction, protection risks they face have diminished. Nevertheless, key informants have occasionally heard of thefts and the charging of excessive prices (especially for transportation and food). In addition, it was identified that people on the move are generally unaware of the existing complaint mechanisms in Honduras to report human rights violations.
Key informants mentioned that people in mixed movements usually have great difficulties in accessing food, water and basic services. In some cases, people on the move had to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as reduce the number of meals consumed per day, look for food in rubbish bins or beg in the streets in order to fulfil their basic needs.

Among the most urgent needs reported are: shelter; medical care; access to medicines; food; information on the rights of persons in mixed movements in Honduras and other countries, as well as information on the available humanitarian services along the route.

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 7 and 15 August 2023.

Feedback:
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Email: naama@unhcr.org