UNHCR ACNUR
La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

Mixed Movements Monitoring
Honduras

November 2023

Highlights of the month

502,406

Between January and November 2023, **more than half a million refugees and migrants** entered, registered and transited through Honduras according to the Honduran National Migration Institute (INM), which is **three times more than in 2022** and a **new record number.**

With **59,787 persons**, INM registered the fourth highest number of refugees and migrants in transit through the country in a single month (November), which is **more than double the number in November 2022.**

- In November 2023, the four main nationalities (Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti and Ecuador) accounted for **79%** of the total number of people in mixed movements.
- While there was a reduction of Venezuelans, Cubans and Haitians in November, compared to the previous month, the number of **people from Sub-Saharan African countries increased by 10% and by 50% from Asian countries.**
- **52%** of all people in mixed movements in November **were women, girls and boys,** confirming the trend of an **increase** in women, girls and boys on the move **in recent months.**
- In November, more than **93%** of the people on the move entered Honduras through **the department of El Paraíso,** while the remaining **7% entered through Choluteca.**

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At least **49% 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 or persecution.

56% of the interviewed people reported having **suffered some form of mistreatment or abuse** during the journey since they left their country of origin or last residence. **9%** indicated that they experienced mistreatment or other forms of abuse **in Honduras.**

14% of those interviewed by UNHCR and its partners reported that they are traveling with people with **specific protection needs** in their group, including: breastfeeding or pregnant women, people with a disability or with critical or chronic illnesses, elderly persons, among other profiles.

The **main needs** reported by refugees and migrants on the move are **food, legal assistance, information on the available protection services and migratory alternatives, healthcare and medicines, clothes and footwear, water and shelter.**

96% of the people on the move interviewed by UNHCR and its partners indicated that **WhatsApp** is the main communication platform they use to obtain information during their journey. In addition, **58% use Facebook, 11% Instagram** and **3% TikTok** to obtain information.

Official Data

Total Irregular Entries 2022:

188,858

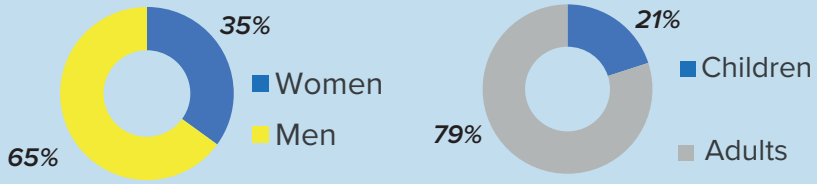
Total Irregular Entries Jan - Nov 2023:

502,406

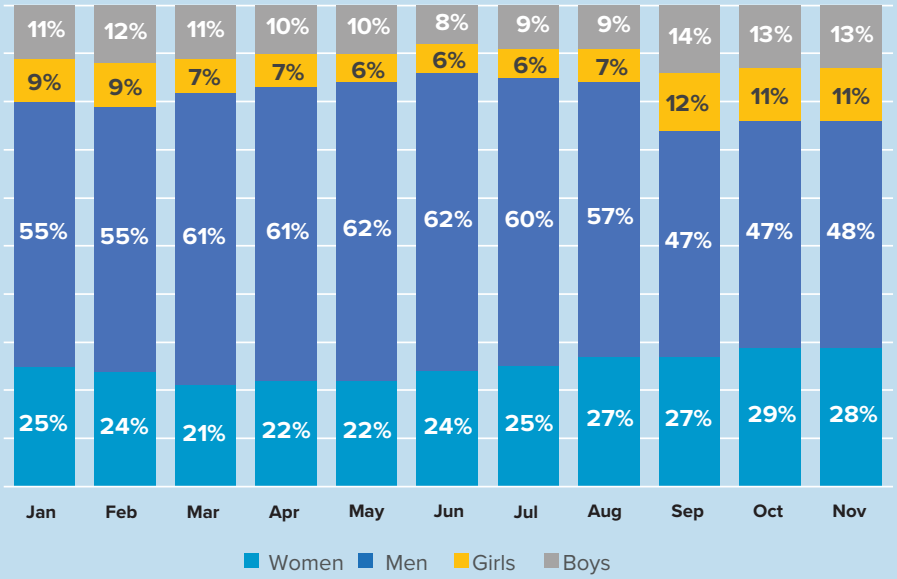
Total number of different nationalities who have entered Honduras irregularly in 2023:

114

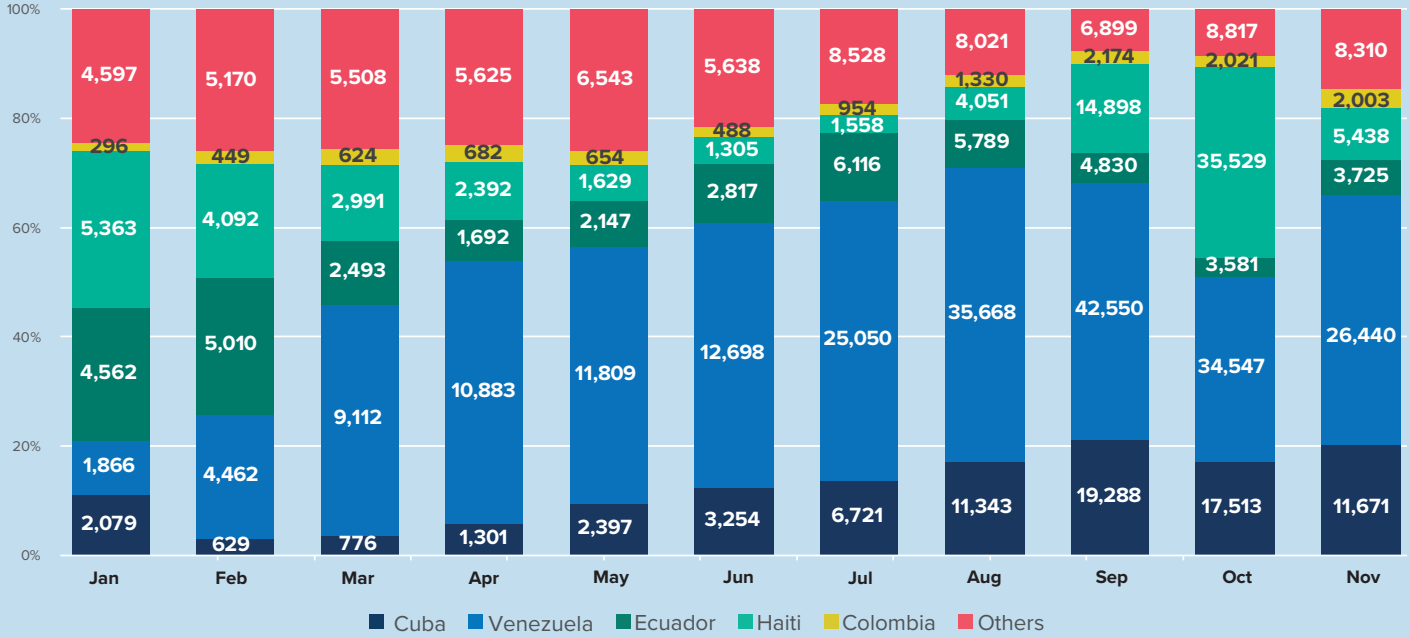
Irregular Entries Jan-Nov 2023:



Monthly irregular entries by age and gender in 2023:

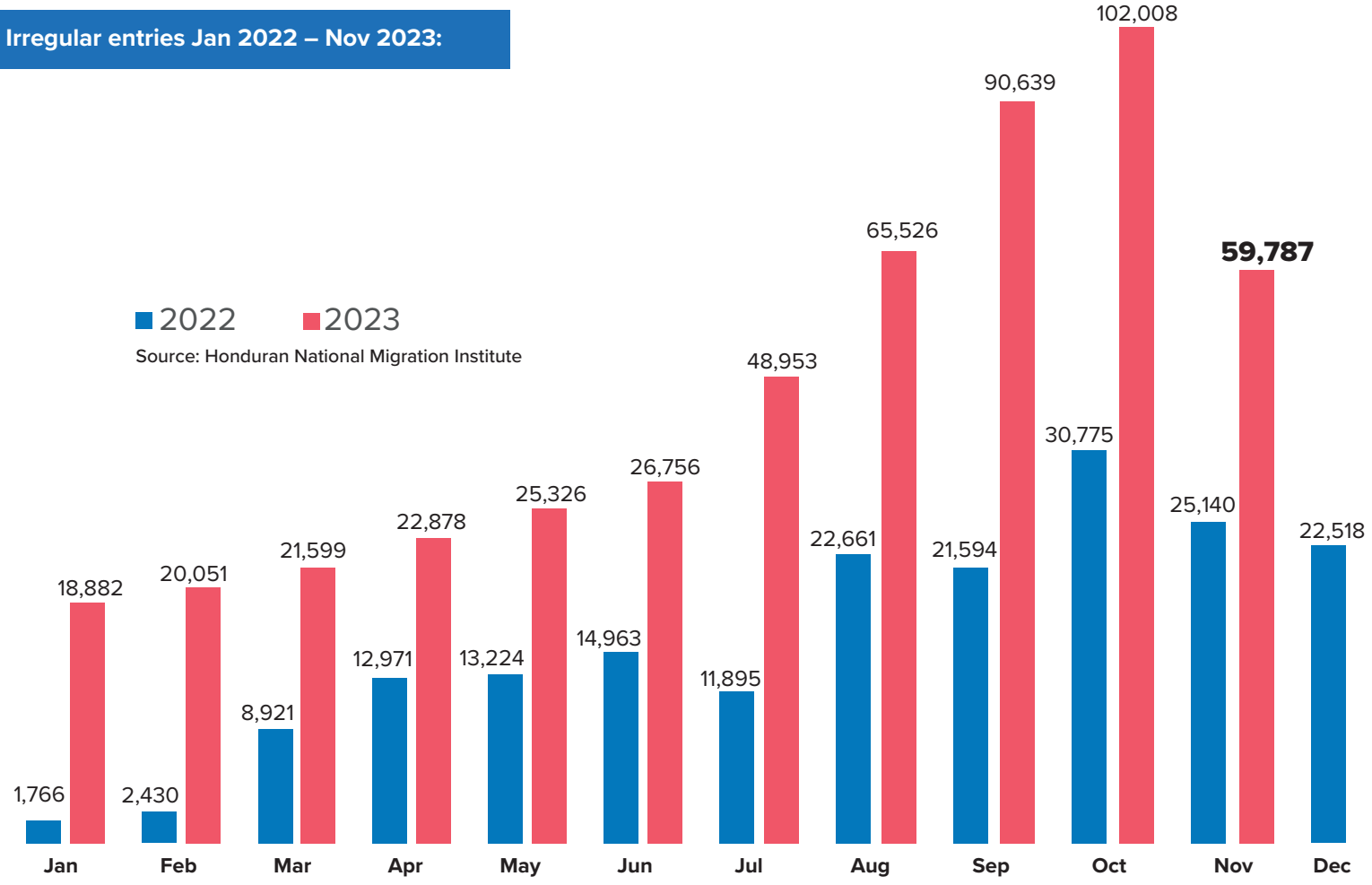


Monthly irregular entries by nationality in 2023:



Source: Honduran National Migration Institute

Irregular entries Jan 2022 – Nov 2023:



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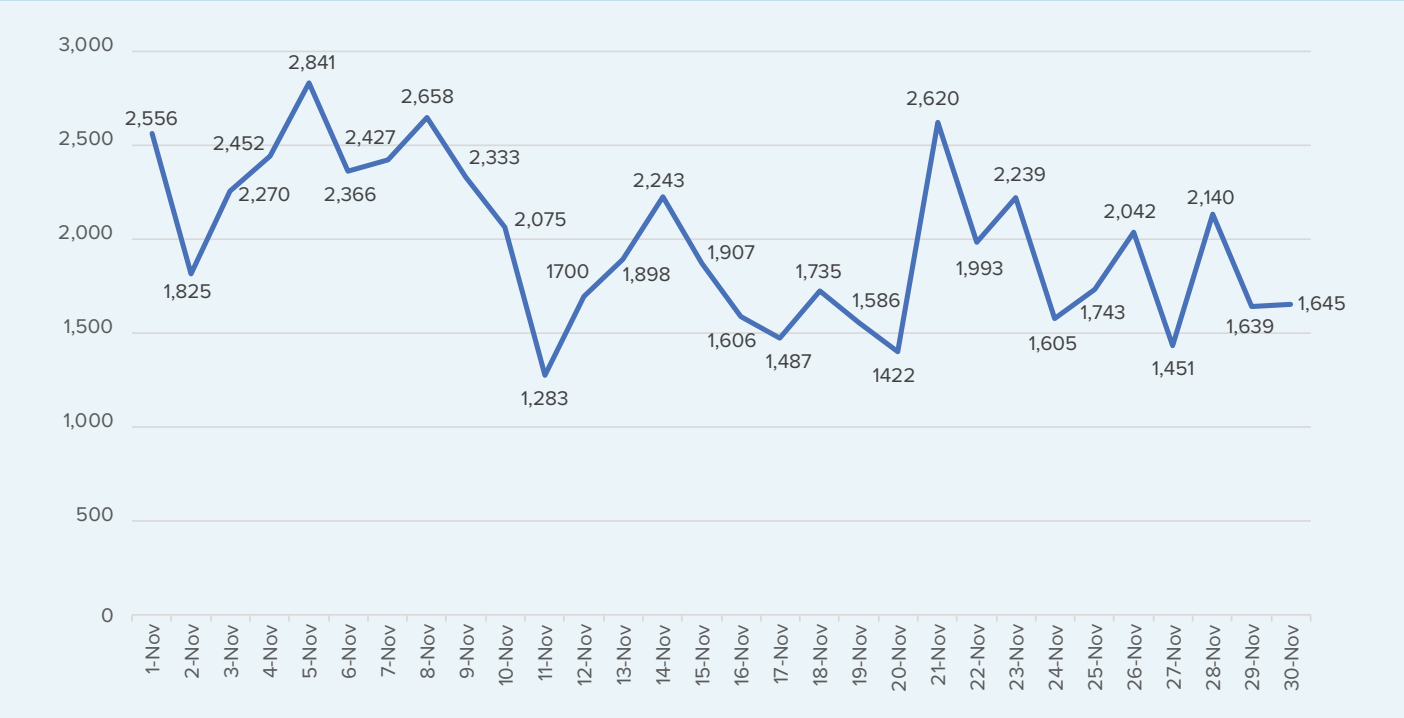
INM Daily Registry of Persons Entering Honduras Irregularly in November 2023



Source: Honduran National Migration Institute

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 in the previous months, except in November which saw a decrease. Nevertheless, entries still remain higher in comparison to entries from the same month last year. **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.**

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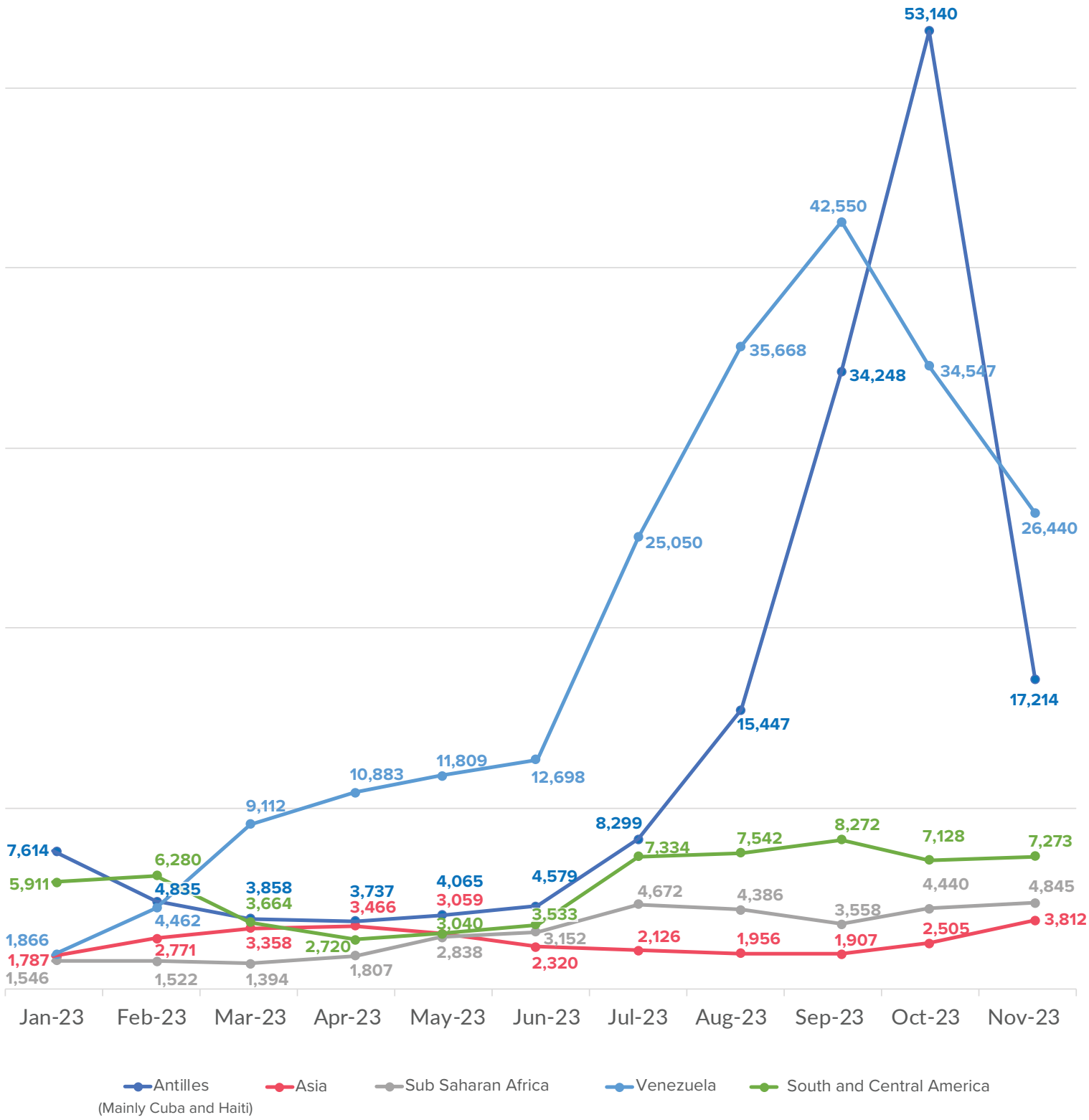
Monthly irregular arrivals between Jan 2023 – Nov 2023 by region of origin *(including Venezuela):*



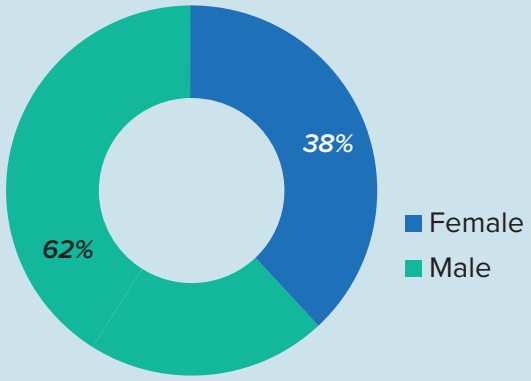
Source: Honduran National Migration Institute

Mixed Movements Protection Monitoring Results

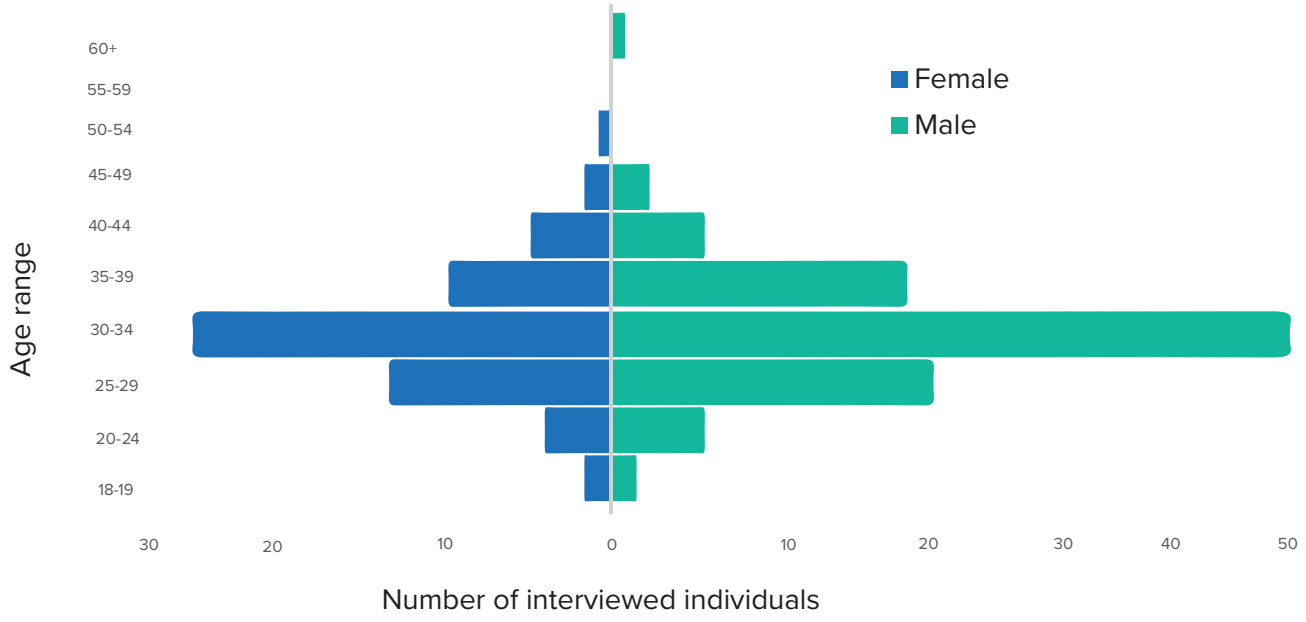
*The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) collects monthly information on the **profiles, vulnerabilities and protection needs** of refugees and migrants who enter Honduras through the border with Nicaragua and transit through the country towards the border with Guatemala. The information is compiled through individual 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

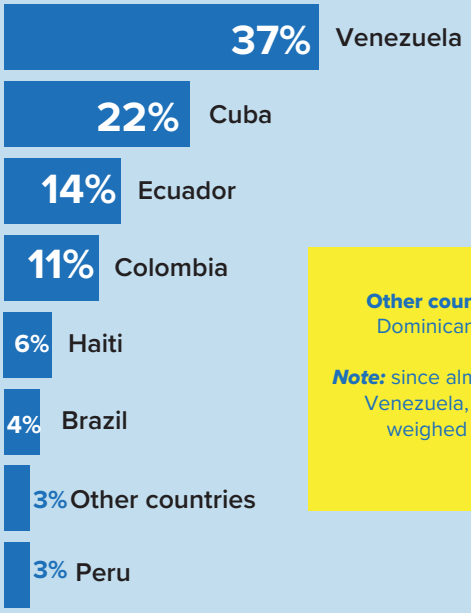
Interviewed Individuals by Sex



Interviewed individuals by age range



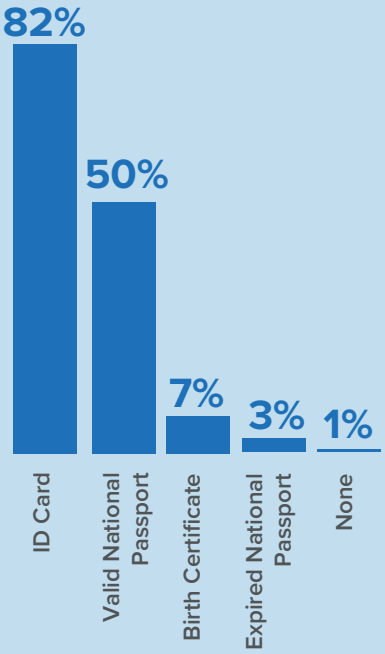
Nationality



Other countries include Bangladesh, China, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Togo.

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

Documents Carried



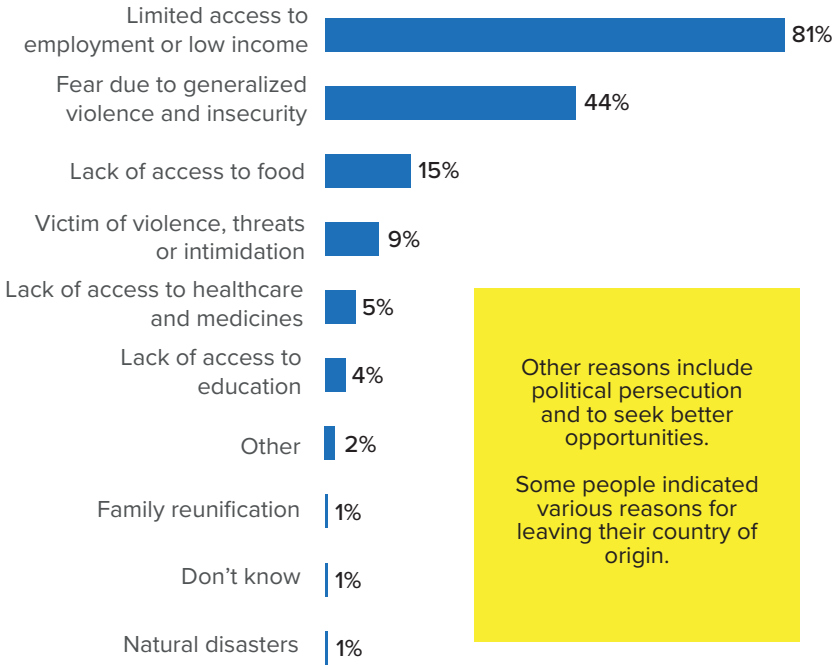
Country of residence in the past year

Other countries include Bangladesh, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Togo and Uruguay.

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.

11% of the interviewees lived outside of their country of origin and mainly resided in Colombia (55%), Chile (10%), Brazil (10%), Peru (5%), Costa Rica (5%), Ecuador (5%), Dominican Republic (5%) and Uruguay (5%).

Reasons for leaving country of origin

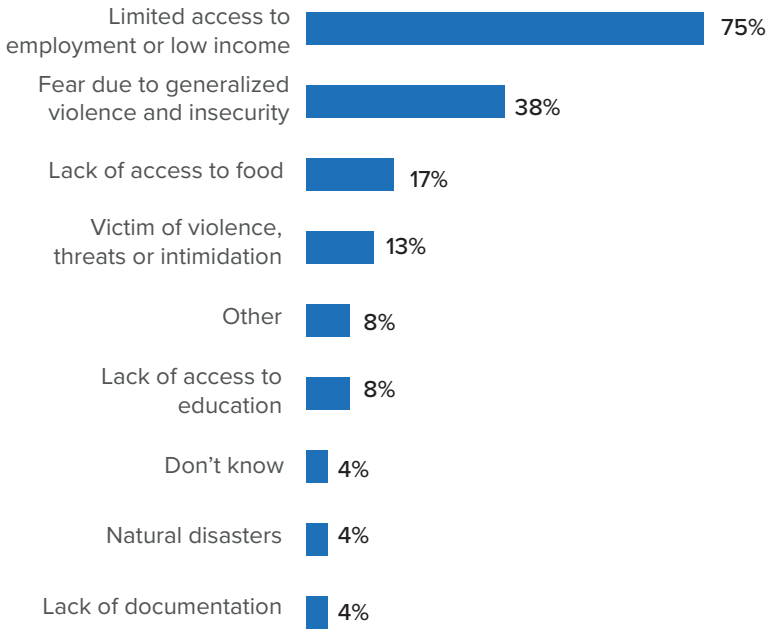


Other reasons include political persecution and to seek better opportunities.

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 to seek better opportunities.

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

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81%

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.

98%

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

2% indicated Mexico as their intended final destination.

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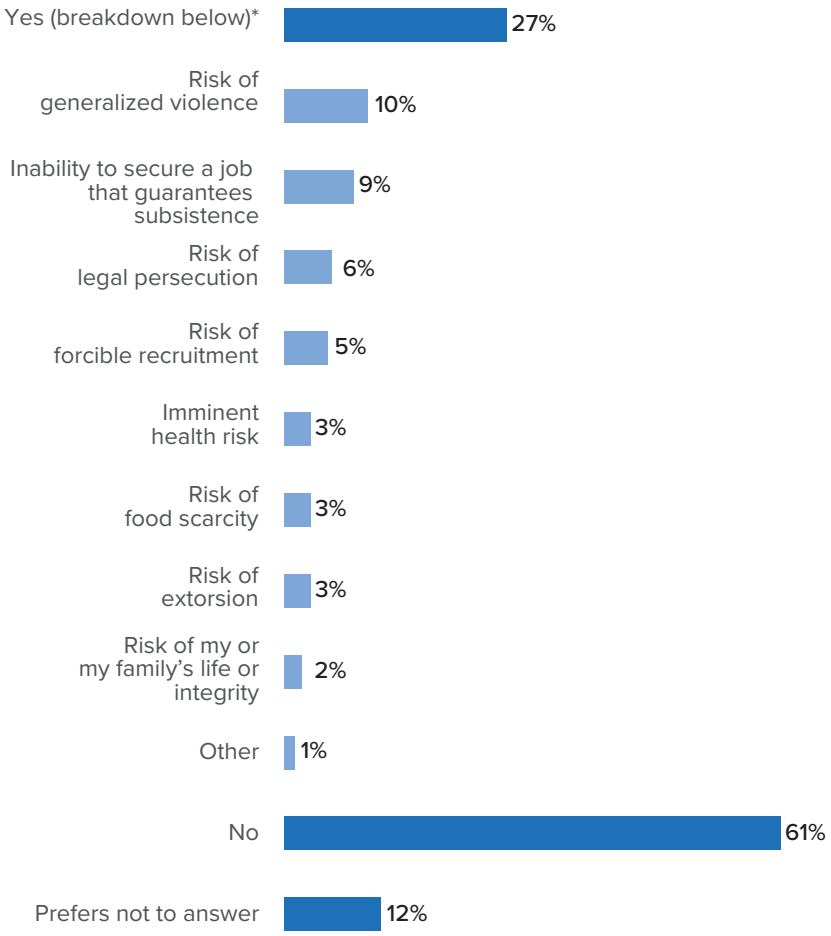
Would you encounter any risks if you had to return to your country of origin?



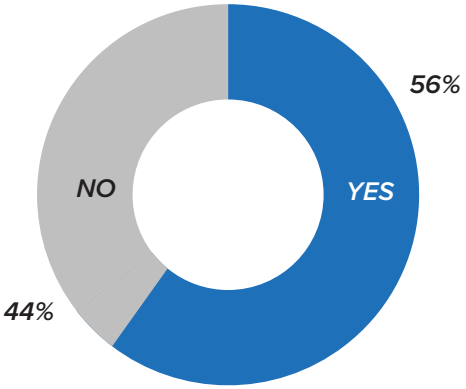
Some persons indicated that they would face several risks if they had to return to their country of origin.

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, legal persecution, forcible recruitment and extorsion. 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 (12%) preferred not to answer the previous question: ***Would you encounter any risks if you had to return to your country of origin?***

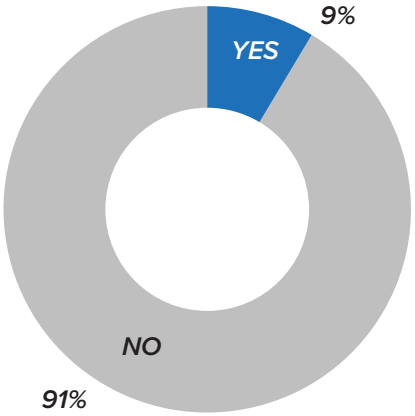
Did you experience any mistreatment or abuse during the journey?



Of the individuals that responded "yes", 61% reported being victims of theft and 37% of fraud. Additionally, 15% 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", 56% reported being victims of fraud and 44% of theft. Additionally, 13% did not want to mention the type of abuse suffered.

Some persons indicated various forms of mistreatment, with incidents occurring around the country.

Protection Concerns

14% of the interviewed individuals reported traveling with somebody with specific protection needs, including:

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

At least **1% of interviewed** individuals reported traveling with **pregnant or/and lactating women.**

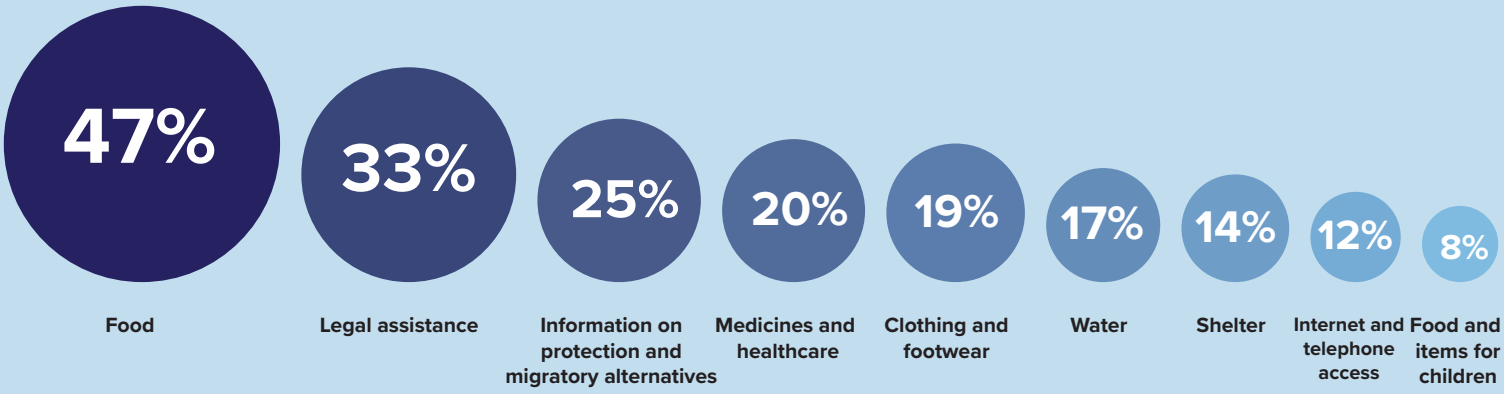
Around **3%** of interviewed individuals reported having a **single parent traveling with children in their group.**

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

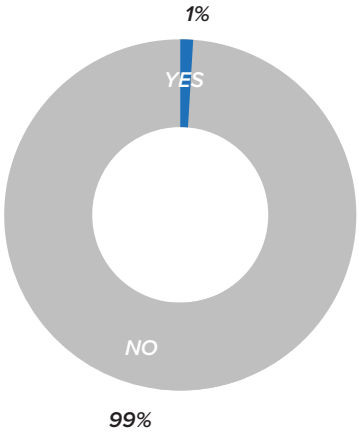
Also, **3%** of the respondents reported traveling with **elderly persons.**

Around **3%** of interviewed individuals reported traveling with someone with a **disability: physical (2%) and mental (1%).**

Main Needs

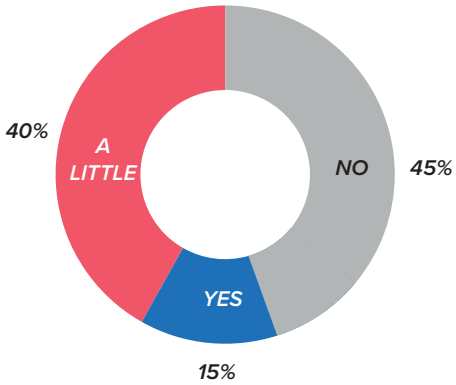


Have you previously applied for asylum?



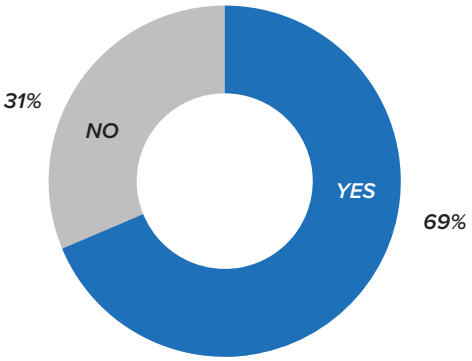
The individual previously applied in Uruguay.

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

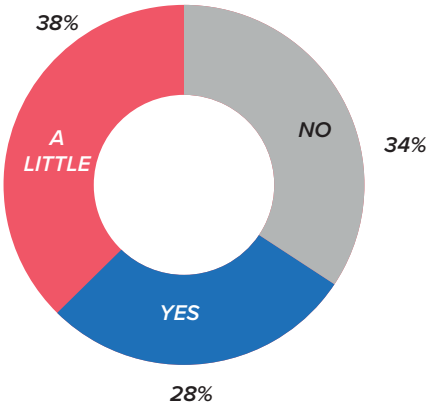


Only citizens of Venezuela, Nicaragua, Haiti and Cuba were asked this question, as the parole program only applies to these countries.

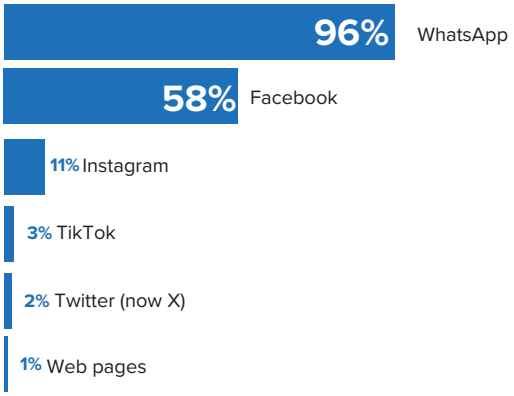
Have you been informed of the opportunity to seek asylum in Honduras?



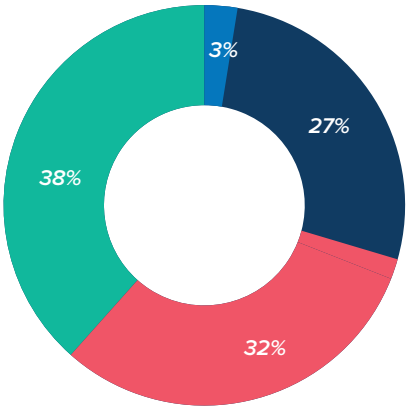
Do you know how the United States Government's CBP One application works?



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

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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 9 November 2023.
Feedback: Sara Naama, Associate Information Management Officer
Email: naama@unhcr.org

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donor countries that contribute to the office in Honduras and to global programmes with flexible funding:

Also, we thank the contributions of our global private donors in Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States of America.