

# MIXED MOVEMENTS MONITORING

Executive summary



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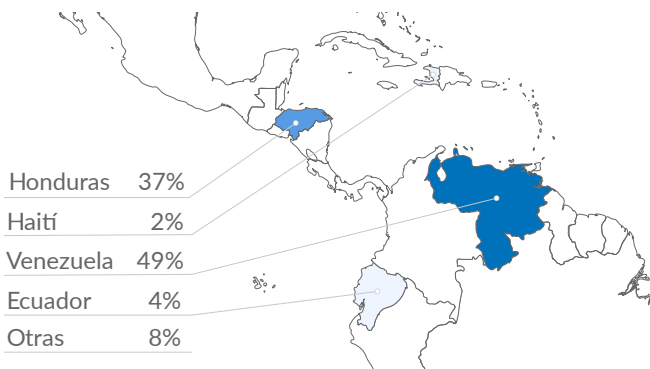
The Annual Report on Mixed Movements Monitoring compiles secondary sources and data from **7,206 surveys conducted in 7 departments of Guatemala**: Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Petén, Izabal, and Chiquimula. These surveys were carried out by personnel from UNHCR and its partners in border areas, both entry and exit points, in Migrant and Refugee Care Centers (CAPMIRs), as well as in high transit areas. The monitoring aims to understand the profile and protection needs of individuals involved in mixed movements entering Guatemala.

The year 2023 witnessed several changes in regional migration policies, particularly those of the United States, impacting human mobility dynamics. The implementation of the temporary stay permit program for humanitarian reasons targeted individuals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela (CHNV). Additionally, the “Safe Mobility” program commenced, enabling individuals in human mobility to be considered for refugee admission or other legal pathways to the U.S. This program also introduced new processes for temporary stay permits for family reunification (FRP).

Figure 1

### Nationalities

# of people surveyed by nationality

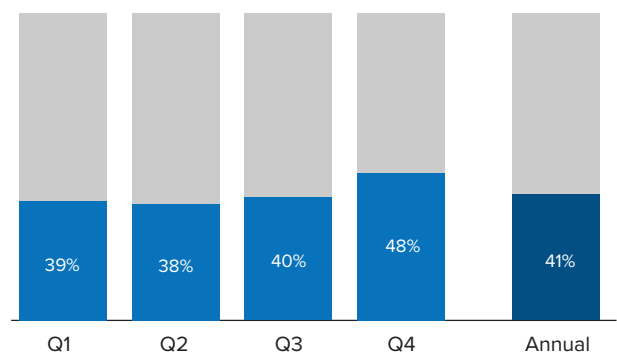


The monitoring survey engaged individuals from 21 nationalities, with Venezuelans (49%, showing an increase throughout the year) and Hondurans (37%) being the primary respondents (Figure 1). A significant finding revealed that **42% of surveyed individuals left their country of origin due to violence or conflict, suggesting potential international protection needs** (Figure 2). Another notable aspect was the deterioration of security conditions in various Latin American countries, **resulting in a surge in refugee status applications in Guatemala in 2023, the highest figure recorded in a single year**. This trend also hindered the prospects of return for individuals in human mobility to their countries of origin or residence due to associated risks.

Figure 2

### International protection needs

% of people that may be in need of **international protection** and **do not**, according to displacement reasons, by quarter.



The survey highlighted an increase in vulnerable profiles, including women (approximately 36.87%) and children assisted in CAPMIRs. While most individuals traveled accompanied, primarily by family members (53%) and friends (32%), especially from South America, a significant need identified was an **increase in the number of single mothers or fathers travelling with children**.

Throughout the year, specific protection needs and incidents continued to rise, underscoring the vulnerability of refugees and migrants to abuses by trafficking networks, smuggling, and authorities. Several factors contributed to this:

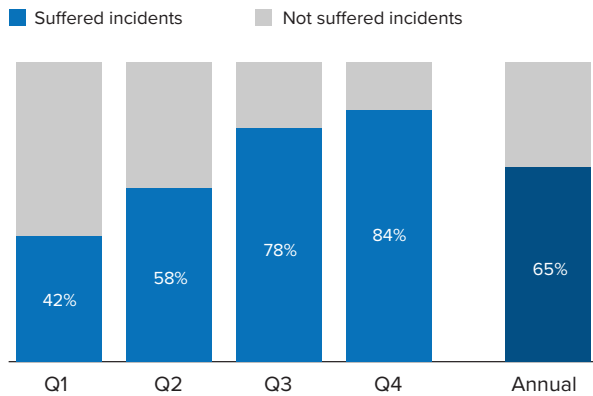
- Documentation remained pivotal for mobility, both for regular and safe travel and for accessing services along the route or integrating locally. While most surveyed individuals possessed some form of identification, only 10% held valid passports, the primary travel document. Additionally, many were unaware of entry requirements into national territory or refugee status application procedures.
- The primary needs of migrants and refugees included **food, medical care, medications, shelter, and drinking water**. Many relied solely on information shared by acquaintances who had undertaken the journey, exposing them to further risks from criminal networks or smugglers.
- Travel duration and routes were prolonged due to events in various countries along the route, changes in travel requirements for certain nationalities, and resource constraints.

- There was a **significant increase in reported incidents during the year, affecting 84% of surveyed individuals** (Figure 3). Common incidents included theft (35%), extortion (25%), scams (13%), and physical threats or intimidation (7%). Many incidents occurred in Guatemala, involving criminal groups and authorities, making it **one of the most dangerous countries for individuals in mixed flows, particularly women, due to heightened incidents of sexual violence**. Moreover, discrimination and xenophobia rose in areas with high mixed movements.

Figure 3

**Protection incidents**

% of people that suffered a protection incident, by quarter



In response to those entering Guatemala in 2023, UNHCR and its partners provided around 415,000 assists to 176,000 individuals. These included legal protection services, information and guidance on the international protection system, shelter, humanitarian assistance, prehospital care, psychosocial support, and livelihood initiatives for refugees. Given the increase in families or single parents traveling with children and adolescents, adopting a gender and childhood approach is crucial to improve responses, address needs, and mitigate protection risks. Additionally, identify their needs is essential to adapt our services and provide a comprehensive and flexible response, even in emergencies.

Based on the results, UNHCR issues the following recommendations:

- Continue ensuring necessary measures for access to the territory for individuals requiring international protection, regardless of nationality or available documentation.
- Further strengthen the international protection system in Guatemala, ensuring effective access and expediting the refugee status recognition process.
- Facilitate access to information on regional migration policies, national protection systems, and available rights and services at the national level for individuals in mixed movements to mitigate misinformation.
- Strengthen services and care routes for individuals in mixed movements, including shelter, information access, healthcare, psychosocial support, humanitarian assistance, etc.
- Collaborate to enhance the network of available shelters in Guatemala to protect individuals in mixed movements, particularly with the rise in women traveling with children and adolescents, who require specialized accommodations to mitigate protection risks. Shelters should offer multifunctional services to meet the needs of all vulnerable groups (women, children, families, LGBTIQ+ individuals).
- Facilitate coordination at both national and local levels to define and implement contingency plans to address significant increases in individuals in mixed movements.
- Continue supporting competent national institutions in identifying and responding to violations of the rights of individuals in mixed movements.

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