

Mixed Movements Monitoring

Panama | September 2024



Darien is Panama's largest and poorest province. Bordering Colombia, the province hosts a 60-mile-deep jungle, the only breaking point of the Pan-American highway, linking the continent from south to north.

Despite being one of the most dangerous jungles in the world, Darien is a transit location for thousands of refugees and migrants, mainly from Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, and African and South Asian nations.

Panama's unprecedented mixed movement crisis has been ongoing for over two years. According to National Migration Service (SNM) statistics, over one million people crossed through this area from 2021 to date.



Official data

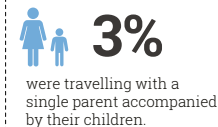
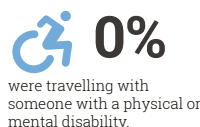
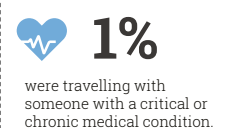
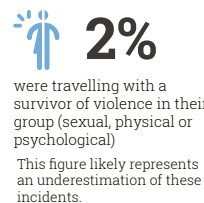
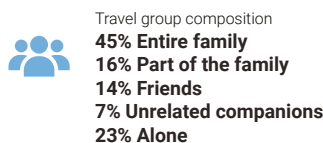
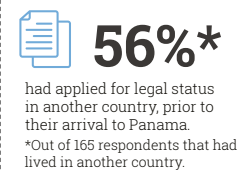
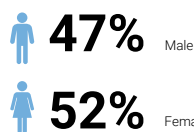
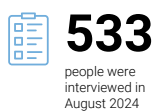


Source: Panama National Migration Service

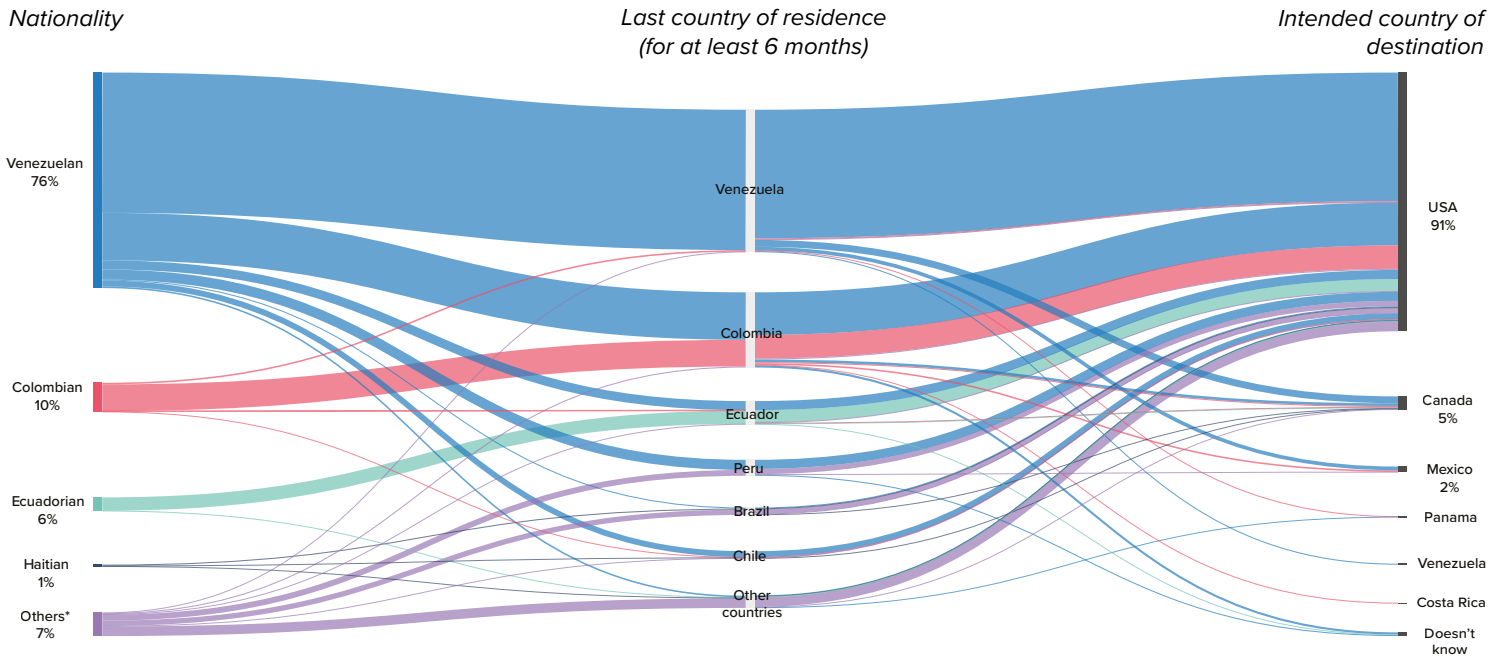
Methodology

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, collect monthly information on the characteristics, vulnerabilities and protection needs of refugees and migrants who enter Panama through Darien. The data is compiled through individual interviews conducted in Panama's Darien and Chiriqui provinces. Preliminary results are indicative and should not be interpreted as representative of the total refugee and migrant population crossing the border through the Darien jungle.

Respondent profile



Interviewed individuals by country of origin, last country of residence, and intended country of destination



*Other nationalities include: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chile, Central African Republic, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, DRC, India, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Togo, and Zimbabwe

Push and pull factors



stated that if they were unable to reach their country of destination, they would wait until allowed to proceed to said country.



received information about the journey and made decisions based on the information received from friends and relatives who had already made it.

Also received information through social media, mainly Tiktok (31%), and Facebook (9%).



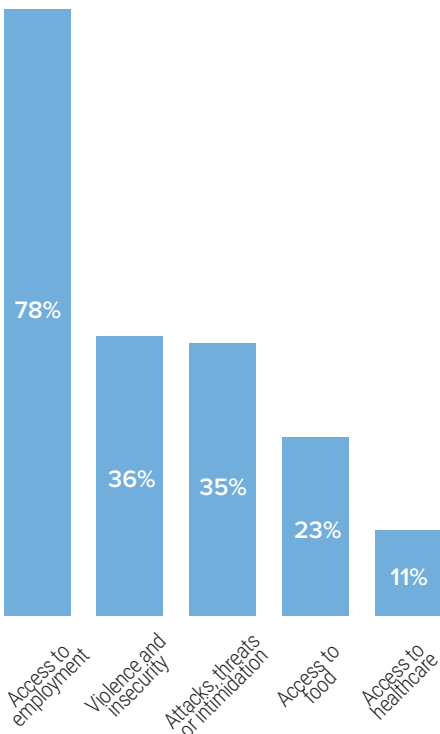
had applied for legal status in their previous country of residence, **and did not obtain it**, mainly in Colombia and Peru.

*Out of 165 people that had lived in a country other than their country of origin for at least 6 months.

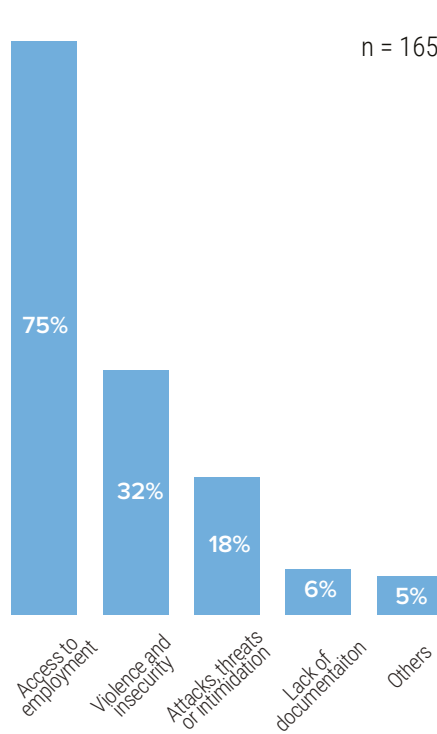


consider they would face risks if they had to return to their country of origin/residence.

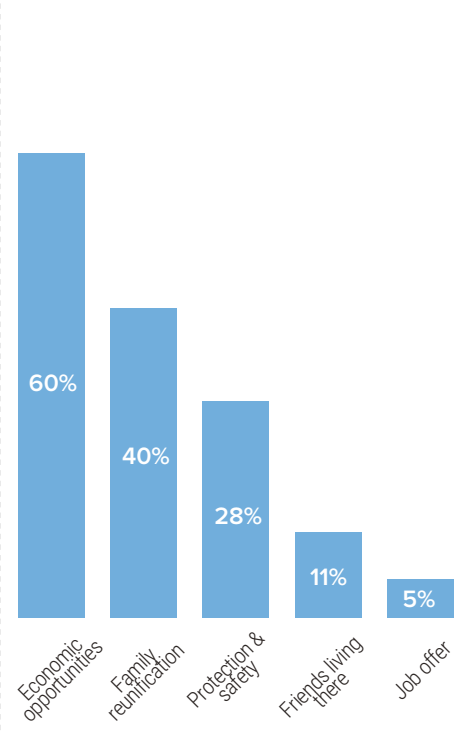
Main reasons for leaving country of origin



Main reasons for leaving country of residence



Reasons for choosing destination country



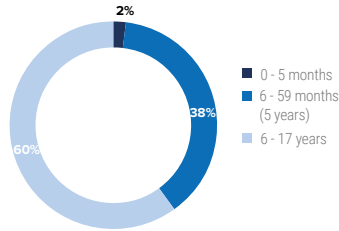
Children and adolescents

Children and adolescents in travel groups, by sex and age

44% were travelling with children and adolescents from their family.

50% Girls

50% Boys



30% have observed behavioral changes or emotional difficulties in their children and adolescents after the jungle crossing.

0% travelled with unaccompanied children or adolescents.

2% travelled with children or adolescents that were separated from their parents or legal guardian during the trip and **are no longer with the group.**



clothing, medical services and food are the three main needs reported for children and adolescents.

Education



17% had not attended school for 4 months or more



Last educational level approved

58% Preschool

32% Primary

9% Secondary

1% Technical

1% Doesn't know



79% do not carry documents that certify the last educational level approved

Vaccination



81% 0 - 5 months

76% 6 - 59 months (5 years)

have a complete vaccination schedule

Challenges during the journey



3 days

is the average time spent crossing the Darien jungle.

(Min.: 2 days, Max.: 15 days)



2 in 4

experienced mistreatment or abuse during their journey through the jungle.



44%

were victims of theft, scams or fraud during their journey through the jungle.

Additionally, 13% were victims of threats, intimidation, and attacks.



50%

paid a person to guide them through the jungle.

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In collaboration with:

