Protection Monitoring

Mexico | July - September 2025

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

Background & Methodology

- In Mexico, the Protection Monitoring survey regularly collects and analyzes data to identify rights violations and protection risks affecting refugees and migrants, with the aim of informing effective responses by UNHCR and its partners.
- During the third quarter of 2025, 529 interviews were conducted, covering 1,016 individuals.
- Surveys were carried out in 12 locations across Mexico. Northern region: Ciudad Juarez, Monterrey, Piedras Negras, Reynosa, Saltillo, Tijuana and Torreon. Southern region: Tapachula, Tuxtla and Villahermosa. Central region: Mexico City and Ecatepec.
- 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 an alarming proportion of people fleeing situations of violence and persecution, accounting for 71% of the interviewed population. Similarly, 68% of respondents reported that they would face risks of violence or persecution if returned to their countries of origin.

Demographics

51% Boys & Men

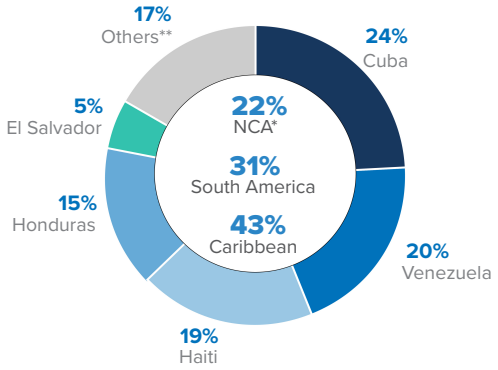
73% Adults

27% Children

Group composition
27% groups with children
13% groups with children under 5yrs
57% lone adults

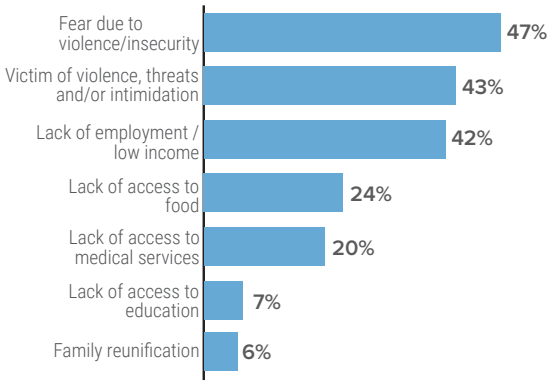
Country of Origin

Nationality



NCA* : Northern Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras
Others** : include Colombia 5%, Ecuador 4%, Guatemala 2%, Brasil 1%, Nicaragua 1%, Peru 1%

*Reasons for leaving**



*Multiple selection question

Risks upon return

45% of the interviewed individuals expressed facing a risk if they were to return to their country of origin due to threats, extortion, and/or persecution.

39% of the interviewed individuals expressed facing a risk if they were to return to their country of origin due to general violence, and/or discrimination.

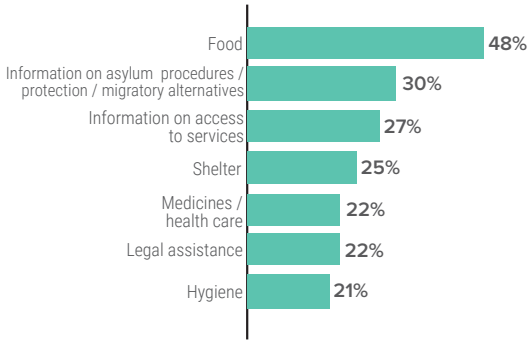
Journey, Time in Mexico and Priority Needs

The route

51% of the interviewed individuals reported having been in Mexico for more than six months at the time of the interview.

51% of the interviewed individuals described having faced at least one protection incident in countries of transit prior to entering Mexico

*Reported priority needs**



*Multiple selection question

Main protection incidents during transit, prior to entering Mexico

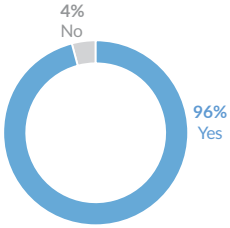
Theft **29%**

Kidnapping **7%**

Extortion **10%**

South

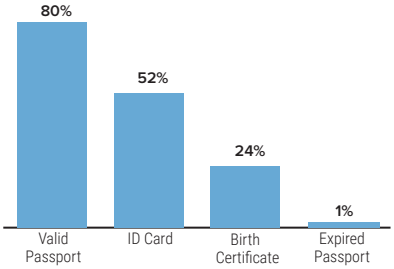
Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)



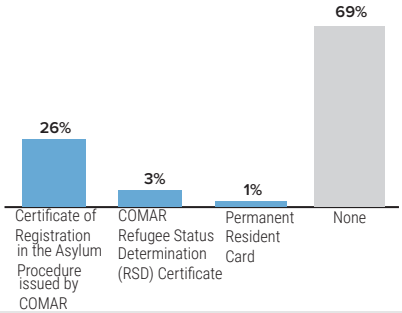
During the third quarter of 2025, COMAR received 13,243 new asylum applications, representing a decrease compared to the previous quarter (21,787) and to the same period in 2024 (16,944). 58% of these applications were submitted in southern Mexico. The main nationalities among applicants in the south were Cuba (56%), Haiti (15%), Venezuela (14%), and Honduras (5%).

Source: COMAR

Personal documentation



Documentation obtained in Mexico



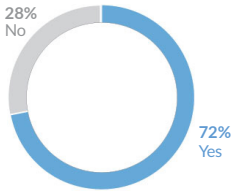
Mexico City

Mexico City remained the second location in the country with the highest number of asylum applications, representing a large share of total claims despite a decrease compared to the previous quarter. The main nationalities among applicants were Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti and Colombia.

An increasing number of asylum-seekers are residing across the broader metropolitan area, including municipalities in the State of Mexico and Hidalgo, which raises considerations related to urban dispersion and potential barriers in accessing services and assistance. Reported protection incidents in Mexico among respondents in this area remain significant, with 54% indicating having experienced theft and 38% kidnapping.

North

Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)



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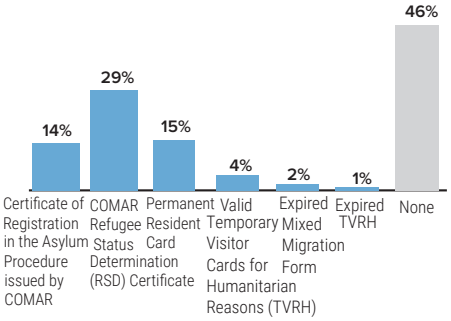
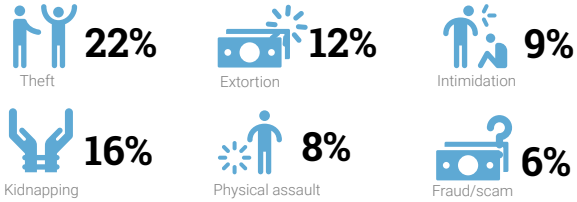


*Main protection incidents in Mexico****

49% of the interviewed individuals in the northern region described facing a protection incident in Mexico



*** Although the incidents were reported by individuals interviewed in northern Mexico, their occurrence is not limited to the northern region and may have taken place elsewhere in the country.

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 MÉXICO SERVICIO JESUITA A REFUGIADOS | 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.