Protection Monitoring

Mexico | October - December 2025

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 last quarter of 2025, 624 interviews were conducted, covering 1,214 individuals.
- Surveys were carried out in 14 locations across Mexico. Northern region: Ciudad Acuña, Ciudad Juarez, Matamoros, Monterrey, Piedras Negras, Reynosa, Saltillo, Tijuana and Torreon. Southern region: Oluta, Tapachula, Tuxtla and Villahermosa. Central region: Mexico City.
- 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, 66% of respondents reported that they would face risks of violence or persecution if returned to their countries of origin.

Demographics

49% Girls & Women

51% Boys & Men

70% Adults

30% Children

Group composition

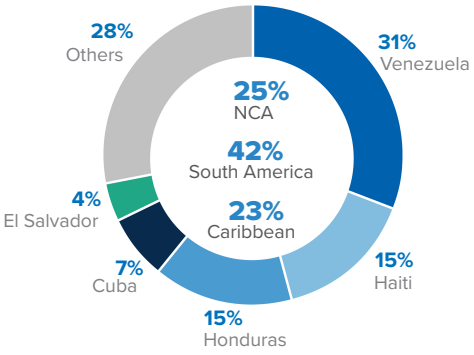
33% groups with children

12% groups with children under 5yrs

56% lone adults

Country of Origin

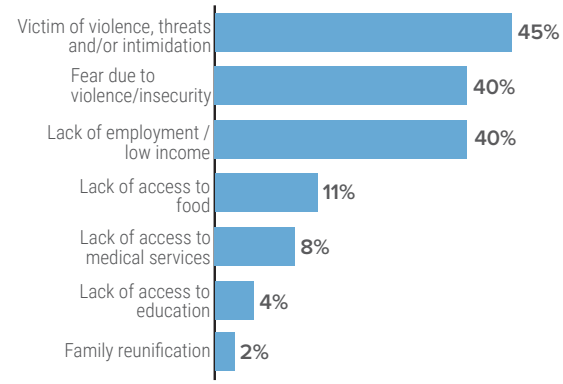
Nationality



NCA* : Northern Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

Others** : include Guatemala 6%, Colombia 5%, Ecuador 3%, Angola 2%, Peru 2%, Nicaragua 2%, Azerbaijan 1% , China 1%, Panama 1%

*Reasons for leaving**



*Multiple selection question

Risks upon return

52%

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.

33%

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

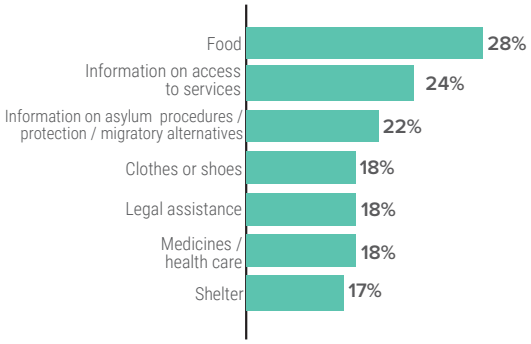
77%

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

47%

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

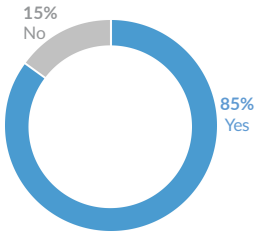
31% Theft

6% Kidnapping

8% Extortion

South

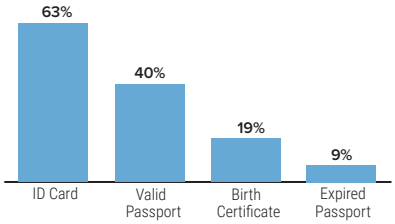
Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)



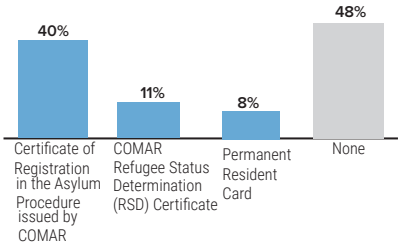
During the last quarter of 2025, COMAR received 11,944 new asylum applications, representing a decrease compared to the previous quarter (13,243) and to the same period in 2024 (20,369). 55% of these applications were submitted in southern Mexico. The main nationalities among applicants in the south were Cuba (50%), Haiti (25%), Venezuela (12%), and Honduras (5%).

Source: COMAR

Personal documentation



Documentation obtained in Mexico



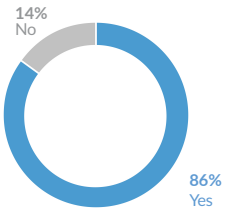
Mexico City

In the last quarter, Mexico City continued to register a significant number of asylum applications submitted before the COMAR Delegation, remaining the second city with the largest number of asylum claims nationwide, with figures closely approaching those in Tapachula. The capital, together with municipalities in its metropolitan area, consolidates as a destination location for refugees in the country.

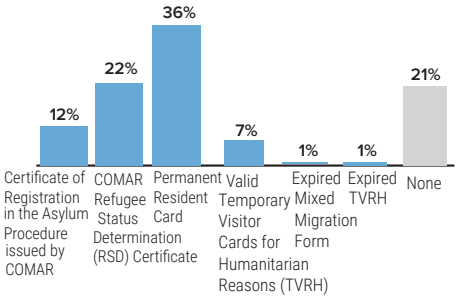
However, important integration challenges persist. While 40% of interviewed individuals in Mexico City and its metropolitan area reported having applied for refugee status determination, only 2% indicated holding valid migratory documentation. Limited access to documentation constrains opportunities for self-reliance and formal employment, resulting in a considerable proportion of individuals remaining in shelters, where stays are often prolonged due to limited alternatives for independent living.

North

Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)



Documentation obtained in Mexico



*Main protection incidents in Mexico****

39% of the interviewed individuals in the northern region described facing a protection incident in Mexico

- **16%** Theft
- **11%** Extortion
- **10%** Intimidation
- **14%** Kidnapping
- **9%** Physical assault
- **4%** Fraud/scam

*** 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.