Protection Monitoring

Mexico | January - June 2026

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 other displaced populations, with the aim of informing effective responses by UNHCR and its partners.
- During the first half of 2026, 711 interviews were conducted, covering 1,213 individuals.
- Surveys were carried out in 15 locations across Mexico. Northern region: Ciudad Juarez, Matamoros, Monterrey, Nogales, Reynosa, Santa Catarina, Saltillo and Tijuana. Southern region: Cardenas Tabasco, Tapachula, Tenosique, Tuxtla and Villahermosa. Central region: Aguascalientes and Mexico City.
- The results presented are indicative and should not be interpreted as representative of the total population of refugees and other displaced populations 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 86% of the interviewed population. Similarly, 83% of respondents reported that they would face risks of violence or persecution if returned to their countries of origin.

Places of survey

Demographics

46% Girls & Women

54% Boys & Men

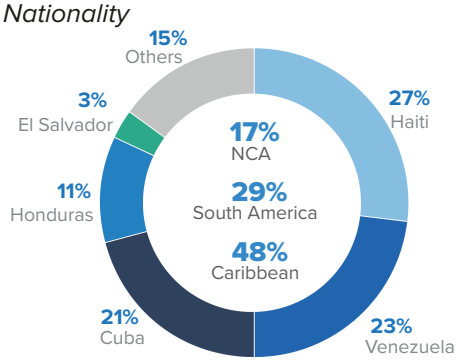
78% Adults

22% Children

Group composition
23% groups with children
9% groups with children under 5yrs
65% single adults

Country of Origin

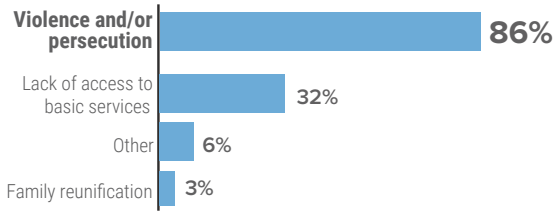
Nationality



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

Others** : include Colombia 4%, Guatemala 3%, Ecuador 2% , Nicaragua 1%, Angola 1%, Brasil 1%, Peru 1%

*Reasons for leaving country of origin**



*Multiple selection question

23%
of interviewed individuals who reported leaving their country of origin due to violence and/or persecution also cited lack of access to basic services as a reason for leaving.

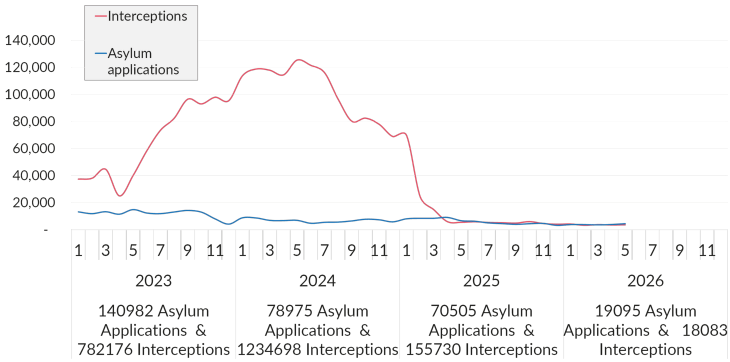
Risk of return to country of origin

83%
of the interviewed individuals expressed facing a risk if they were to return to their country of origin due to violence, and/or persecution.

14%
of interviewed individuals who reported facing risks upon return to their country of origin due to violence and/or persecution also cited lack of access to basic services.

Entry, Time in Mexico and Priority Needs

Interceptions and Asylum applications | *Monthly Evolution 2023 - 2026**

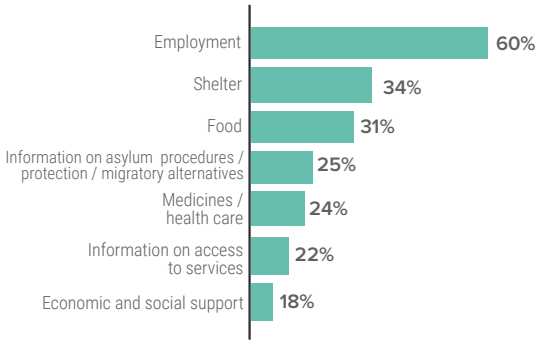


*Data up to May 31, 2026
Source: UPM, COMAR, 2023-2026

41%
of the interviewed individuals described having faced at least one protection incident in countries of transit prior to entering Mexico

74%
of the interviewed individuals reported having been in Mexico for more than six months at the time of the interview.

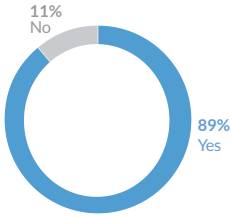
*Reported priority needs**



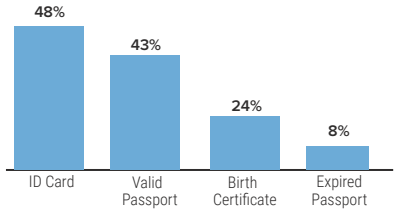
*Multiple selection question

South

Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)

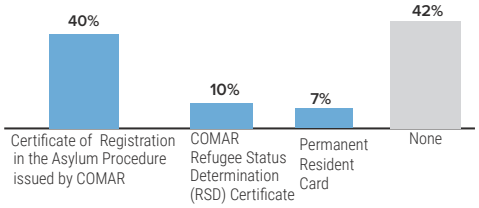


*Personal documentation**



*Multiple selection question

*Documentation obtained in Mexico **



Mexico City

During the first half of 2026, Mexico City and its metropolitan area remained the second largest destination for asylum-seekers and refugees in Mexico. The interviewed population was primarily composed of Cuban (46%), Venezuelan (33%), and Haitian (7%) nationals.

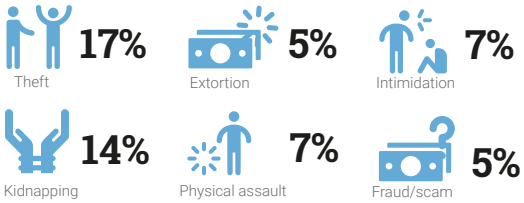
At the same time, asylum-seekers continued to face challenges to access the asylum procedure. Waiting times between pre-registration and formal registration increased, prolonging periods during which individuals remain undocumented and limiting their access to rights, formal employment, and basic services.

77% of those interviewed reported having lived in Mexico for more than one year. However, access to employment (41%) and documentation (17%) remained among their main needs, highlighting that a significant proportion of this population continues to face obstacles to achieving self-reliance despite their prolonged stay in the country and in Mexico City. In addition, 86% of respondents indicated that they would face risks if returned to their country of origin and, among them, 97% expressed their intention to remain in Mexico, reflecting ongoing protection needs and the importance of strengthening local integration opportunities.

North

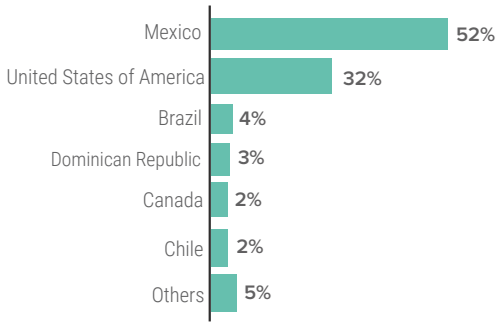
*Main protection incidents in Mexico**

40% of the interviewed individuals in the northern region described facing a protection incident in Mexico

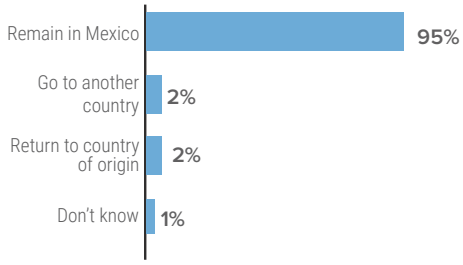


* Although the incidents were reported by individuals interviewed in northern Mexico, their occurrence is not limited to the northern region and may have taken place elsewhere in the country.

Initial intended country of destination



Current intentions while in Mexico



Access all our protection monitoring publications here
Feedback: mexmeim@unhcr.org

In collaboration with:

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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.