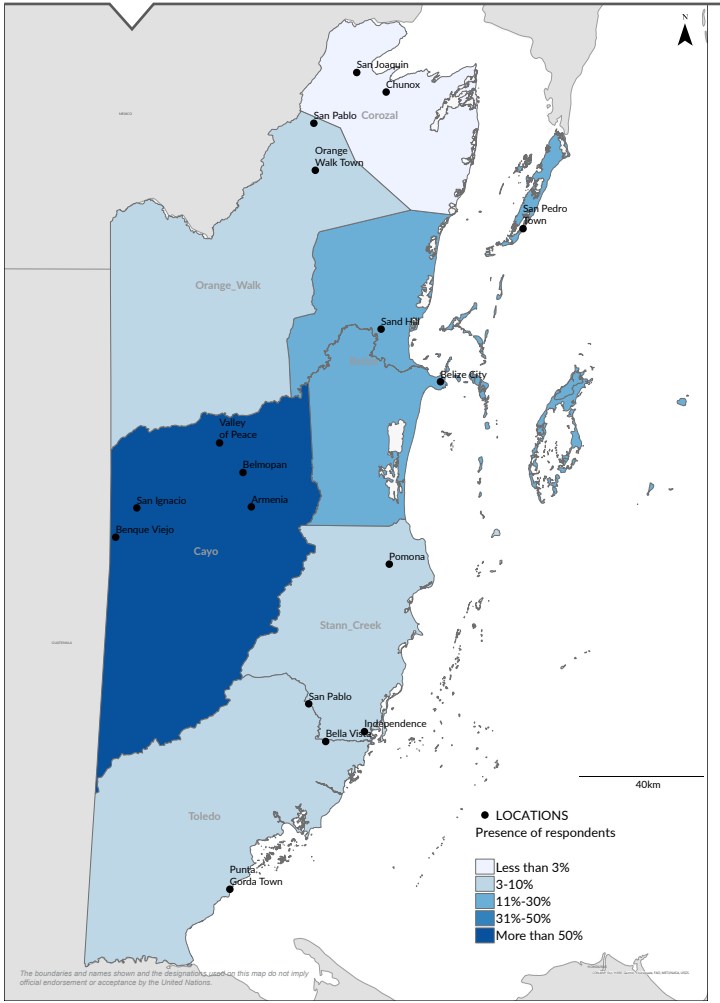
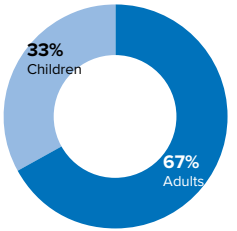
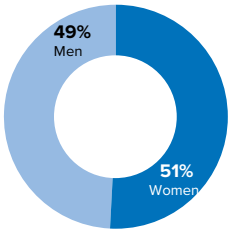
UNHCR Belize Profiling Assessment

MAIN FINDINGS - JULY 2022



Demographics





People UNHCR serves in Belize

4,175 refugees and asylum seekers (Gov. of Belize, October 2022)

3,000 others of concern (UNHCR, September 2022)

Average adult age

36 years old

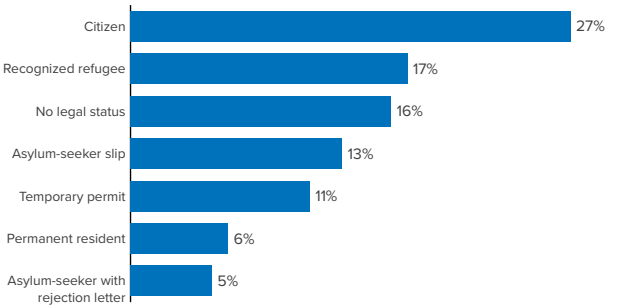
Average child age

9 years old

Average family size

3 people

Legal Status reported by respondents



Top countries of origin: El Salvador (48%), Belize (25%), Honduras (13%) and Guatemala (13%)

Top countries of citizenship: El Salvador (47%), Belize* (27%), Guatemala (12%) and Honduras (12%)

**Of the individuals assessed that were citizens of Belize, (n=288), 93% of them were children and other close relatives to the head of household*

Most households (69%) arrived to Belize between 2010-2020. 19% of the households arrived before 2010 and 12% after 2020.

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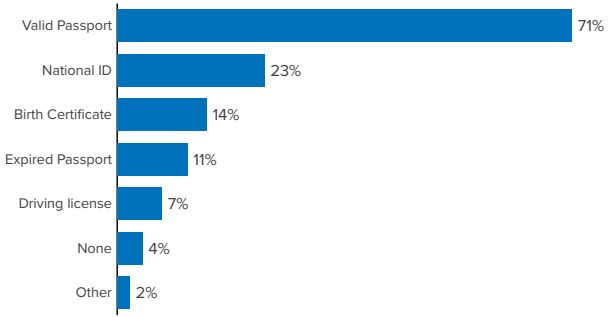
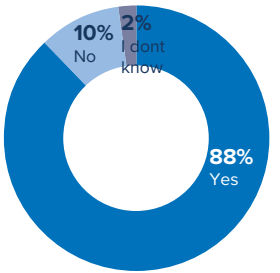
MAIN FINDINGS - JULY 2022

Documentation

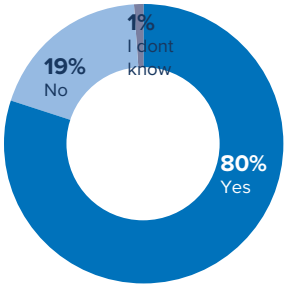
Documents currently held by household members



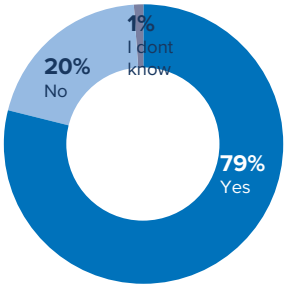
Are you aware about the amnesty process?



Are you or anyone from your household applying for the amnesty?



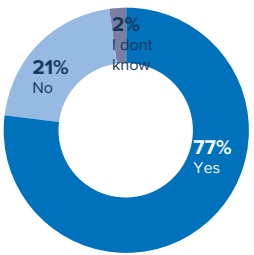
Do you have all the documentation needed to apply for the amnesty process?



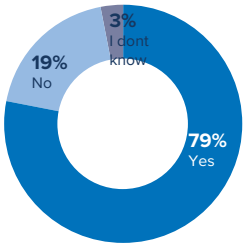
Top reported reasons for not applying to the amnesty: I didn't have any previous information about the amnesty (45%), I am not interested (18%), I don't fit eligibility criteria (12%) and I fear to be identified by authorities (9%).

Asylum

Have you or any member of your household applied for asylum in Belize?

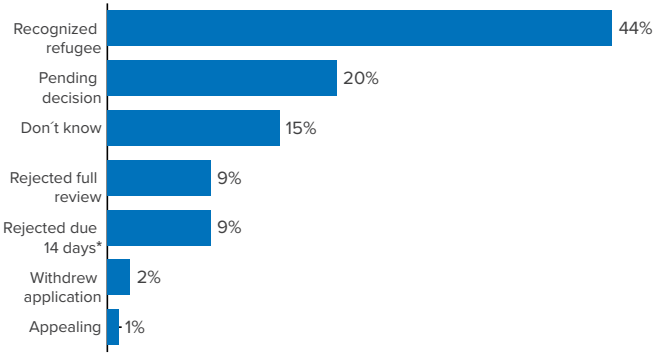


If applied, was your asylum application admitted/registered?



Among the main reasons reported for having an application not admitted are: More than 14 days after arriving to the country (42%), prefer not to answer (31%) and lack or incomplete documentation (19%)

Reported current application status



Top reported reasons for not applying for asylum (among those who didn't apply): I didn't have the information on how or where to do it (34%), I don't know what it is (20%), I tried but not allowed due to a lack of documents (9%) and Other (14%).

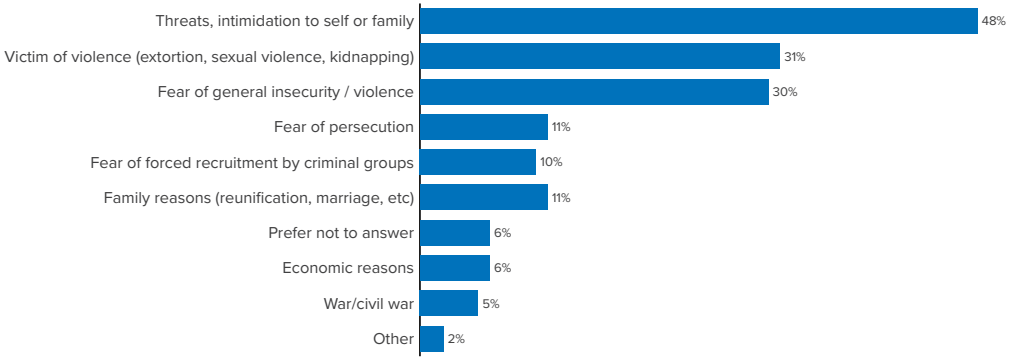
UNHCR Belize Profiling Assessment

MAIN FINDINGS - JULY 2022

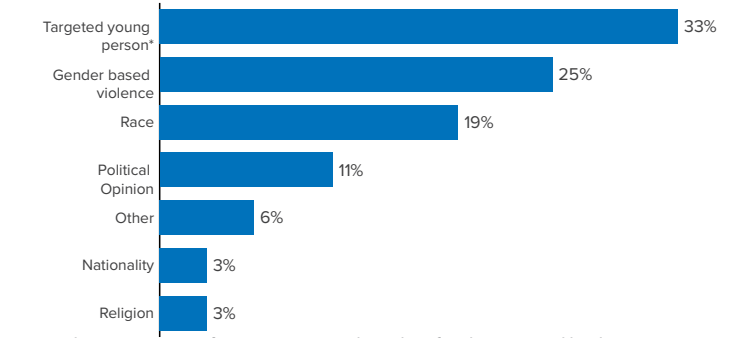
Protection

Reasons for leaving the country of origin

(Multiple responses allowed)



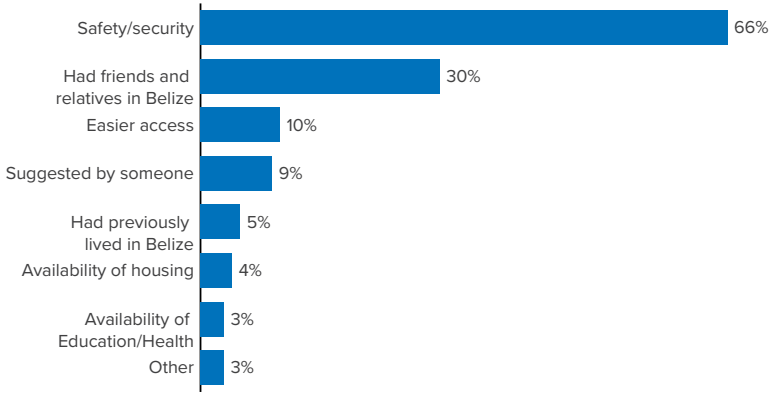
Reasons of the threats and violent incidents



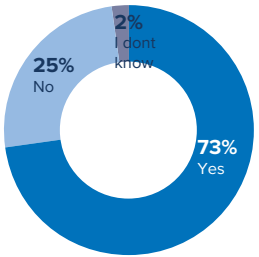
*Targeted young person refers to young people or their families targeted by the gangs (maras) in general for extortion and threats of forced recruitment

Reasons for choosing to come to Belize

(Multiple responses allowed)



Did you enter through an official immigration point?



Top reported entry points to Belize: Benque (49%), Punta Gorda (3%), Dangriga (1%) and International Airport (1%).

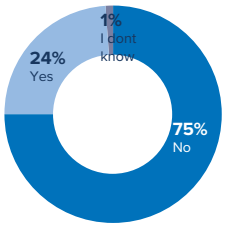
Top reported reasons for entering irregularly to the country: Lack of documents for adults (13%), Fear of deportation (4%) and Lack of documents for children (3%).

UNHCR Belize Profiling Assessment

MAIN FINDINGS - JULY 2022

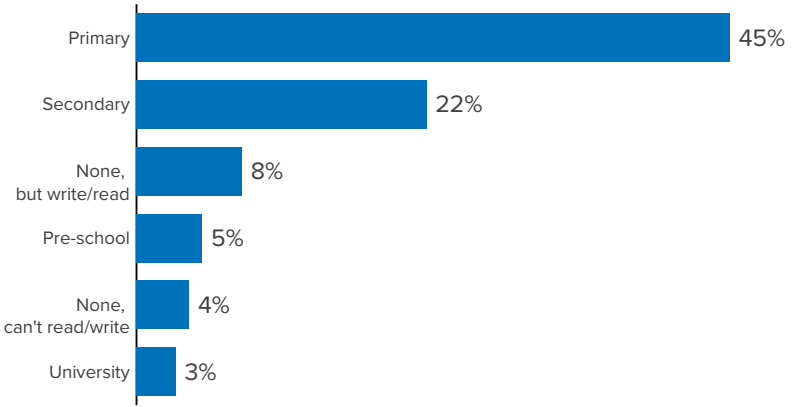
Education

School-age people enrolled in formal education

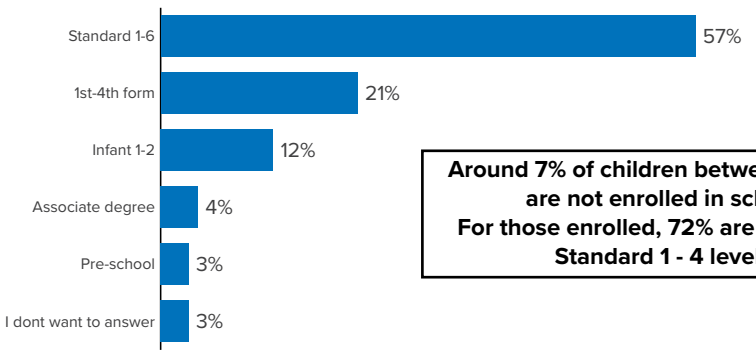


Top reported reasons for not attending school: The person needs to work (19%), not interested (14%) and above-age for primary school (13%)

Max education level



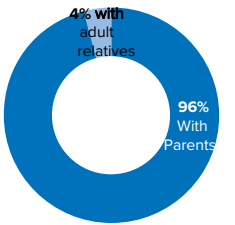
Current education level



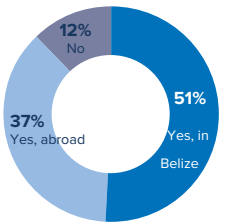
Around 7% of children between 7 and 12 are not enrolled in school.
For those enrolled, 72% are enrolled in Standard 1 - 4 levels.

Child Protection

Who is the child living with?



Was the child registered with civil authorities?



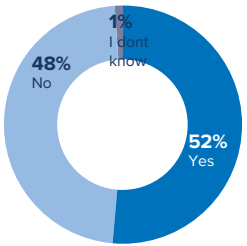
Around half of the children and adolescents from assessed households (53%) are citizens, 16% are recognized refugees and 11% do not have any legal status in Belize

UNHCR Belize Profiling Assessment

MAIN FINDINGS - JULY 2022

Livelihoods

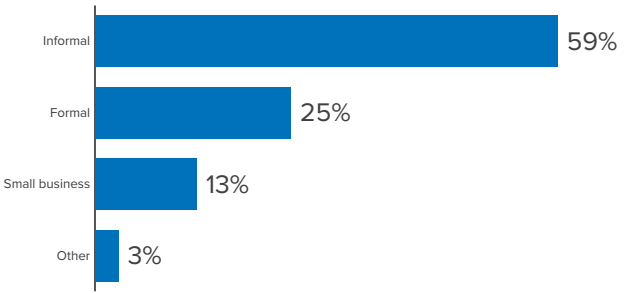
People of working age who worked in the last 30 days for at least 1 hour



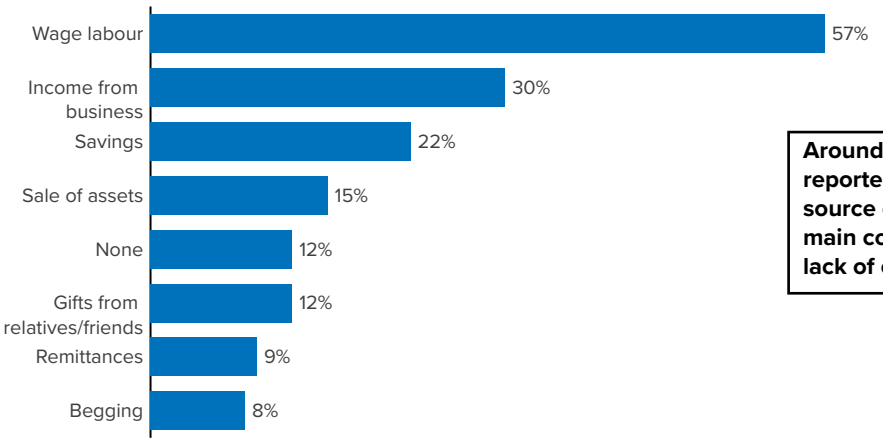
Top type of work reported as conducted in the last seven days in Belize: Farm work (80%), construction work (50%), domestic service (25%)
(Multiple responses allowed)

Top reported reasons for not working: Lack of documents/work permit (25%), House chores/caring for children (24%) and studying (10%)

Type of work conducted (contracted vs. non-contracted):



Top 3 sources of income in your household in the last 30 days:



Around 8% of the households reported begging as their main source of income, and as their main coping strategy for the lack of cash/food.

The main ***strategies to cope with the lack of money to cover basic goods in the last 30 days***, reported by assessed households are:

- reduced food consumption or expenditure (31%),
- sold productive assets (24%),
- reduced non-food expenses (24%),
- spent savings (19%),
- sold household goods (15%) and
- borrowed money (15%).

UNHCR Belize Profiling Assessment

MAIN FINDINGS - JULY 2022

Main reported vulnerabilities:

27% of the assessed households have at least one member with a critical or chronic medical condition that requires treatment

8% of the assessed households have at least one member with a physical or mental disability

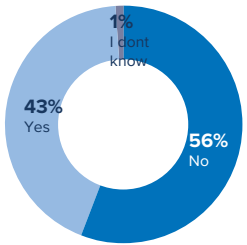
15% of the assessed households had at least one pregnant or lactating woman

At least 38% of the assessed households reported needing primary health care assistance or specialized urgent hospitalization care in the last 6 months, however, only 50% of them reported receiving the required assistance.

85% of the assessed households reported having positive relationships with their host community

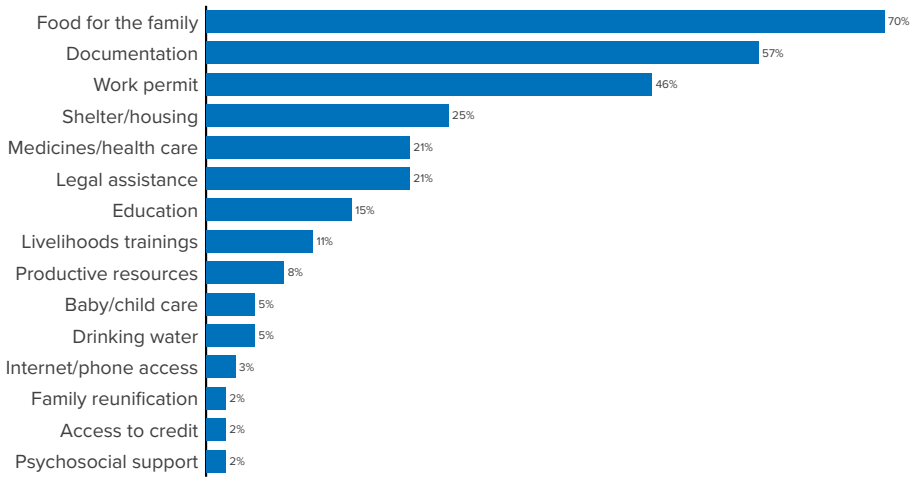
91% of the assessed households reported having the intention to stay in Belize for the next 6 months

Did you face challenges to find a place to stay since your arrival in Belize?



The main challenges reported to find a place to stay were lack of financial resources (71%), followed by lack of documents (25%) and rejection because of nationality (15%).

Three priority needs reported by assessed households:



UNHCR Belize Profiling Assessment

MAIN FINDINGS - JULY 2022

Communication

97% have access to a mobile phone and majority of them (75%) have access to a smart-phone

The preferred channel to send and receive messages is WhatsApp (78%) followed by SMS (17%). Around 3% prefer to receive only calls since they cannot write or read.

67% reported having access to internet regularly and 15% reported having access to internet sporadically. Around 18% reported not having access to internet.

More than half of respondents access internet from their house or phone using data (53%), followed by access from a friend or relative's house (13%).

More than half of respondents reported they listen to the radio regularly (53%). The most reported listening time is in the early morning hours (5 to 8 am) (21%), followed by anytime (12%) and morning from 8 to 11 am (8%)

Around half of respondents (50%) reported listening to Estéreo Amor

Top reported information needs:

1. **More information and news about Belize (52%)**
2. **How to receive humanitarian assistance (46%)**
3. **How to apply for amnesty in Belize (35%)**
4. **How to find a job (27%)**
5. **More information and news about country of origin (24%)**
6. **How to regularize stay in Belize (20%)**
7. **How to access shelter (19%)**
8. **How to contact family and friends in another place (17%)**
9. **How to apply for asylum (15%)**
10. **Information about rights and duties (15%)**

More than half of respondents (55%) prefer to receive this information through WhatsApp, 36% through radio and 22% through Facebook

Respondents prefer to receive this information mostly from aid workers (67%), community leaders (30%) and government officials (28%)

Methodology

Data collection was conducted from June 21st to July 7th 2022. A total of 332 refugees and asylum seeker households (representing **1,077 people**) were randomly selected with a 95% level of confidence and 5% margin of error. The interviews were made through phone calls by a team of 20 enumerator volunteers of UNHCR's partner Help for Progress and were based in the town of Benque, Belize. Interviews were conducted in Spanish.

Creation date: 26th October 2022
Sources: UNHCR Profiling Survey 2022

Feedback: london@unhcr.org and saldivar@unhcr.org

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

HELP FOR PROGRESS