Mixed Movements Official Data

Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

February 2023

Total Entries 2023: 24,634
Entries Jan. 2023: 24,634

Source: Migraciones Panama, Feb 2023

Main Nationalities:

- Irregular entries 2022-2023:
The UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR) collects monthly information on the characteristics, vulnerabilities and protection needs of refugees and migrants who enter Panama through the province of Darien at the southern border with Colombia. The information is compiled through individual interviews conducted at the migratory reception stations (ERM) of San Vicente and Lajas Blancas. The preliminary results presented here are indicative only and should not be interpreted as representative of the total population of refugees and migrants who cross the border through the Darien jungle.

Demography

Sex of interviewed individuals

- Woman (22%)
- Man (78%)

Average age

32 years

Highest education level reached by interviewed individuals

- None or with incomplete primary (2%)
- Vocational Training (10%)
- University (19%)
- Secondary (49%)
- Primary (20%)

Nationality of interviewed individuals

- Haiti: 33%
- Venezuela: 31%
- Ecuador: 21%
- Colombia: 3%
- Cuba: 3%
- Others: 11%

Country of residence in the last year

- Ecuador: 22%
- Chile: 18%
- Brazil: 18%
- Colombia: 14%
- Venezuela: 11%
- Other: 19%

Other nationalities include: Angola, China, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Ghana.
### Mobility Profile

#### Documents carried by the family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National ID</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid Passport</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expired Passport</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth Certificate</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence Permit</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Mixed Movements

- **68%** of the interviewed individuals left their country of origin/residence:
  - **Less than four weeks ago**

- **Around 5%** of interviewed individuals reported having the intention to stay in **Panamá**
  - Most of them are planning to stay for two months or less

- **Prior their arrival to Panama, 9%** of interviewed individuals had applied for asylum in another country

- **Two out of ten** interviewed individuals reported traveling with a survivor of violence in their group (sexual, physical or psychological)
  - This figure likely represents an underestimation of these incidents, when compared with other reports and information

- **At least 5%** of interviewed individuals reported traveling with pregnant or/and lactating women

- **At least 14%** of respondents reported traveling with someone with a critical or chronic medical condition

- **At least 2%** of interviewed individuals reported traveling with unaccompanied children in their group.

- **At least 4%** of interviewed individuals reported having a single parent traveling with children in their group

- **At least 3%** of interviewed individuals reported traveling with an elder in their group
**Mixed Movements: Border Protection Monitoring**

**Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border**

February 2023

**Push and pull factors**

**Main reasons for leaving country of origin**

- Limited access to employment: 89%
- Fear to general violence or insecurity: 53%
- Limited access to food: 34%
- Victims of violent attacks, threats or intimidation: 30%
- Lack of access to health care and medicines: 25%
- Lack of access to education: 23%
- Discrimination: 7%

**Main reasons for leaving country of residence**

- Limited access to employment: 98%
- Fear to general violence or insecurity: 21%
- Victim of threats, intimidation or violent attacks: 19%
- Limited access to food: 15%
- Lack of access to health care and medicines: 11%
- Discrimination: 10%
- Lack of access to education: 10%

**Reasons for choosing destination country**

- The country offers better economic opportunities: 61%
- I have friends living there: 37%
- I have family living there: 29%
- The country is closer to my country of origin: 6%
- I have a job offer in this country: 1%
- Others: 6%

**Most interviewed individuals (76%) reported the United States as their final destination**

followed by Canada (12%) and Mexico (7%)

8 out of 10 people interviewed reported receiving information about the journey and making decisions based on the information received from friends and relatives who had already made it. They also received information through social networks, mainly TikTok (42%), Facebook (36%) and WhatsApp (30%).

**Venezuelans**

Intentions to return to Venezuela permanently

- Prefer not to respond (6%)
- Yes (31%)
- Not sure (36%)
- No (28%)

If returning, more than half (55%) reported knowing for how long and 45% reported they would return for more than a year. The main proportion (82%) would return to Venezuela to be closer to family

**Cubans and Haitians**

Have you received information about the new entry requirements to the United States?

- I don’t know (11%)
- Yes (56%)
- No (33%)

For those who received information, the information was received mainly through TV news (36%), friends or family living in the US (27%) and Facebook (27%)
Did you pay any person to guide you through the jungle?

- No (10%)
- Yes (90%)

Interviewed people who reported not paying a guide, described guiding themselves through the jungle using the existing informal colored plastic signs, as well as having traveled with other groups that did have a guide.

Did you experience any mistreatment or abuse during the journey through the jungle?

- No (83%)
- Yes (17%)

Almost one quarter of interviewed individuals reported being victims of robbery or fraud during their journey through the jungle.

Additionally, 7% reported being victim of threats, intimidation, and attacks.

Main needs

- Cash: 94%
- Food: 21%
- Food and items for babies: 21%
- Internet: 18%
- Medicines and health care: 17%
- Clothes or shoes: 15%
- Legal assistance: 9%

The greatest need reported was cash to pay for outbound transportation from the transit center (ERM) to another ERM nearby the border with Costa Rica, in particular the families who were victims of robbery and fraud along the route.

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