

# Mixed Movements Official Data

Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

February 2023

Total Entries 2023:

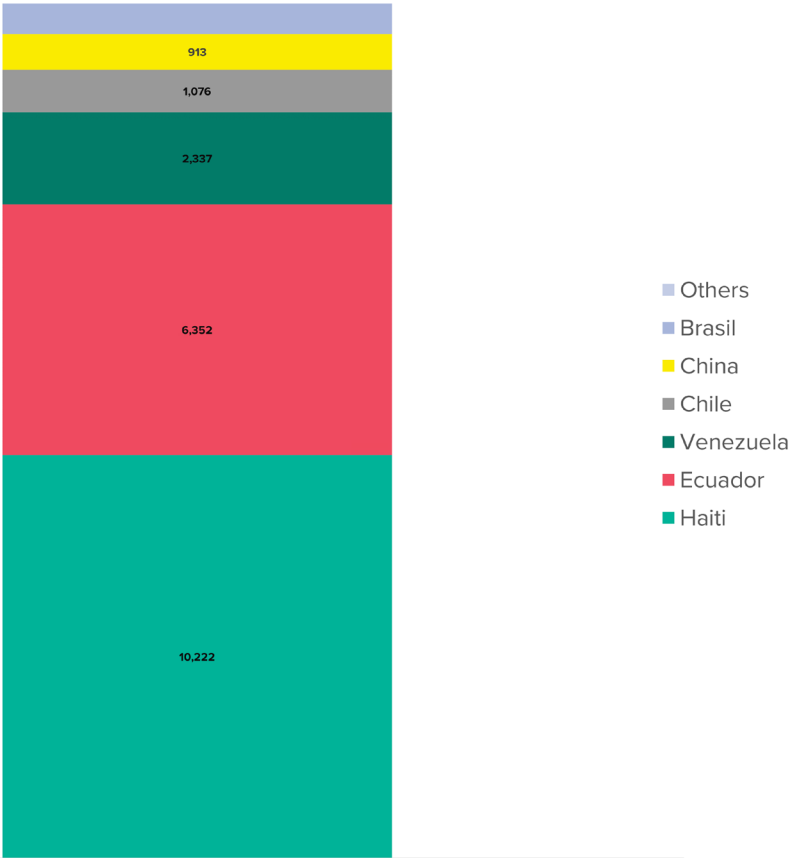
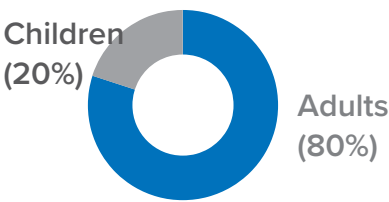
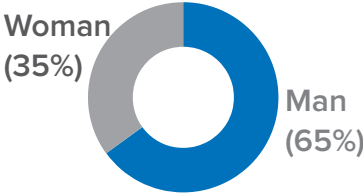
24,634

Entries Jan. 2023:

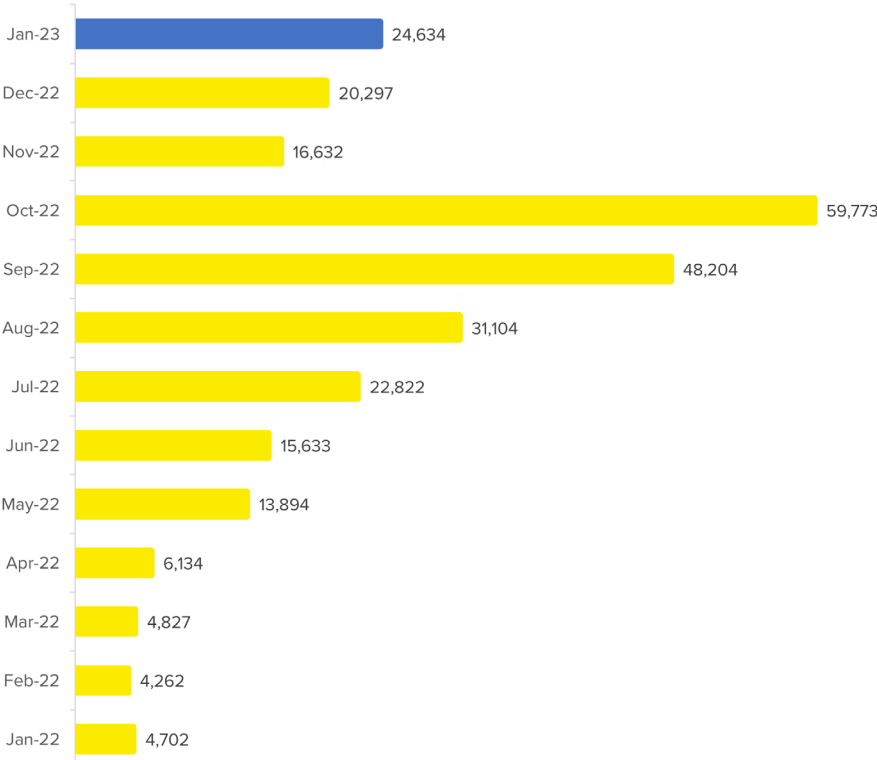
24,634

Source: Migraciones Panama, Feb 2023

Main Nationalities:



Irregular entries  
2022-2023:



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

# Mixed Movements: Border Protection Monitoring

## Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

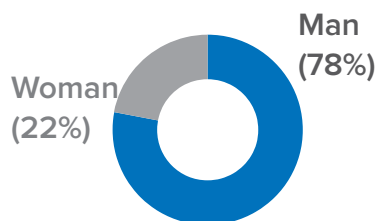
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The UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR) collects monthly information on the characteristics, vulnerabilities and protection needs of refugees and migrants who enter Panama through the province of Darien at the southern border with Colombia. The information 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

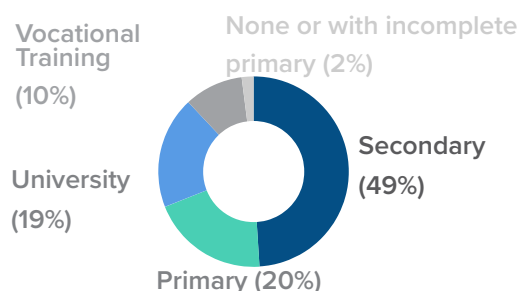
#### Sex of interviewed individuals



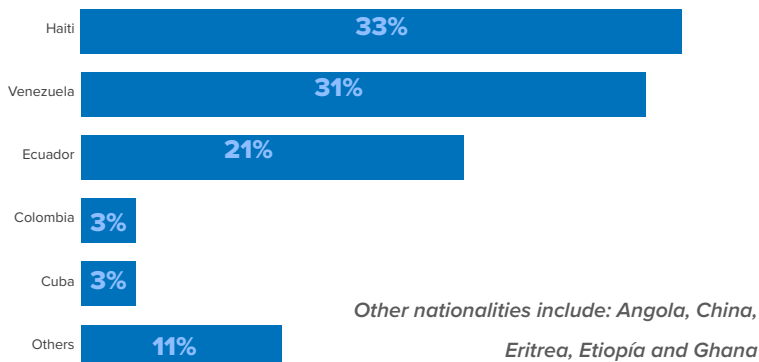
#### Average age

32 years

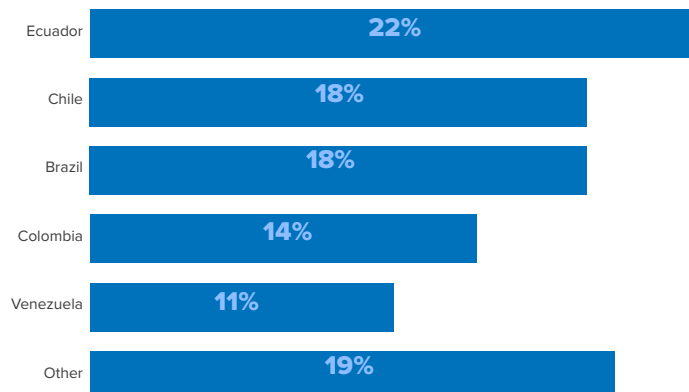
#### Highest education level reached by interviewed individuals



### Nationality of interviewed individuals



### Country of residence in the last year



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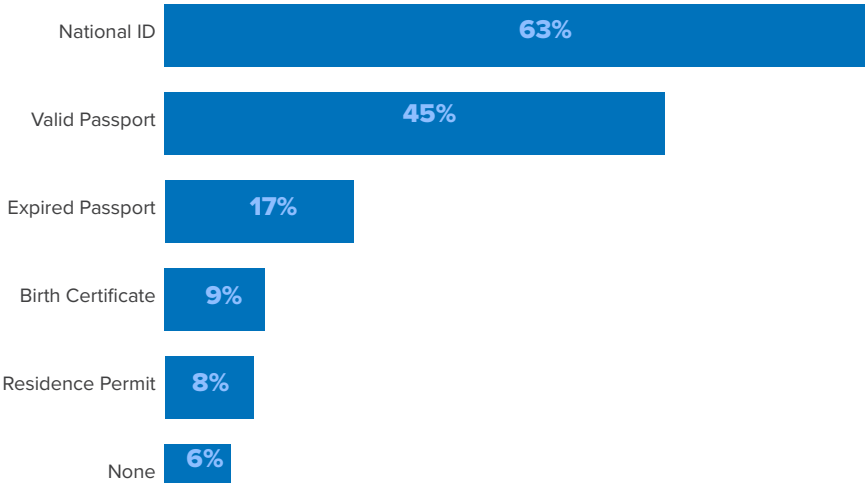
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## Mobility Profile

### Documents carried by the family



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

68% of the interviewed individuals left their country of origin/ residence:

Less than four weeks ago

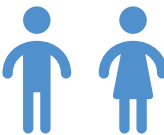
Around 5% of interviewed individuals reported having the intention to stay in

Panamá

Most of them are planning to stay for two months or less



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

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



At least 3% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with an elder in their group



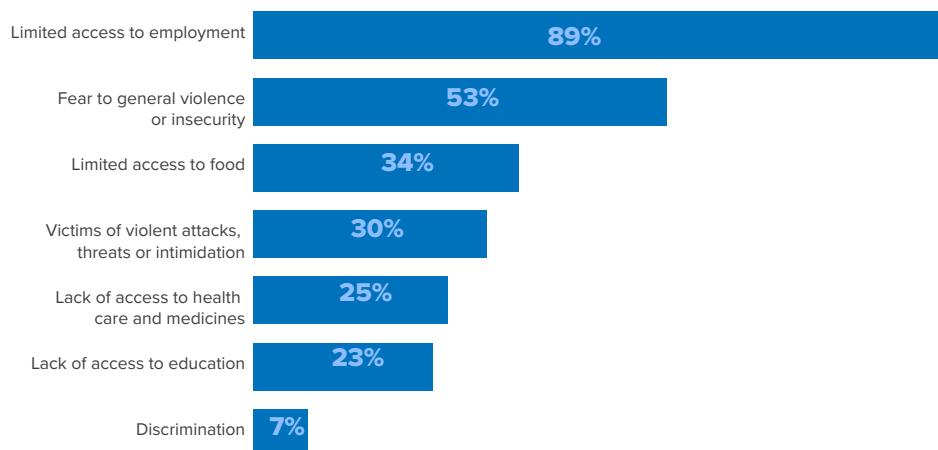
# Mixed Movements: Border Protection Monitoring

Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

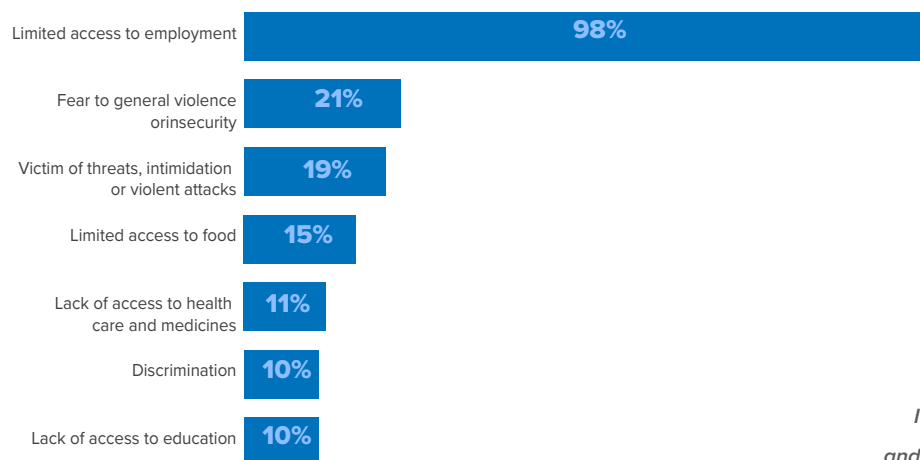
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## Push and pull factors

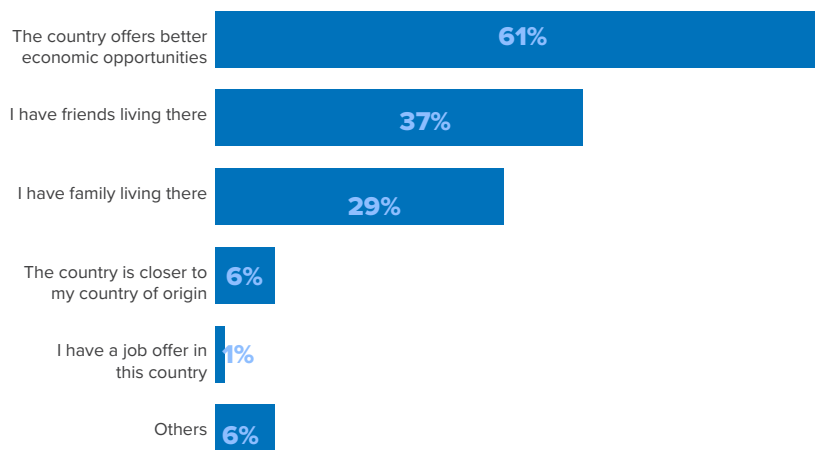
### Main reasons for leaving country of origin



### Main reasons for leaving country of residence



### Reasons for choosing destination country



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

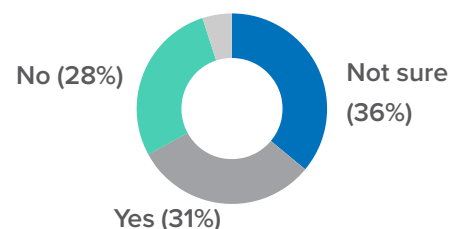
**followed by Canada (12%) and Mexico (7%)**

**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**

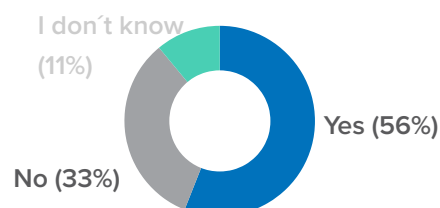
Prefer not to respond (6%)



*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?**



*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%)*



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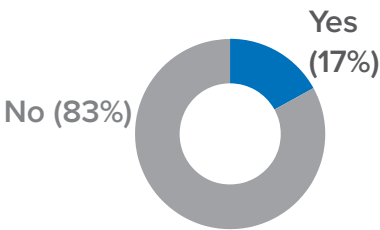
## Conditions of the journey

On average, interviewed individuals crossed the Darien jungle:

In 4 days:

With a max. of 10 days and a min. of 2 days

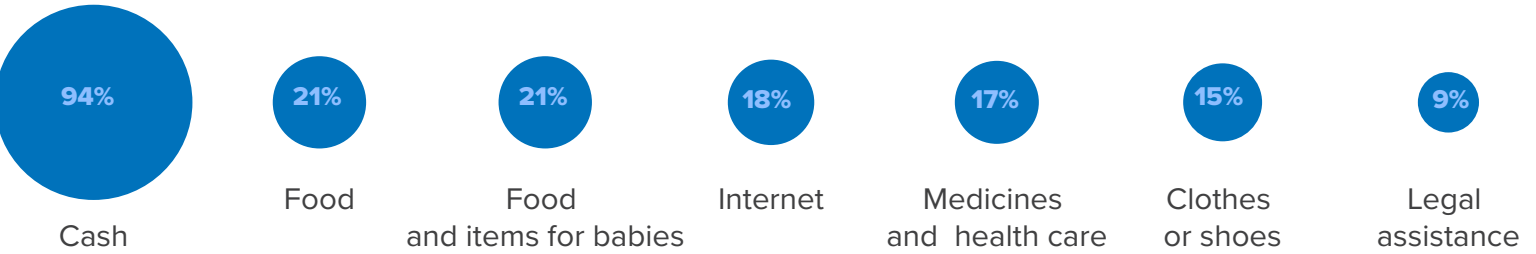
Did you experience any mistreatment or abuse during the journey through the jungle?



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



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.

Did you pay any person to guide you through the jungle?



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

Personally, what affected you the most while crossing the jungle?

The top five reported situations are:

1. Physical security (concerns about attacks from people or animals, drownings, falls, etc) (57%)
2. Corps observation (47%)
3. Children/other dependants care (pregnant women, elderly and/or chronically ill) (26%)
4. Inability to cover food needs (18%)
5. Fear of getting lost or not being able to get out of the jungle (18%)