Mixed Movements Monitoring

Honduras | January 2025

Highlighted figures

8,341
Total Irregular Entries January 2025

38,495
Total Irregular Entries January 2024

66
Total number of different nationalities who entered Honduras irregularly in 2025

Irregular Entries January 2025

43% Women and girls

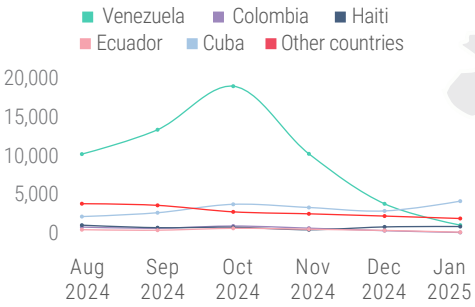
57% Men and boys

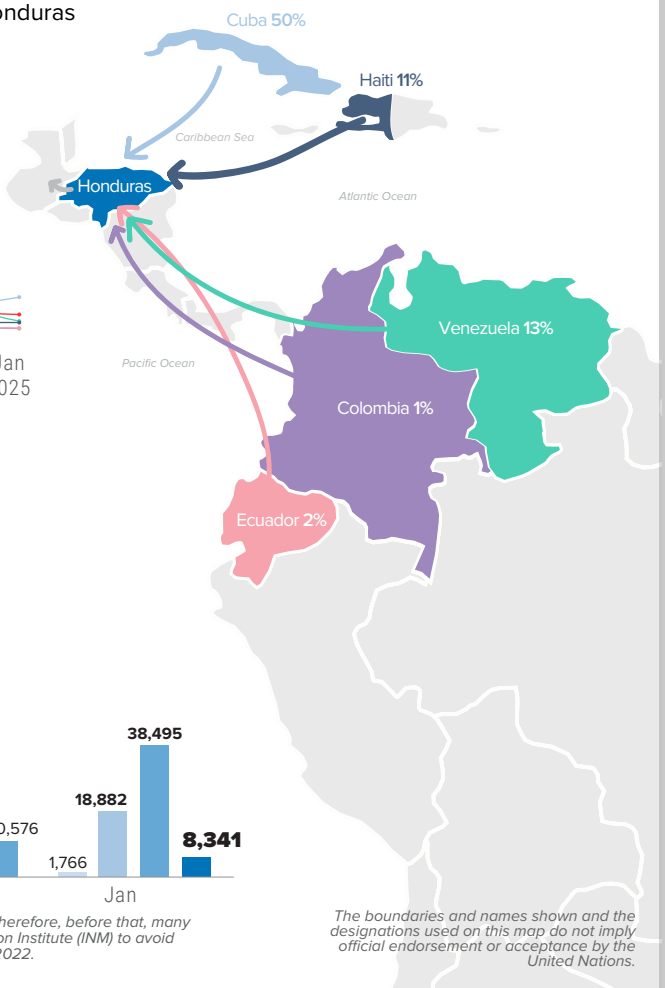
78% Adults

22% Children and adolescents (under 18 years)

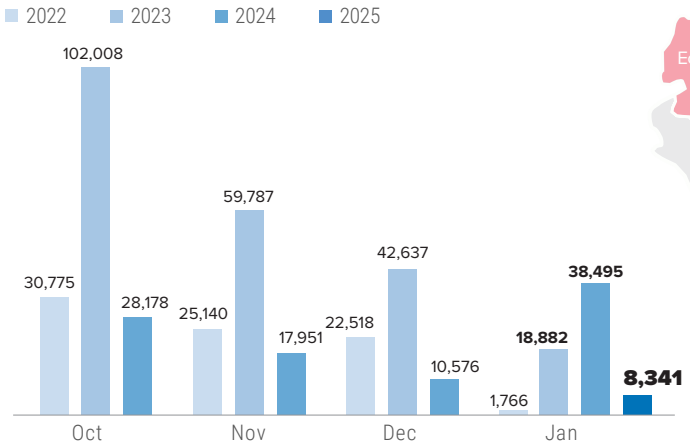
Nationalities

These **5 nationalities represent 77%** of all refugees and migrants who entered Honduras irregularly in January 2025.





Irregular entries October - January



The migration amnesty was introduced in August 2022, and therefore, before that, many people on the move did not register with the National Migration Institute (INM) to avoid paying the fine for irregular entry, so the figures are lower in 2022.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Highlights January

1. In January 2025, **8,341 refugees and migrants on the move** entered Honduras according to INM, which is a **decrease of 21%** compared **to the previous month.**

2. Additionally, in comparison to the previous month, there have been **decreases of 73% in the number of people from Venezuela, 69% from Ecuador and Colombia, 25% from Cuba** (despite ranking first in entries this month), and **11% from Haiti.**

3. At least **38%** of the individuals in mixed movements interviewed reported having **international protection needs** because they had to flee their country of origin due to violence or persecution.

4. **53%** of the people reported having suffered some form of **mistreatment or abuse during their journey** from their country of origin or last residence to Honduras. **5%** stated that they suffered mistreatment or abuse **at the border or within Honduras.**

5. **The main needs** of refugee and migrant children and adolescents, according to their caretakers, are **access to food (51%), clothing (38%), medical assistance and medicines (30%), and food supplements or vitamins (15%).** In addition, **55% did not have access to education** for at least a month or more.

Mixed Movements Protection Monitoring Results

UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF collect monthly information on the **profiles and vulnerabilities, as well as humanitarian and protection needs** of refugees and migrants who enter Honduras through the border with Nicaragua and transit through the country towards the border with Guatemala. The information is compiled through individual interviews conducted at the main hotspots throughout Honduras, with a focus on the entry and exit borders. The preliminary results presented here are indicative only and should not be interpreted as representative of the total population of refugees and migrants who are part of mixed movements.

157 Interviewed people

Interviewed Individuals by Gender:

41% Women

59% Men

Travel Group Composition:

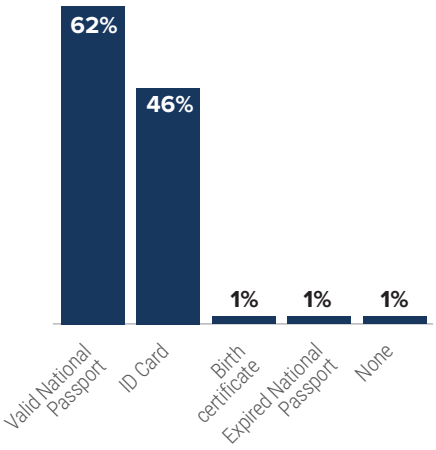
66% Adults

34% Children and adolescents (under 18 years)

Average age:

35 Years

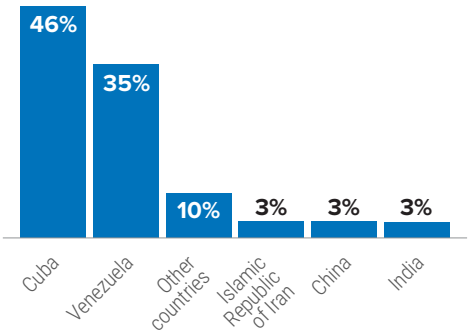
Documents Carried



Some people indicated carrying more than one document.

Nationality

Other countries include Afghanistan, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Morocco, Nepal and Peru.

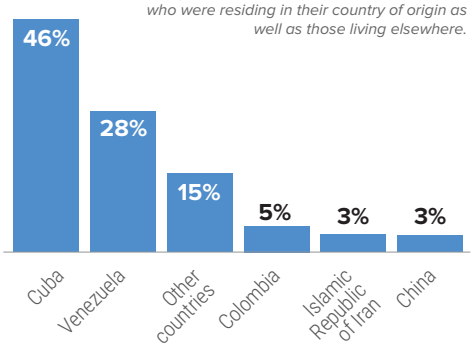


Since 46% of the respondents are from Cuba and 35% from Venezuela, the report's results will be weighed by answers from Cubans and Venezuelans, as well as by Spanish-speakers as they represent 85% of the respondents. Speakers of other languages were interviewed in smaller numbers due to their lower numbers, language barriers, and in some places, due to the presence of smugglers.

Country of residence in the past year

Other countries include Afghanistan, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, and Peru.

All interviewed individuals were asked where they lived in the last year to include persons who were residing in their country of origin as well as those living elsewhere.



8% of the interviewees lived outside of their country of origin and mainly resided in Colombia (54%), Brazil (15%), Mexico (15%), Dominican Republic (8%), and Peru (8%).

With support from UNHCR and UNICEF, humanitarian actors provide assistance services within safe spaces to people in mixed movements on the borders with Nicaragua and Guatemala.

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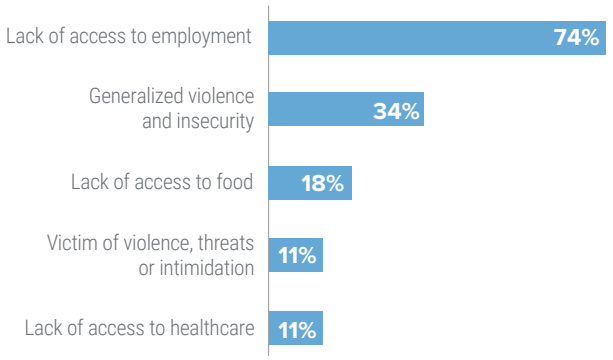
Push factors

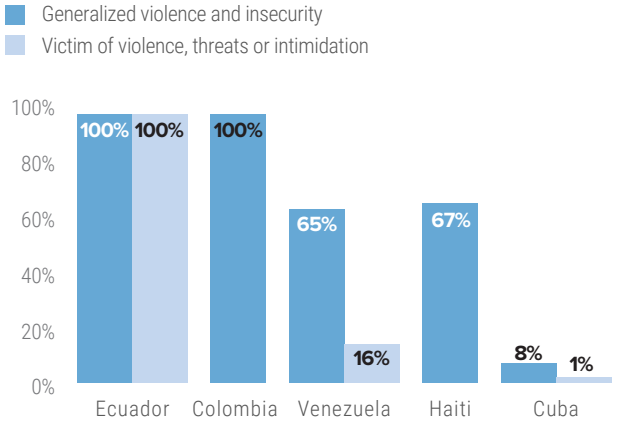
Reasons for leaving country of origin



Other reasons (18%) include access to education, family reunification and natural disasters.

Some people indicated various reasons for leaving their country of origin.

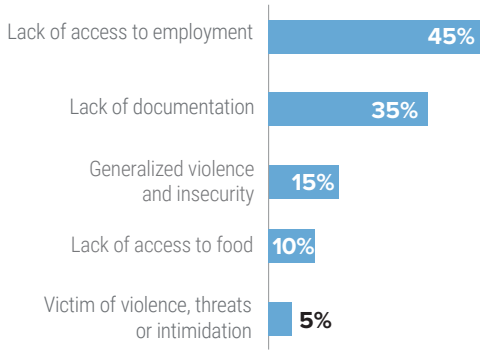
Violence-related reasons for leaving country of origin by nationality



As evidenced in the previous graph, there are several reasons why the persons left their countries of origin, including those related to violence and economic opportunities. This graph only shows the percentage of individuals by nationality who indicated fleeing their country due to violence-related incidents. For Colombia and Ecuador, only one and four people were interviewed respectively.

Reasons for leaving country of habitual residence

(only includes those who were living outside their country of origin in the past year)



Some people indicated various reasons for leaving their country of residence.

83%

of the interviewed individuals left their country of origin/residence less than four weeks ago.

100%

reported an intention to stay in Honduras for less than a month (usually less than a week) to continue their journey to their destination.

95% Northbound

4% Southbound

1% Other

87% of the interviewed individuals reported the United States as their intended final destination. Additionally, 8% indicated Mexico as their intended final destination, 2% Venezuela, 2% Costa Rica, 0.5% Honduras and 0.5% did not know.

Together with local actors in Machuca, Ocotepeque, UNHCR and UNICEF are addressing the needs of people in mixed movements through projects that provide access to basic services, such as water, minimizing protection risks.

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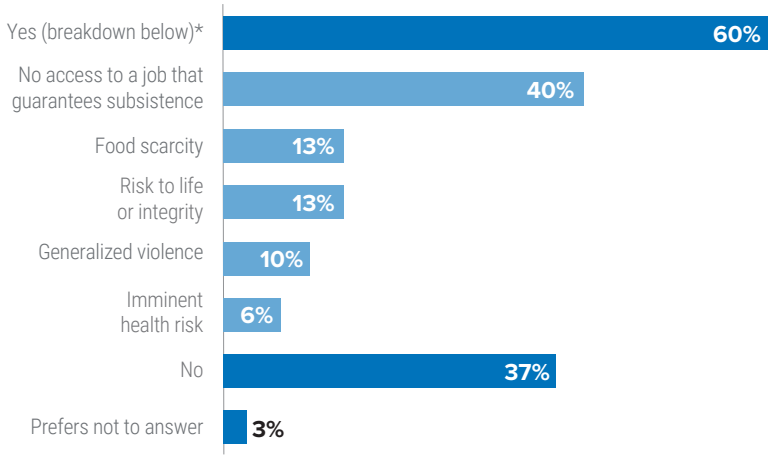
Return risks

Would you encounter any risks if you had to return to your country of origin?



Some persons indicated that they would face several risks if they had to return to their country of origin. The majority of respondents reported limited access to employment as the main reason for leaving their country of origin (see page 3).

At the same time a significant percentage of people indicated that they would encounter risks if they had to return to their country, including food scarcity, life risk and generalized violence. In other words, even if people left their country for employment reasons, it does not mean that they would not face other risks if they had to return to their country of origin.

Another important factor to take into account is that people in mixed movements with protection needs tend to not disclose a lot of information about the reasons that forced them to flee their country of origin.

Did you experience any mistreatment or abuse during the journey?

47% answered **yes.**

Of these persons, 81% reported fraud, 27% theft and 12% threats.

Did you experience any mistreatment or other forms of abuse at the border or within Honduras?

5% answered **yes.**

Of these persons, 63% reported fraud, 38% theft and 25% extorsion.

Some persons indicated various forms of mistreatment during the journey and in Honduras.

Protection concerns

17% of the individuals or families were observed as having specific protection needs. Of these:

46% Survivors of violence in their group (sexual, physical, or psychological)

35% Disability: physical (23%), visual (8%) and hearing (4%).

8% Elderly persons

15% Pregnant and/or lactating women

27% Single parent traveling with children

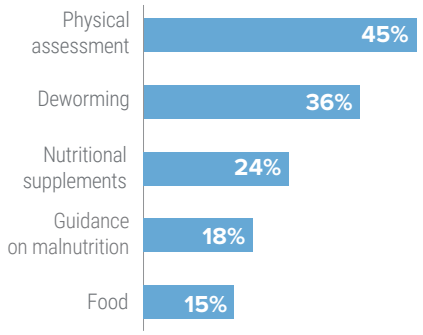
4% Unaccompanied children

8% Critical or chronic medical condition

Children and adolescents on the move

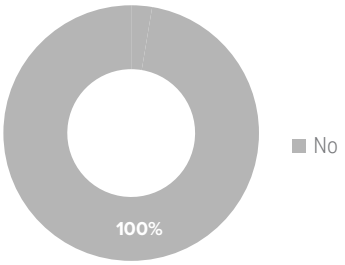
Since the start of your journey:

Which humanitarian aid services has the child under 5 years traveling with you received?



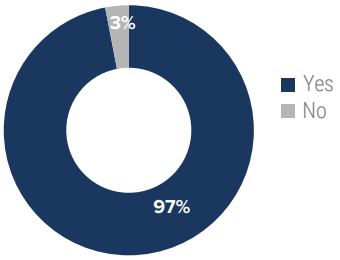
**Ages 0 months to 5 years*

Has any child or adolescent in your group been separated from their parents or legal guardian?



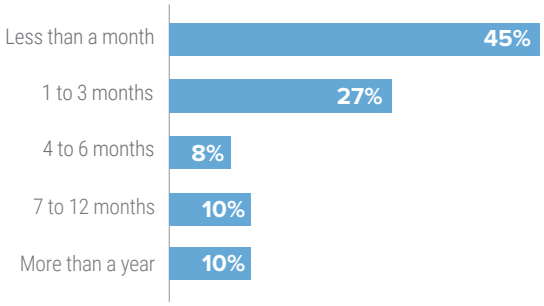
**Ages 0 months to 17 years*

Do the children under 5 years traveling with you have a complete vaccination schedule?



**Ages 0 months to 5 years*

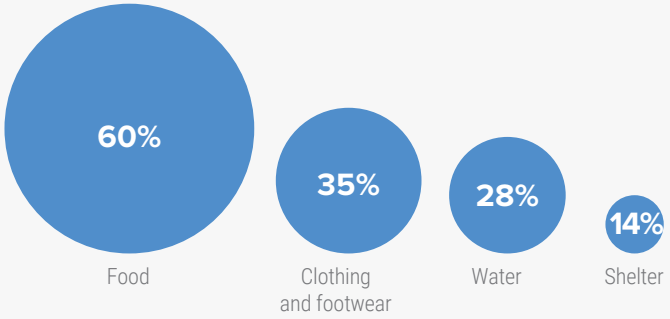
How long has the child or adolescent not received an education?



**Ages 6 to 17 years*

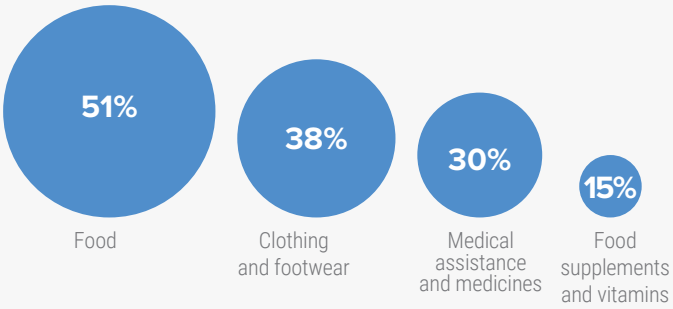
Main needs

Travel Group's Main Needs



Other main needs reported by persons on the move include: medical assistance and medicines, information on protection and migratory alternatives, internet and telephone access, and legal assistance.

Childrens' and Adolescents' Main Needs According to Their Caretakers

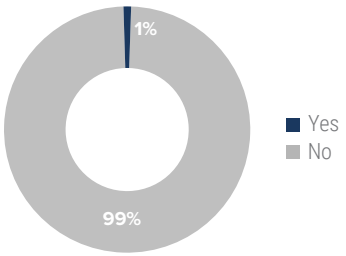


**Ages 0 months to 17 years*

Other main needs reported: educational or safe spaces, psychological support, weight and height assessment, and recommendations on child or adolescent feeding.

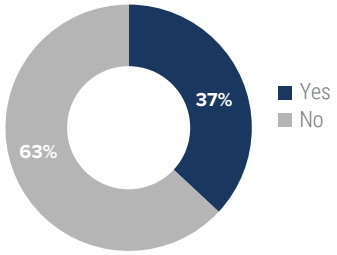
Access to asylum

Have you previously applied for asylum?



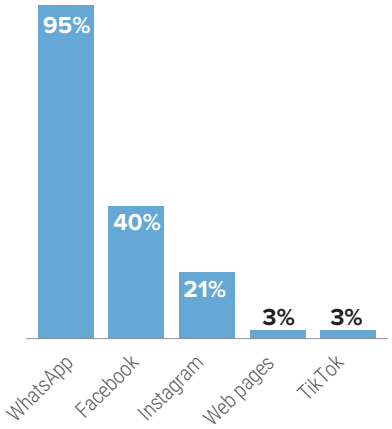
The individuals previously applied in Chile and Peru.

Have you been informed of the opportunity to seek asylum in Honduras?



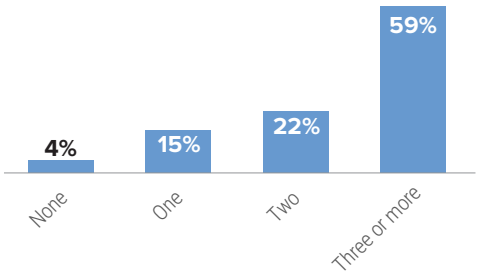
Access to information and food

Which digital platforms do you use to get information during the trip?

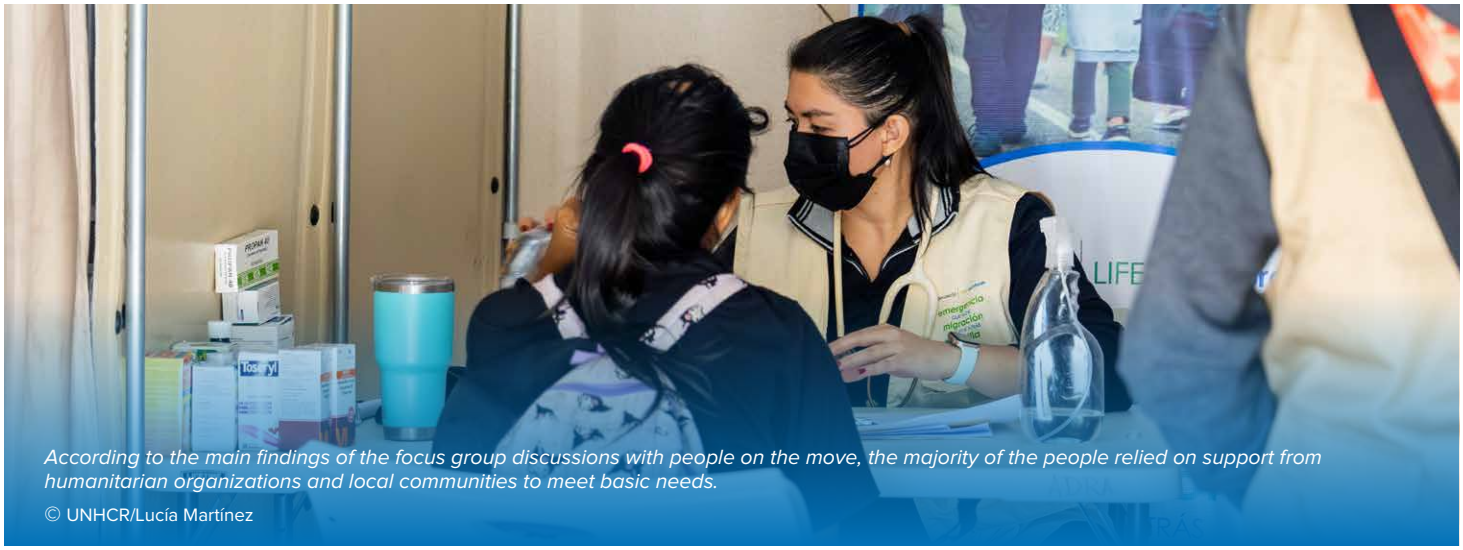


Many people indicated using various digital platforms.

How many meals did you eat yesterday?



Considering the high energy demand due to the journey and the exertion of physical activity, it is worth noting that 1 in 5 people interviewed has deficient food consumption.



According to the main findings of the focus group discussions with people on the move, the majority of the people relied on support from humanitarian organizations and local communities to meet basic needs.

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Main findings of the Focus Group Discussions with people on the move

To complement the information gathered in individual interviews, UNHCR organized three focus groups: two in El Paraíso and one in Choluteca, with Venezuelan people on the move. The focus group in Choluteca was conducted with women, and the groups in El Paraíso were mixed. The main findings are:

1 Group composition

The individuals who participated in the focus group discussions were primarily nationals of Venezuela and Colombia traveling with their nuclear families.

In one of the groups all participants were women traveling with their children and the other groups included participants of both sexes, also accompanied by their families, including children, some of whom were born in Colombia and Ecuador.

Among the profiles identified were lactating women, as well as girls and boys. Participants reported having engaged in a variety of occupations in their countries of origin or last residence, including mechanics, cleaning services, street food vending, barber shops, delivery services, informal commerce, and small-scale entrepreneurship.

2 The route and reasons for leaving country of origin or host country

The Venezuelan participants reported that they departed directly from Venezuela, entered Colombia, continued through Panama crossing the Darién jungle, followed by Costa Rica and Nicaragua. They used this route due to the lack of passport documents and economic resources to cover flight expenses from Venezuela to another country. The Colombian participants traveled by bus and paid USD 25 per person to cross by canoe to reach Bajo Chiquito. In Honduras, the individuals entered through the Guasaule and Las Manos borders.

Participants from Venezuela reported leaving their country due to a lack of access to health services and education for children, as well as social issues and political dissent. One participant mentioned that there was no access to employment and that political persecution led to the closure of her business, severely affecting her financial situation and forcing her to leave the country. Others cited the seizure of land and property, along with generalized violence, as primary reasons for fleeing. Additionally, participants expressed that the high cost of food made it difficult to access.

Other participants shared that they had lived in Brazil and Peru but left those countries for the United States due to economic struggles.

3 Protection

Most participants reported carrying their national identity card as their only form of documentation, as obtaining a passport in their countries of origin is a complex process. Some individuals mentioned holding documents issued in other countries, such as asylum application documents. In certain cases, participants carried a passport, while others had no documentation at all. Regarding children, most were traveling with their birth certificates.

Participants reported experiencing various incidents during their journey, particularly in the Darien region, where they were subjected to assaults and sexual violence. Additionally, pregnant women faced various forms of violence, including physical aggression. In Nicaragua and Panama, they reported extortion and abusive charges by migration authorities and law enforcement officers. Women emphasized that these experiences of violence exacerbate psychosocial trauma and negatively impact their resilience during the emotional and psychological challenges of the migration process. They also highlighted the lack of safe mechanisms to report abuses and expressed fear of retaliation, which prevented them from reporting extortion and unlawful charges.

4 Food security

Participants reported experiencing food insecurity during their journey, at times going days without eating. To meet basic needs, they engaged in informal work, prioritizing food for their children. In addition, participants reported that during the journey, especially in the Darién jungle, they faced severe difficulties accessing food and water, often going days without eating and drinking water from rivers. In Panama, high costs (for e.g. a bottle of water costing USD 5) further limited access.

Most participants relied on support from humanitarian organizations and local communities to meet basic needs. In shelters, they received water, hygiene products, and other essential supplies. They also accessed humanitarian assistance at specific points in Panama and Costa Rica, while in Nicaragua they received no support. In Honduras, they were able to supplement their diet by purchasing food in local markets.

5 Main needs

Participants' main needs are accommodation, food, transportation, and adequate information. Children need specialized medical care and child-friendly spaces. The participants mentioned that in Honduras they managed to access accommodation, health care, psychological care, and legal advice, provided by the Caritas Care Center and the General Hospital of the South.

Regarding access to information, participants stated that it was mainly provided by traffickers. They use WhatsApp to get information from other people who have already completed the route, though it is difficult to verify the accuracy of the information. In Honduras, they received the most information but mentioned the need for more information on access to rights and protection systems at the entry border due to traffickers' deceit. Normally, they only receive attention in shelters without information about other free services and how to access the asylum system.

The lack of information and documentation during the route, as well as the lack of support in countries like Nicaragua, worsened their situation, so they opted to not continue the route.

6 Intentions

Most participants have had to adapt the decision regarding their destination in response to changing circumstances and challenges faced during their journey. Initially, the United States was considered the destination country by most participants but was discarded due to changes in immigration policy. Some participants wish to return to Brazil where they already had a stable life, a small group indicated that they wish to return to their country of origin, Venezuela. Others chose Honduras as their final destination due to the perception of greater security and opportunities. Other Venezuelans considered Costa Rica as a viable option due to better economic conditions.

Main findings of the interviews carried out with key informants

In addition to the individual interviews conducted with refugees and migrants on the move and the focal group discussions, UNHCR interviewed one humanitarian actor in Tegucigalpa obtaining the information detailed below:

1 Profiles of people on the move

The key informant mentioned that most of the refugees and migrants assisted at the humanitarian point of Comayagüela, Honduras are from Venezuela (95%), followed by Colombia (5%). They also indicated that there have been some cases of individuals from Ecuador and Nicaragua. The predominant age range is between 18 and 38 years. Among the vulnerable profiles identified are primarily families, unaccompanied minors and some elderly individuals.

According to the key informant, the individuals attended indicated that they are returning from north to south due to changes in the United States immigration policies.

Regarding unaccompanied children and adolescents (under 18 years), the key informant indicated that their condition exposes them to serious protection risks, including trafficking in persons, particularly for the purpose of sexual exploitation. These cases have been referred to and coordinated with the Secretariat for Children, Adolescents, and Families (SENAF).

2 Route and motives

The key informant indicated that refugees and migrants have used the same route from south to north, traveling with the migration permit issued by the authorities of each country, solely for their transit through that country. However, for returning from north to south, the transit countries do not follow a migration process, as there is no established procedure. In the case of Honduras, they are not registered again for their irregular entry and return from north to south.

According to the key informant, the means of transportation used by the individuals are the same for traveling from south to north and vice versa, which is public transportation.

The reasons indicated by individuals for leaving their country of origin are linked to poverty, persecution, education, health, and economic sustainability.

3 Protection

The key informant expressed that refugees and migrants assisted at the humanitarian point in the capital area of Honduras have reported protection risks during their journey such as theft and assaults, both upon their journey to the north and during their return.

These situations have caused stress, frustration, and anxiety crises due to the inability to reach their destination. Some mentioned self-harm and suicidal thoughts.

Cases of violence against women and girls have been identified, and the key informant reported the detection of a possible trafficking network linked to the smuggling of adolescents aged 14 to 17, of Venezuelan and Nicaraguan nationalities, especially in the Nicaragua area, for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The key informant mentions that refugees and migrants show concern and confusion in the scarcity of available information about migratory options, limited time, and the few resources they have. The decision to return to their country of origin or last residence is related to the inability to achieve their goal of reaching the United States.

4 Food security and basic services

Regarding food security, the key informant at the humanitarian service point in Comayagüela, indicated that individuals receiving assistance rely heavily on humanitarian aid, particularly food vouchers. However, in some cases, they are forced to prioritize paying for accommodation, leading them to sell their food vouchers to meet this basic need.

The key informant indicated that individuals receiving assistance reported having limited access to shelter in the central region of the country. Regarding access to hygiene kits and drinking water, these have been provided at various humanitarian service points along their journey from south to north, as well as during their return from north to south.

Additionally, the key informant also indicated that an increase in cases of respiratory illnesses has been observed among those receiving assistance, particularly among children under the age of five.

5 Main needs

According to the key informant, refugees and migrants have an urgent need for support in housing and food, which are the most reported needs. In some cases, individuals have requested assisted voluntary return to their countries of origin.

Regarding the refugees and migrants assisted at the humanitarian point, the key informant emphasized that pregnant or lactating women seek medical assistance and food products for their children. Additionally, there is a growing demand for adequate housing in the Tegucigalpa area, as many individuals sleep on the streets or in unsuitable conditions. The need for medical care, both physical and mental, has also increased.

6 Intentions

Regarding the destination countries, the key informant indicated that most of the attended refugees and migrants were traveling from north to south. Venezuelan nationals expressed their intention to travel to Colombia, where they had previously resided, while others aimed to reach Costa Rica to seek asylum. Additionally, some individuals are awaiting responses regarding their Assisted Voluntary Return process. A small group of Nicaraguan nationals traveling from south to north indicated their intention to continue their journey to Mexico.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | WFP World Food Programme | unicef for every child

In collaboration with: World Vision

Data Sources: *UNHCR Protection Monitoring, carried out between 13 and 31 January 2025.*
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UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF publish a quarterly ***regional mixed movement monitoring report*** *covering the route from Panama to Mexico.* ***Click here*** *to access the latest report.*

For up-to-date information on the situation of mixed movements in the Darien crossing that impacts flows in Honduras, ***please click here.***