Mixed Movements Official Data

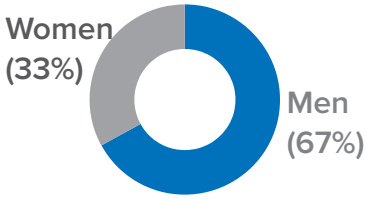
Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

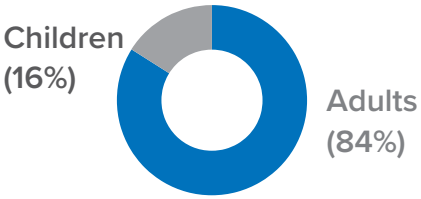
January 2023

Total Entries 2022: 248,284

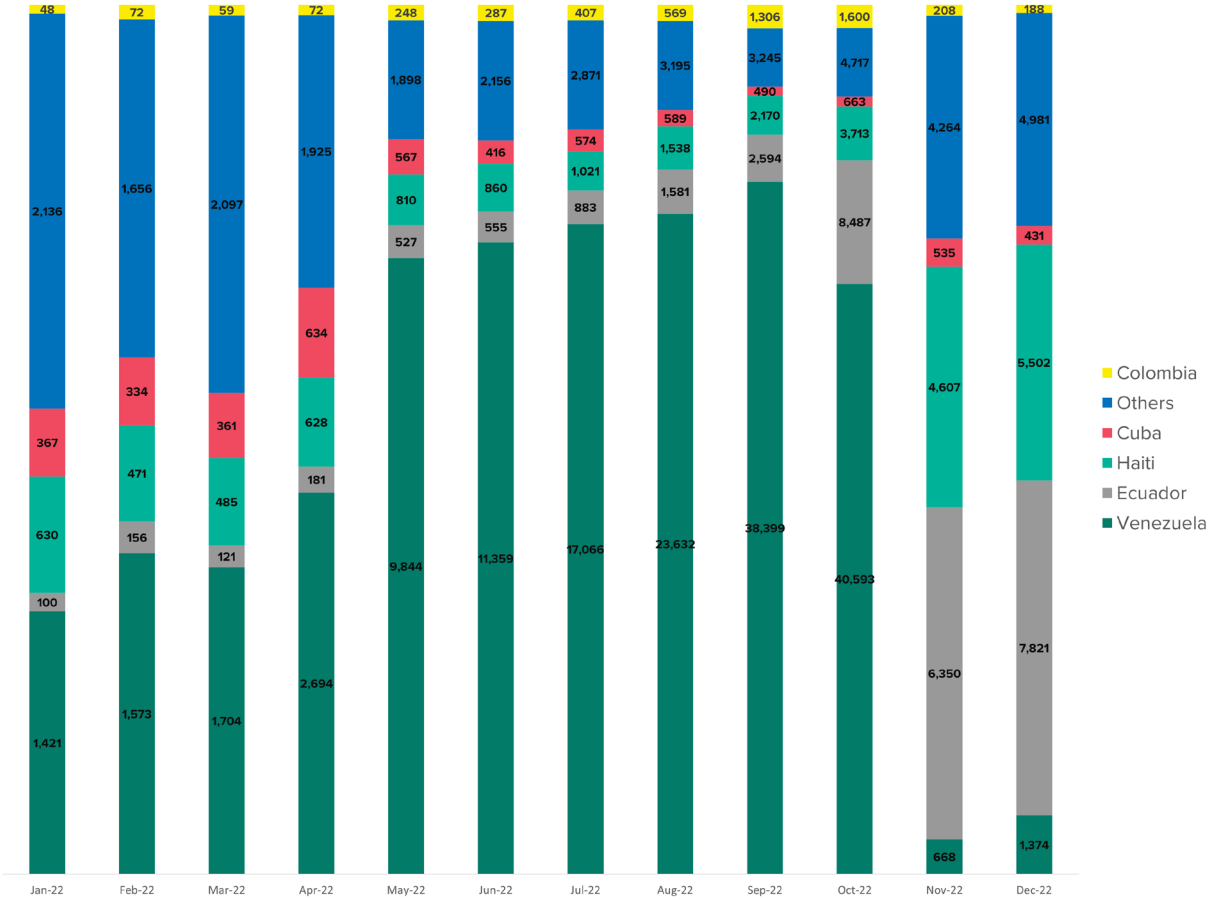
Entries Dec. 2022: 20,297

Source: Panama Migration (January, 2023)

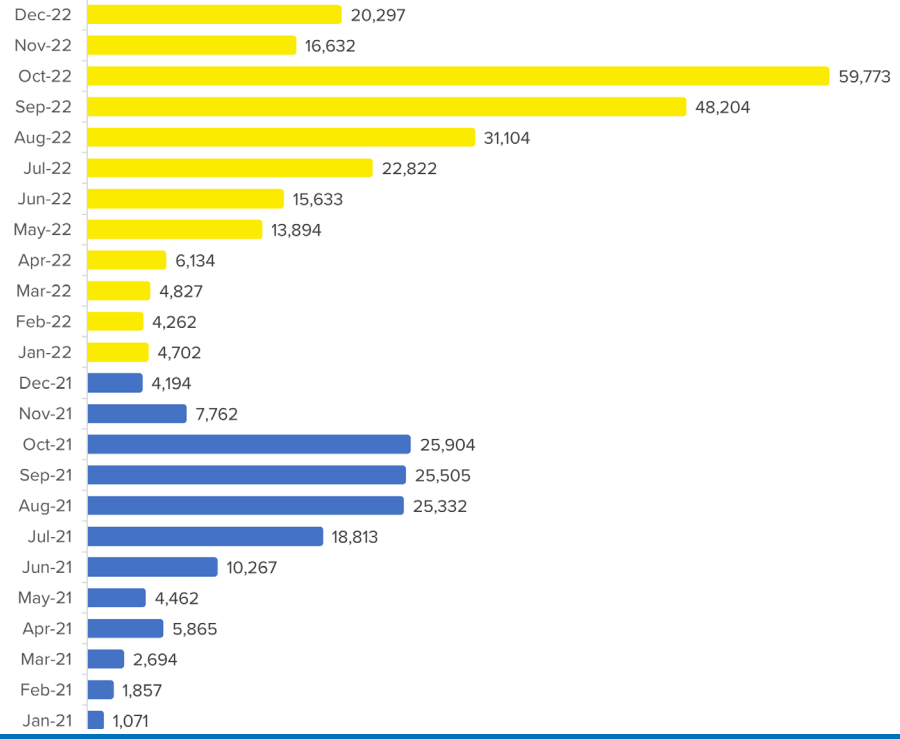




Main Nationalities:



Irregular entries 2021-2022:



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

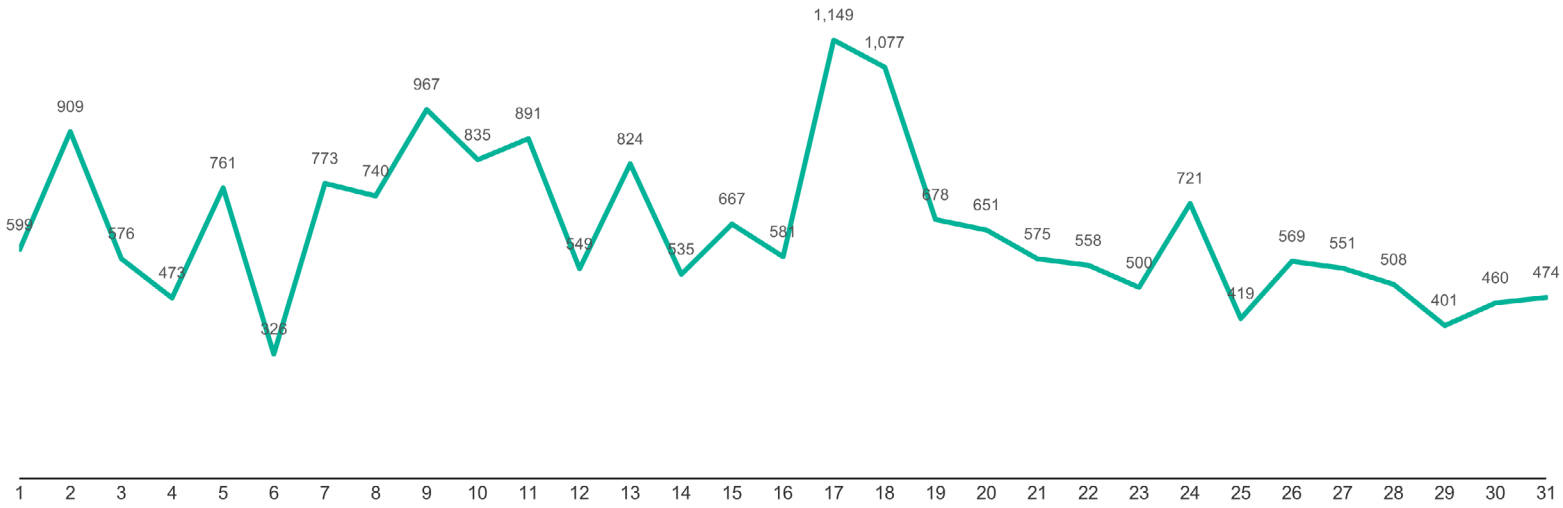
Mixed Movements Official Data

Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

January 2023

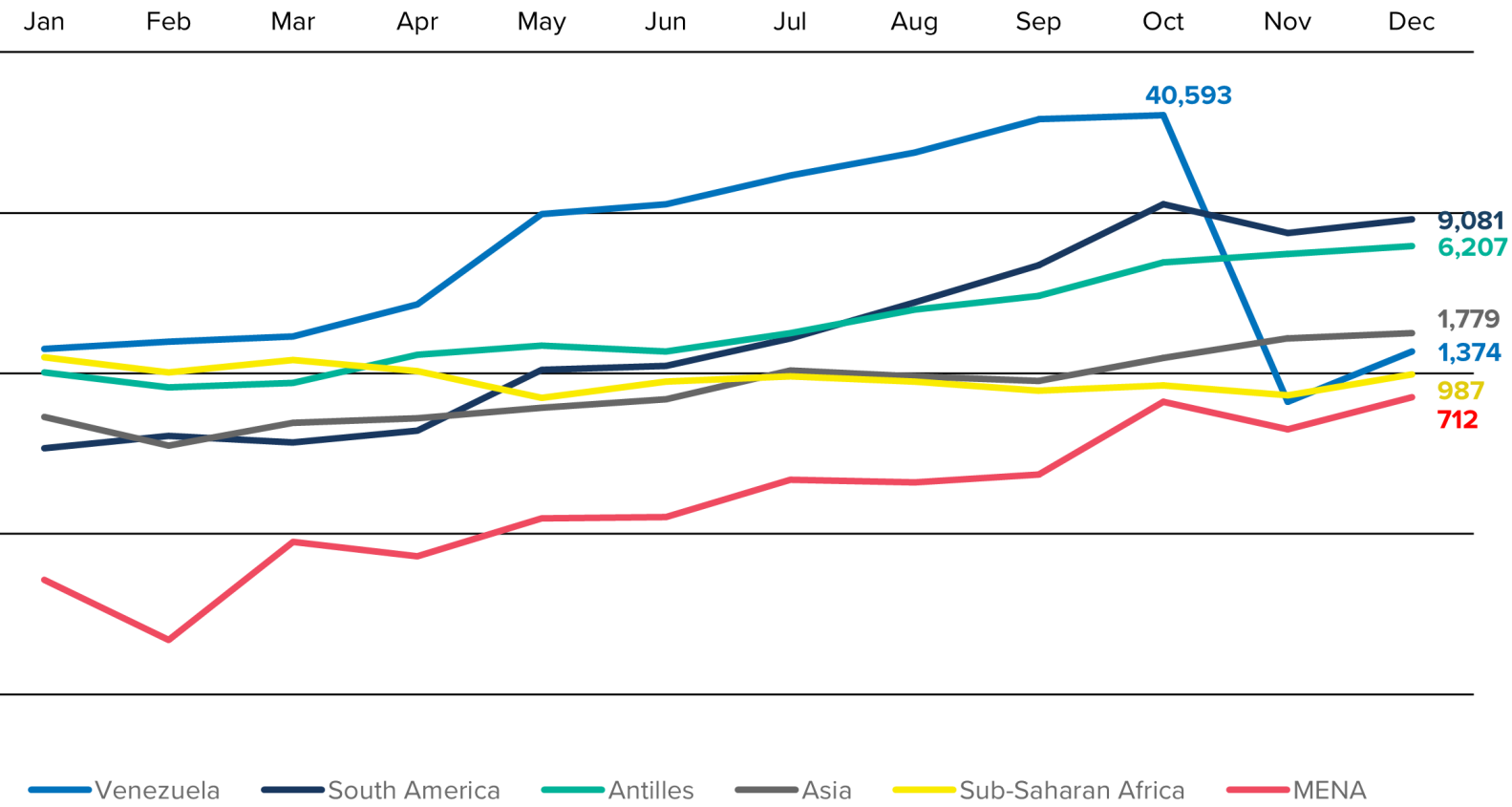
Daily arrivals in December 2022:

Source: Panama Migration (January, 2023)



Monthly arrivals in 2022 by region of origin

Source: Panama Migration (January, 2023)



Note: There are 1216 entries reported from "other nationalities" not categorized in this analysis.

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Mixed Movements: Border Protection Monitoring

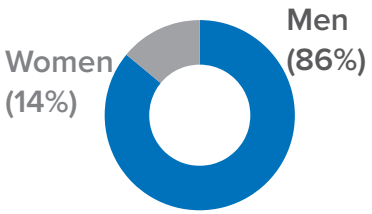
Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

January 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

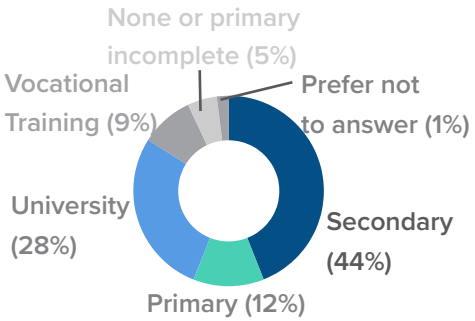
Sex of interviewed individuals



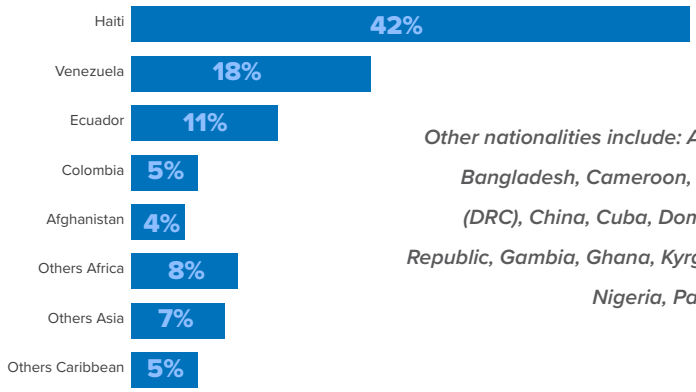
Average age

33 years

Highest education level reached by interviewed individuals

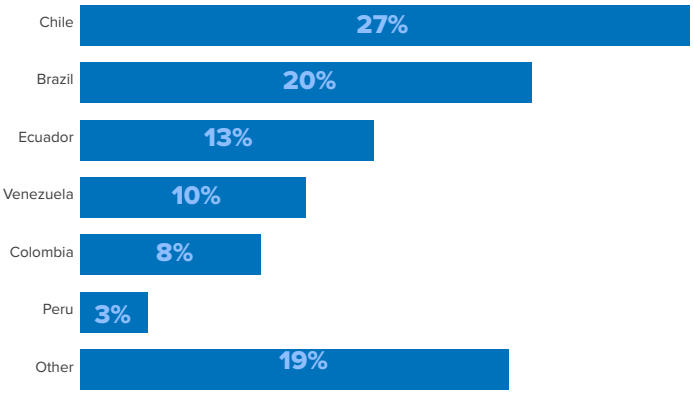


Nationality of interviewed individuals



Other nationalities include: Angola, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Congo (DRC), China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Ghana, Kyrgyztan, Nigeria, Pakistan.

Country of residence in the last year



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Mixed Movements: Border Protection Monitoring

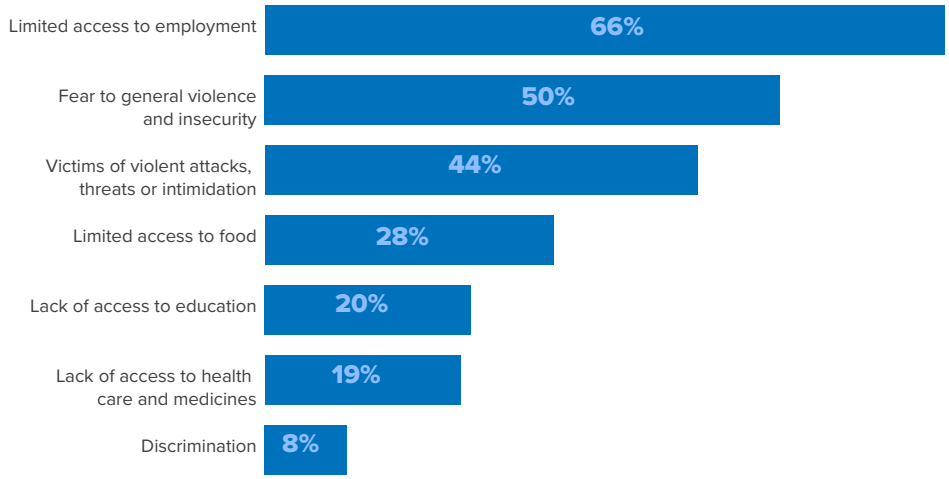
Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

January 2023

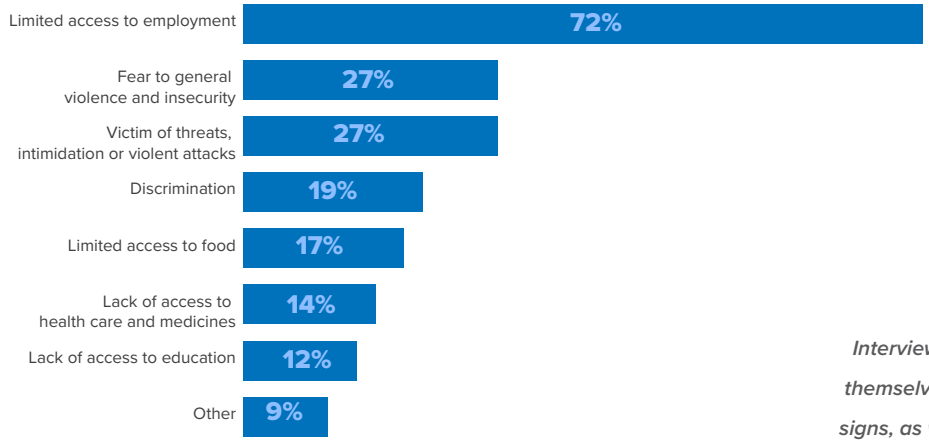
68% of the interviewed individuals left their country of origin/residence:

Less than four weeks ago

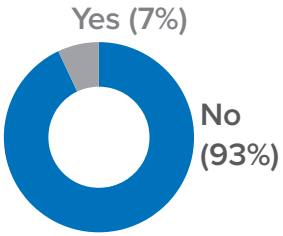
Main reasons for leaving country of origin



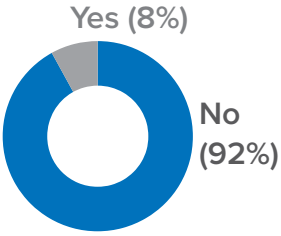
Main reasons for leaving country of residence



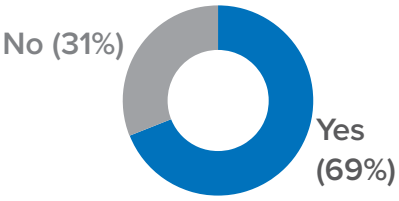
Do you intend to stay in Panama?



Have you previously applied for asylum?

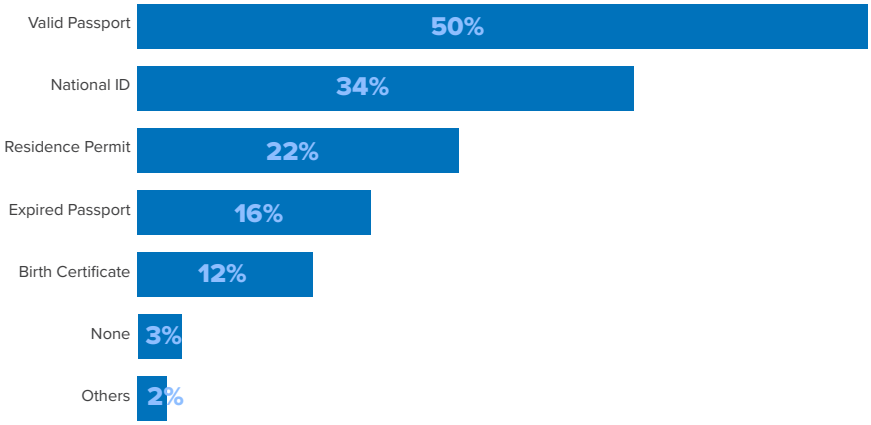


Did you pay any person to guide you through the jungle?



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.

Documents carried by the family



Most of interviewed individuals (68%) reported United States as their final destination country

followed by Mexico (13%) and Canada (8%)

Only 11% of interviewed Venezuelans reported having the intention to return to their country in the next 12 months.

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Mixed Movements: Border Protection Monitoring

Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

January 2023

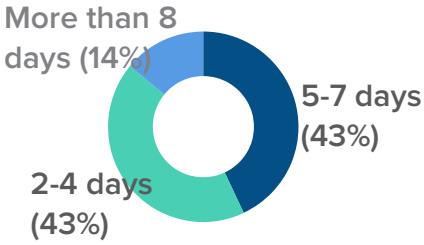
8 out of 10 people

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 (23%), Facebook (23%) and WhatsApp (12%).

One quarter of 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

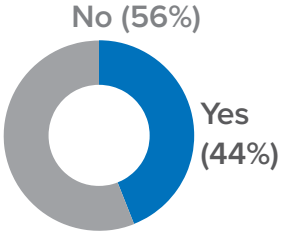
Reported duration of the trip through the Darien Jungle:



At least 7% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with pregnant or/and lactating women

At least 8% of respondents reported traveling with someone with a critical or chronic medical condition

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



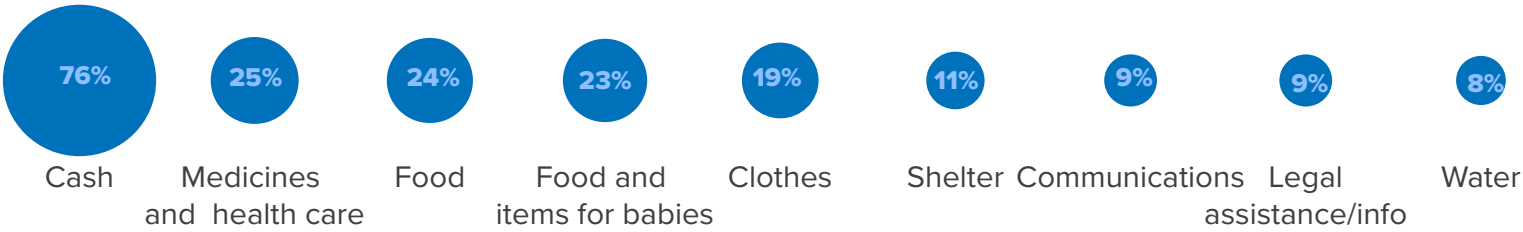
One out of ten interviewed individuals reported traveling with unaccompanied children in their group.

More than 43% of interviewed individuals reported being victims of robbery and fraud during their journey through the jungles

Additionally, 17% reported being victim of threats, intimidation, and other incidents

At least 6% of interviewed individuals reported having a single parent traveling with children in their group

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.

UNHCR Multi Country Office for Belize, Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua and Southern Caribbean

Data Sources: UNHCR Protection Monitoring, conducted on the 4th to 6th January 2023.

Feedback: im.panama@unhcr.org

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency