Mixed Movements Official Data
Darien Province, Panama-Colombia Border

March 2023

**Total Entries 2023:** 49,291
**Entries Feb. 2023:** 24,657

Source: Migraciones Panama, March 2023

**Main Nationalities:**

**Jan-23**
- Venezuela: 913
- Haiti: 6,352
- Ecuador: 10,222
- China: 2,337

**Feb-23**
- Venezuela: 1,285
- Haiti: 5,203
- Ecuador: 6,522
- China: 7,097

Irregular entries through the Darien 2022-2023 (in thousands of people):

- 2022
- 2023

Jan: 5k, 25k
Feb: 4k, 25k
Mar: 5k, 6k
Apr: 14k
May: 16k
Jun: 23k
Jul: 31k
Aug: 48k
Sep: 60k
Oct: 17k
Nov: 20k
Dec: 25k, 25k

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
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**
  - Man (69%)
  - Woman (31%)

- **Average age**
  - 31 years

- **Highest education level reached by interviewed individuals**
  - University (20%)
  - Secondary (52%)
  - Vocational Training (15%)
  - None or with incomplete primary (1%)

**Nationality of interviewed individuals**

- Venezuela: 60%
- Haiti: 10%
- Ecuador: 7%
- China: 6%
- India: 5%
- Others: 18%

Other nationalities include: Afghanistan, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Nigeria, Peru and Somalia

**Country of residence in the last year**

- Venezuela: 29%
- Colombia: 22%
- Chile: 13%
- Ecuador: 10%
- Peru: 7%
- Other: 19%
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Mobility Profile

Documents carried by the family

- National ID: 72%
- Valid Passport: 33%
- Expired Passport: 17%
- Birth Certificate: 7%
- Residence Permit: 7%
- None: 2%

Almost a 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.

70% of the interviewed individuals left their country of origin/residence:

- Less than four weeks ago

Around 1% of interviewed individuals reported having the intention to stay in

Panamá

Most of them are planning to stay less than a month

Prior their arrival to Panama, 7% of interviewed individuals had applied for asylum in another country

8% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with pregnant or/and lactating women

11% of respondents reported traveling with someone with a critical or chronic medical condition

3% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with unaccompanied children in their group.

14% of interviewed individuals reported having a single parent traveling with children in their group

4% of interviewed individuals reported traveling with an elder in their group
### Main reasons for leaving country of origin

- **Limited access to employment**: 83%
- **Fear to general violence and insecurity**: 55%
- **Limited access to food**: 49%
- **Lack of access to health care and medicines**: 45%
- **Lack of access to education**: 33%
- **Victims of violent attacks, threats or intimidation**: 31%
- **Discrimination**: 12%

### Main reasons for leaving country of residence

- **Limited access to employment**: 79%
- **Fear to general violence and insecurity**: 38%
- **Limited access to food**: 27%
- **Lack of access to health care and medicines**: 26%
- **Victim of threats, intimidation or violent attacks**: 23%
- **Discrimination**: 19%
- **Lack of access to education**: 17%

### Reasons for choosing destination country

- **The country offers better economic opportunities**: 69%
- **I have family living there (family reunification)**: 29%
- **I have friends living there**: 18%
- **Other**: 13%
- **I have a job offer in that country**: 8%
- **The country is closer to my country of origin**: 6%
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Challenges during the journey

On average, interviewed individuals crossed the Darien jungle:

In 4 days
(Min. 1.5 days and Max. 15 days)

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

No (35%)

Ye s (65%)

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 (77%)

Ye s (23%)

Almost one quarter (22%) of interviewed individuals reported being victims of robbery or fraud during their journey through the jungle.

Additionally, 14% reported being victim of threats, intimidation, and attacks.

Main needs

During the days of data collection, one of the main reported needs was around transportation due the low frequency of buses departing from the ETRM San Vicente and Lojas Blancas to ETRM Los Planes which was making several individuals and families to stay for two or more days at the ETRM.

48% Cash
39% Legal assistance
26% Medicines and health care
24% Clothes
22% Food
19% Food and items for babies
9% Communications

The top five reported situations are:

72%
Physical security (concerns about attacks from people or animals, drownings, falls, etc)

43%
Fear of getting lost or not being able to get out of the jungle

42%
Cadavers observation*

36%
Children/other dependants care (pregnant women, children and people with disabilities)

19%
Inability to cover food needs

*Most people (84%) reported seeing between 1 and 8 cadavers in the previous seven days to data collection.

UNHCR Multi Country Office for Belize, Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua and Southern Caribbean
Data Sources: UNHCR Protection Monitoring, conducted on the 6th to 9th March 2023.
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