In the last quarter of 2022, 96,702 people arrived in Panama through the Darien province, resulting in a 5 per cent decrease, if compared with the figures recorded in the previous quarter. In 2022, 248,284 individuals entered Panama through the Darien province, with Venezuelans accounting for 61 per cent (150,327), followed by nationals from Ecuador (12%), Haiti (9%) and Cuba (2%) (SNM, 2023).

The 12th October U.S. announcement of a “New Migration Process for Venezuelans” had a significant impact on the dynamics of mixed movements in the region, leading to a sharp decrease in the number of Venezuelans attempting to move across the Darien in their route to the north. Under the Title 42 public health emergency declaration in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the new U.S. policy enables the expulsion of Venezuelans back to Mexico who crossed the border irregularly, and the establishment of a new parole programme allowing a capped number of Venezuelans to access the U.S. through a regular pathway of admission. The parole announcement impacted mobility dynamics, with many people on the move halting their journey in transit countries, with a variety of consequences.
Mixed Movements
Overview of key figures and trends

Since the U.S. announcement of a new migration process, more than 10,100 Venezuelans have applied for asylum in countries along the route, including 3,894 asylum claims (October and November) in Costa Rica, 6,190 in Mexico (42% of all Venezuelan applications in 2022), 69 in Guatemala, 22 in Honduras and smaller numbers of asylum claims reported in Panama.

Needs were reported in many countries along the mixed-movement route in Central America and Mexico regarding the reinforcement of reception capacities at key border and reception locations in the areas of shelter, food, medicines/health care, information, mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling, and protection services for cases at heightened vulnerability. Advocacy towards the implementation of legal stay arrangements also remains a priority.

Regardless of the decrease in arrivals during the last months of 2022, the number of irregular entries through the Darien continued to be high, with 24,634 individuals (mainly Ecuadorian and Haitian nationals) entering the Darien during January 2023, the highest historic value for the month of January.

On January 5, 2023, the U.S. Government announced yet more policy changes related to asylum-seekers and migrants arriving at the U.S. Southwest border, including expanding the application of Title 42 and the establishment of a parole programme for three new nationalities: Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans. The new measures create the framework for the return of nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela back to Mexico under Title 42 if they cross the border irregularly, and the expansion of parole entry programmes for these nationalities, capped at 30,000 entrants per month.
Missing migrants

- Since IOM began monitoring deaths and disappearances of migrants and people on the move, between 2014 until December 2022, 7,253 cases have been recorded in the region. Actual figures may be a lot higher as not all deaths are recorded (MMP, 2022).

- During 2022, 1,268 cases were registered in the Americas. Geographical distribution: Caribbean 321; Central America: 382; South America: 58 and North America: 507 (Idem).

- During 2021, more than 729 cases of dead and missing people on the move were identified in the U.S.-Mexico border area and 67 in the route Caribbean to U.S., while during 2022, 623 cases have been registered in the U.S – Mexico border area and 229 in the route Caribbean to U.S. (Idem).

**Total of missing people on the move recorded in the Americas by sex (2020 - 2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Undertermined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>1,268</td>
<td>1,268</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total of missing people on the move recorded in the Americas by subregion and sex, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subregion</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Undertermined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Missing Migrants Project, 2022
Mixed Movements  Colombia

Daily flows of all nationalities recorded by maritime companies in Necocli 2022 - 2023

Source: R4V, 2023

- **454 k** Venezuelans entered Colombia in 2022 via official border points, according to official data.
- **420 k** Venezuelans exited Colombia in 2022 via official border points, according to official data.
- **60%** Increase in total movements in comparison to 2021.
- **28,254** Exits registered by the Colombian Government between December 2022 and 17 January 2023.
- **610** Daily average of exits between 11-17 January, similar to the daily value recorded between 11-17 December 2022 (606).
- **HAITIAN ECCUADORIAN VENEZUELAN** Most important nationalities using maritime companies to cross into Panama.
Mixed Movements  Colombia

Destination countries for Venezuelan refugees and migrants
Venezuelans interviewed by IOM in shelters: 9,117 Venezuelans in 28 shelters in December 2021. 5,938 Venezuelans in 18 shelters in December 2022.

From 15 per cent in 2021 to 28 per cent in December 2022. This trend has been constant since January 2022, a behaviour that is expected due to temporary returns during the holiday season.

Compared to data from surveys conducted among Venezuelan refugees and migrants staying in shelters in Colombia, between December 2021 and December 2022.

Source: Entry records of beneficiaries of 18 accommodations located in Colombia, IOM Colombia, 2023.
Mixed Movements Colombia

Health situation of the refugee and migrant population in transit in the Necoclí Municipality

- **95%** VENEZUELA
- **3%** PERU
- **2%** PANAMA

Main countries of origin

- **66** Prenatal check-ups and 4 abortions performed at ESEHSSU. from January 2022 to January 12, 2023.

- **155** Attentions to children under 5 years old. 43% of the consultations were emergency triages

- **39%** Boys
- **61%** Girls

Monthly number of queries

Source: ESE Hospital San Sebastián de Urabá, Necoclí. January 1, 2022 to January 16, 2023
Mixed Movements Colombia

Health situation of the refugee and migrant population in transit in the Necoclí Municipality

Mandatory notification events in the refugee and migrant population, Sivigila Necoclí, Epidemiological weeks 1 to 52 of 2022

10 causes External consultation of the refugee and migrant population by sex.

- Joint pain
- Anxiety disorder, unspecified
- EPISTAXIS
- Osteoarthritis, unspecified
- Urinary tract infection, site unspecified
- Essential (primary) hypertension
- Schizophrenia, unspecified
- Pelvic and perineal pain
- Other and unspecified abdominal pain

10 causes of emergencies of the refugee and migrant population by sex.

- Asthmatic status
- Headache
- Renal colic, unspecified
- Injury to the finger(s) of the hand
- Head hound, part unspecified
- Nausea and vomiting
- Viral infection, unspecified
- Gastroenteritis, unspecified
- Fever, unspecified
- Other and unspecified abdominal pain

10 causes of hospitalization of the refugee and migrant population by sex.

- Plasmodium vivaz malaria with other complications
- Bacterial intestinal infection, unspecified
- Bacterial pneumonia, unspecified
- Cutaneous abscess, furuncle and carbuncle (non-specific site)
- Cutaneous abscess, furuncle and anthrax of other sites
- Cutaneous abscess, furuncle and anthrax of limb
- Mixed asthma
- Pneumonia, unspecified
- Urinary tract infection, unspecified
- Single spontaneous delivery, cephalic presentation of vertice

Source: ESE Hospital San Sebastián de Urabá, Necoclí. January 1, 2022 to January 16, 2023
Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

248,284
People entered irregularly through the Darien in 2022.

+ 186%
Increase, surpassing the record number for the whole 2021 (133,726).

59,773
Irregular entries in the Darien Province were registered during October 2022. It is the highest number ever recorded.

72%
Sharp decrease in irregular entries in the Darien between October and November 2022.

Irregular entries Darien - 2020 to 2023 (January)

Irregular entries by nationalities - 2020 to 2023 (January)

Irregular entries by age - 2020 to 2023 (January)

Source: Migraciones Panama
Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

477 Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between October 2022 and beginning of January 2023, entering in Panama from Colombia in the Darien province (ERM Lajas Blancas and ERM San Vicente).

75% Men
25% Women

32 Average age

1 in 3 Experienced any mistreatment or other forms of abuse during their journey through the jungle.

Countries of origin
- 38% Venezuela
- 16% Haiti
- 16% Ecuador
- 10% Colombia
- 6% Cuba
- 5% Other

Countries of destination
- 80% United States
- 31% Canada
- 30% Mexico
- 27% Other

Reasons to leave country of origin
- 74% Lack of employment
- 66% Low income
- 36% Fear due to situation of violence/insecurity
- 31% Lack of access to food
- 27% Other reasons

Protection incidents in Darien
- 128 Theft
- 66 Scam or fraud
- 52 Physical threat or intimidation
- 35 Other
- 11 Physical assault or abuse

Source: Mixed movement survey UNHCR, Panama, 2022

Protection incidents in Darien (December 2022 | January 2023)
Mixed Movements  Costa Rica

77%  
Increase in the migratory flow in Panama between 2021 and 2022 according to the data reported by the Migration Reception Station (ERM) of Los Planes.

255 people were stranded in shelters and 124 in public sites

63%  
By sex the majority were men and by age 48% were children.

Main nationalities

VENEZUELA  
ECUADOR  
HAITI  
COLOMBIA

Main needs reported: economic income (60%), support for return (10%), medical care (10%), and shelter (10%). Overall, the priorities were access to information (migration options and routes), food, and shelter. (Idem)

Recorded departures of migrants from Panama to Costa Rica

According to the latest available figures from DTM, using irregular Monitoring flows survey during October in selected counties of Costa Rica (Corredores, Golfito and Osa), the proportion of people moving through the Americas has increased significantly in the monitoring point of Los Planes. These migratory flows are composed mainly by Venezuelan nationals (DTM 2022b).
Mixed Movements Costa Rica

215 Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR during November and December 2022 entering from Panama to Costa Rica in Ciudad Neily and Paso Canoas.

66% Men
34% Women

29 Average age

1 in 3 Reported to have experimented protection incidents in other countries along the route.

Countries of origin
- Venezuela: 59%
- Ecuador: 20%
- Haiti: 13%
- Cuba: 3%
- Other countries: 3%
- Colombia: 2%

Countries of destination
- United States: 93%
- Canada: 3%
- Costa Rica: 3%

Main protection incidents
- Theft: 52%
- Threat of eviction: 40%
- Physical threat or intimidation: 17%
- Scam or fraud: 11%

Main needs now and to continue the trip
(More than one option could be selected)
- Cash: 92%
- Food for the family: 91%
- Internet and telephone access: 35%
- Shelter: 33%
- Medicines, healthcare: 27%

Main reasons to leave the country of origin
(More than one option could be selected)
- Lack of employment/low income: 76%
- Fear due to the general situation of violence/insecurity: 62%
- Lack of access to food: 43%
- Lack of access to education: 24%
- Threats, intimidation or victim of violence: 24%

Source: Mixed movement survey UNHCR, Costa Rica, 2022
Mixed Movements Guatemala

990 Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR in October and December 2022. The majority of interviews were conducted in Petén and Izabal, both departments in the North of Guatemala.

Women

Men

1 in 3

Reported to have experimented protection incidents before reaching Guatemala.

![Countries of origin](chart)

- Venezuela: 43%
- Honduras: 37%
- Nicaragua: 10%
- El Salvador: 6%
- Other nationality: 4%

![Countries of destination](chart)

- United States: 90%
- Mexico: 4%
- Other country: 4%
- Guatemala: 2%

Protection incidents before reaching Guatemala

- Theft: 167
- Bribery or extorsion: 58
- Labour exploitation: 46
- Other mistreatment: 42
- Scam or fraud: 27

Protection incidents in Guatemala

- Theft: 302
- Bribery or extorsion: 138
- Other mistreatment: 52
- Physical assault/abuse: 38
- Scam or fraud: 27

Main reasons to leave country of origin

(More than one option could be selected)

- Lack of employment/low income: 77%
- Fear due to violence/insecurity: 7%
- Threats or intimidation: 6%
- Lack of access to basic services: 5%
- Other reasons: 4%

Main needs (More than one option could be selected)

- Cash: 90%
- Food for the family: 40%
- Drinking water: 14%
- Shelter: 8%
- Medicines, health care: 6%

Source: Mixed movement survey UNHCR, Guatemala, 2022

44%

Reported to have experimented protection incidents on the route in Guatemala.
Mixed Movements
Refugee & Migrant presence in Mexico (presentations and referrals)

Refugees and migrants presented and referred to Mexican Immigration authorities by country of origin and demographic group, January – November 2022

Totals by demographic groups:

- **Presentations**
  - 78% (218,275) men
  - 22% (62,874) women

- **Referrals**
  - 18% (19,683) men
  - 26% (27,759) women
  - 32% (33,872) boys
  - 24% (26,148) girls

Source: Unidad de Política Migratoria, 2022

33% Increase of presentations and referrals (388,611) of migrants by November 2022 in Mexico compared with the total events of migrants with irregular situation in the same period in 2021 (309,692).

21% VENEZUELA
17% HONDURAS
17% GUATEMALA
10% CUBA
9% NICARAGUA

Main countries of origin
Asylum trends in Mexico

**118,478**
Asylum applications in Mexico were lodged from January to December 2022, a decrease of 9 per cent compared to the same period in 2021 (COMAR, 2022).

**35 k**
Asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR in Mexico in 2022.

**62%**
of asylum-seekers interviewed by UNHCR in Mexico in 2022, have specific protection needs.

**HONDURAS**

**CUBA**

**HAITI**

**VENEZUELA**
Top country of origin in 2022
While in 2021, most asylum-seekers were Haitian.

**Asylum applications in Mexico Jan-Dec 2022**
(all nationalities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total (all nationalities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>40,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>129,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>118,478</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: COMAR, 2022

Top 5 Asylum applications in Mexico by country of origin 2017 - December 2022
(Number of people in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cuba</th>
<th>Haiti</th>
<th>Honduras</th>
<th>Nicaragua</th>
<th>Venezuela</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: COMAR, 2022

Mexico: Asylum-seekers with protection needs registered by UNHCR - 2022
(percentage)

- Specific legal and physical protection needs: 52%
- Child at risk: 16%
- Serious medical condition: 9%
- Single parent: 8%
- Woman at risk: 6%
- Other needs: 9%

Source: UNHCR, 2022
**Mixed Movements** **Mexico**

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR Mexico during October to December 2022 in Tapachula.

- **557** individuals
- **55%** men
- **45%** women

**Countries of origin:**
- Honduras (21%)
- Nicaragua (16%)
- Guatemala (14%)
- Venezuela (14%)
- Haiti (11%)
- Cuba (9%)
- El Salvador (9%)
- Ecuador (6%)
- Other (6%)

**Countries of destination:**
- Mexico (41%)
- United States (30%)
- Prefer not to say (28%)

**Main reasons to leave the country of origin:**
- Lack of employment (55%)
- Low income (52%)
- Threats, intimidation, or victim of violence (50%)
- Fear due to violence/instability (20%)
- Lack of access to food (8%)

**Main needs:**
- Cash (90%)
- Shelter (45%)
- Legal assistance (44%)
- Food for the family (37%)
- Drinking water (28%)

Source: Mixed movement survey UNHCR, Mexico, 2022
## Mixed Movements Mexico

**Individuals were interviewed by DTM Mexico in Tapachula, between 17 November and 31 December 2022.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries of origin</th>
<th>Honduras</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Haiti</th>
<th>Venezuela</th>
<th>Guatemala</th>
<th>Nicaragua</th>
<th>Cuba</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries of destination</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main reasons to leave country of origin**

- **Increase in market prices**: 86% (Very important), 10% (Important), 4% (Moderately important), 1% (Slightly important), 1% (Not important)
- **Conflict and general security situation**: 85% (Very important), 10% (Important), 4% (Moderately important), 2% (Slightly important), 1% (Not important)
- **Lack of employment/livelihood**: 73% (Very important), 20% (Important), 4% (Moderately important), 2% (Slightly important), 1% (Not important)

**Main reasons to choose destination country**

- **Education for my children**: 89% (Very important), 6% (Important), 2% (Moderately important), 1% (Slightly important), 0% (Not important)
- **Finding better opportunities/livelihoods**: 84% (Very important), 13% (Important), 0% (Moderately important), 1% (Slightly important), 0% (Not important)
- **Employment / better income**: 84% (Very important), 12% (Important), 3% (Moderately important), 1% (Slightly important), 0% (Not important)
- **Health assistance**: 79% (Very important), 16% (Important), 4% (Moderately important), 1% (Slightly important), 0% (Not important)

**Travel group of interviewed individuals**

- **With relatives**: 29% (Men), 33% (Women)
- **Alone**: 29% (Men), 8% (Women)
- **No relatives**: 8%

27%
Increase in the encounters at the Southwestern United States border by December 2022 (2,577,699), in comparison to encounters in 2021 (2,035,585).

251,487
All-time monthly record registered in December 2022.

70%
Were adults travelling alone, 24% moving in family units and 6% unaccompanied minors.

31% MEXICO
12% CUBA
8% NICARAGUA
8% GUATEMALA
8% HONDURAS
Main nationalities

Main country of origin in United States Southwest land border encounters in 2022

United States Southwest land border encounters, 2021-2022

Source: United States (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security
**Returns to Northern Central American countries** (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala)

- **185,940** Guatemalans, Hondurans and Salvadorians were returned from the United States, Mexico and other countries from January to November 2022.

- **48%** Increase in the total of returns in 2022, in comparison to 2021.

- **47% GUATEMALA**  
  **45% HONDURAS**  
  were the countries with the higher figures of returns.

**Returns by country of origin, 2014-2022 (Jan - August)**

- **Guatemalans, Hondurans and Salvadorians** were returned from the United States, Mexico and other countries.

- **Increase in the total of returns** in 2022, in comparison to 2021.

**Returns by destination country (Jan - Nov)**

- **185,940**
  - **47% GUATEMALA**
  - **45% HONDURAS**
  - **7%**

**Returns from Mexico, United States and other countries, 2014-2022 (Jan - Aug)**

- **Returns from Mexico**: 147,496
- **Returns from United States**: 217,231
- **Returns from other countries**: 251,778

- **Total**: 79,141

**Source:** IOM, *Unidad de información para los países del norte de Centroamérica Dashboard*, 2022.
9.2% increase in remittance flows to Latin America and the Caribbean in 2022, in comparison to 2021, according to the World Bank, 2022.

$142 B U.S. dollars in remittance flows registered in the region in 2022 due in part to the strengthening of the labour market in the United States and certain country contexts in the region, according to the World Bank, 2022.

Increase / decrease of remittance flows by country during the first 9 or 10 months of 2022, compared to the same period in 2021.

*In Bolivia and Paraguay remittances are estimated to have decreased due to the economic situation of the main destination countries (Argentina and Spain).