

Mixed Movements Monitoring

Panama | December 2024



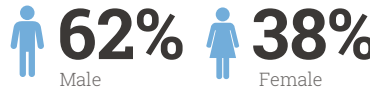
Darien is Panama's largest and poorest province. Bordering Colombia, the province hosts a 60-mile-deep jungle, the only breaking point of the Pan-American highway, linking the continent from south to north.

In the vicinity of the jungle are the *Emberá-Wounaan* and *Guna Yala* Indigenous *Comarcas**, the territories that provide the first response to thousands of refugees and migrants, mainly from Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Haiti, and African and South Asian nations.

This humanitarian crisis has been ongoing for over two years. According to National Migration Service (SNM) statistics, over one million people crossed through this area since 2022.



Official data

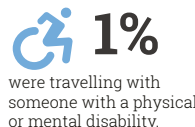
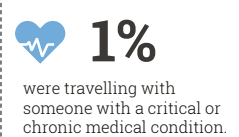
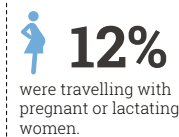
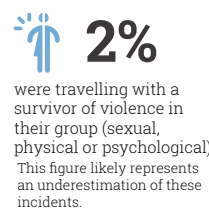
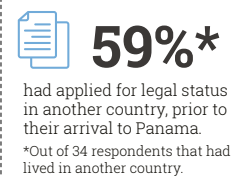
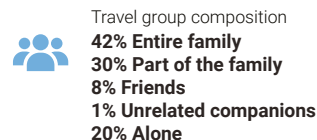
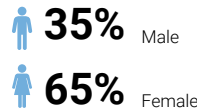


Source: Panama National Migration Service

Methodology

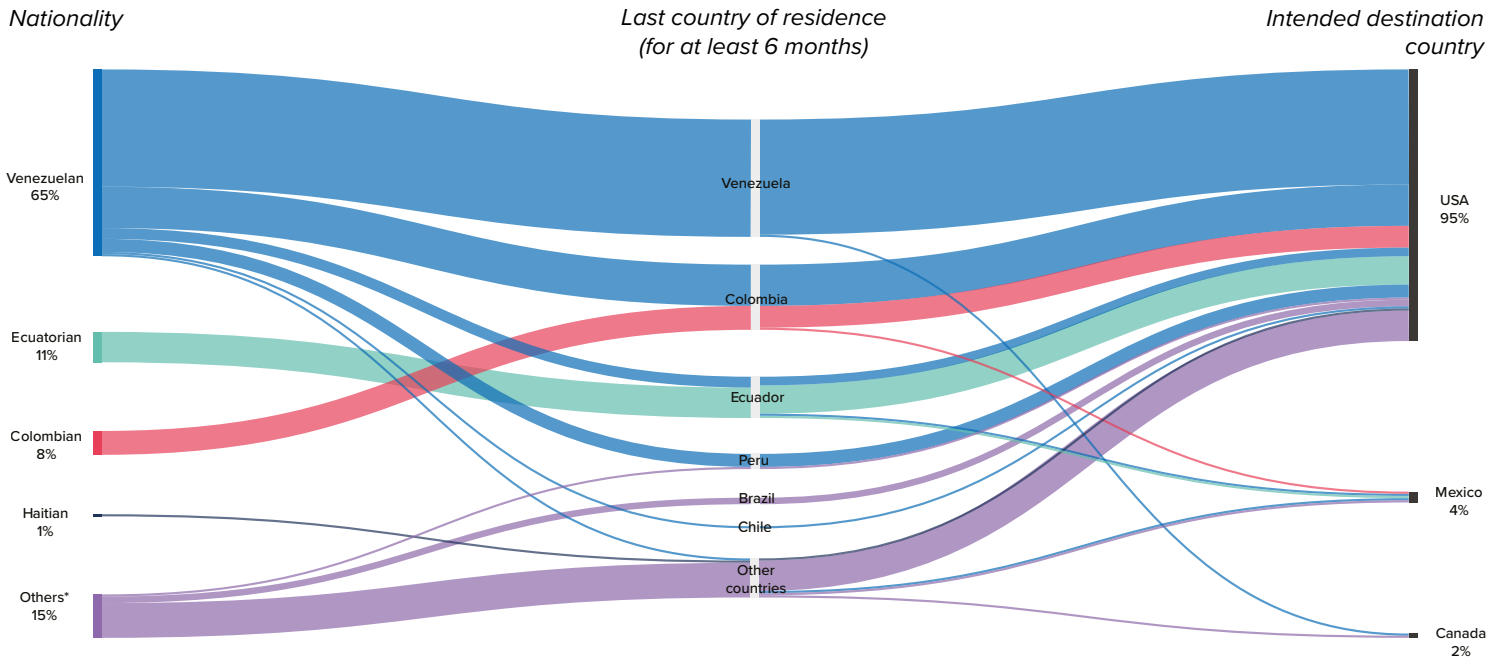
UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, collect monthly information on the characteristics, vulnerabilities and protection needs of refugees and migrants who enter Panama through Darien. The data is compiled through individual interviews conducted in Panama's Darien and Chiriqui provinces. Preliminary results are indicative and should not be interpreted as representative of the total refugee and migrant population crossing the border through the Darien jungle.

Respondent profile



*The *comarca* is a special political division, governed by law, which creates Indigenous territories within Panama.

Interviewed individuals by country of origin, last country of residence, and intended country of destination



Push and pull factors



4 in 5

stated that if they were unable to reach their country of destination, they would wait until allowed to proceed to said country.



3 in 4

received information about the journey and made decisions based on the information received from friends and relatives who had already made it.

Also received information through social media, mainly Tiktok (33%), and Facebook (20%).



15%*

had applied for legal status in their previous country of residence, and did not obtain it, mainly in Ecuador.

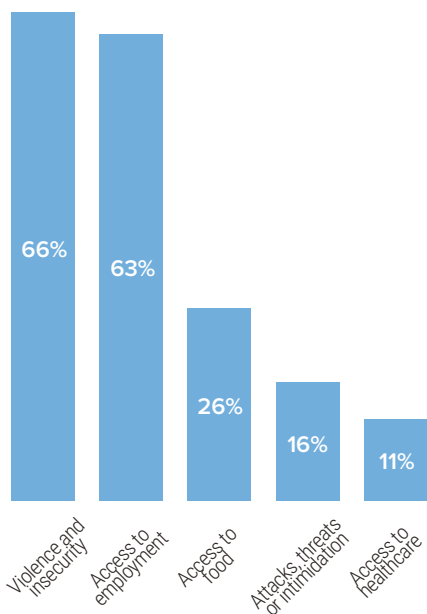
*Out of 34 people that had lived in a country other than their country of origin for at least 6 months.



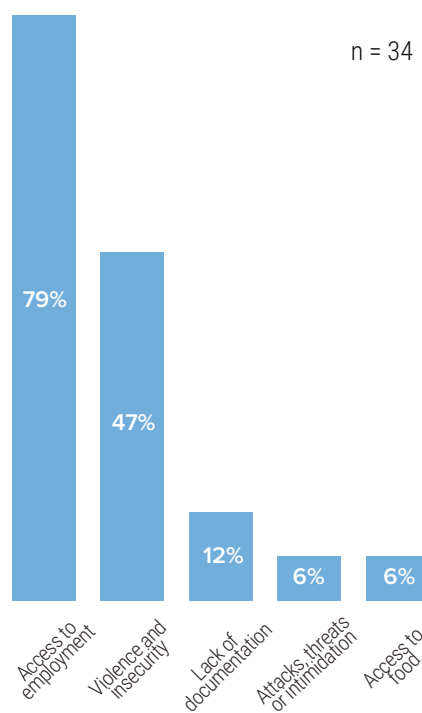
77%

consider they would face risks if they had to return to their country of origin/residence.

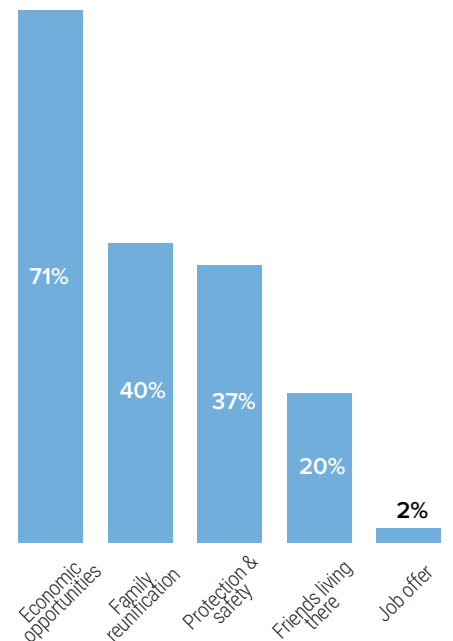
Main reasons for leaving country of origin



Main reasons for leaving country of residence



Reasons for choosing destination country



Children and adolescents

Children and adolescents in travel groups, by sex and age



63%

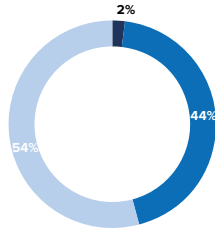
were travelling with children and adolescents from their family.

53%

Girls

47%

Boys



■ 0 - 5 months
■ 6 - 59 months (5 years)
■ 6 - 17 years



38%

of adults have observed behavioral changes or emotional difficulties in their children and adolescents after the jungle crossing.

1%

travelled with unaccompanied children or adolescents.

1%

travelled with children or adolescents that were separated from their parents or legal guardian during the trip and **are no longer with the group.**



clothing, food, and medical services, including psychosocial support, are the three main needs reported for children and adolescents.

Education



14%

had not attended school for 4 months or more



Last educational level approved

0% Preeschool

69% Primary

31% Secondary

0% Technical

0% Doesn't know



78%

do not carry documents that certify the last educational level approved

Vaccination



67%

0 - 5 months

84%

6 - 59 months (5 years)

have a complete vaccination schedule

Challenges during the journey



3 days

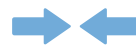
is the average time spent crossing the Darien jungle.

(Min.: 2 days, Max.: 6 days)



2 in 4

experienced mistreatment or abuse during their journey through the jungle.



42%

were victims of theft, scams or fraud during their journey through the jungle.

Additionally, 14% were victims of threats, intimidation, and attacks.



36%

paid a person to guide them through the jungle.

Access all our border protection monitoring publications [here](#)

Feedback: panpaim@unhcr.org

In collaboration with:

