# Mixed Movements Monitoring

## Honduras | March 2025

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## Highlighted figures | Only northbound transit

**14,270**
Total Irregular Entries January to March 2025

**133,518**
Total Irregular Entries January to March 2024

**72**
Total number of different nationalities who entered Honduras irregularly in 2025

*Irregular Entries March 2025*

**45%** Women and girls

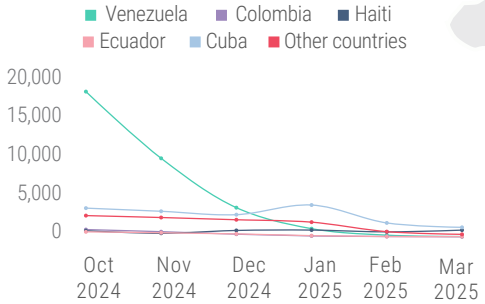
**55%** Men and boys

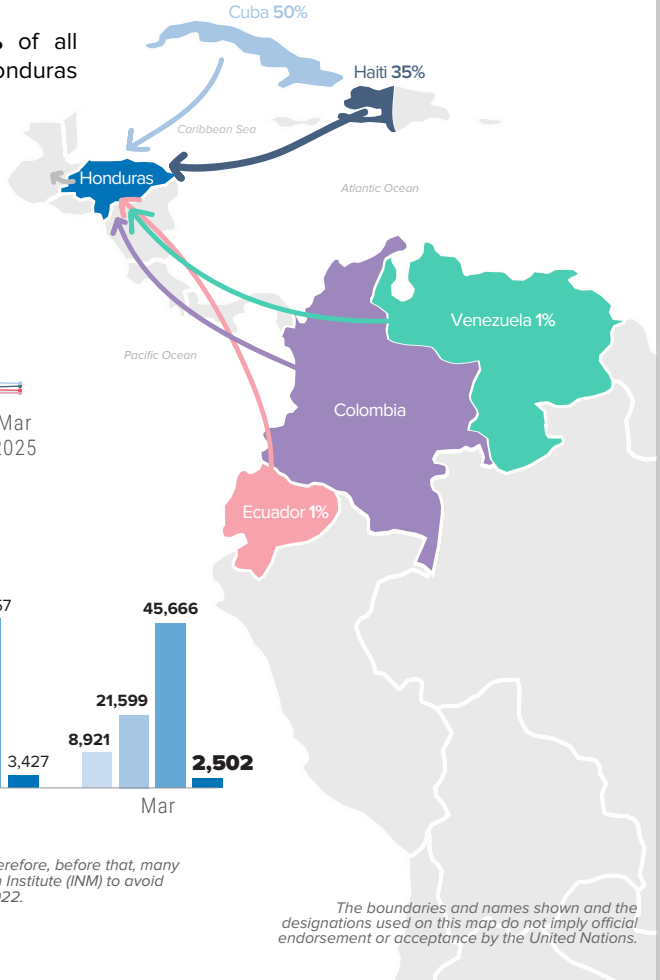
**83%** Adults

**17%** Children and adolescents (under 18 years)

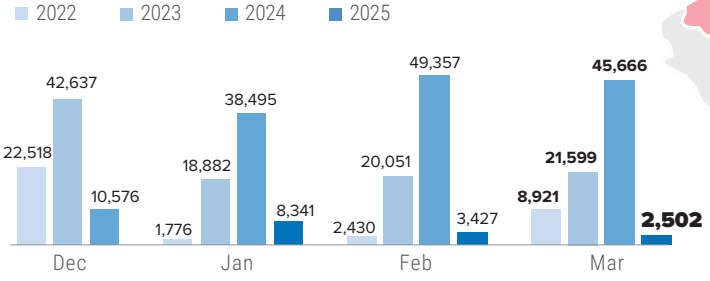
## Nationalities

These **5 nationalities represent 87%** of all refugees and migrants who entered Honduras irregularly in March 2025.




### Irregular entries December - March




*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 March

1. In March 2025, **2,502 refugees and migrants on the move** entered Honduras according to INM, which is a **decrease of 27%** compared **to the previous month.** Additionally, there has been an **89% decrease in northbound flows in the first quarter of 2025 in comparison to the same period in 2024.**

2. Additionally, during this quarter, there have been continued **decreases in the usual top nationalities entering Honduras.** In comparison to the previous month, **there were decreases of 85% in the number of people from Venezuela and Colombia, 36% from Haiti, 30% from Cuba, and 27% from Ecuador.**

3. **46%** of the interviewed individuals reported **heading to the south of the region instead of the north**, which is a **48% increase** of people heading south in comparison to the last month.

4. At least **54%** 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.

5. **The main needs** of refugee and migrant children and adolescents, according to their caretakers, are **clothing (33%), access to food (24%), medical assistance and medicines (24%), and educational or safe spaces for children (19%).** In addition, **78% 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.

**111** Interviewed people

*Interviewed Individuals by Gender:*

**38%** Women

**62%** Men

*Travel Group Composition:*

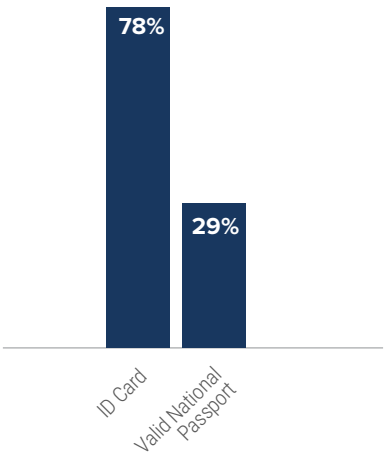
**77%** Adults

**23%** Children and adolescents (under 18 years)

*Average age:*

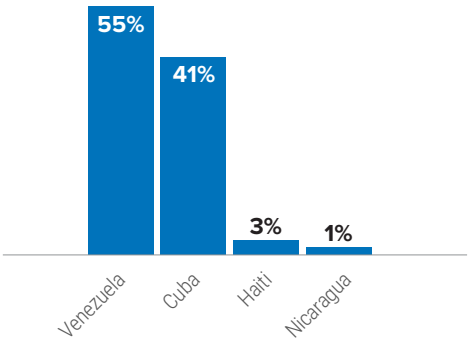
**32** Years

## Documents Carried




*Some people indicated carrying more than one document.*

## Nationality

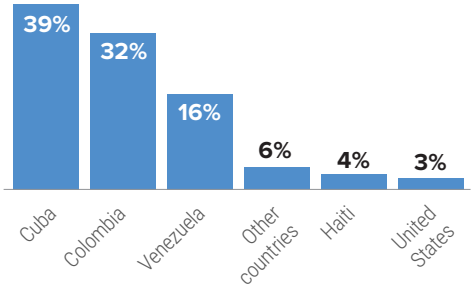



*Since 55% of the respondents are from Venezuela and 41% from Cuba, the report's results will be weighed by answers from Venezuelans and Cubans, as well as by Spanish-speakers as they represent 96% of the respondents. Speakers of other languages were interviewed in smaller numbers due to their lower numbers, language barriers, and in some places, due to the presence of smugglers.*

## Country of residence in the past year

*Other countries include Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, 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.*




*41% of the interviewees lived outside of their country of origin and mainly resided in Mexico (79%), United States (7%), Peru (4%), Colombia (4%), Guatemala (2%), Chile (2%), and Brazil (2%).*

*Women and girls face heightened difficulties and increased vulnerability due to the many risks on their journey.*

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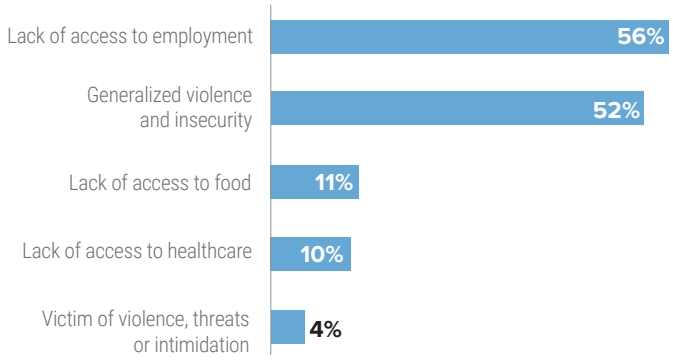
# Push factors

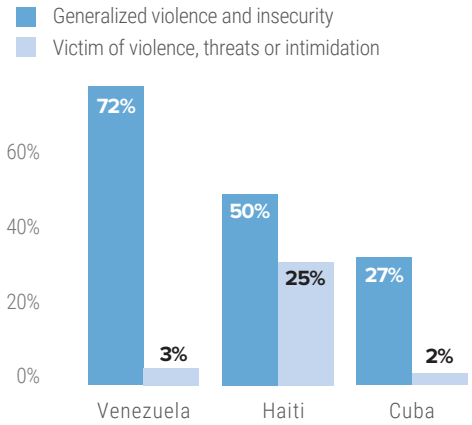
## Reasons for leaving country of origin




*Other reasons (2%) include lack of access to education.*

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

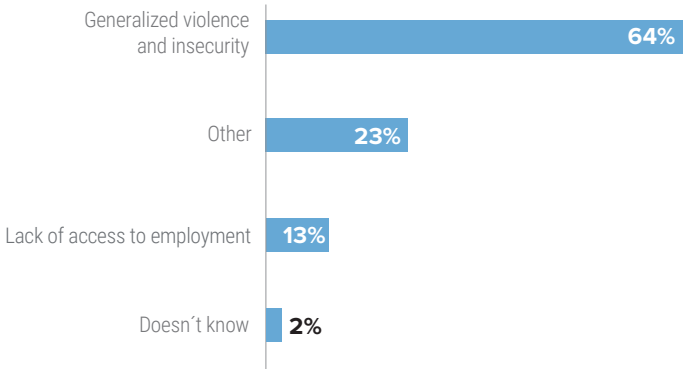
## Violence-related reasons for leaving country of origin by nationality




*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. Only four people were interviewed from Haiti.*

## Reasons for leaving country of habitual residence

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




*Other reasons include the cancellation of the applications to enter the United States.*

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

**84%**

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.

**↑ 54%** Northbound **↓ 46%** Southbound

38% of the interviewed individuals reported Venezuela as their intended final destination. Additionally, 35% indicated United States as their intended final destination, 18% Mexico, 6% Colombia, 1% Guatemala, 1% Peru, and 1% Costa Rica.

*People in mixed movements highlighted Honduras as the country where they received the most support, with a positive perception of the humanitarian services provided both upon entry and exit.*

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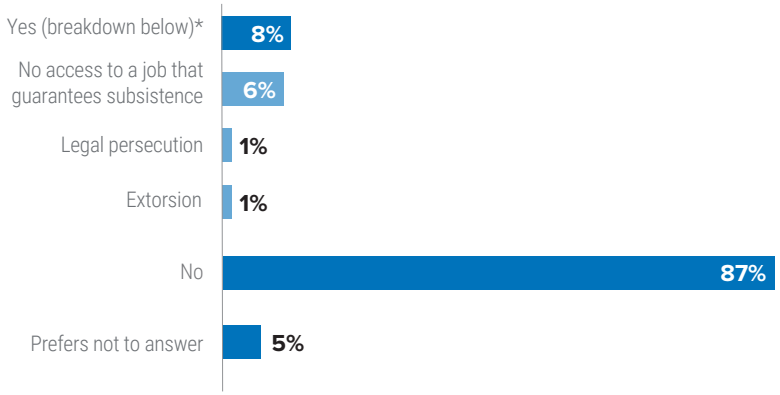
## Return risks

### 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 legal persecution and extorsion. 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?

**50%** answered **yes.**

Of these persons, 34% reported fraud, 34% theft and 13% physical assault.

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

**29%** answered **yes.**

Of these persons, 44% reported theft, and 25% fraud.

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

## Protection concerns

**1%** of the individuals or families were observed as having specific protection needs. Of these:

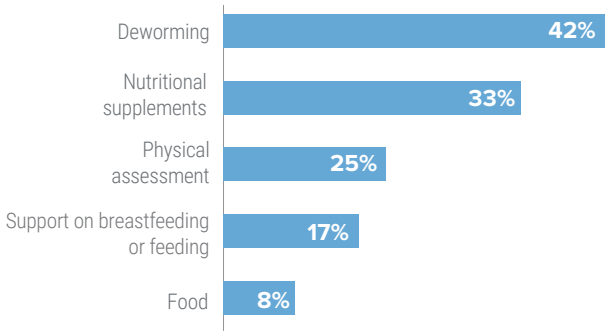
**1 individual**

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

# Children and adolescents on the move

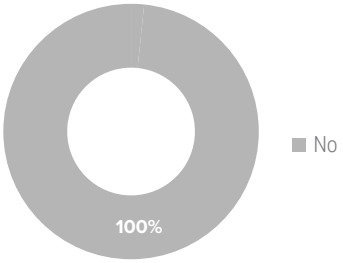
*Since the start of your journey:*

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



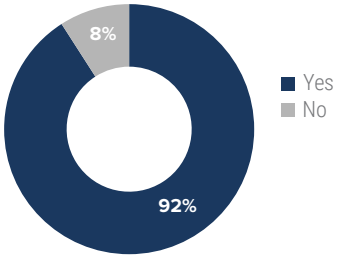

**Ages 0 months to 5 years*

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



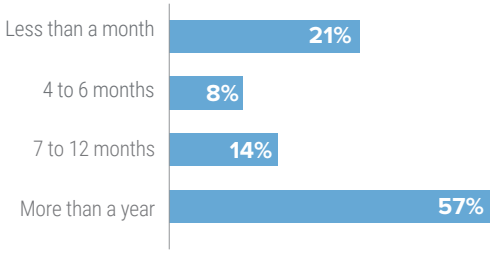

**Ages 0 months to 17 years*

### 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?



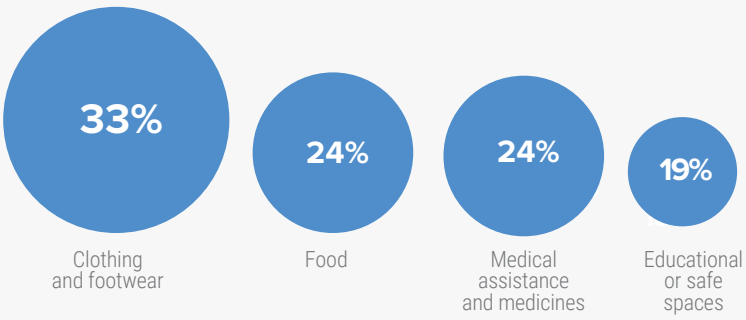

**Ages 6 to 17 years*

# Main needs

### Travel Group's Main Needs

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

### Childrens' and Adolescents' Main Needs According to Their Caretakers

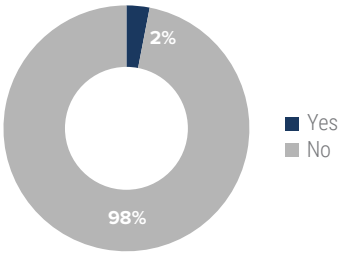



**Ages 0 months to 17 years*

*Other main needs reported: food supplements and vitamins, psychological support, weight and height assessment, and recommendations on child or adolescent feeding.*

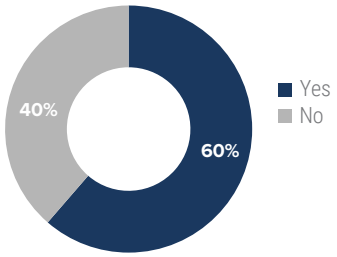
## Access to asylum

### Have you previously applied for asylum?



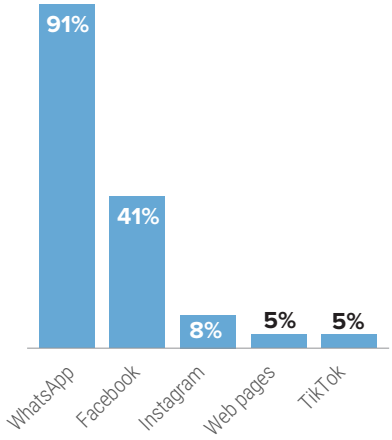

*The individuals previously applied in Mexico and the United States.*

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



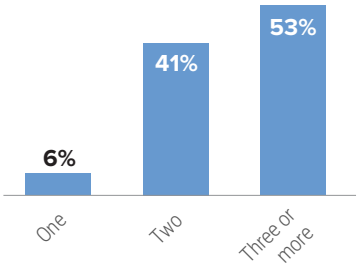

## Access to information and food

### 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?



*People in mixed movements rely on the support of humanitarian organizations and local communities to cover their basic needs, including access to food.*

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

To complement the information gathered through individual interviews (previous section), two focus group discussions were conducted, one in Choluteca and one in El Paraíso. Both groups consisted of women and men involved in mixed movements. The participants in Choluteca were of Venezuelan and Nicaraguan nationality, while the participants in El Paraíso were exclusively of Venezuelan nationality. The main findings are as follows:

## 1 Group composition

The participants in the focus group discussions were predominantly of Venezuelan nationality, with a smaller number of Nicaraguan nationals. The focus groups included families with children. Regarding their occupations in their countries of origin, participants reported having experience in construction, business administration, and restaurant work. Additionally, they mentioned backgrounds in mechanics, serigraphy, beauty services, commerce, and nursing. Participants highlighted that income in their countries of origin was insufficient to meet their basic needs.

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

Over half of the participants had previously resided in countries such as Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia. Initially, their intention was to reach the United States, but this changed due to new restrictions and shifts in the country's migration policies.

The common route followed was from Peru and Ecuador, through Colombia. From Necoclí, they traveled by boat to the Darién jungle, paying approximately USD 850 per family unit of two people. In total, transportation costs from Colombia to Honduras exceeded USD 3,000. Participants reported that goods were more expensive during the journey due to their status as foreigners and unfamiliarity with local prices. Upon returning from Mexico, they found costs to be lower, particularly for local transportation in Honduras.

Venezuelan participants cited lack of access to basic services such as water, gas, electricity, and food, and widespread shortages as primary reasons for leaving. They also reported political persecution, threats to life, lack of freedom of expression, and imposed restrictions.

## 3 Protection

Participants reported that when traveling north, they were only granted a five-day transit permit in Honduras, but there weren't any procedures in place when returning south, neither in Honduras nor in other countries.

As for documentation, participants carried national identity documents, their children's birth certificates, and some expired passports. They attempted to apply for asylum in Mexico and Guatemala but received no response. A major barrier to integration in both countries was the lack of access to livelihoods.

Most participants reported facing serious protection risks throughout their journey. In the Darién jungle, they were exposed to sexual harassment. At the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, they experienced xenophobic acts. In Nicaragua, military personnel were reportedly returning Venezuelan nationals to their country, and one woman recounted being sexually harassed by a transporter in exchange for accommodation. In Mexico, they faced extortion, kidnappings, and theft, including incidents involving both authorities and individuals who had offered them shelter.

Participants found no available services to report abuses and they refrained from filing complaints due to fear of persecution or detention by migration authorities.

## 4 Food security

Participants reported facing serious difficulties in accessing food during their journey through the Darién jungle in Panama, where they went without food for three to four days. In Costa Rica and Panama, they found shelters that provided meals and hygiene kits, however, in Nicaragua, they had no access to such services. Overall, access to food was limited, and they prioritized one to two meals per day to ensure that their children could eat. They also indicated that the food provided in the camps in Panama did not meet safety standards, which led to gastrointestinal infections.

## 5 Main needs

Participants reported the need for clear information on asylum, free services, referral pathways, access to rights, and complaint mechanisms, which were not communicated in the shelters or spaces they stayed in. Participants expressed distrust in the available information platforms and preferred to rely on WhatsApp to communicate with people who had already made the journey. In Nicaragua and Mexico, they did not find accessible information, while in Costa Rica, information was available in shelters.

In addition, they highlighted the importance of receiving more information about available migration procedures, as well as the need for temporary shelter while awaiting the outcome of the voluntary return process.

The most urgent needs reported for children were diapers and baby food. In Honduras, participants were able to access pediatric medical check-ups. There is also a need for emergency education as children dropped out of school to make the journey, and some showed signs of illiteracy. Also, other basic needs reported were clothing, water and sanitation services, food, and psychosocial assistance.

Honduras was highlighted as the country where they received the most support, with a positive perception of the humanitarian services provided both upon entry and exit.

## 6 Intentions

Participants in the focus group discussions expressed varied intentions. Some indicated their interest in continuing with the asylum application process in Honduras, as they felt the country had received them favorably, since they did not experience difficulties adapting and did not face acts of xenophobia. Other Venezuelan participants expressed their intention to return to Venezuela through the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) program, while some considered the possibility of returning to Colombia in search of employment.

# 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 focus group discussions, an interview was also carried out with a representative of a transportation service located in Comayagüela, Distrito Central, Francisco Morazán. The main findings are summarized as follows:

## 1 Profiles of people on the move

The key informant indicated that the majority of individuals assisted are of Venezuelan and Colombian nationality. In general, they travel in complete family units. The presence of unaccompanied children and adolescents has also been observed within refugee and migrant groups, particularly adolescents around 17 years old. Additionally, women and men, as well as elderly adults, have been identified. Spanish is the predominant language spoken among the population.

The key informant also noted that lactating women face specific needs during their journey. Among the most pressing are the lack of essential supplies and products for the care of their infants. There is a particular need for hygiene kits, as well as appropriate clothing and footwear for both mothers and their children.

## 2 Route and motives

The key informant stated that most individuals are traveling from north to south, returning from Mexico to reach their final destination. People reported that they turned themselves in to Mexican federal authorities in order to be sent back to Guatemala and continue their return journey to their countries of origin.

The informant also explained that some individuals receiving assistance had decided to return after waiting several months for an appointment through the CBP One application, which was later cancelled. Additionally, there were reports of individuals who had already reached the United States but were deported to Mexico, which also prompted their return.

The key informant indicated that people on the move typically enter Honduras through the Corinto border crossing and then travel to San Pedro Sula. Specifically, for those returning from the north to the south, the most commonly used means of transportation is the local bus service.

Regarding assistance and support, the key informant reported that refugees and migrants who received assistance were supported by the Honduran Red Cross, which provided hygiene kits, infant kits, and information on other available assistance and protection services.

## 3 Protection

The key informant noted that refugees and migrants typically carry identification documents issued by their countries of origin. In the case of minors, they usually travel with their birth certificates as their only form of identification.

Regarding protection incidents, it was highlighted that women face greater challenges and are in heightened situations of vulnerability due to the multiple risks present along the route. Many have expressed that they do not wish to return to their countries of origin, not only due to economic reasons but also because of human rights violations and situations of persecution. In this context, some individuals consider settling in countries such as Costa Rica as a protection and stability alternative.

## 4 Food security and basic services

The key informant noted that access to food among refugees and migrants varied depending on the country from which they were returning. Those returning from the United States generally have greater financial resources, allowing them to purchase food more easily. In contrast, individuals returning from Mexico or Guatemala often have more limited resources and tend to prioritize spending on transportation over food.

The key informant indicated that access to safe drinking water is limited for refugees and migrants. Additionally, it was noted that bus terminals do not have shower facilities, only toilets and sinks, which significantly hinders personal hygiene and sanitation for individuals in transit.

Regarding access to other basic services, the key informant mentioned that most refugees and migrants rely on low-cost private accommodations.

## 5 Main needs

The key informant indicated that the main needs identified among refugees and migrants include clothing, footwear, personal hygiene kits, infant kits, and basic medical care. Additionally, there is a need for information on access to other assistance and protection services, including access to medications. According to the key informant, the Honduran Red Cross is the only organization currently present in Comayagüela, Distrito Central, Honduras, providing assistance to refugees and migrants. Its strategic location near the bus terminal facilitates access for those in need of support in the area.

## 6 Intentions

The key informant reported that some refugees and migrants expressed their intention to return to their country of origin, using the same south-to-north route they previously traveled through. Most of them indicate Costa Rica as their immediate destination, either with the aim of settling there or to continue to their country of origin. People primarily use local means of transportation, such as buses.

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 3 and 31 March 2025.*
***Feedback:*** *Sara Naama, Associate Information Management Officer, naama@unhcr.org*
*Marcela Carranza, Protection Associate, carranza@unhcr.org*

*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.***