Protection Monitoring

Mexico | January - March 2025

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | WFP World Food Programme | unicef for every child

Background & Methodology

- The Protection Monitoring survey in Mexico regularly collects and analyzes data to identify violations of rights and protection risks for refugees and migrants for the purpose of informing effective responses by UNHCR and its partners.
- During the first quarter 2025, 551 interviews were conducted consisting of 1,171 people.
- Surveys were carried out in 11 locations across Mexico. The Northern region: Juarez, Matamoros, Piedras Negras, Reynosa, Saltillo and Tijuana. The Southern region: Huixtla, Suchiate, Tapachula and Villahermosa.
- The results presented are indicative and should not be interpreted as representative of the total population of refugees and migrants in Mexico.

Highlight

- The reasons for leaving countries of origin continue to show a heightened number of persons fleeing situations of violence and persecution, a number that reached 86% of the total population interviewed. Similarly, a greater number of persons has signaled that they would face risks of violence or persecution if returned to their countries of origin, with 70% of the population stating that they fall in this category.

Demographics

52% Girls & Women

48% Boys & Men

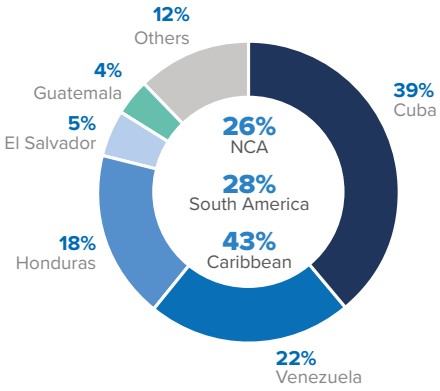
72% Adults

28% Children

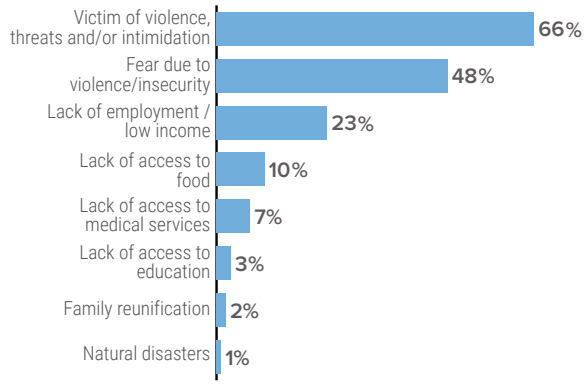
Group composition
37% groups with children
17% groups with children under 5yrs
48% lone adults

Country of Origin

Nationality



*Reasons for leaving**



*Multiple selection question

Risks upon return

63%
of the interviewed individuals expressed facing a risk upon return to their country of origin due to threats, extortion, and/or persecution.

21%
of the interviewed individuals expressed facing a risk upon return to their country of origin due to general violence, and/or discrimination.

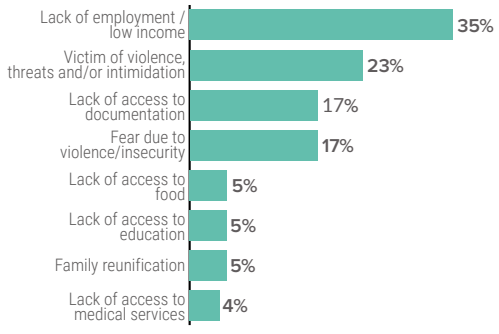
Journey & Incidents prior to arrival in Mexico

The route

15%
of the interviewed individuals reported living in a country other than their country of origin for more than **six months.** Main countries: Colombia, Peru, Ecuador & Brazil.

37%
of the interviewed individuals described facing a protection incident in countries of transit prior to entering Mexico

*Reasons for leaving last country of residency**



*Multiple selection question

Main protection incidents during transit

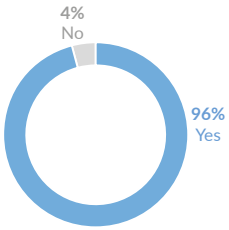
Theft **20%**

Kidnapping **9%**

Extortion **10%**

South

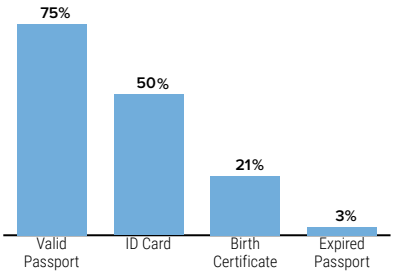
Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)



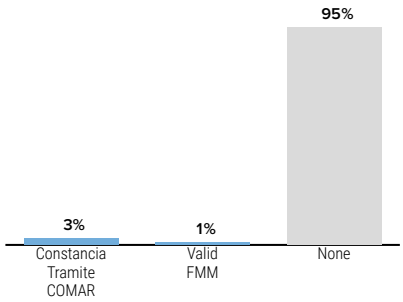
During the first quarter 2025, COMAR received 21,543 new asylum applications, a similar figure compared to the previous quarter, (19,850) and a slight decrease than the number observed in Q1 2024 (23,294). 64% of these applications submitted during January-March 2025 were made in Southern Mexico. Main nationalities in the South were Cuba (56%), Venezuela (12%), Honduras (12%) and Haiti (10%).

Source: COMAR

Personal Documentation



Documentation obtained in Mexico



Mexico City

Mexico City continues to host a significant number of people in situations of human mobility, primarily families with children and adolescents. As of January this year, approximately 2,000 people—mostly families—were living in three informal settlements across the city under vulnerable conditions, including unsanitary environments, recurring reports of extortion and theft, and isolated incidents of sexual violence against women and girls. Tensions with local residents escalated in some cases into acts of violence.

The majority of the population that had a different country of destination, have reconsidered their plans, with many identifying Mexico as their new intended destination; a significant proportion deciding to seek asylum in Mexico. Consequently, asylum applications in Mexico City increased considerably during the first quarter of the year

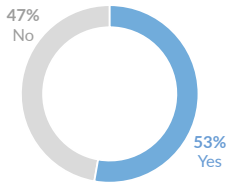
North

Main protection incidents within Mexico

60% of the interviewed individuals in the northern region described having faced a protection incident in Mexico

- **22%** Theft
- **11%** Extortion
- **12%** Intimidation
- **22%** Kidnapping
- **10%** Physical assault
- **14%** Fraud/Scam

Have applied for asylum in Mexico (or intend to)



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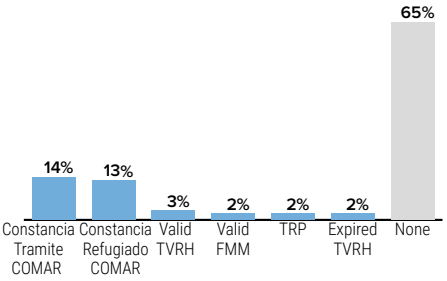

Access all our protection monitoring publications here
Feedback: mexmeim@unhcr.org

In collaboration with:

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency · WFP World Food Programme · unicef for every child · Casa Refugiados · JRS México · Frontera con Justicia · Save the Children

Note: The World Food Programme (WFP) does not have field operations in Mexico. All data and information collected in this country is managed by the WFP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Panama City, and are part of the regional initiative for Mixed Movements Monitoring in the Americas.