

**DTM FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS  
LIVING IN COLOMBIA**



# GENERAL REPORT

**IOM COLOMBIA**

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# DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX SURVEY (DTM) RESULTS

## SURVEY OF THE VENEZUELAN POPULATION DTM FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS LIVING IN COLOMBIA



Foto: DTM “Planning to Stay”.

IOM is guided by the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society as a whole. As an intergovernmental organization within the United Nations system, provides technical support to respond to the humanitarian and operational challenges of migration, to promote understanding of migration issues, to enhance economic and social development through migration and to promote the human dignity and well-being of migrants and host communities.

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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# INTRODUCTION

Since 2015, there has been a constant migratory flow from Venezuela to Colombia. This arrival of thousands of Venezuelans to Colombia is the result of involuntary migration<sup>1</sup> due to the economic and political situation in their home country, which has become increasingly untenable over the last two years. The migrant profile has diversified and remaining in Colombia emerges as an option for subsistence given the fact that there is no end in sight in terms of the possibilities for short term socioeconomic stabilization in their country of origin. Plans to remain in Colombia not only have a statistical impact, but also a social and economic one. It is thus important to understand and make visible these impacts through an analysis that supports a rights-based approach to addressing them.

According to Colombia Migration calculations, within the national territory a little more than 1,771,237 Venezuelans

remain, of whom 754,085 have obtained regular migratory status<sup>2</sup>, while 1,017,152 find themselves in an irregular migratory situation. Likewise, Colombia Migration reports the issuance of 568,849 special residence permits (PEP) effective January 26, 2020<sup>3</sup>.

It is within this context that IOM Colombia launched the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in keeping with its mission to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration that is grounded in respect for the rights of migrants. The DTM was used to develop an assessment profile of Venezuelan migrants entering Colombia in November 2019 with an intention to remain. This tool allows a variety of interested actors to have a better understanding of the life conditions of Venezuelans who plan to stay in Colombia, so that they may better plan effective responses according to their specific needs.



DTM workshop for team leaders in the territory, October, 2019

1 The second phase of DTM implementation in the border municipalities revealed that these individuals left their country for reasons beyond their control, driven by the need to satisfy their most basic necessities and facing the impossibility of doing so in a safe and dignified manner in their own country.

2 Infographic 2020. Total of Venezuelans in Colombia as of the cut date of December 31, 2019, Colombia Migration. See in <https://www.migracioncolombia.gov.co/infografias/259-infografias-2020/total-de-venezolanos-en-colombia-corte-a-31-de-diciembre-de-2019>.

3 Statistical monitoring report Number 145 (January 26, 2020), Colombia Migration.

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



## Period

October 28th - November 10th 2019.

## Geographic Context

Comprises 9 departments and 16 municipalities: Pasto and Ipiales (Nariño), Maicao and Rio hacha (La Guajira), Barranquilla, Soledad and Campo de la Cruz (Atlántico), Cúcuta, Villa del Rosario and Puerto Santander (Norte de Santander), Bucaramanga (Santander), Cali (Valle del Cauca), Bogotá, D.C. and Soacha (Cundinamarca), Arauca (Arauca), Medellín (Antioquia).



## Work Team

- 53 leaders from the DTM team
- 634 enumerators
- 10 professional profilers
- 4 information management technicians
- 1 information management specialist
- 1 national coordinator

## Sampling framework

The sampling universe includes those individuals arriving from Venezuela.

## Size and distribution of sample

22 430 surveyed individuals in the 16 prioritized municipalities.

# METHODOLOGY

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a global methodology designed to monitor the displacement and mobility of populations in an emergency and migratory context. This tool systematically captures, processes, and disseminates information towards two ends: 1) to better understand the movements and needs of migrating populations, and 2) to examine the institutional response routes and capabilities of government agencies at both the local and national levels. It is grounded in rights-based and tailored approaches.

The results of the DTM for “Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia” survey included in this report were achieved thanks to the collaboration of key local actors within the 16 targeted municipalities and the financial support of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM US) of the United States and European Union governments.

The survey data was collected between October 28th and November 10th, 2019 in the capital district and nine departments throughout the Colombian territory. These territories were selected as priority sites due to their high concentration of Venezuelan persons.

The field work was conducted by DTM teams assigned according to specific geographies: they searched for, identified, contacted, and directly surveyed migrants who came from Venezuela and who were Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia. Prior to the start of the DTM for “Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia” survey, the DRM teams received a training by IOM on topics of protection, financing, health, migration, and the use of the DTM tool for data collection. The latter process occurred through direct surveys in the residence and on electronic devices; 22,430 Venezuelan migrants over 18 years of age participated.

**Sample size:** 22 430 migrants from Venezuela and 38 661 members of their families. The sample estimate was based on the Administrative Registry of Venezuelan Migrants (RAMV), conducted between April and June 2018, and on the Colombia Migration report on special residence permits (PEP) through April 2019. The data

obtained in this 2019 DTM Planning to Stay survey presented in this report respond to a specific geographic and historical context and cannot be extrapolated to the entire Venezuelan population intending to remain in Colombia.

### Semi-structured survey

- Demographic data
- Education
- Livelihoods
- Mobility
- Health
- Housing and habitability
- Access to services
- Access to food
- Protection, security and dignity
- Support networks
- Population's needs



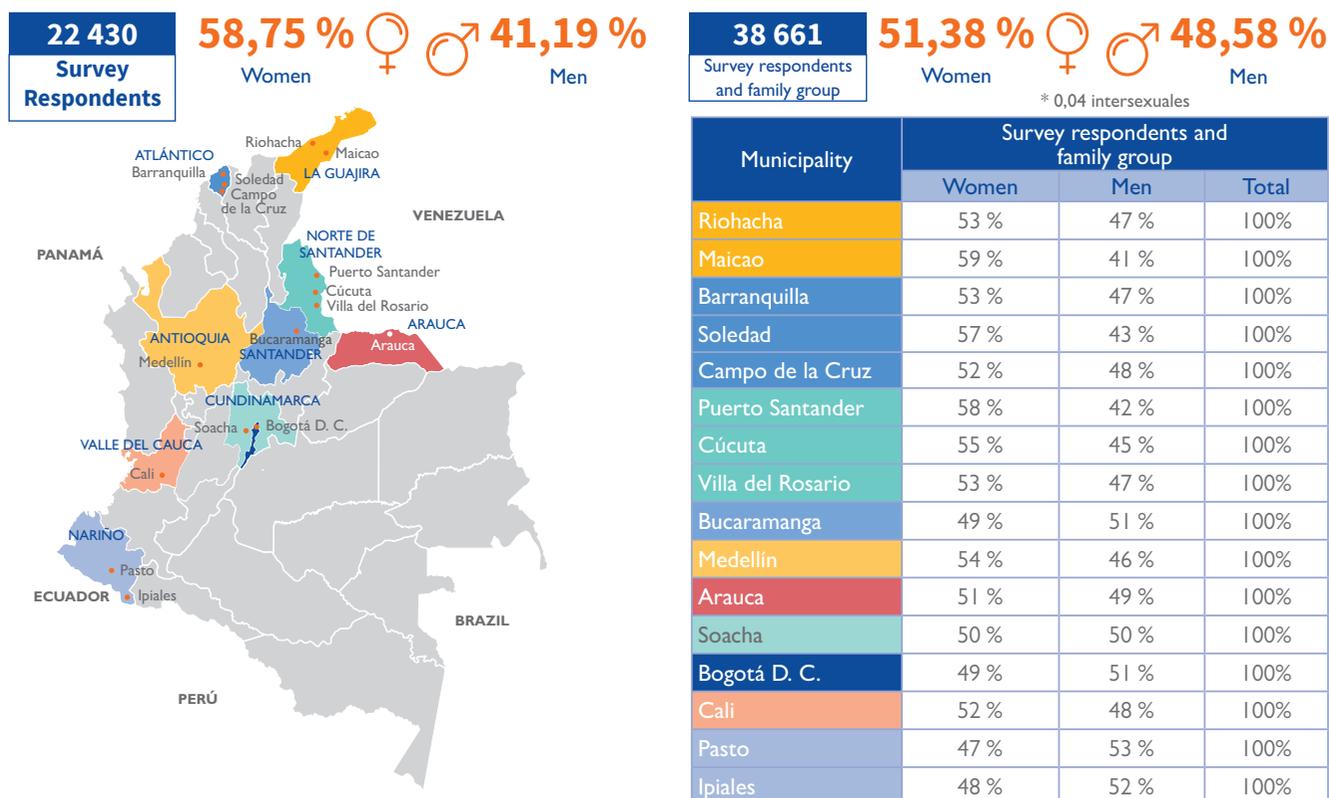
SURVEY  
RESPONDENTS  
**22 430**



RESPONDENT'S  
FAMILY GROUP  
**38 661**

## MAIN RESULTS OF THE DTM FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS LIVING IN COLOMBIA

**Figure 1. Sample distribution: Number of individuals surveyed by department and municipality**



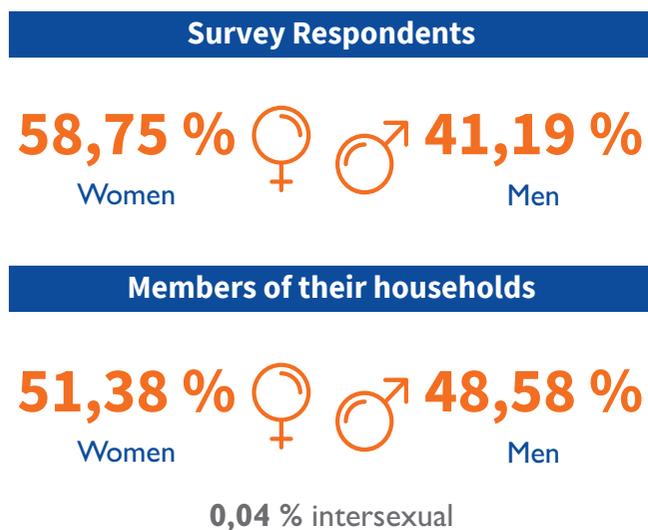
The 2019 DTM for “Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia” survey was conducted among 22 430 individuals along with 38 661 members of their families (61 093 individuals identified and assessed in total) who arrived with the intention to stay in Colombia.

DTM survey results show that the following five cities host the greatest concentration of Venezuelan migrant populations who intend to remain: Bogotá (37,44 %), Cúcuta (9,62 %), Barranquilla (8,36 %), Cali (8,33 %), and Ipiales (5,33 %).

# PROFILE OF THE SURVEYED AND IDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS IN THE DTM SURVEY

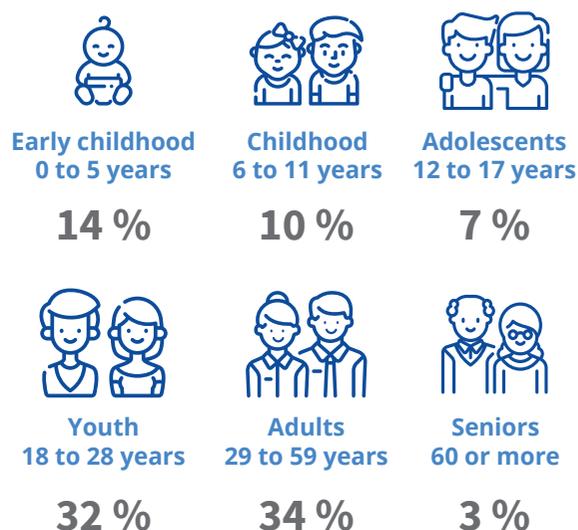
## DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS OF THOSE SURVEYED

### SEX OF THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES



## AGE GROUPS OF THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

According to the DTM results, those interviewed, and their family members are distributed in the following way:



## IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AMONG SURVEY RESPONDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The survey included an inquiry of identification documents, which allow for the physical registration of an individual by validating their name, image sex, place and date of birth, fingerprints, and nationality. The DTM results established that, of the 61 093 identified persons, 95 % carry an identification document and 5 % do not have such a document.



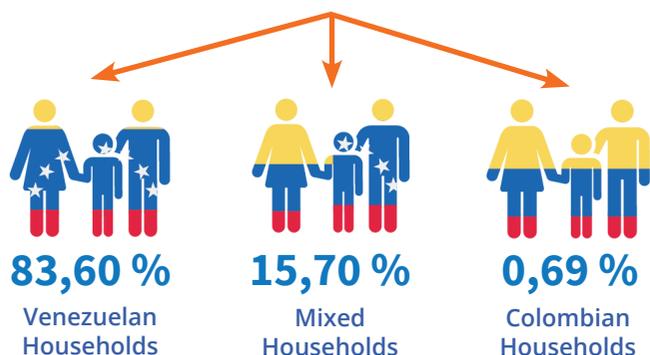
Of those included in the data, 70 % have a Venezuelan identity card, 24 % a birth registration, 20 % a Venezuelan Passport, 9 % a Colombian citizenship card, 5 % a Colombian birth certificate, 1 % a Colombian Passport, and an additional 1 % reported having some other kind of identification document.

**Note: Percentages total more than 100% because those surveyed were allowed to select more than one document.**

### IDENTIFIED FAMILY GROUP COMPOSITION

# 15 293

**68,1 % FAMILIES**



Of the total of respondents, 68 % are with their families in Colombia. The DTM also assessed the family groups, which resulted in identifying 15 293 members. On average, each family comprised 3,5 individuals, including those surveyed. The information that the surveyed migrants provided about their family members enabled us to identify a total of 38 663 people. Additionally, it was established that the members of these family groups are distributed according to the following nationalities:

Venezuelan nationals comprise 83,6 % of the family groups, 15,7 % of family members are a mix between Colombians and Venezuelans, and only 69 % of those identified in the family groups are Colombians who are returning from Venezuela.

### EDUCATION LEVELS OF THOSE SURVEYED

The DTM for “Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia” survey also provided the following information with regards to the education levels of those surveyed<sup>4</sup>:

Completed general secondary basic education (**grades 1-3**), (18%); complete elementary education (**grades 1-6**) (13%); completed **high school education** (40%); **technical degree** (9%); higher education that includes some **professional or technical training** (10%); and completed **undergraduate education** (5%). Of those remaining, 1% have some form of **graduate degree training** (specialization, masters, doctorate). Additionally, 2% indicated that they attained only an initial (**preschool and kindergarten**) level of education<sup>5</sup>.

The survey also identified the fact that 2 % of the population could not read, 1 % could not write, and 2 % reported having no formal education at all.

Those under 18 years of age in the family groups had the following access to education:



#### DO YOU KNOW HOW TO READ?

YES	NO
98 %	2 %



#### DO YOU KNOW HOW TO WRITE?

YES	NO
99 %	1 %

<sup>4</sup> Education levels documented in the 2019 DTM for “Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia” survey correspond to the academic levels in the Venezuelan education system.

<sup>5</sup> Preschool, kindergarten, and prep school.

**Figure 2. Education levels**



72 % of the children under the age of 5 do not attend early education programs; only 27 % of this population has access to early childhood education.

Of the total number of children and adolescents between the ages of 6 and 17 who comprised the family units included in the study, 47 % are in school, while 53 % of them do not have access to formal education in Colombia. The primary cited reason for this is the lack of formal documentation required for access educational services.

## LABOR MARKET

The data collected by the DTM with regards to migrant labor opportunities demonstrate that the population of working age (PET) as a proportion of the total population is less than the Colombian equivalent. In Colombia, the PET can be as high as 80,5 %; in the migrant population surveyed, it reached only 75,6 %. This evidences the need to generate pathways and proposals for productive and labor inclusion while simultaneously developing protection programs that serve the entire population – especially migrant children.

On average, the proportion of migrant children under the age of 12 is less than the proportion of children in the same age group in Colombia. It is noteworthy that while in Colombia the participation of men and women in PET is equal, in the case of Venezuelan migrants, the participation is higher in women. However, this situation is reversed when we analyze the Economically Active Population (EAP), with men seeking to participate in the labor market the most, as shown by the Global Participation Rate. This signifies that a large part of the available labor among migrant women is not being

employed, as the domestic and care activities within the home are largely relegated to them.

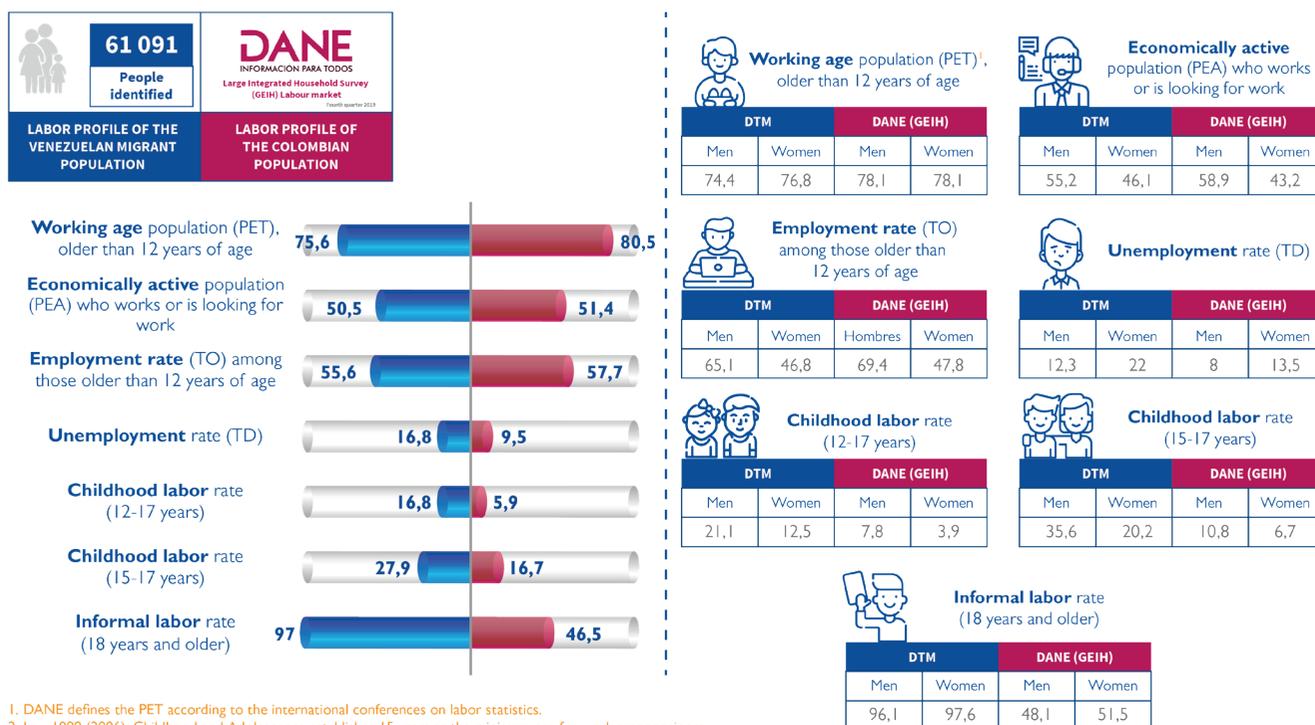
Notably, the employment rate is higher in the migrant population from Venezuela than the rate observed in the Colombian non-migrant population. This is likely related to the fact that workers from Venezuela have a greater need to generate income and seek opportunities work through informal activities. While informality in Colombia is close to 50 %, in the migrant population it can approach 97 %, which results in greater pressure on the Colombian social security system.

As is to be expected, the labor options for the migrant population, in addition to being largely informal in nature, also present greater limitations and barriers for the migrant population than for Colombian nationals. While the unemployment rate for the period of analysis in Colombia reached 9,5 %, in the surveyed population it exceeds 15 %, with women disproportionately affected at 30 %. This evidences critical gender gaps in labor market access.

6 The information for the DTM was collected during the last quarter of 2019. For this reason, the statistics used to compare the content to the Colombian labor market used the fourth quarter data from October-December 2019.

7 DANE defines the PET, which uses as its reference the international conference on labor statistics. Law 1098 (2006 - Childhood and Adolescence Code) establishes 15 years of age as the minimum required working age for minors.

**Figure 3. Labor profile of the Venezuelan migrant population versus that of the Colombian population.**



1. DANE defines the PET according to the international conferences on labor statistics.  
 2. Law 1098 (2006), Childhood and Adolescence establishes 15 years as the minimum age for work among minors.

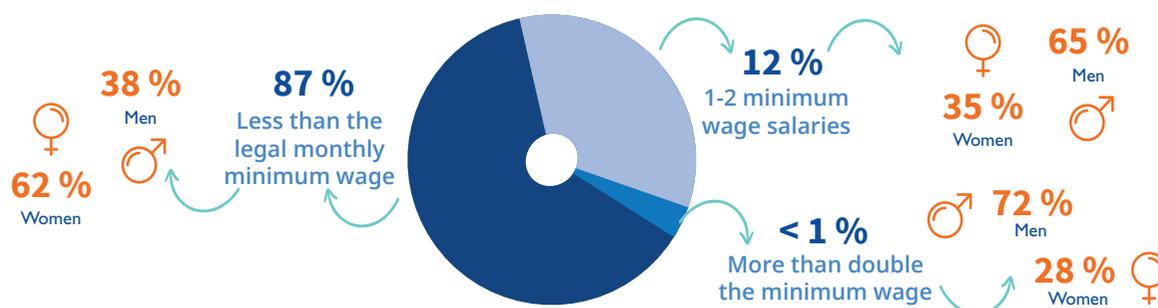
There exists an alarmingly high rate of child labor, especially among those between 12 and 17 years of age: in the case of the surveyed migrants, child labor rates reach nearly triple that of a comparable Colombian population set. This situation is particularly fraught for children between 15 and 17 years of age, with a work rate of close to 28 % in the case of the Venezuelan migrant population.

Although the main labor market indicators demonstrate the need to build adequate policies for the integration of the migrant population into the Colombian labor market under conditions of decency and good quality, it is important to also highlight the fact that migration also brings with it an inflow of competencies, qualifications, and expertise that can promote national competitiveness and productivity.

Although economic inclusion is a challenge, opportunities also exist, and have been seen in the contributions of new knowledge in all sectors of the country's economy: in particular, in sectors such as commerce, gastronomy, tourism, construction, transportation, agriculture, and social services.

To promote a new business socioeconomic infrastructure that contributes to the development of the country, it is critical to avoid conditions of job insecurity and to promote formal connections to the labor market. The survey found that approximately 87 % of Venezuelan migrants receive a labor income below a legal minimum wage in force, with women being disproportionately affected by this condition of precarity.

**Figure 4. Average monthly income by sex for the Venezuelan migrant population**



8 IOM suggests facilitating access to the labor market for the migrant population - e.g., managing vacancies that are difficult to achieve or positions with high turnover - in manners that are jointly identified between IOM and the Ministry of Labor. Alternately, the World Bank also uses a proprietary methodology to manage the occupation of critical positions. All of this combines to prevent xenophobic discourses and attitudes against an eventual displacement of the local labor force.

According to the latest MANPOWER survey in Colombia, 48 % of the surveyed entrepreneurs stated that they could not find in the existing Colombian workforce the necessary competencies and qualifications necessary to develop their production and commercial processes efficiently. Most scarce are the essential competencies (soft skills), which they request be included in the design and delivery of training programs. The DTM responses revealed that many of those surveyed possessed these skills, especially in relation to responsibility, commitment, leadership, discipline, teamwork, and others.

The same surveyed population also boasted a number of technical skills that contribute meaningfully to the labor market, especially those related to positions and occupations that have to do with carpentry, metalworking, construction, teaching, sales, and butchery, among others.

The DTM results, in addition to evidencing high rates of economic dependency, suggest that remittances are a driving force of the Venezuelan national economy. A full 73 % of respondents send money to their country of origin with notable frequency and amount.

## OCCUPATION<sup>9</sup> AND LIVELIHOOD<sup>10</sup>

The DTM also identified the average monthly income of the person surveyed and determined the number of economic dependents sending foreign currency to other

relatives and economic dependents outside of Colombia. The most relevant data in this area include the following:

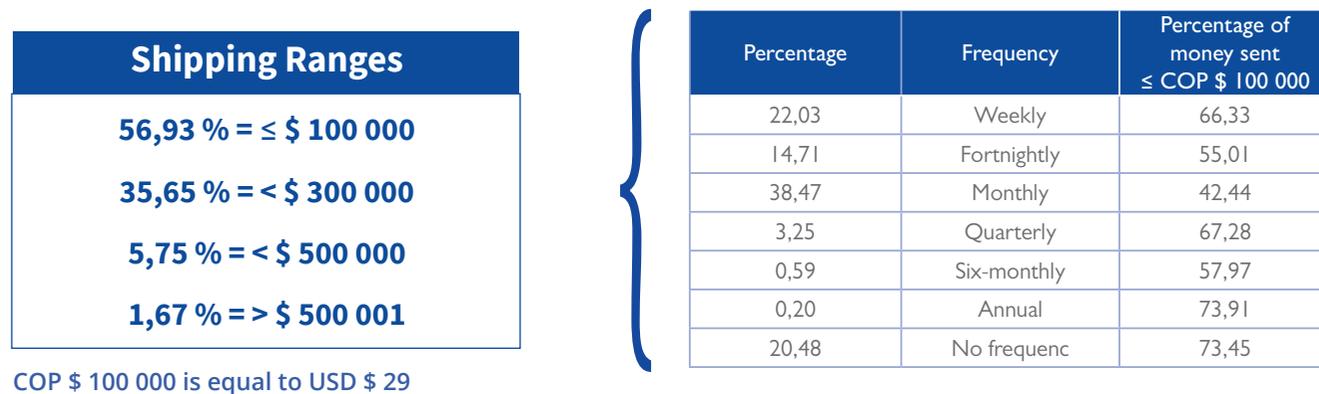
 Of those surveyed, 87 % live off less than the legal minimum wage: i.e., less than COP \$ 828 116<sup>11</sup> per month. 12 % have an average monthly income between 1 and 2 monthly minimum wage amounts, and 1 % have twice the minimum wage per month.

 Of those with dependents, 63 % surveyed have economic dependents in Venezuela, while 51 % have dependents in Colombia<sup>12</sup>.

 71 % of those surveyed have economic dependents, and the remaining 29 % do not. Of those with dependents, 86 % have between 1 and 4 and the remaining 14 % have five or more.

 73 % of those surveyed had sent money outside of Colombia and the remainder had not. Those who had sent money had done so to an average of two people.

**Figure 5. Transfers and remittances by frequency**



9 Homogeneous categories of tasks that constitute a set of jobs that show similarity, are performed by a person in the past, present or future, according to their abilities acquired by education or experience, and for which they receive an income in money or kind. (Definition taken from the glossary of the DANE integrated household survey).

10 The collection of strategies and activities realized by a household in order to sustain their lives. (Taken from the glossary of the UN volunteers workbook).

11 SMLV 2019 in Colombia, this amount is equivalent to roughly USD \$ 240.

12 Note: The number totals more than 100% because the respondents had an option to select more than one country.

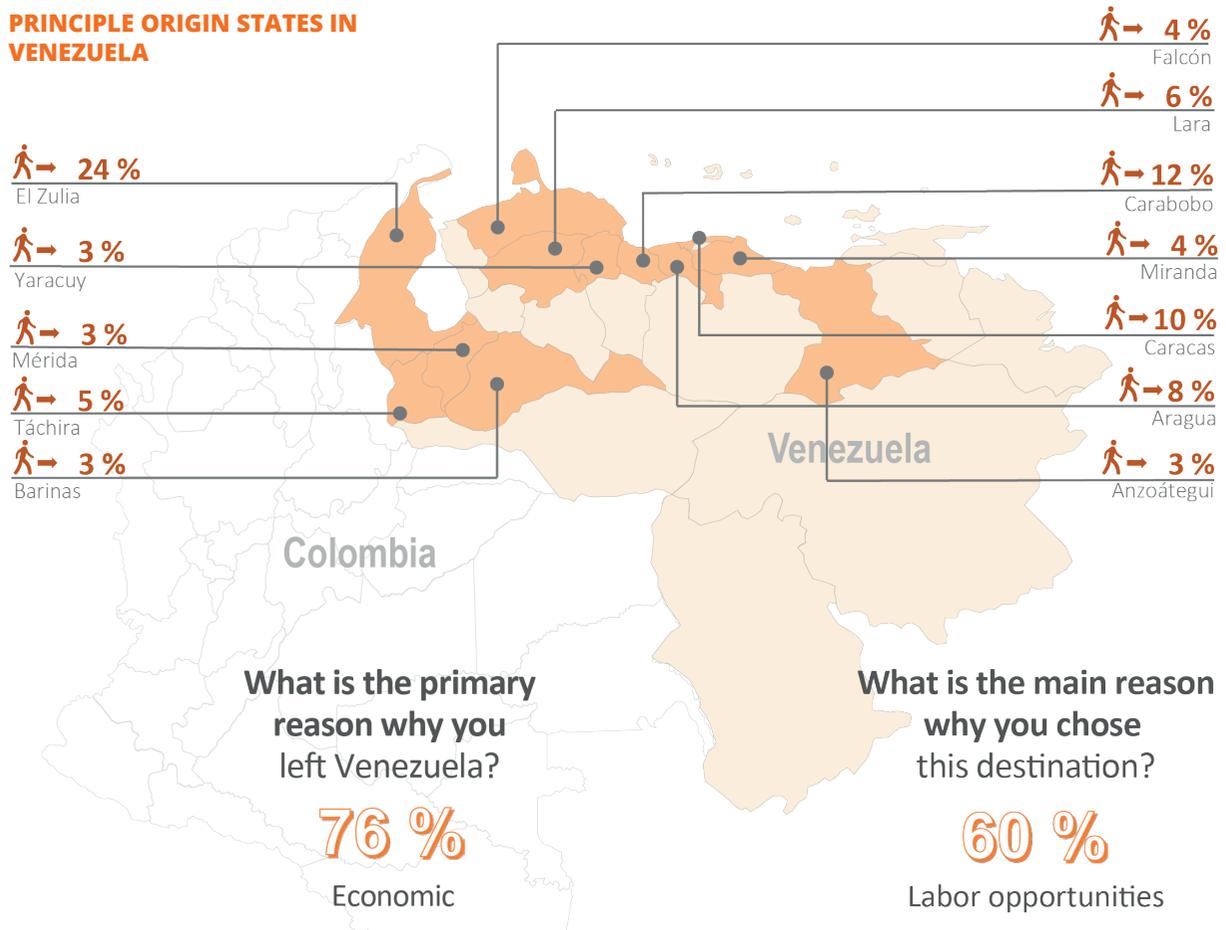
## MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

In Colombia, as a result of the worsening economic and political situation in Venezuela, the official figures on migration control show a significant increase in flows to Colombia between 2017, 2018, and 2019. People and families from Venezuela are classified as economic migrants who seek to improve their living conditions in Colombia.

DTM for “Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia” survey captured relevant information related to the complex mobility processes that Venezuelans faced who planned to stay in Colombia from the mid- to long-term. These include key aspects of the human mobility situation of the respondent and their families – i.e., times, movements, and circumstances of arrival to Colombia.

**Figure 6. Principle origin states in Venezuela**

### PRINCIPLE ORIGIN STATES IN VENEZUELA



The DTM data revealed that 24 % of the identified migrants and their families came from the Zulia state in Venezuela, while 12 % came from Carabobo, and 10 % from Caracas. The remaining inflows by state include the following: 8 % from the state of Aragua, 6 % from Lara, 5 % from Táchira, 4 % from the state of Aragua, 4 % from Falcón, 4 % from Miranda, 3 % from Mérida, 3 % from Barrías state, and another 3 % from Yaracuy.

Of those surveyed, 76 % reported that the principal reason for leaving Venezuela was an economic one. 10 % had a lack of food, 7 % reported non-specified reasons, 4 % left for political reasons, 2 % for specific labor opportunities, and 1 % to reunite with their families.

The DTM results also reveal what the principle driving reasons were for the migrant population leaving Venezuela.

The DTM also collected data on the reasons for selecting the cities that they did as destinations on the Colombian

side: 60 % did so for employment opportunities, 23 % to reunite with their families, 10 % for known contacts and associates, 3 % for intimate partner relations, and 4 % for other non-specified reasons.



DTM survey results also show that 96 % of migrants live with their Venezuelan family unit and 4 % live alone.

45 % of respondents expect to receive family or acquaintances from Venezuela in the short term (1-3 months), 47 % are not waiting for anyone, 3 % do not know whether or not they will be receiving someone from Venezuela, and 4 % did not answer the question.

Of those expecting to receive others from Venezuela, there is an average of 2,5 relatives anticipated and one other known person per respondent.

Below are the DTM results related to the migratory documents possessed by the surveyed population.

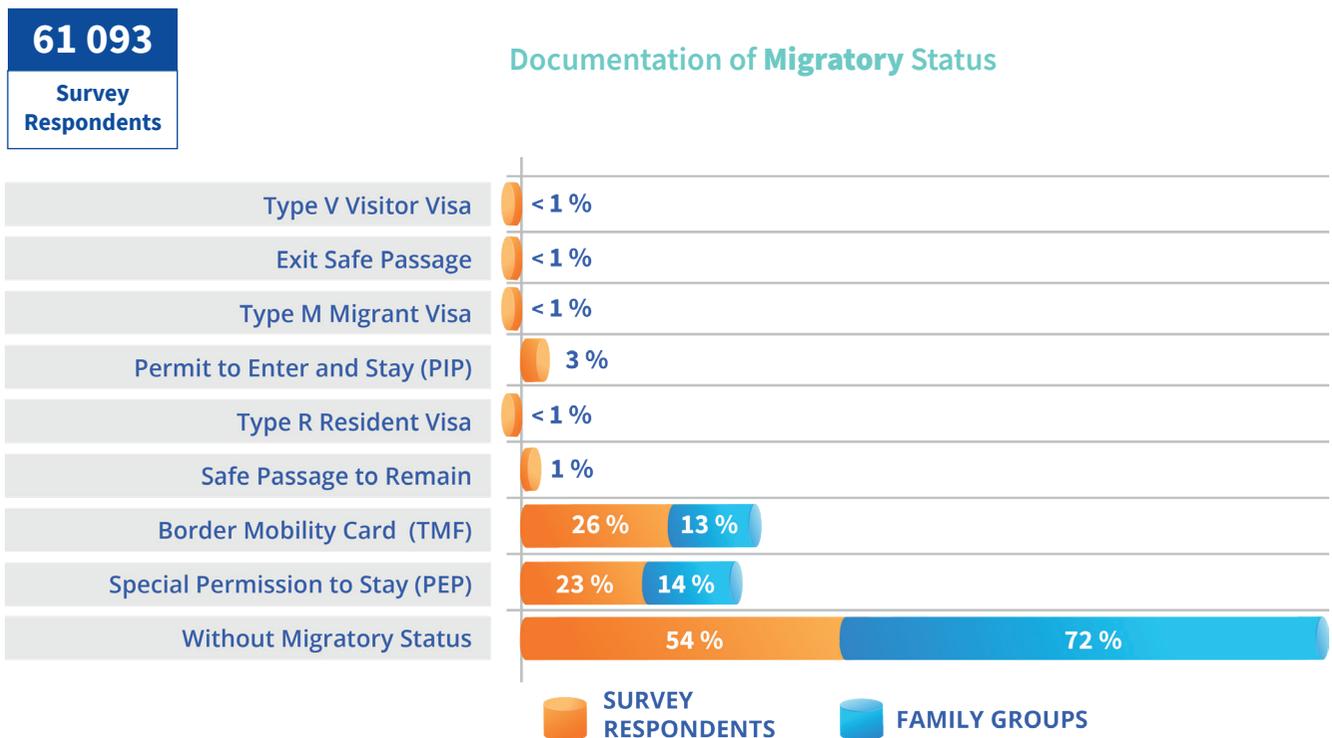


Surveyed individuals informed DTM team members of the time that they had been in Colombia up through the moment in which they were taking the survey. These are the results: 35 % of those interviewed had been in Colombia between 1-2 years, 23 % for three months with an intention to remain for four more as a minimum stay in Colombia. 21 % of respondents had been in Colombia between 7-12 months, 15 % between 2-3 years, 6 % more than three years, and 4 % more than on month in the country with plans to remain for four or more months.



With regards to the relevant documentation vis-a-vis migratory status among the interviewed and their family members, the survey identified the following: 54 % of respondents do not have a document that certifies their immigration status, and neither do 72 % of the accompanying family members.

**Figure 7. Migratory status documents among the migrant populations**



46 % of respondents have a document issued by the Colombian immigration authority; 23 % of respondents report having a Special Permit to Stay. Among the family

groups, only 28 % have a document that proves their immigration status; 14 % have a Special Permit to Stay.

## HEALTH

As of October 31, 2019, Colombia Migration reports 1 771 237 Venezuelan Migrants in the national territory, which presents an unprecedented scenario for the country in terms of public health, especially when the public health system is already dramatically underfunded<sup>13</sup>.

The DTM also collected data related to physical conditions and health versus disease, as well as on migrant mobility. It collected information that delineates the primary health concerns and access to medical care among those 22 430 surveyed.

Among the surveyed women and female members of the affiliated families, 1339 (6 %) are pregnant. Of those who are pregnant, 8 % are minors under 18 years of age.



Of the total number of women who are pregnant, 50 % reported having access to prenatal testing, and 49 % had not participated in a single prenatal visit. 1 % of the respondents did not answer.

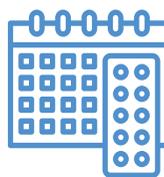
The DTM data also revealed that 12 % of people surveyed who say they are affiliated with the general social security system report being linked to the subsidized regime – i.e., that 75 % of the people who have affiliation to the system are being covered by public resources.

The results of the DTM 2019 for “Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia” survey show that respondents who are pregnant extent up through 49 years of age. Of the total, 24 are older than 35 years of age<sup>14</sup>.

Of all the individuals identified in the DTM – men and women – that reporting having children less than one year old, 6 % have not registered their children.



Of the total number of women identified in the family groups between 18 and 45 years of age, 41 % reported an interest in using contraception, while 58 % said that they did not have such an interest. 1 % did not respond.



All of the women interviewed and identified within the family groups between 18 and 45 years of age were asked whether or not they had access to contraceptives at the time of the survey: 57 % said that they did not, 43 % did, and 1 % did not answer the question.

Among those surveyed and members of their family groups, 88 % found themselves unaffiliated to the general social security system. Only 12 % were affiliated.



Of those who reported being affiliated, 75 % are in the subsidized regime while 25 % are in the contributory one.

77 % of those individuals surveyed did not know the procedures required in order to request the SISBEN survey, while 23 % were familiar with the process.



With regards to the health conditions of those surveyed and their family members, 11 % have a chronic or long-term illness.

The DTM survey identified 7 % of respondents that reported one or more difficulties with performing their daily activities.



51 % of respondents reported having had to seek medical attention. Of these people, 79 % did receive the requested medical attention and 21 % were not attended.



Respondents were asked about symptoms of illness during the 15 days prior to the DTM survey. The results of this question were the following:

16 % of those surveyed reported having a fever (and 85 % did not).



25 % reported having phlegm (75 % did not).



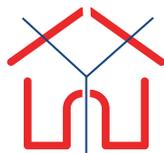
To the question “Have you or anyone in your family had a fever and skin rash in the last month?” 14 % responded yes (86 % no).

13 In 2019 there was an increase of 104% in emergency care for Venezuelans when compared to 2018. This information was retrieved from Statistical Monitoring 145 (January 26, 2020) on Colombia Migration.

14 According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a maternal age of **35 years or greater is considered a mid-level risk factor**. The WHO has found that the ideal age for maternity is between 20-24 years of age.

## HOUSING

DTM survey results questions included simple inquiries into housing such as Where do you currently reside?, Do you pay rent?, Do you have basic services such as drinking water, electricity, and sewage?, among other things. Below are the results regarding access to housing and habitability conditions of migrants from Venezuela intending to stay in Colombia:



Of those surveyed, 86 % pay rent. 41 % reported living in apartments with an average rent of COP\$ 626 879, while 39 % responded that they live in a home and pay an average monthly rent of COP\$ 519 626. The 8 % of respondents who rent a room in a larger building pay an average monthly rent of COP\$ 352 377.



Respondents reported that, on average, they live together with 3,5 other people in the building and up to 6 individuals in the same room.



2 % of respondents said that they did not have a room or dedicated space for themselves and their families, while 55 % did have a private space or room. 43 % of DTM respondents have more than one room for themselves and their families.

## FOOD SECURITY

Food security is considered to exist when all people have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient safe and nutritious food to satisfy their nutritional needs and food preferences and so that they may lead an active and healthy life<sup>15</sup>. Food security is the result of a combination of food availability, access, and use.

To better understand this, the DTM survey included a series of questions in order to obtain relevant information that would allow us to know whether these Venezuelan migrants and their families with the intention of remaining in Colombia enjoy the right to food.



Among DTM respondents, 93 % were responsible for buying the food that they and their families consumed. 1 % received food in exchange for their work activities, 1 % received donated food, 1 % received food from a community table, and 1 % obtained their food from another (unidentified) source.



6 % of those surveyed reported that, in the previous three months in their household, they have had instances in which they could not eat breakfast, lunch, or dinner as a result of a lack of resources necessary to purchase food for the whole family.

## PROTECTION, SECURITY AND DIGNITY



The DTM survey identified whether the person and their family have been exempt from receiving harm, assault, or other preventable risks during the course of their stay in Colombia. Regarding vulnerability to these actions, respondents to the 2019 DTM survey generated the following results on inequality and social protection needs:

- 2763 individuals among those surveyed and their families did not possess identification documents

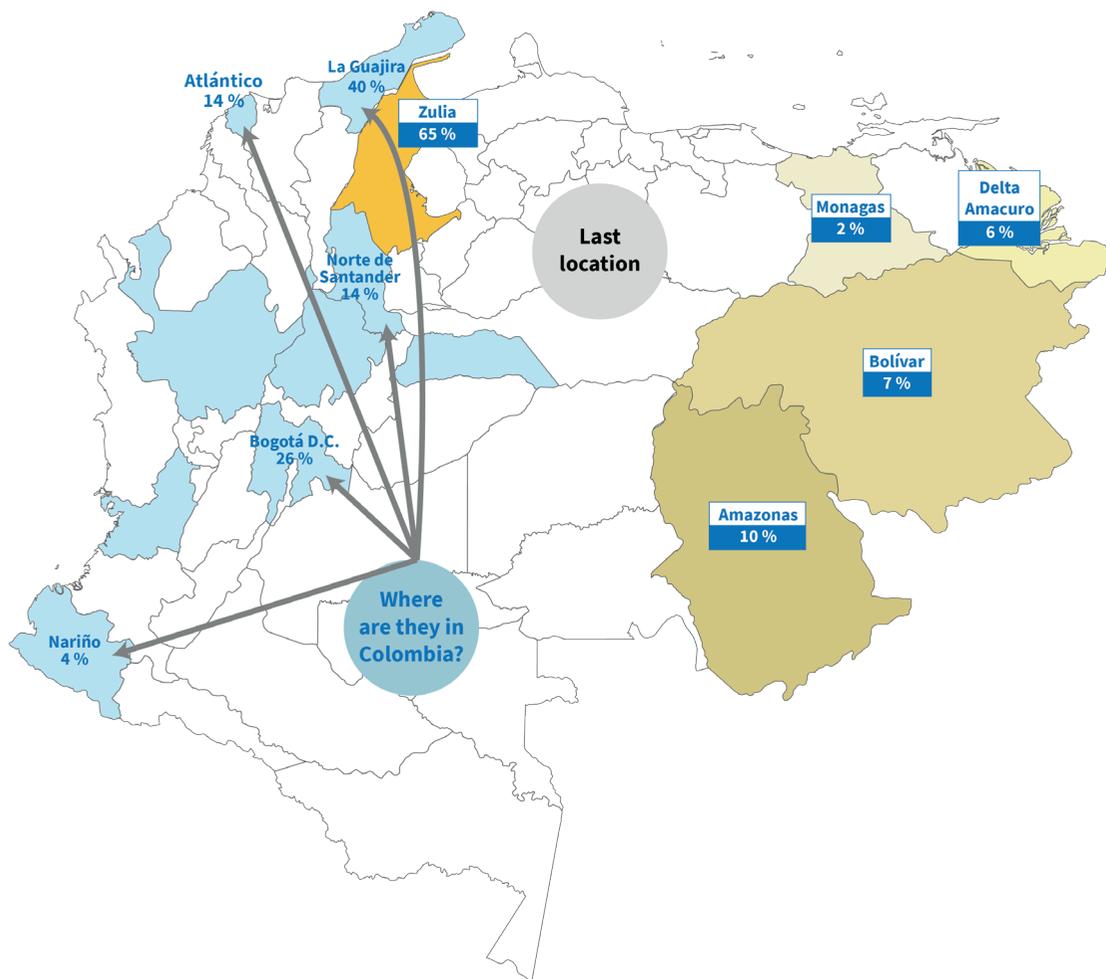
(747 of those interviewed directly, 2106 members of their families).

- 1 % of respondents reported having a diverse sexual orientation (i.e., belonging to the LGBTI community).
- Of the total respondents, 17 % self-identified as belonging to an ethnic group: 30 % of these claimed indigenous status, and of those, 68 % were women and 32 % were men.



15 FAO, FIDA and PMA (2014). *The state of food insecurity in the world 2014. Strengthening of a favorable environment for food security and nutrition*. Rome: FAO, p. 50. Available <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4030e.pdf>

**Figure 8. Location of the indigenous population identified in the DTM survey in Colombia versus the location of the Venezuelan indigenous population (National Census 2011)**



- Among the surveyed women and female members of the affiliated families, 1339 (6 %) are pregnant. Of those who are pregnant, 8 % are minors under 18 years of age and 20 are over 40 years old.
- Of the total number of women who are pregnant, 50 % reported having access to prenatal testing. 1 % of the respondents did not answer.
- 49 % had not participated in a single prenatal visit
- 36 % of the members of the accompanying families are under 18 years of age, and of those, 15 % are under 5 years.
- 7 % of respondents that reported one or more difficulties with realizing their daily activities.
- 11 % of respondents reported feeling unsafe in the place in which they live.
- 40 % surveyed reported that they had suffered some form of discriminatory aggression.
- 15 % of the total respondents had been the victim of violent acts.
- Of those surveyed, 33 % reported that minors under 18 years of age could be victims of sexual violence, forced recruitment, substance abuse, and/or forced labor where they currently reside.
- 19 % of respondents reported working and not receiving the agreed upon wage, 4 % had worked and received less than the contracted sum.
- 22 % of individuals surveyed reported that at least one of the people with whom they lived worked and did not receive the agreed upon wage and 4 % said that at least one of the cohabitants in their homes worked and received less than the contracted sum.
- The survey found that 6 % of minors under one year of age who had been born in Colombia still do not have birth certificates.

## RECEIVED HELP AND SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS

In the DTM for “Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia” survey included questions that determined whether the respondent and his/her family group or companions had received any type of help during their stay in the municipality or city where they resided in Colombia. In case of having received help, the survey requested that they identify the type and entity that provided the support.

20 % of those surveyed received some time of assistance on behalf of a Colombian institution.

67 % received food rations, 35 % received building and other livelihood supplies, and 14 % received personal care kits.

The entities that had aided the surveyed migrants and their families were the following:

- 37 % churches and religious congregations.
- 25 % Colombian Red Cross.
- 21 % International Organizations.
- 8 % Mayors.

The DTM survey also included a question to inquire about the participation of migrants in organizations, groups, or collectives that provided them with spaces for participation or other social or community support. To this effect, only 2 % of the respondents belonged to an organization or grouping.

## INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE OF INTEREST REQUESTED BY MIGRANTS

In the DTM Planning to Stay survey, IOM included a section that directly identified – through giving voice to each of the 22 430 people surveyed - the needs they have in relation to the immediate present and the desire for stable permanence in Colombia until they can return to their country of origin.



75 % of those surveyed responded that they DO NOT understand their rights, nor do they know how to access them.

The themes or information that the migrants are requesting are the following:

- 83 % require information about access to employment.
- 72 % require information about access to healthcare.
- 59 % require information about access to education and nutritional needs.
- 49 % require information about migratory regulation.
- 48 % require legal consultation.
- 43 % require humanitarian assistance.
- 34 % require support for family reunification.



- 21 % require lodging/shelter.
- 20 % require support for accessing family planning services.
- 15 % require support to return to Venezuela.

Note: The sum of the percentages is greater than 100% because participants could select more than one kind of information necessity.

Respondents were asked about what they and their family needed to establish and stabilize themselves in this municipality in which they lived. The most relevant results are the following:

- 84 % of the respondents answered that they need to generate income and/or have a job.
- 65 % of the respondents answered that they need medical help.
- 60 % of the respondents answered that they need training and access to formal education.

Note: The sum of the percentages is greater than 100% because participants could select more than one kind of information necessity.

# Conclusions

- The DTM survey respondents comprised 51 % women. Female migration may be more difficult and higher-risk, due to health problems, pregnancy, and lactation. For women and girls, it may be even more serious if they are following illicit routes, as they may face situations of violence<sup>16</sup>, human trafficking and smuggling, kidnapping, sexual abuse, and discrimination.
- 5 % of identified people lack identification documents. A rights-based perspective suggests that this is an alert that these individuals are at a greater risk and experience increased vulnerability.
- 53 % of the minors between 6 and 17 years old in the family groups of those surveyed are not in school. The main reason for this absence is the lack of documentation, which particularly affects school-age minors because it prevents them from normalizing and enrolling in school. Additionally, many of these students do not have study certificates in Venezuela, which forces the Colombian educational system to assess and level school-age minors.
- Of the total number of respondents, 65% reported having schooling (from high school to postgraduate professionals), which will allow them access to a formal job; However, there are difficult barriers to overcome for these migrants, including immigration regularization and the approval of their prior studies by the Colombian Ministry of National Education.
- 87 % of those surveyed receive less than one minimum wage per month, which makes their subsistence and that of their family group precarious and generates high risk of food insecurity.
- 73 % of the surveyed people send remittances outside Colombia to help, on average, two people from their family group in Venezuela or other countries. In the context of migration from Venezuela, remittances are an action to alleviate poverty in the country of origin. The Refugees and Migrants Living in Colombia may also count them within their concerns for surviving, adapting, and generating resources.
- 54 % of the respondents are in a situation of irregular immigration or residence in Colombia. Irregular migration exacerbates the risks that a migrant may face. People who migrate without being able to regularize their stay in the destination country are exposed to greater exclusion and discrimination that entails risks in the health, food security, and safety of migrants. There may even be increasing abuse, exploitation, disappearance, and death.
- 45 % of those surveyed expect to receive in the short term (1-3 months) relatives or acquaintances from Venezuela. From the people waiting for someone from Venezuela, it was possible to identify that on average they expect to receive 2.5 people who are relatives and 1 other known person. This evidences that migration from Venezuela is an issue of the family as a whole. The mobility of the family depends on a member of the family group managing to migrate and stabilize, and then decide to take the rest of the family to finally live together.
- Of the women who were identified, 1,339 are pregnant. Of these, 27 are between 13 and 15 years old and 187 are between 16 and 18 years old. These data alert for the need to include these adolescents<sup>17</sup> in the strategies of prevention and accompaniment of adolescent pregnancy in each of the territories.
- 49 % of pregnant women do not have prenatal controls. This should generate alerts regarding the identification and medical follow-up for these women, since the absence of prenatal care increases the risks of prenatal deaths and pregnancy complications.
- 11 % of respondents have a chronic disease, and women report being sick the most. Migrant women often face specific difficulties, particularly in the areas of maternal, newborn and child health, sexual, reproductive health, and violence.
- 7 % of the people surveyed have difficulty carrying out daily activities due to some degree of disability. Migrants with disabilities are not properly identified

<sup>16</sup> According to the study on deaths of Venezuelan women supported by the Institute of International and European Studies, since 2015 83 cases of deaths of Venezuelan migrant women have been reported in Colombia. Of these, 53.3% were feminicides and 10% of the victims were girls.

<sup>17</sup> The WHO argues that health programs for mothers and newborns must better serve the needs of young mothers: “Reducing the risks of pregnancy for adolescent girls should be a clear priority for countries”.

and do not have priority access to health services, nor do they receive special care and protection<sup>18</sup>. Offering protection to vulnerable people, promoting the integration of migrants with disabilities, as well as guaranteeing access to rights is still a pending challenge to face.

- 88 % of respondents are not affiliated with the health social security system. One of the issues of greatest concern is access to the health service, since there is no clarity on how the Colombian system is going to supply this need to irregular Venezuelan migrants. They have the right to receive an emergency service if they require it. However, regular immigration status is required to be eligible to request medical appointments or appointments with specialists and access to medications. The most delicate situation is to guarantee the right to health for children, the elderly, and pregnant women.
- 6 % of children under one year of age do not have a civil birth registration. Colombia has already adopted measures to guarantee the right to nationality to more than 24,000 minors who are children of Venezuelan parents born in Colombia in the last four years, as well as those born in the next two years. However, it is still necessary to disseminate and monitor compliance with this measure, until guaranteeing that all children born in Colombia children of Venezuelan parents can obtain the birth certificate that guarantees them Colombian nationality.
- 61 % of respondents reported that he / she and / or a member of the family group stopped eating in the last three months due to lack of money. The difficult living conditions faced by Venezuelan migrants in Colombia make evident the link between food insecurity and migration. The identified households show a high level of economic vulnerability and worrying levels of food consumption with regards to quantity and quality of food.
- 8 % of the respondents live in spaces that may present a risk of overcrowding, insecurity, and unhealthiness,

such as tenants, daily pay, residences, hotels, and hostels. Additionally, 55 % of the respondents say that up to 6 people live in a space designed for one person. Furthermore, 18 % of respondents report that they cook in the same space where they sleep.

- 11 % of respondents reported feeling insecure where they live. 40 % of the respondents reported having suffered discriminatory assaults. And 15 % of those surveyed reported having suffered acts of violence against them. It is necessary to formulate a strategy to clearly identify the dynamics that affect security and coexistence between migrants and host communities to avoid the escalation of conflicts at the neighborhood level. The response to conflict prevention and mitigation in communities must be contextually suited, concerted, and inclusive, with the participation of both local leaders and permanent migrants.
- 33 % of respondents indicated that minors under 18 years of age may be victims of sexual violence, forced recruitment, use of psychoactive substances, or forced labor in the place where they currently live. Protecting migrant children and adolescents, especially the unaccompanied, from exploitation, abuse and violence requires measures to strengthen child protection strategies in each territory. Keeping children and adolescents studying is a first step, as is helping families to be together as the most appropriate ways to protect minors.
- 19 % of the respondents reported that they worked and did not receive the agreed payment; 4 % worked and received less than what was agreed. Although some migrants find a job that allows them to improve their social and economic situation, others end up being victims of labor exploitation, regardless of their immigration status. Migrants are exposed to discrimination, absence of an employment contract, withholding of payment or unfair remuneration, denial of the right to social security, and termination of the employment relationship at any time.

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18 Article 11 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states: "The States Parties shall adopt, in accordance with their responsibilities under international law, and specifically international humanitarian law and law international human rights law, all necessary measures to guarantee the safety and protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters".



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

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