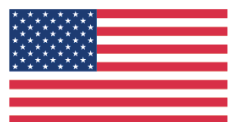




# Effects of COVID-19 on Migrants

## Main Findings

Survey in Central America and Mexico  
June 2020



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This publication was made possible through the support provided by the United States Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) within the framework of the Western Hemisphere Migration Capacity-Building Program. However, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Government of the United States.

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**Publisher:** International Organization for Migration  
Regional Office for Central America, North America, and the Caribbean  
Sabana Business Center, Boulevard Ernesto Rohrmoser  
San José, Costa Rica  
Tel: +506 2212-5300  
Email: [iomsanjose2@iom.int](mailto:iomsanjose2@iom.int)  
Website: <https://rosanjose.iom.int/site/en>

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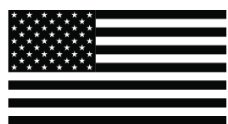


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## INTRODUCTION

On January 30, 2020, the Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak known as coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).<sup>1</sup> On March 11, 2020, due to alarming levels of spread and severity, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the rapid spread of the disease, 92% of countries in the Americas had closed their borders by April 6, 2020<sup>3</sup> as part of health measures, resulting in significant changes in global mobility and affecting the services of airlines, land and sea transportation, border management, and migration policies.

In addition to their impact on countries' economies and labor markets, these changes have affected and will continue to affect migration trends and the needs of migrants. This includes numerous cases of migrants stranded<sup>4</sup> due to movement restrictions as well as effects on unemployment rates and income generation in both countries of origin and residence.

In light of this complex socioeconomic and migration situation, added to the health crisis, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a survey during the month of June 2020 on the effects of the pandemic on emigrants from Central America and Mexico and immigrants from any part of the world residing in Central America and Mexico at the time of response. The survey additionally collected information on people who had the intention of migrating.

This survey has the objective of generating data in order to analyze the repercussions of COVID-19 for this population and guide the response of the many actors involved in the pandemic response, migration management, and socioeconomic recovery strategies.

This initiative was conducted as part of IOM's Western Hemisphere Program, financed by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the Department of State of the United States of America.

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, 2020. Statement on the second meeting of the IHR Emergency Committee on the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

<sup>2</sup> Pan American Health Organization, 2020. WHO characterizes COVID-19 as a pandemic.

<sup>3</sup> World Tourism Organization, 2020. COVID-19 related travel restrictions. A global review for tourism.

<sup>4</sup> International Organization for Migration, 2020. IOM, Panama Prepare COVID-19 Response for 2,500 Migrants Stranded at Borders.



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## SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The survey was aimed at migrants from Central America and Mexico residing in and outside the region, as well as extraregional migrants currently residing in the region. The survey additionally collected information on nationals from Central America and Mexico who had the intention of migrating in the previous 12 months.

The methodology of the survey included the use of quantitative data and information collection methods. This is a descriptive and exploratory survey report. Due to the exploratory nature of the exercise, the snowball sampling method was selected. This is a nonprobability sampling method used with hard-to-find populations who can only be contacted using key informants who are able to identify these people.

This means that the results of the exercise are neither representative nor generalizable; however, they do provide an approximation of the repercussions of COVID-19 for migrants. It should be stated that the snowball sampling method fosters trust among the target population about answering the questionnaire, because this trusted figure can provide information to target individuals about the purposes of the questionnaire and help to dispel doubts about the use of the data (informed consent). Additionally, it is important to point out that this survey is relevant in

that it serves as a point of departure for reflection on the structural challenges for providing responses that include migrants and address their needs.

In terms of limitations, it should also be stated that the survey did not collect specific information on migrants who have returned to the region, but focused on exploring the intention to return of migrants from the countries where they were residing. The survey also has limitations with regard to representativity, due to the limited number of responses collected from Central American and Mexican migrants in the United States of America (2%) when migration statistics show that this country is the principal destination for migrants from this region.

The information was collected through an online questionnaire (see appendix) available in Spanish, English, and French. It was activated on May 28, 2020 and remains open. For the purposes of this report, responses provided during the month of June by nationals (emigrants and those with the intention of emigrating) of Central American countries and Mexico and by immigrants in these countries were used.

This questionnaire was designed under the data protection principles of IOM, which include informed consent for collection and use of information,



ensuring the confidentiality and protection of the data of minors, from whom the form did not collect any kind of information.

The considerations taken into account for the choice

and combination of methods and means of collecting information included: i) The urgent need for information on the target population and ii) The limited options for conducting fieldwork in the different countries, given movement and distancing restrictions.

The means of disseminating the questionnaire included:



#### Dissemination through key informants:

An extensive network of government and non-governmental organizations which work with migrants.



#### Dissemination through social networks (Facebook, Instagram):

Social networks were used as digital marketing tools which enabled the creation of ads directed to a specific population segmented by expert criteria and variables which social media users had voluntarily entered into the apps (as a result, the data are self-reported and not verifiable). For this reason, it should be noted that the population sample was necessarily biased by multiple factors, most notably age range, smartphone usage, and internet access.



## DESCRIPTION OF INFORMANTS

According to IOM,<sup>5</sup> a migrant is a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The survey includes people who have crossed an international border, as well as those who declared having had the intention of doing so within the previous 12 months.

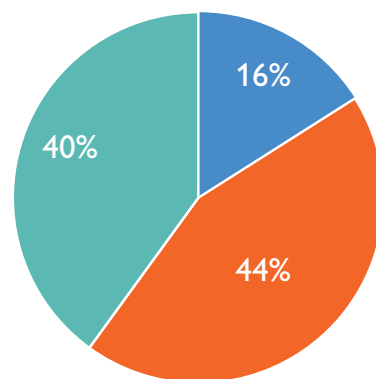
As of June 30, 2020, 1,660 valid responses had been obtained for the region of study (Central America and Mexico) that is, from:



<sup>5</sup> IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019.

Of this sample, 60% were people considered international migrants and 40% were people who had not emigrated at the time of response but who had this intention within the previous twelve months. In the following sections, more details are provided regarding this second group's intention to migrate of, and how the pandemic may have affected these plans.

Respondents by target group of the survey (%)



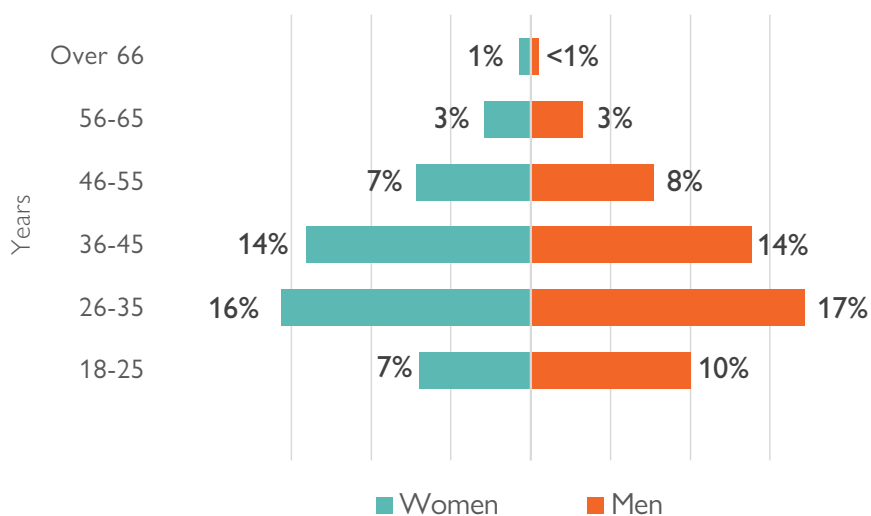
- Extraregional immigrants in Central America and Mexico
- Emigrants from Central America and Mexico
- Nationals of Central America and Mexico with the intention of migrating

## Sex and age

Of the people who responded to the survey, 45% are men, 54% are women, and the remaining 1% include transgender and non-binary individuals. By age, the people who responded to the survey are primarily between the ages of 26 and 45 (61%). The results

of the survey thus demonstrate the prevalence of the young, productive, reproductive population both among people who have emigrated and those who have the intention of doing so.

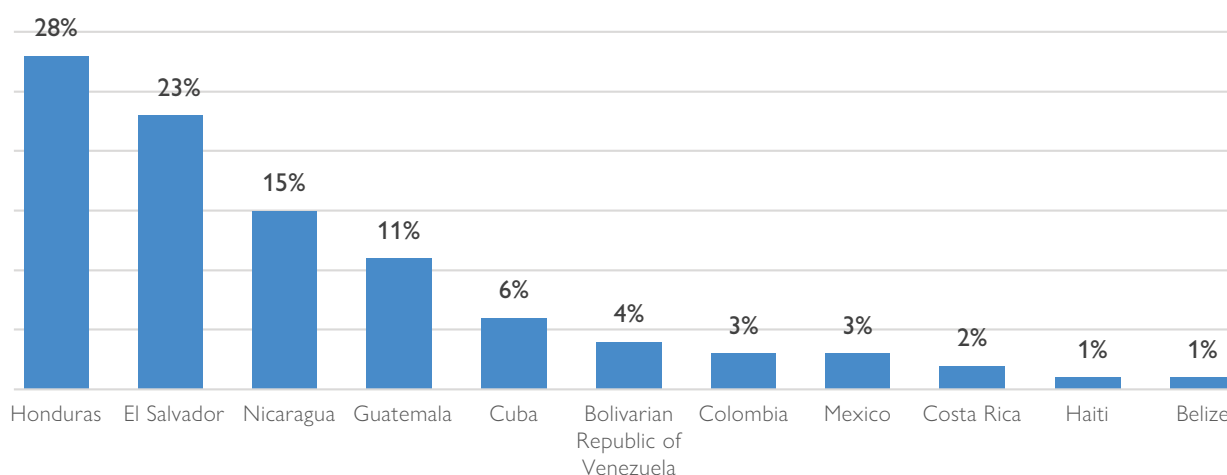
Respondents by sex and age (%)



## Nationality

The following chart shows the principal countries of origin of the people surveyed; among which Honduras (28%), El Salvador (23%), Nicaragua (15%), and Guatemala (11%) are most common. Nationals of the following countries are also represented: Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Haiti, Belize, and others.

Most common nationalities of respondents (%)



## Country of residence

The results of the survey regarding country of residence coincide with migration trends in the region (intraregional migration) in that the most common countries of residence are Costa Rica and Mexico. Costa Rica, followed by El Salvador and Panama, is the principal country of residence for Nicaraguan migrants. Mexico is a major country of residence for Honduran and Salvadoran migrants. Belize is a country of residence for Guatemalan

and Salvadoran migrants. Outside the region, the United States of America and Spain are the two principal countries of destination of Central American and Mexican migrants. However, the very limited number of responses received from people living in the United States of America affects the results presented here and obscures migration from this region to North America.



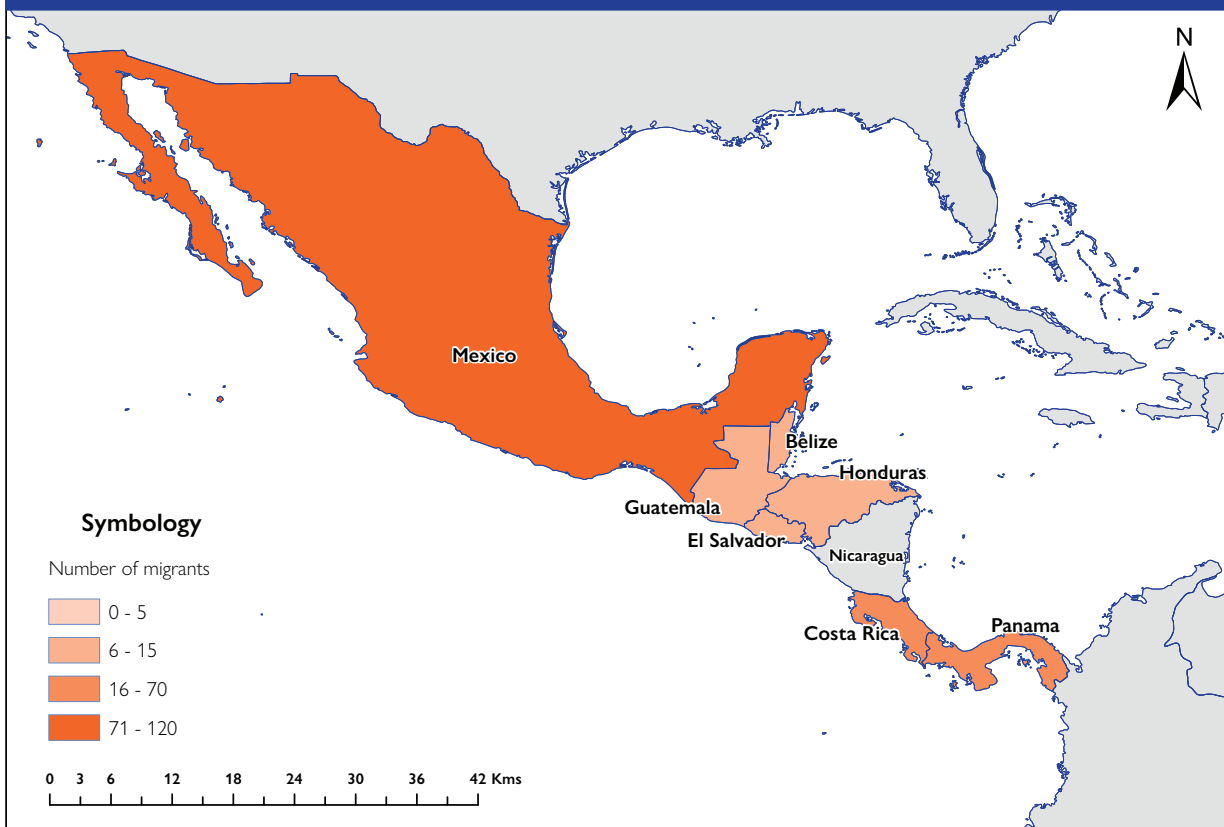
## Map 1: Principal countries of residence by numbers of migrants from Central America and Mexico



This map is for illustrative purposes only. The boundaries and names in this map, as well as the descriptions used, do not imply approval or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration. Source: Prepared by the authors, ESRI, and UN World.

The results of the survey indicate that Mexico, Panama, and Costa Rica are the principal countries where extraregional immigrants are found, with a higher prevalence of Haitian migrants in Mexico, Colombians in Panama, and Venezuelans in all three countries.

**Map 2: Principal countries of residence in Central America and Mexico by numbers of extraregional migrants**



This map is for illustrative purposes only. The boundaries and names in this map, as well as the descriptions used, do not imply approval or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration. Source: Prepared by the authors, ESRI, and UN World.



## 1. EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON MIGRATION PLANS

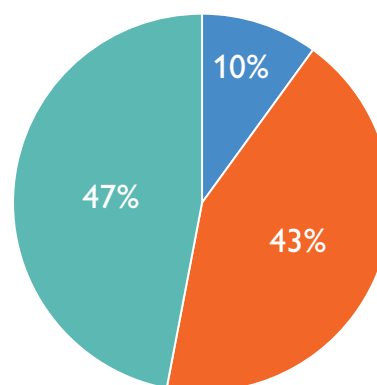
### Intention to emigrate



**The pandemic affected the migration plans of 57% of people with the intention of migrating**

Among the people with the intention of migrating, the highest percentage of people postponed travel due to the pandemic (47%). Additionally, 10% of people changed their minds due to the pandemic declaration and no longer wished to migrate, and 43% did not emigrate for reasons other than the pandemic.

Principal reasons that affected the migration plans of people with the intention of migrating (%)



- Migration plans cancelled due to the pandemic
- Migration plans postponed for reasons other than the pandemic
- Migration plans postponed due to the pandemic

84% of people who planned to migrate in the previous 12 months would consider resuming the journey when movement restrictions normalize versus 16% who would not resume the journey even when restrictions normalize.

Certainly, restrictions on movement due to COVID-19 have directly affected people's migration plans, through border closures as well as quarantine, isolation, and social distancing measures imposed in the different countries of the region. However, it appears that these restrictions have only delayed potential migrations.

## Intention to return

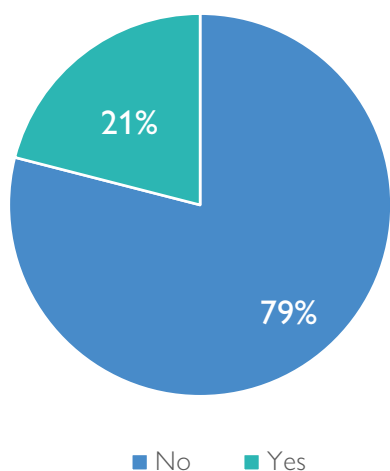


**2 out of every 10 migrants consider returning to their countries of origin**

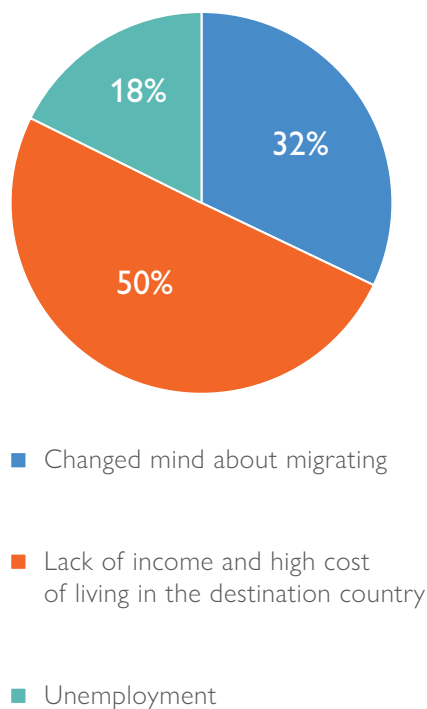
In destination countries, the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic are also impacting the plans of migrants, who are considering returning to their countries of origin in response to the socioeconomic difficulties they are facing. Thus, 21% of migrants stated they wish to return to their countries of origin due to the context of the pandemic, versus 79% who do not wish to return. Of the people who wish to return, 54% are women and 46% are men. Of those migrants who wish to return to their countries of origin, the majority (84%) have a place to live in their countries.

The most common reasons that motivate the desire to return to the country of origin include: A lack of income and the high cost of living in the country of residence (50%), having changed their migration plan in general (32%), and unemployment (32%).

Percentage of migrants who state intention of returning (%)



Principal reasons affecting migrants' intention to return (%)

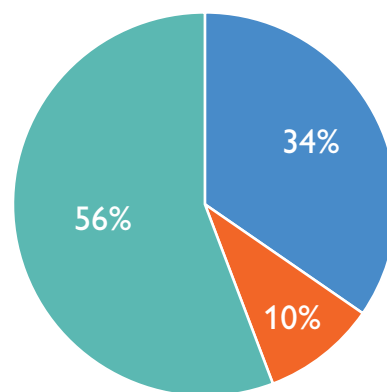




Furthermore, of the migrants who wish to return, 56% would do so when they collect enough money to make the trip, 34% when the movement restrictions relax, and 10% state that their return is already conditional on notification from their embassy.

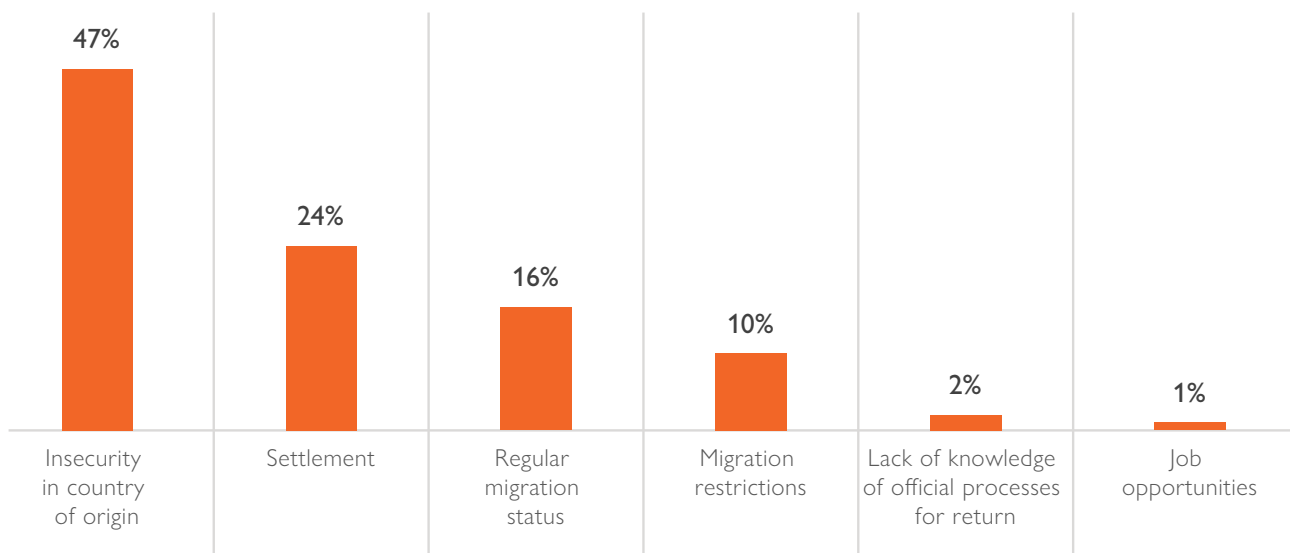
It is important to consider that the large number of migrant workers returning to their countries of origin probably exceeds the capacity of the formal and informal sectors in those countries to absorb them into the local labor market, due to the economic effects of the pandemic in those countries.

Principal factors on which migrants' return depend (%)



- When movement restrictions relax
- Waiting for notification from embassy
- When enough money is collected

Principal motives of the migrant population for staying in the country of residence (%)



On the other hand, 79% of migrants do not wish to return to their countries of origin, and the most common reasons include: Insecurity in the country of origin (47%), settlement and ties in the country where they resided at the time of the survey (24%),

the legal security regular migration status gives them (16%), migration restrictions (10%), lack of knowledge of the official procedures for return (2%), and job opportunities (1%).



## 2.EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON THE SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE MIGRANT POPULATION

### Length of residence abroad



**The migrant population has been established abroad for several years**

The majority of migrants who responded to the survey have been residing abroad for more than five years (35%); that is, their migration was not a recent event. The next most common are those who arrived in the country of destination between two and five years ago, and between one and two years ago. This is a clear indicator

that these are mainly people who are established in these countries with a certain degree of stability, which impacts their quality of life in the destination country and the intentions to return presented in the report.

## Housing



### 9 out of 10 migrants do not own their housing

Although we saw that migrants have been residing abroad for several years, 89% do not own their dwelling, whereas only 11% do. There were no significant differences by sex. This data is an indicator of the potential serious difficulties migrants may experience supporting themselves in the country of destination, if their income is impacted by the pandemic.

Of the people who do not own their dwelling, 80% rent and 20% live in a borrowed space, whether indefinitely

or temporarily. It is important to point out that those who live in a borrowed space will eventually face the risk of being left without a place to live.

The majority of those who do not own their residence live in houses/apartments (73%) or in boarding houses or bunkhouses (22%). Due to the limitations of their living space, migrants in this last group would face many challenges for complying with health measures in the event that they required isolation due to COVID-19.

## Economic dependents and remittances



### Two-thirds of migrants have economic dependents

The majority of migrants (67%) have economic dependents. In general, these dependents live in the same country as the migrant responsible for supporting

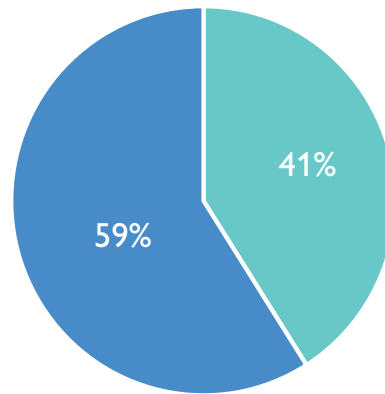
them (70%), while the remaining 30% live in other countries.



## 8 out of 10 migrants who send remittances have reduced the amount, most often because they do not have sufficient income

Of all migrants who have economic dependents in other countries, 59% continue sending remittances. However, the majority (82%) have reduced the amount they send because they do not have sufficient income. A lesser number have maintained the same amount (12%) and very few have increased the amount they send (6%).

Percentage of migrants disaggregated by those who send and have stopped sending regular remittances (%)



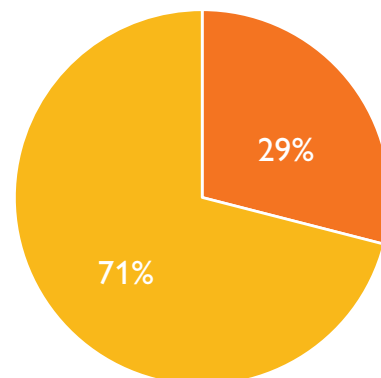
- Continue sending remittances
- Have stopped sending remittances



## 7 out of every 10 people who have stopped sending remittances have done so due to the pandemic

On the other hand, 41% of people have stopped sending remittances. This is due to various causes, most of which are tied to the pandemic: People do not have the economic resources to send, the restrictions and health measures within the countries do not allow them to go out and perform everyday errands, and remittance agencies and banks have been closed.

Principal reasons for having stopped sending remittances (%)



- Due to the pandemic
- Other reasons



## Loss of Employment



### Half of migrants lost their employment due to the pandemic

The International Labour Organization emphasizes that workplace closures, the application of new isolation measures, and the rapid deterioration of the economic situation have resulted in serious losses in working hours over a short period of time. Additionally, the highest level of restrictions affecting workers is being imposed in the Americas, where migrant workers are particularly affected.<sup>6</sup> Of all migrants who responded to the survey, 51% lost their employment due to the pandemic. We look later at the portion of these people who started a business in order to overcome this situation.

The results of the survey additionally confirm that migrants were facing precarious situations before the pandemic. For example, the results show that 69% of migrants are not gainfully employed, whether due to unemployment or other causes. This problem is even more marked for migrant women, above all because they perform unremunerated caregiving work such as domestic labor and caring for older adults.

## Resilience strategies



### 22% of migrants started small businesses after losing employment due to the pandemic

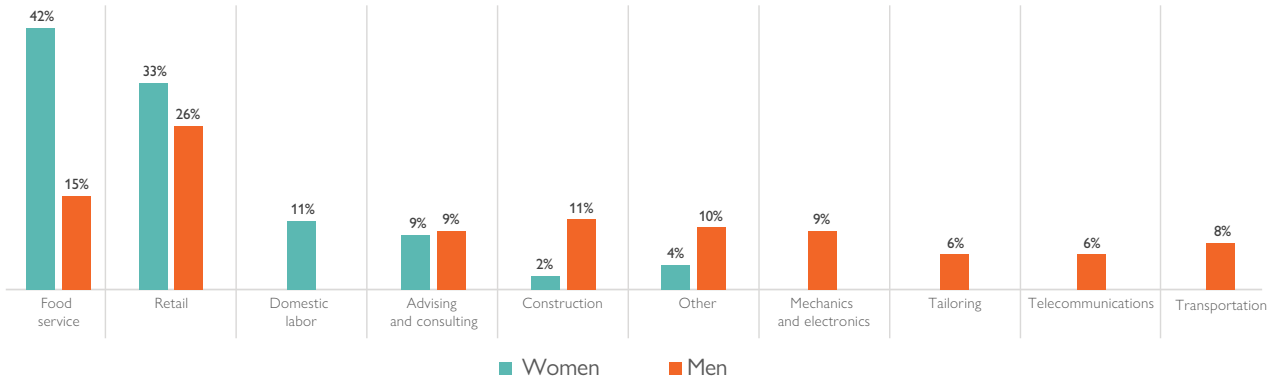
As a socioeconomic resilience strategy, 22% of migrants turned to entrepreneurship after being left unemployed due to the pandemic. Most of these business initiatives are in retail, however, the majority of these are of an informal nature (76%).

There are significant differences between the types of entrepreneurship undertaken by migrant men and

women, as well as in the degree of formalization. Women primarily concentrate their business initiatives in the food service and retail sectors. Men, meanwhile, work in the retail, construction, mechanics, electronics, tailoring, telecommunications, and transportation sectors.

<sup>6</sup> International Labour Organization, 2020. ILO Monitor: COVID 19 and the world of work. Fifth edition.

### Types of entrepreneurship of migrants by sex (%)



Business initiatives in the food sector (where women are in the majority), particularly when referring to initiatives in the context of the pandemic, mainly take the form of subsistence activities, which would

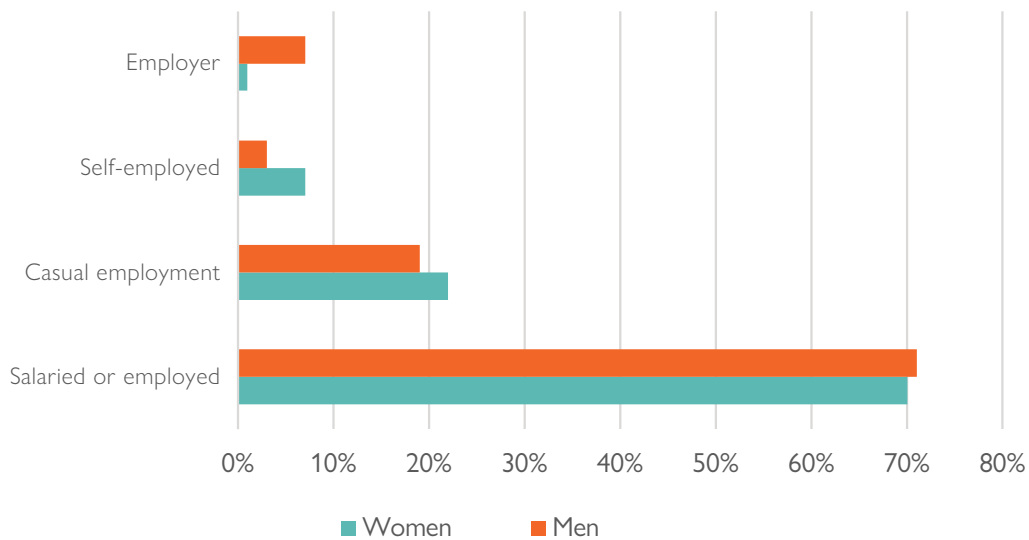
indicate low levels of formalization as they are smaller businesses. Therefore, if women are overrepresented in sectors such as domestic labor or the informal selling of food, they also have low levels of formalization.

## Employment

Of the people who responded to the survey, 20% are currently working. These people fall into different occupational categories and most are salaried or

employed (71%). The following graph displays the data disaggregated by sex.

### Occupational category of migrants by sex (%)



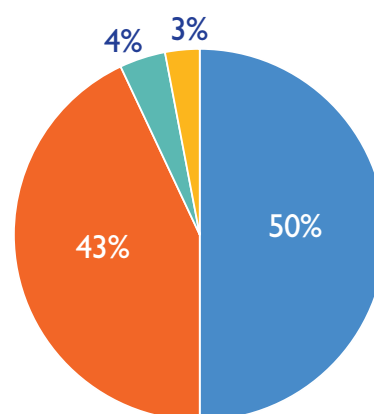
## Recruitment practices



**Only 3% of migrants use recruitment private agencies in the country of origin to obtain employment.**

The results of the survey indicate that a minority use private or government agencies in the country of origin to obtain employment (3% and 4%, respectively). The other methods people use to find employment are personal searches directly with companies or through friends or acquaintances. These forms of seeking employment may potentially place migrant workers in situations of risk, given that the majority of them are associated with informal mechanisms in which international standards for ethical recruitment and the corresponding protections of human and labor rights are not applied.

Principle means of obtaining employment (%)



- Family member, friend, or acquaintance
- Personal search with companies
- Government employment program
- Recruiting agency in country of origin

## Occupational sectors of migrant workers



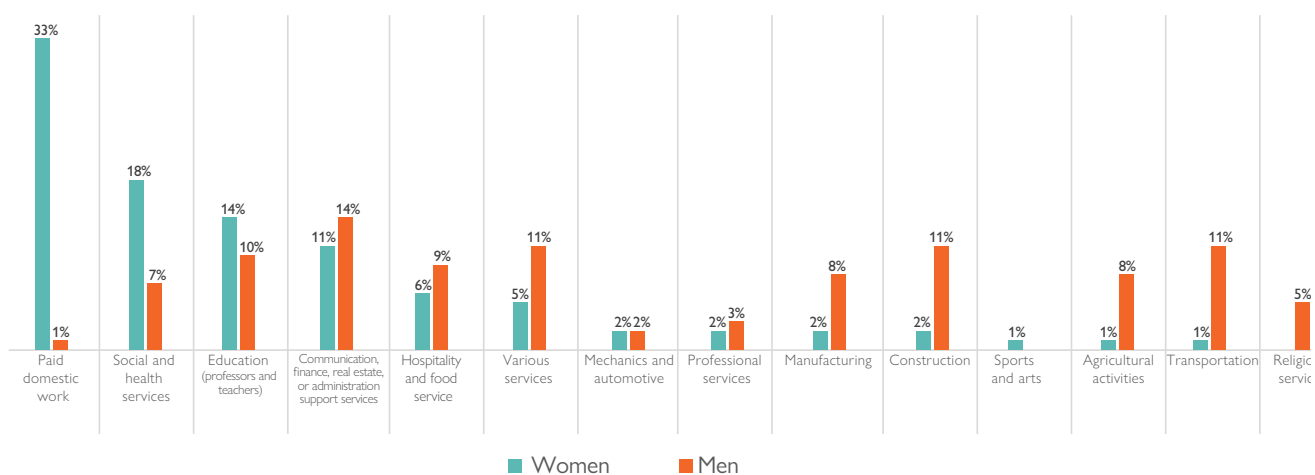
**12% of migrant workers perform social and health services**

Regarding the occupational sectors in which migrants work, the most common are paid domestic work (17%) followed by the support services sector (13%), and education and social and health services (12% each).

Occupational sectors display important variance by sex, which confirms that labor insertion is marked by a

gender division in the work force. The following graph shows the difference between women and men as it regards to occupational sector.

Principle occupational sectors of migrant workers, by sex (%)



## Impact on working conditions

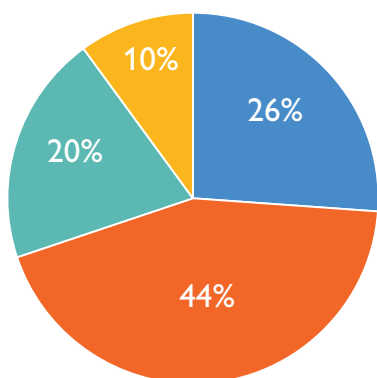


**4 out of 10 migrant workers saw reductions in their workday and/or salary**

The results of the survey indicate that even those who did not lose their employment had their working conditions impacted; 44% stated that their workday and working hours were reduced, 20% switched to telework, 10% had increased working hours, and 26% were unaffected.

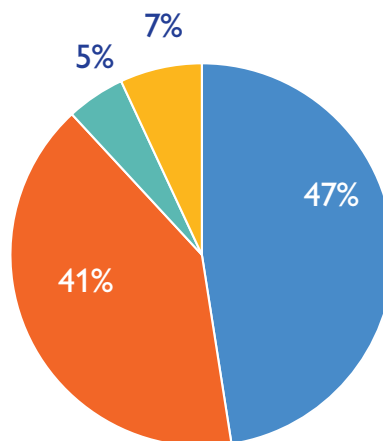
The following chart shows that 47% did not have their pay affected by COVID-19. However, 48% did have a reduction in salary or income and 5% stated they had not received their salary since the pandemic began.

Impact on workday due to COVID-19 (%)



- Unaffected
- Reduction in working hours
- Telework
- Increase in working hours

Impact on income due to COVID-19 (%)



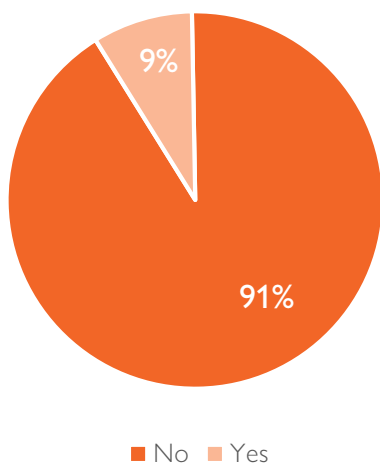
- Unaffected
- Reduction in salary
- Have not been paid
- Reduction in income (self-employed workers)

## Aid provided to migrants

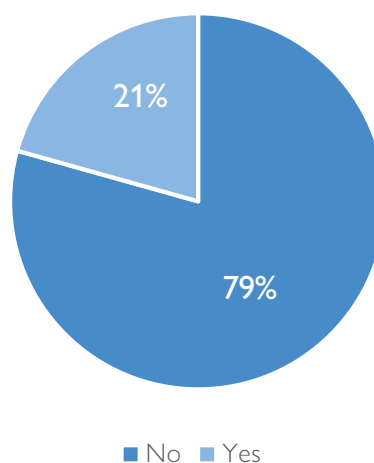
In order to cope with the repercussions of COVID-19, migrants have received aid, albeit to a limited degree, from various institutions, organizations, and groups. 21% of migrants have received aid from an institution and 9% have received aid from the migrant community in the

country where they live. The types of aid are diverse, but the most common forms from both sources are cash money, food products, and personal hygiene products.

Migrants who have received aid from the migrant community in the country where they live (%)



Migrants who have obtained aid from an institution (%)



Up until now, this report has described the socioeconomic conditions of migrants covered by the survey and how they have been impacted by the effects of COVID-19. In the following section, the report focuses on describing some variables and data related to physical and mental health.





### 3. IMPACT ON THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF MIGRANTS

#### Access to healthcare



**99% of migrants stated that they comply with the preventative health measures for COVID-19**

A global health situation such as the current situation with COVID-19 requires the careful exercise of measures to help contain the massive spread. These measures have largely included frequent handwashing with soap and water, the use of facemasks in enclosed spaces, maintaining social distancing, and leaving home as little as possible.

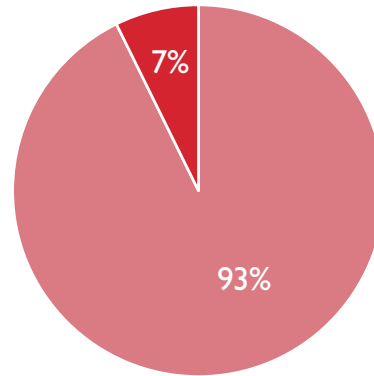
In order to be effective, these measures must embrace the entire population, including migrants. For this reason, it is noteworthy that 99% of the migrants surveyed stated that they are following the recommendations and prevention measures promoted in the country where they live to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.



## 33% of migrants who suspected they had contracted COVID-19 sought health services

7% of migrants had indicated suspicions of contracting COVID-19. Of these, 60% were between the ages of 26 and 45, while no migrants older than 66 suspected they had contracted the disease.

Migrants who have suspected they have contracted COVID-19 (%)



- Have not suspected they have contracted COVID-19
- Have suspected they have contracted COVID-19

Of the migrants who stated suspicions of having contracted COVID-19, only 33% had sought health services in the country where they currently reside. The questionnaire did not investigate the causes of this; however, even in the pre-pandemic context and particularly during the pandemic, there are significant factors (language, migration status, xenophobia, etc.) which limit the exercise of migrants' right to healthcare.

9% of the migrants who participated in this survey had had a COVID-19 test in the previous three months. This group reported a 9% positivity rate, and of these positive individuals, all affirmed they had complied with isolation and quarantine measures.

The positive cases were concentrated in individuals between the ages of 36 and 55, with at least one case in almost all age groups, except those between 18 and 25 and those older than 66.

## Chronic diseases

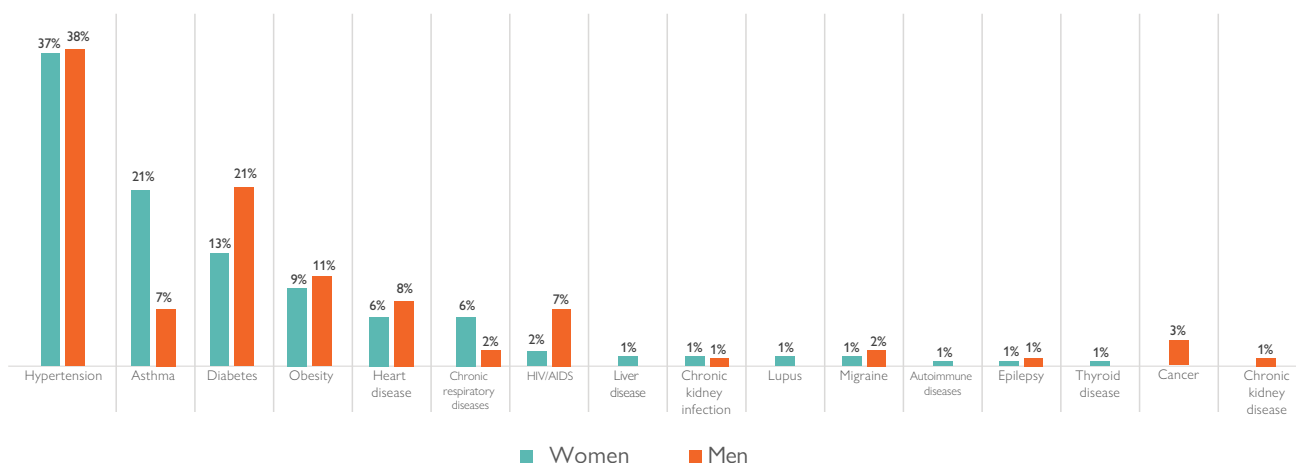


**2 out of 10 migrants stated they have a chronic health condition**

The impact of COVID-19 on health is aggravated when risk factors, such as some chronic diseases, are present. When the survey asked about this, 22% of migrants stated they suffer from a chronic disease. This situation affects primarily women (26%) compared with the prevalence of chronic disease among men

(18%). The individuals primarily indicated the presence of hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and obesity, as can be observed in greater detail in the following graph.

Principal chronic diseases among migrants disaggregated by sex (%)



# Mental health

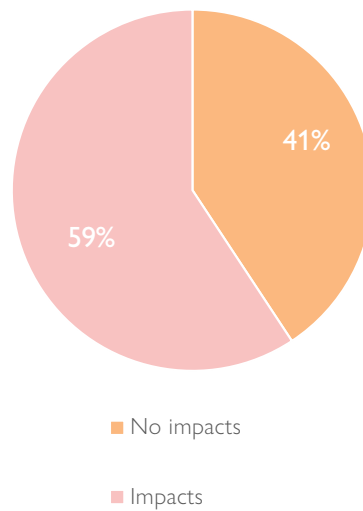


**6 out of 10 migrants have seen impacts on their mental health due to the pandemic**

The pandemic itself and the situations it causes in daily, personal, and work life also have significant impacts on mental health. On one hand, there is the general fear of infection and its consequences, and on the other hand, radical changes have occurred in routines and normalcy in all aspects of peoples' lives. Physical distancing, work from home or loss of employment, isolation, and uncertainty all have a direct effect on mental health.

This is also reflected in the migrant population, where 59% reported impacts on their mental health.

Migrants who have seen impacts on their mental health (%)



Of these impacts, the most frequently reported were stress, sadness, and anxiety.

**STRESS** DISTRESS  
FRUSTRATION ANXIETY INDECISION  
UNCERTAINTY ANGER SOCIAL WITHDRAWAL  
**SADNESS** FEAR



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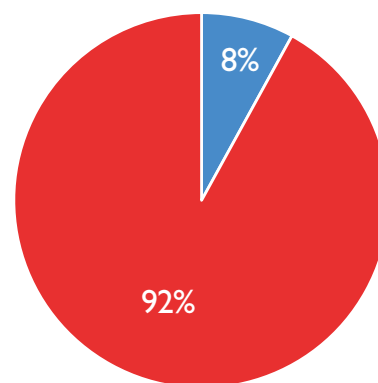
## 4. RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC



**9 out of 10 migrants are concerned about being deceived or exploited when seeking job opportunities**

Situations of unemployment and the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic increase the risk of migrants being deceived or cheated while seeking work. This risk increases even more when individuals have no other source of income when they lose employment. Correspondingly, 92% of migrants currently without a source of income stated they are concerned about being deceived or exploited when looking for job opportunities that will enable them to support themselves, whether during or after the crisis. This affects both men (93%) and women (92%).

Percentage of migrants who indicated concern about being deceived about potential job opportunities (%)



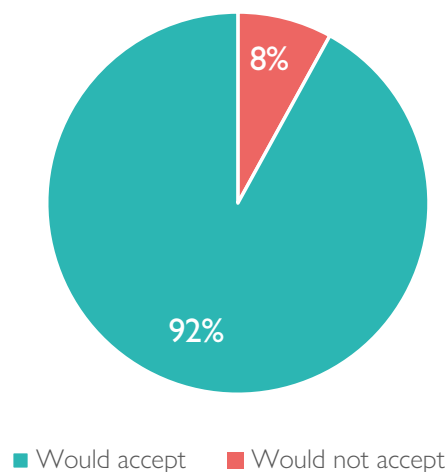
■ Do not indicate concern

■ Indicate concern

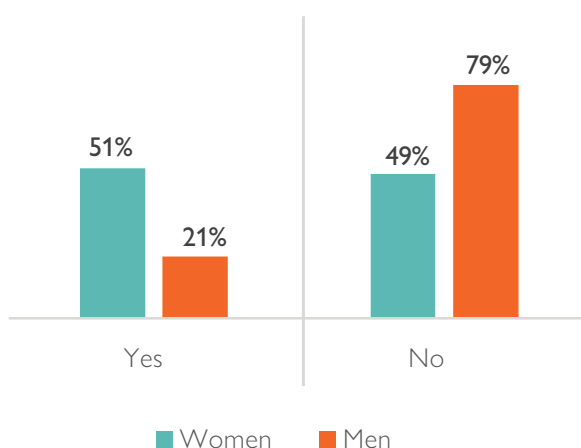


Despite these concerns, 92% of migrants without a source of income would accept a job or opportunity that would help them generate income, even if it came from an unknown company or person (88% in the case of women and 96% in the case of men). If they were to receive offers in another country, they would also take the risk of accepting them, even without understanding all the conditions; 61% would accept these types of offers while 39% would not.

Percentage of migrants who would accept offers from unknown companies or individuals in the same destination country (%)



Migrants who would accept a job offer abroad without knowing or understanding all its terms and conditions (%)





## 8 out of 10 people who intend to emigrate would take the risk of being hired abroad without being properly informed

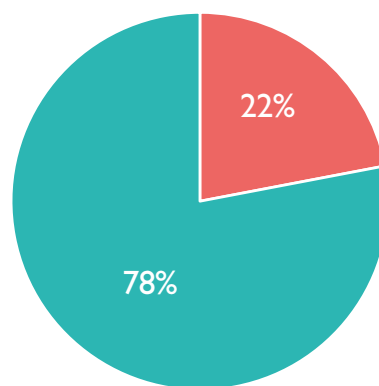
Additionally, of the people who intend to emigrate and seek employment, 78% would be willing to travel to another country if offered a job opportunity, even if they did not fully understand the conditions of the offer (72% of women and 82% of men).

This finding is closely related with the low percentage of people who stated they use private and public agencies to find employment from the country of origin, as described above in the section on means of seeking employment.

It is evident that both migrants and those who have not yet emigrated are at serious risk of accepting offers of employment without full information on the position due to the need to find a source of income, exposing these individuals to greater risks of suffering exploitation and abuse.

The latent risks of potential deception, especially for people in particularly vulnerable situations, may be aggravated due to the problems caused by COVID-19. These types of deceptions or fraudulent recruiting practices may potentially be connected to migrant smuggling and/or lead to trafficking in persons.

People with the intention of emigrating who would accept a job offer abroad without knowing or understanding all its terms and conditions (%)



■ Would accept ■ Would not accept



## CONCLUSIONS

The results obtained from this survey, despite its limitations regarding the scope and representativity of the sample, provide information about some general characteristics of the migrant population which may be of interest when designing and implementing comprehensive responses to the health, socioeconomic, and migration situation at present and in the upcoming months.

- 84% of people who had planned to migrate in the previous 12 months would consider resuming the trip when movement restrictions normalize, which appears to indicate that the pandemic has only postponed their migration plans.
- Migrants have suffered negative impacts on their income levels as well as significant unemployment or reduction of working hours. This has affected the ability of migrant workers to continue sending remittances to their countries of origin, and in some cases to support themselves in countries of residence.
- As a result, one out of five migrants expressed the intention of returning to their countries of origin, primarily motivated by the socioeconomic

impact of the pandemic. In addition to movement restrictions due to COVID-19, migrants' ability to return depends on having the sufficient resources to undertake the trip or waiting for notification from the respective consular authorities in order to return. Thus, it is possible that reopening borders without economic improvement in destination countries will result in an increase in returns to countries of origin, which will cause challenges for socioeconomic reintegration.

- Certain sectors or occupations have been more affected by unemployment and reduction in workload; domestic labor, construction, hospitality, and restaurants are the primary affected economic sectors in which migrants work.
- The results of the survey demonstrate the resilience of migrants to the impacts of COVID-19; although remittances have been reduced, they continue to be a strategy for supporting dependents, while migrants have undertaken business initiatives as strategies to generate income. International flows of financial resources, in the form of remittances and investment, will be critical for economic recovery in upcoming months. It is essential for governments and financial institutions to adopt measures to minimize costs and other barriers to sending remittances.
- The survey shows high levels of concern about the risks of being deceived in the job search process. However, the vast majority of migrants and those with the intention of migrating would accept untrustworthy or unclear job offers, unavoidably making them vulnerable to exploitation, fraud, scams, and migrant smuggling and human trafficking networks.

- The prevalence of chronic diseases among the migrants surveyed is 2 out of 10, with a marked prevalence of these diseases among women.
- A high percentage of migrants have experienced an increase in affectations such as stress, sadness and anxiety. Knowing the mental health condition of migrants allows defining strategies and actions to provide psychosocial care tools to institutions and organizations that offer care services.
- A high percentage of migrants stated they comply with the recommended health measures. In such a way that the assumption, in certain communities and contexts, regarding that they constitute a vector of infection, does not have evidence. Conversely, this finding shows that migrants contribute to the health response to the epidemic.





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Finally, the relatively high number of responses to this IOM initiative demonstrates in some way the importance and necessity of communicating with migrants in times of crisis and their desire to communicate their needs and experiences, to be heard, and to be part of response frameworks both in countries of origin and destination. Thus, the methodological approach of this survey provides input in the form of an estimate of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the migrant population.

## APPENDICES

Information for the Interviewee	
<p>Informed consent:</p> <p>The International Organization for Migration is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant populations. The survey is anonymous. IOM Will not collect personal information, such as names, ID numbers, or any personal data that may put at risk the integrity of those how agree to participate on this survey.</p> <p>IOM will use aggregated data to draft a regional study the impact of the pandemic on migrant populations and to disseminate the findings through different media channels. Do you agree to participate in the survey?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No (End of the questionnaire)</p>
Information for the interviewee	
1. Select your gender	<p><input type="radio"/> Male</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Female</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other</p>
2. Select your age range	<p><input type="radio"/> 13-18 years (End of the questionnaire)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 18-25 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 26-35 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 36-45 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 46-55 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 56-65 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> More than 66 years</p>
3. Please indicate your nationality	(List of main nationalities)
<p>4. ¿Are you an international migrant?</p> <p>International migrant, refers to any person that has changed residence by crossing an international border, in a temporary or permanent basis and by a wide variety of reasons.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 5</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No.</p>
4.1 In the last year, have you thought about migrating to another country?	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No. (End of the questionnaire)</p>



4.2 Why haven't you migrated yet?	<input type="radio"/> My trip was postponed due to mobility restrictions derived from the pandemic. <input type="radio"/> I changed my mind when the pandemic was declared and I don't want to migrate anymore. <input type="radio"/> I changed my mind for another reason, not related to the pandemic. <input type="radio"/> Other. Please specify: _____
4.3 Do you believe that when the mobility restrictions are removed you'll be able to continue with your plan to migrate?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
4.4 In the case that you are looking for a job. If you get an offer in another country, but you don't fully understand the conditions of the offer, would you still consider accepting it?  END OF QUESTIONNAIRE.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
5. Indicate your country of residence:	<input type="radio"/> United States <input type="radio"/> Canada <input type="radio"/> Mexico <input type="radio"/> Belize <input type="radio"/> Honduras <input type="radio"/> Guatemala <input type="radio"/> El Salvador <input type="radio"/> Nicaragua <input type="radio"/> Costa Rica <input type="radio"/> Panama <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify): _____
6. ¿For how long have you been living in this country?	<input type="radio"/> Less than three months <input type="radio"/> Between three months and six months <input type="radio"/> Between six months and one year <input type="radio"/> Between one year and two years <input type="radio"/> Between two years and five years

	<input type="radio"/> More than five years
7. Do you own place where you currently live?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 8. <input type="radio"/> No
7.1 Do you rent place where you currently live?	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I'm renting <input type="radio"/> No, I'm temporarily staying in a borrowed house <input type="radio"/> No, I'm staying in a borrowed house indefinitely
7.2 Please indicate what type of house you live in:	<input type="radio"/> Low-income housing <input type="radio"/> Apartment <input type="radio"/> House <input type="radio"/> Hostel <input type="radio"/> Shelter <input type="radio"/> Rancho <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify: _____
<b>Socioeconomic information</b>	
8. Do you have any dependents?  Dependent refers to those persons that depend on you for economic support, for example: family members or partner/spouse.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No. Move on to question 9
8.1 If yes, where do they live?	<input type="radio"/> In the same country I currently live. Move on to question 9 <input type="radio"/> In another country. please specify the country: _____.
8.1.1 Have you been regularly sending remittances to your country?  Remittances refers to the money that migrant send to their families or friends as economic support.	<input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 8.1.1.a.1 <input type="radio"/> No. Move on to question 8.1.1.b.1
8.1.1.a.1 Did you have to change the amount of money you usually send to your family/friends due to the pandemic?	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I reduced the amount of money i send because my income was reduced.

	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I've decided to send more money because what may happen in the future is very uncertain. <input type="radio"/> No, I haven't change the amount of money I usually send.
8.1.1.b.1 Did you stop sending remittances to your family/friends due to the pandemic?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. <input type="radio"/> No, it's because of another reason. please specify: _____ Move on to question 9
8.1.1.b.2 Why did you stop sending remittances in the times of the pandemic?	<input type="radio"/> The transfer costs increased. <input type="radio"/> I don't have enough money to send. <input type="radio"/> Remittance agencies/banks are closed. <input type="radio"/> I cannot go out due to mobility restrictions. <input type="radio"/> Other. please specify: _____
<b>Mobility, work issued and vulnerability risks</b>	
9. Are you currently working?	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I have a job. Move on to question 10.1.a <input type="radio"/> No, I'm unemployed. Move on to question 10.2.a <input type="radio"/> I lost my job as a result of the pandemic, but I started a new job on my own (entrepreneurship).
9.a Please indicate what type or work you are currently performing:	Open question: _____
9.b Have you started a formalization process for your business in the country where you live?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> I don't know what formalization is. <input type="radio"/> No. Move on to question 9.b.1
9.b.1 Can you indicate why?	<input type="radio"/> I don't think formalization is necessary. <input type="radio"/> I don't know if formalization is necessary. <input type="radio"/> I don't know how the process for formalization is.
10.1.a What's your job status?	<input type="radio"/> Paid employee <input type="radio"/> Casual work <input type="radio"/> Employer. Move on to question 10.1.c <input type="radio"/> Entrepreneur (a). Move on to question 10.1.c <input type="radio"/> Paid domestic worker

	<input type="radio"/> Other. please specify: _____
10.1.a. How were you hired for this job?	<input type="radio"/> Through a family member/friend/acquaintance <input type="radio"/> Through a recruitment agency in my home country <input type="radio"/> By myself, looking at enterprises/businesses directly <input type="radio"/> Through a government program <input type="radio"/> Through other means. Please specify: _____
10.1. What field do you work on?	<input type="radio"/> Agriculture <input type="radio"/> Manufacture <input type="radio"/> Construction <input type="radio"/> Mechanic <input type="radio"/> Driver <input type="radio"/> Hospitality and food services <input type="radio"/> Support services: communication, finance, real estate or administration. <input type="radio"/> Education (teachers) <input type="radio"/> Healthcare and social services <input type="radio"/> Styling and beauty <input type="radio"/> Sports and arts <input type="radio"/> Paid domestic worker <input type="radio"/> Others, please specify: _____
10.1.c Was your workday affected by the pandemic?	<input type="radio"/> Yes, I am now working part time or fewer hours than before. <input type="radio"/> Yes, I am working longer hours than before. <input type="radio"/> Yes, I am telecommuting. <input type="radio"/> No, my workday remains the same.

	<input type="radio"/> None of the above. Please, specify: _____
10.1.d Have you perceived an impact on the salary/remuneration you receive for your work?	<input type="radio"/> Yes, they reduced my wages. <input type="radio"/> Yes, I have not been paid since the pandemic started. <input type="radio"/> Yes, it is not allowed to go outside, and I am a freelance worker. <input type="radio"/> No, I continue to receive the same financial remuneration.
10.2.a Why are you unemployed?	<input type="radio"/> The workplace closed or reduced its operations due to pandemic restrictions. Move on to question 10.2.a.1 <input type="radio"/> I am looking for a job for the first time. Move on to question 10.2.a.2 <input type="radio"/> I don't want to work <input type="radio"/> I am an older adult and have limitations to work <input type="radio"/> I am a student <input type="radio"/> I have health problems (physical and mental illnesses) that prevent me from working <input type="radio"/> I take care of children or older adults <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify: _____
10.2.a.1 What is your occupation?	<input type="radio"/> Agriculture or farming activities <input type="radio"/> Manufacturing <input type="radio"/> Construction <input type="radio"/> Mechanic <input type="radio"/> Driver <input type="radio"/> Hospitality and food services <input type="radio"/> Support services: communications, finance, real estate or administration

	<input type="radio"/> Education (teachers) <input type="radio"/> Healthcare and social services <input type="radio"/> Styling and beauty <input type="radio"/> Sports and arts <input type="radio"/> Paid domestic worker <input type="radio"/> Others, please specify: _____
10.2.a.2 Would you accept a job or income earning opportunity if it comes from a company or person you don't know?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
10.2.a.3 Are you worried about being deceived and exploited when looking for opportunities to overcome this crisis?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
10.2.a.4 In the case that you are looking for a job. If you get an offer in another country, but you don't fully understand the conditions of the offer, would you still consider accepting it?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
10.2.a.5 Are you currently receiving any type of income?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
11. Have you received money from a family member or friend, from your country of origin?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<b>Health</b>	
12. Do you follow the recommendations and preventive measures promoted in the country where you live to mitigate the spread of COVID-19?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. <input type="radio"/> No. Move on to question 10
12.1 What measures are you applying?	<input type="radio"/> Frequent hand washing <input type="radio"/> Using of alcohol gel <input type="radio"/> Avoid touching your face <input type="radio"/> Cleaning surfaces <input type="radio"/> Avoiding crowds <input type="radio"/> Using of mask <input type="radio"/> Using of protective masks <input type="radio"/> Others, please specify: _____



13. In the last months have you had suspicions of contracting COVID-19?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No. Move on to question 14
13.1 Did you requested health assistance or attend a healthcare center in the country where you live?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. <input type="radio"/> No.
14. In the last 3 months, have you taken a test to detect COVID-19?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 14.1.a.1 <input type="radio"/> No. Move on to question 14.1.b
14.1.a.1 Was your diagnosis positive for COVID-19?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 14.1.a.1.a <input type="radio"/> No.
14.1.a.1.a Do you maintain isolation and quarantine measures?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. <input type="radio"/> No.
14.1.b Indicate why not?	<p>MULTIPLE CHOICE</p> <input type="radio"/> I don't know where to go <input type="radio"/> I'm afraid to leave my house <input type="radio"/> I am afraid of visiting a health center and being deported <input type="radio"/> I don't have health or medical insurance <input type="radio"/> I am receiving treatment at home <input type="radio"/> I don't have enough money <input type="radio"/> I don't know how to access health care <input type="radio"/> I don't know if I can go to a health center <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify: _____
15. Have cases of COVID-19 been detected in your workplace?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. <input type="radio"/> No.
16. Do you suffer from any chronic disease?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 15.1 <input type="radio"/> No.
15.1 Please indicate which of the following diseases you suffer from:	<p>MULTIPLE CHOICE</p> <input type="radio"/> Diabetes

	<input type="radio"/> Hypertension <input type="radio"/> Asthma <input type="radio"/> Chronic lung diseases <input type="radio"/> Liver diseases <input type="radio"/> Heart disease <input type="radio"/> Obesity <input type="radio"/> Cancer <input type="radio"/> HIV / AIDS <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify which disease: _____
16. Do you consider that since the pandemic your mental health has been negatively affected?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. <input type="radio"/> No.
17. Please indicate if you have experienced any of the following emotions due to the pandemic:	MULTIPLE CHOICE <input type="radio"/> Anxiety <input type="radio"/> Stress <input type="radio"/> Fear <input type="radio"/> Anguish <input type="radio"/> Withdrawal or withdrawal from social interaction <input type="radio"/> Frustration <input type="radio"/> Anger <input type="radio"/> Sadness <input type="radio"/> Indecision <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify: _____
<b>Migration plan</b>	
18. Are you planning to return to your country of origin due to the pandemic?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 18.1.a <input type="radio"/> No. Move on to question 18.2

18.1.a When do you plan to return?	<input type="radio"/> When mobility restrictions are removed. <input type="radio"/> I don't have enough money, so it will be when I collect the money I need. <input type="radio"/> I am awaiting notification from the embassy. <input type="radio"/> Others, please specify: _____
18.1.b Why do you want to return?	<input type="radio"/> I was unemployed, and I can't find a job because of the pandemic. <input type="radio"/> I have no income and it is impossible to stay in this country that way. <input type="radio"/> I changed my mind about my migration project and decided to return to my country of origin. <input type="radio"/> Others, please specify: _____
18.1.c Have you consulted with your relatives the decision to return?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
18.1.d Do you have a place to live in case you return to your country of origin?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 18.1.d.1 <input type="radio"/> No
18.1.d.1 Has anyone in your family been diagnosed with COVID-19?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
18.2. If not, could you indicate why?	<input type="radio"/> I do not know the official processes to do it. <input type="radio"/> I am not interested; I have roots in this country. <input type="radio"/> There are security issues in my home country. <input type="radio"/> I have been successful in regularizing my migration status in this country. <input type="radio"/> Due to the pandemic, mobility restrictions were applied for migrants who are regular in this country. Move on to question 18.2.a <input type="radio"/> Other. please specify: _____
18.2.a Would you return (within three months) after immigration restrictions are removed?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. <input type="radio"/> No.

<b>Support to contain the pandemic</b>	
19. Have you obtained any type of assistance from an institution?	<input type="radio"/> Yes. Please indicate which institution: _____  <input type="radio"/> No. Move on to question 20
19.1 Select the assistance they have given you:	MULTIPLE RESPONSE  <input type="radio"/> Money  <input type="radio"/> Hygiene products (soap, women's sanitary napkins, toilet paper, alcohol gel, paper towels, disposable diapers, etc.)  <input type="radio"/> Food  <input type="radio"/> Cleaning products (disinfectant, chlorine, alcohol, plastic bags, laundry soap, etc.)  <input type="radio"/> Clothes  <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify: _____
20. Have you received any kind of assistance from the migrant community in the country where you live?	<input type="radio"/> Yes.  <input type="radio"/> No. (End of the questionnaire)
20.1 Select the assistance they have given you:	MULTIPLE RESPONSE  <input type="radio"/> Money  <input type="radio"/> Hygiene products (soap, women's sanitary napkins, toilet paper, alcohol gel, paper towels, disposable diapers, etc.)  <input type="radio"/> Food  <input type="radio"/> Cleaning products (disinfectant, chlorine, alcohol, plastic bags, laundry soap, etc.)  <input type="radio"/> Clothes  <input type="radio"/> Other, please specify: _____
End of the questionnaire: Thank you for your support!	

<b>Information for the Interviewee</b>	
<p>Informed consent:</p> <p>The International Organization for Migration is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant populations. The survey is anonymous. IOM Will not collect personal information, such as names, ID numbers, or any personal data that may put at risk the integrity of those how agree to participate on this survey.</p> <p>IOM will use aggregated data to draft a regional study the impact of the pandemic on migrant populations and to disseminate the findings through different media channels. Do you agree to participate in the survey?</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No (End of the questionnaire)</p>
<b>Information for the interviewee</b>	
1. Select your gender	<p><input type="radio"/> Male</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Female</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other</p>
2. Select your age range	<p><input type="radio"/> 13-18 years (End of the questionnaire)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 18-25 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 26-35 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 36-45 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 46-55 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 56-65 years</p> <p><input type="radio"/> More than 66 years</p>
3. Please indicate your nationality	(List of main nationalities)
<p>4. ¿Are you an international migrant?</p> <p>International migrant, refers to any person that has changed residence by crossing an international border, in a temporary or permanent basis and by a wide variety of reasons.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes. Move on to question 5</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No.</p>
4.1 In the last year, have you thought about migrating to another country?	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No. (End of the questionnaire)</p>









International Organization for Migration

Regional Office for Central America, North America, and the Caribbean

Sabana Business Center,  
Boulevard Ernesto Rohrmoser,  
San José, Costa Rica