

## HIGHLIGHTS



**390**

Average number of  
Migrants sheltered per  
month



**78%**

**304**

Women and men  
over 18 years of age



**22%**

**86**

Children and adolescents  
under 18 years of age



**59%**

Haitian nationals



**61%**

Sheltered in La Peñita MRS

## CONTEXT

Panama's land borders were closed between March 16, 2020 and January 29, 2021, profoundly affecting Operation Controlled Flow, an agreement established between Panama and Costa Rica for orderly and regular safe migration, as well as flow of extra-regional migrants through Panama in general.

Executive Decree No. 61 of January 8, 2021 reopened the land borders as of January 29, 2021 for nationals, residents, and foreigners within its territory. Costa Rica, however, did not open its border, preventing the controlled flow from starting again.

On September 29, 2020, the San Vicente Migrant Reception States (MRS), with the capacity to shelter 500 migrants, was inaugurated in the city of Meteti, Darién. This MRS was the product of the efforts of the Government of Panama and international cooperation actors.

The inauguration of this new MRS allowed the progressive improvement of the overcrowding conditions that existed in the other MRS in the province of Darién. On January 28, 2021, the Government of Panama ordered the permanent closure of the La Peñita MRS, also located in Darién province, due to the deterioration of the terrain and conditions of the MRS and decreed the complete operationalization of the San Vicente MRS.

Regarding COVID-19 attention, the Lajas Blancas MRS continues to be the MRS for detection and isolation of positive or suspected COVID-19 cases. The MRS has an isolation area so that migrants who contract the virus or are suspected of having contracted it, can comply with the quarantine dictated by the health authorities.

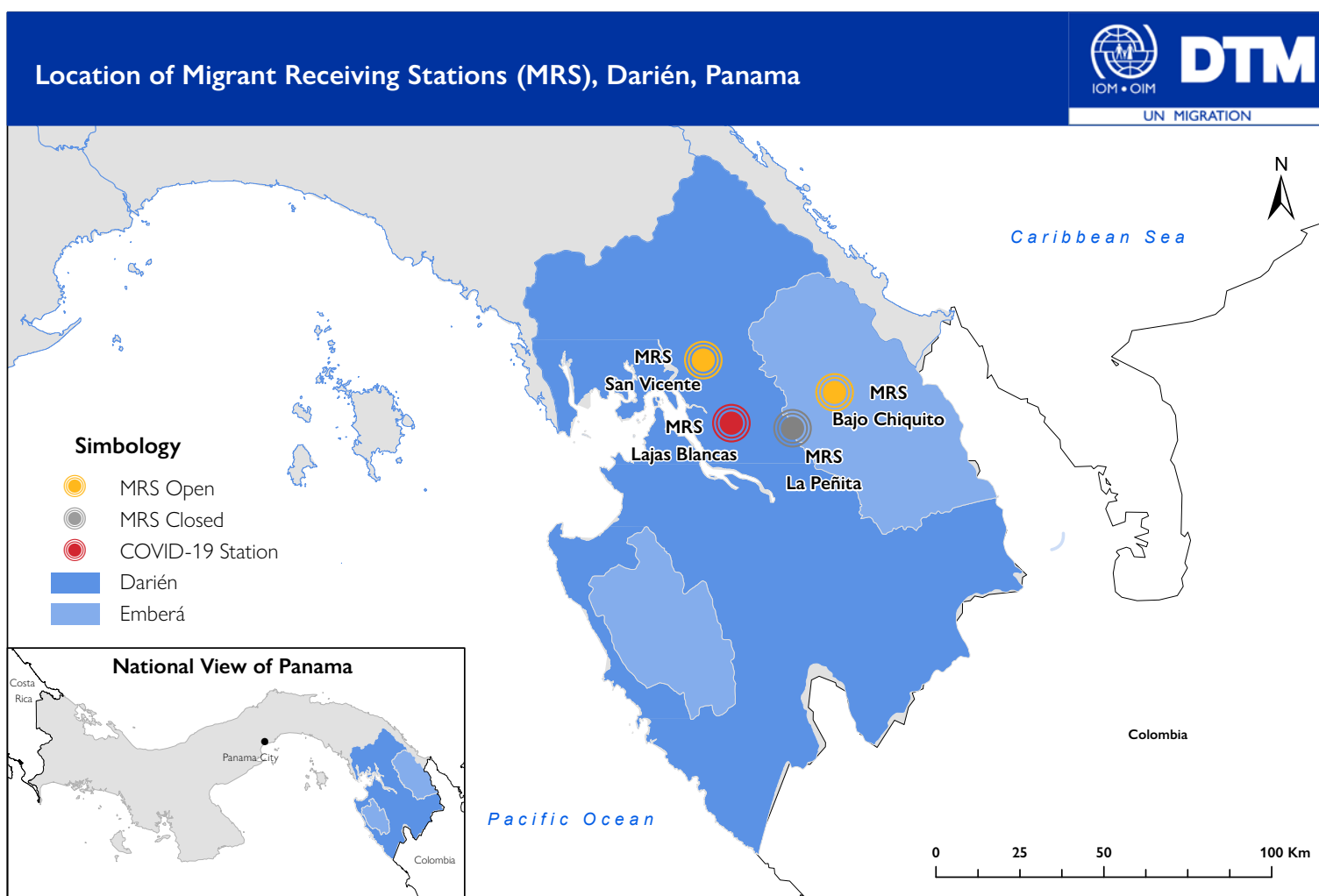


## METHODOLOGY

The data in this report were provided by the National Border Service (SENAFRONT) of the Government of Panama, as part of the administrative records collected about the people staying in the Migrant Reception Stations (MRS) in the province of Darien from September 01, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

SENAFRONT systematically collects the number of migrants who are sheltered in the different MRSEs. This registry disaggregates the data by sex, nationality and age; however, it is only possible to have data crossovers by sex and age for people under 17 years of age and not for people who are over 18 years of age. Therefore, one of the limitations for statistical analysis is having multiple cross references of variables.

The data analysis for this report consists of a calculation of the average number of migrants by independent variables: sex, age and nationality, disaggregated by MRS for the period indicated above. So, the following analysis corresponds to a description of the trends identified during the last six months for each MRS. In addition, reference is only made to the number of people who remain in the MRS for the determined period and does not provide an accurate estimate of the migration flow.

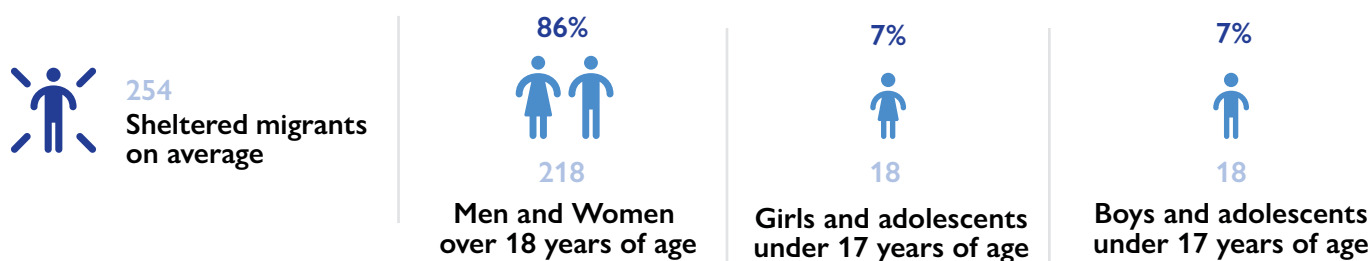


Basemap source: ESRI and UN World Map

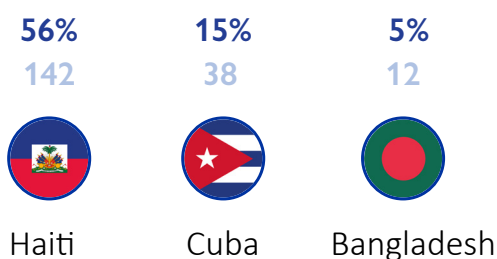
This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

## STATISTICS ON THE MIGRANT POPULATION SHELTERED IN THE BAJO CHIQUITO MRS

### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



### NATIONALITIES



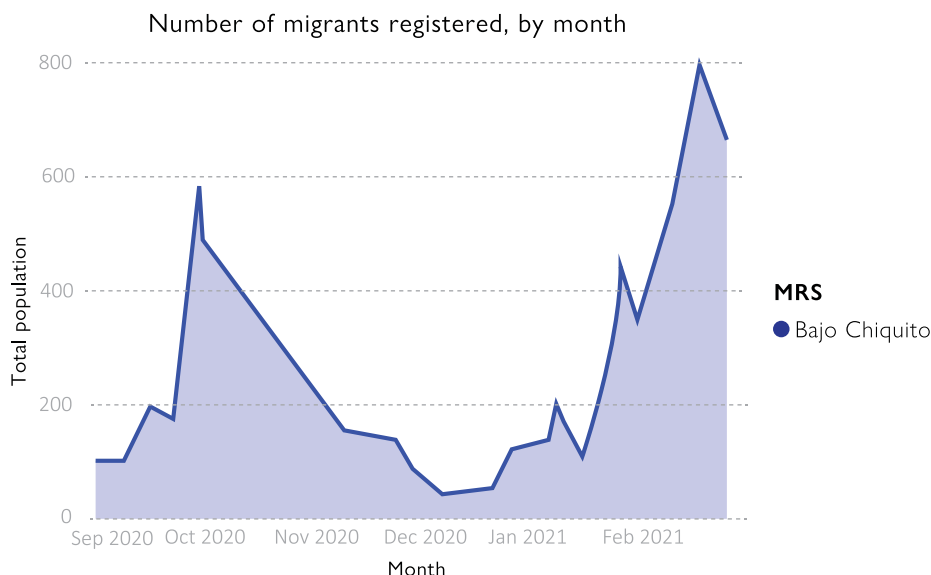
The remaining 24 per cent includes nationals from various countries such as Angola, Benin, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, India, Mauritania, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Senegal, Syria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

### TRENDS IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHELTERED

The Bajo Chiquito MRS is the first migration station that receives migrants once they finish their route through the Darien jungle.

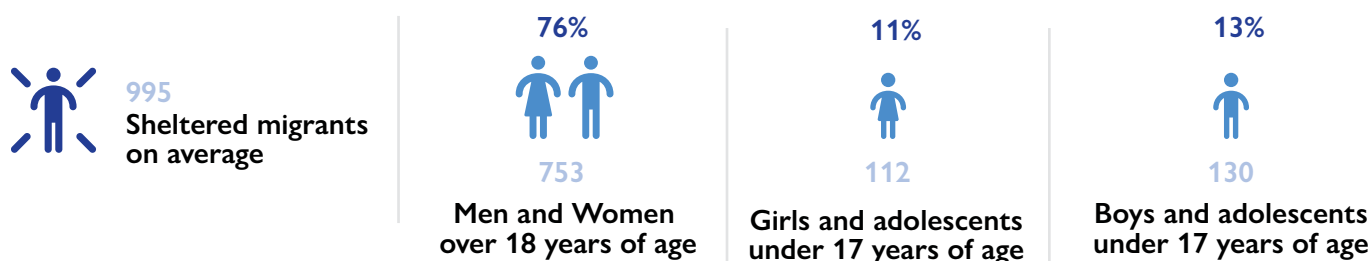
On average, 254 people were sheltered during the studied period. In October 2020, 586 people were registered, followed by a decrease in the number of arrivals through the end of January 2021.

During January and February 2021, the number of people registered at the MRS increased by 354 per cent, reaching a peak of 799 people in mid-February. This increase is related to the start of summer, during which river levels decrease, allowing people to cross through the jungle more easily.

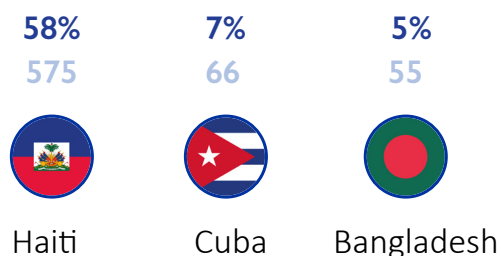


## STATISTICS ON THE MIGRANT POPULATION SHELTERED IN LA PEÑITA MRS

### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



### NATIONALITIES

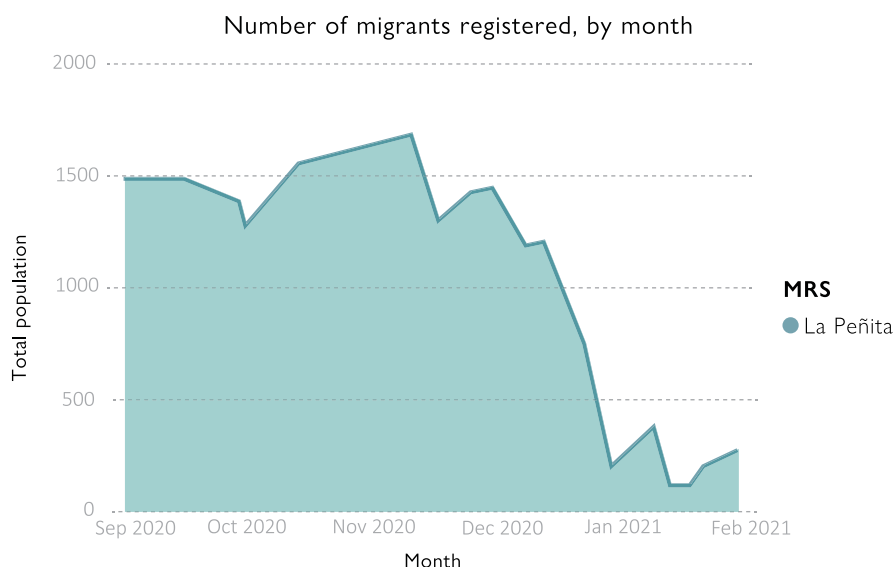


The remaining 30 per cent includes nationals from various countries such as Angola, Afghanistan, Benin, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Burma, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Niger, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Syria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo and Yemen.

### TRENDS IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHELTERED

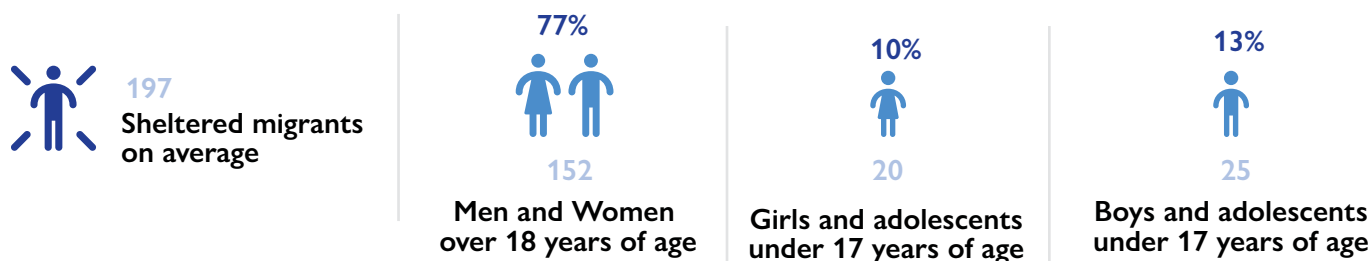
The La Peñita MRS, now closed permanently, was the shelter that received the highest number of migrants. This was consistent with the trends identified in the months before September 2020, when the MRS experienced an overcrowding of more than 500 per cent of its capacity.

On average, the MRS held 995 people between September 2020 and January 2021, reaching a peak of 1,694 migrants in November 2020. The number of migrants sheltered at La Peñita decreased after November, reaching 277 migrants at the time of the closure of the MRS.

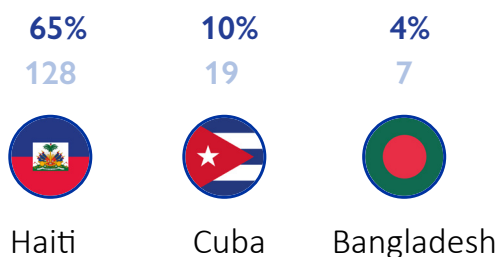


## STATISTICS ON THE MIGRANT POPULATION SHELTERED IN SAN VICENTE MRS

### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



### NATIONALITIES

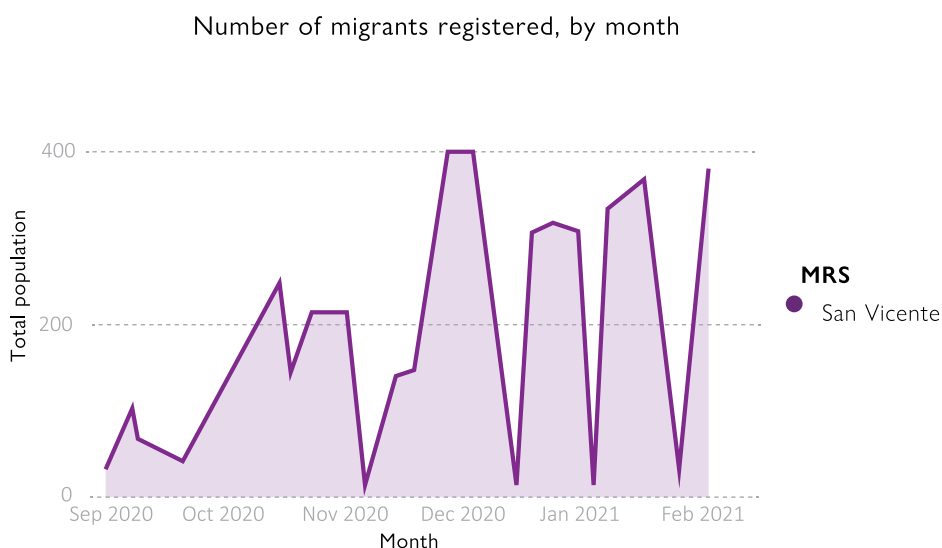


The remaining 21 per cent includes nationals from various countries such as Angola, Benin, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Mauritania, Mali, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Syria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo and Yemen.

### TRENDS IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHELTERED

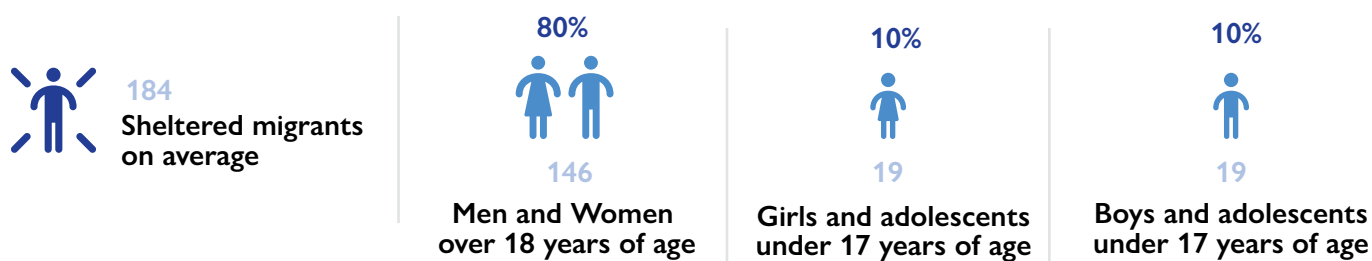
The San Vicente MRS opened in September 2020, but the size of the population transferred to the station has changed frequently, and therefore groups of migrants who remain in the MRS for long periods of time are not counted in this analysis.

On average, 197 sheltered migrants were counted during this period. As of December 2020, the number of migrants who had moved to the station had continued to increase, with a minimum of about 317 people in January 2021 and a maximum of 400 people in December 2020.

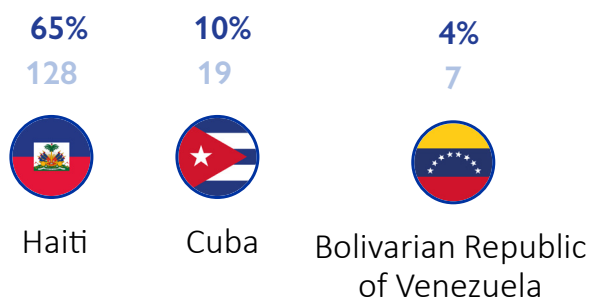


## STATISTICS ON THE MIGRANT POPULATION SHELTERED IN LAJAS BLANCAS MRS

### DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



### NATIONALITIES



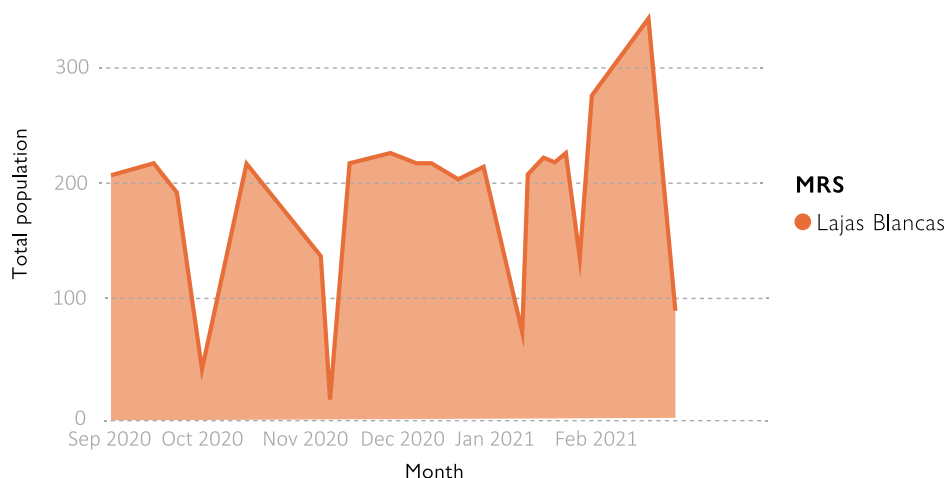
The remaining 22 per cent includes nationals from various countries such as Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, India, Mauritania, Mali, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Syria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo and Yemen.

### TRENDS IN NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHELTERED

The Lajas Blancas MRS is the only station that provides treatment and isolation for migrants who are positive for COVID-19 and those suspected of having contracted COVID-19. This explains the population trends of the station, as groups of migrants often do not stay for long periods of time.

On average, 184 sheltered migrants were counted during this period. From September 2020 to January 2021, the number of migrants sheltered remains relatively stable with groups of up to 226 people. In February 2021, the number of people moved to the station increased to 342.

Number of migrants registered, by month



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This publication was made possible through the support of the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), under the framework of the Western Hemisphere Program. However, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Government of the United States of America.



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