

HIGHLIGHTS

FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY

Source: Migrant Reception Station (MRS) in Los Planes de Gualaca, Chiriquí.
Government of Panama, 2022



4,837 PEOPLE DEPARTING FROM PANAMA

8 per cent increase in flow compared to the previous month (**4,467** people leaving Panama in February 2022)

FLOW MONITORING SURVEY

Source IOM, 2022



33% OF THE FLOW IS COMPOSED OF MEN BETWEEN 26 AND 35 YEARS OLD
AVERAGE AGE **34 YEARS**



HIGHLIGHTED NATIONALITIES

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA (50%), CUBA (10%), HAITI (10%) and ANGOLA (9%)



64% OF PEOPLE REPORTED COMMUNICATING IN **SPANISH**

Of the **24%** people who indicated being originally from an African country (Angola, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Somalia), **47%** communicates in **Portuguese** and **30%** in **French**.



76% OF PEOPLE HAVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS THEIR FINAL DESTINATION



90% OF PEOPLE
TRAVEL
ACCOMPANIED

68%
men

32%
women

3% elderly people
(+60 years old)

20% minors (17
years of age or
younger)

Increase in the flow of minors by **4%**
compared to the previous month (**16%**
in February 2022).

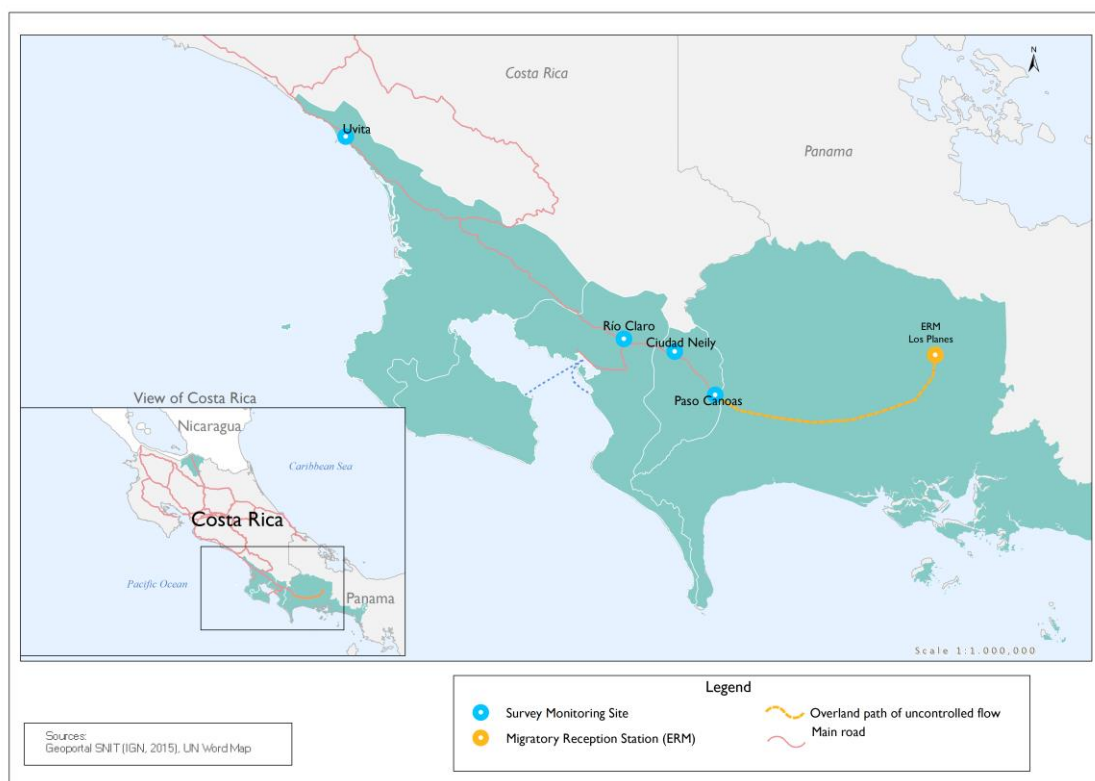
METHODOLOGY

The Flow Monitoring component of the DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix)¹ tool consists of a registry of migrants and the application of surveys directed at representatives of travel groups and allows the generation of quantitative estimates on the flow of people in a defined location and, from this, the collection of qualitative data.

The data for the flow monitoring registry is obtained from official data provided by the Government of Panama, corresponding to the voluntary departures of migrants from the MRS of Los Planes, in Gualaca, through the National Migration Service (SNM). For the application of Flow Monitoring Surveys, the instrument used is available in Spanish, English and Haitian Creole, with the objective of expanding the number of people who can be surveyed and collecting data on gender, age, nationality, characteristics of the trip, migration route, country of habitual residence, in addition to counting the people who make up the travel group of the people surveyed. For the definition of monitoring points (Map 1), the Baseline Assessment of Irregular Migration Flows and Mobility Tracking in border localities in southern Costa Rica under the context of COVID-19 was taken as a reference, based on consultations with key informants² and field work.

For the study, records of irregular departures from Panama between March 1 and 31, 2022 were obtained, corresponding to 4,837 irregular departures to Costa Rica. In parallel, a stratified random sampling was carried out during March by monitoring points. A total of 211 surveys were conducted with migrants, of which 60 percent (126) were valid surveys and 40 percent were invalid (refusals by respondents). The data analysis was based on the assignment of the sample weight, which is useful for extrapolating the characteristics of the persons interviewed to the rest of the persons recorded in the exit registers. With this statistical analysis it is possible to know, by means of estimates, the characteristics of the total number of people counted. Of the 211 surveys carried out, for 126 the informed consent was not accepted; therefore, when weighting with the weight of the sample, they were excluded from the calculation.

Map 1. Distribution of monitoring points



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.

1. Information associated with the data collection methodology is available at www.dtm.iom.int/about.
2. Retrieved from: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/costa-rica-linea-base-para-la-evaluaci%C3%B3n-de-flujos-migratorios-y-presencia-de-migrantes-1>

CONTEXT



In the framework of the COVID-19 emergency, since March 19, 2020, the Government of Costa Rica has kept its land border with Panama closed for the Controlled Flow Binational Operation, which sought an orderly and safe migration of migrants moving through the Americas³.



Between August 2021 and January 2022, 93,139 migrants entered Panama: Haiti (61%), Cuba (11%), Chile and Brazil with 7 per cent, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (4%), among other countries in South America, Africa and Asia (10%).

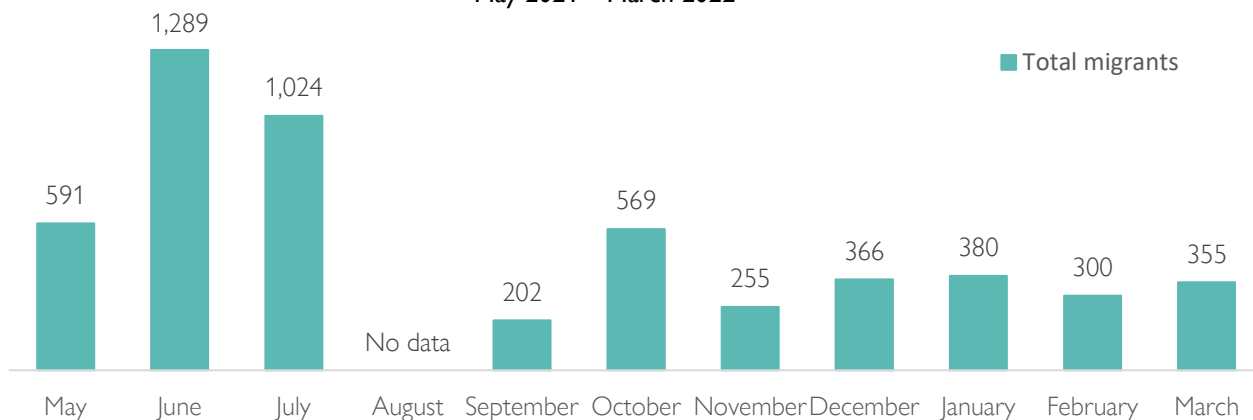


In Costa Rica, during 2022, a steady increase in the number of migrants of this migration flow has been identified (it has increased by 26 per cent compared to December 2021, when the flow monitoring in Costa Rica began). In addition, according to data from the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME), between May 2021 and February 2022, 5,331 rejections⁵ have been made in Paso Canoas.



In Costa Rica, there are many perceived vulnerabilities: people traveling alone, children, disoriented elderly people, people with medical problems, emotional exhaustion caused by stress, anguish and frustration. In addition, the main needs detected are associated with access to food, clothing, diapers, shelter, medicines and transportation. Many people have lost their identification documents and are reluctant to receive medical assistance, as they believe that they would not be allowed to continue their journey.

Figure 1. Number of rejections at the Paso Canoas border, May 2021 – March 2022



Source: DGME Costa Rica, 2022

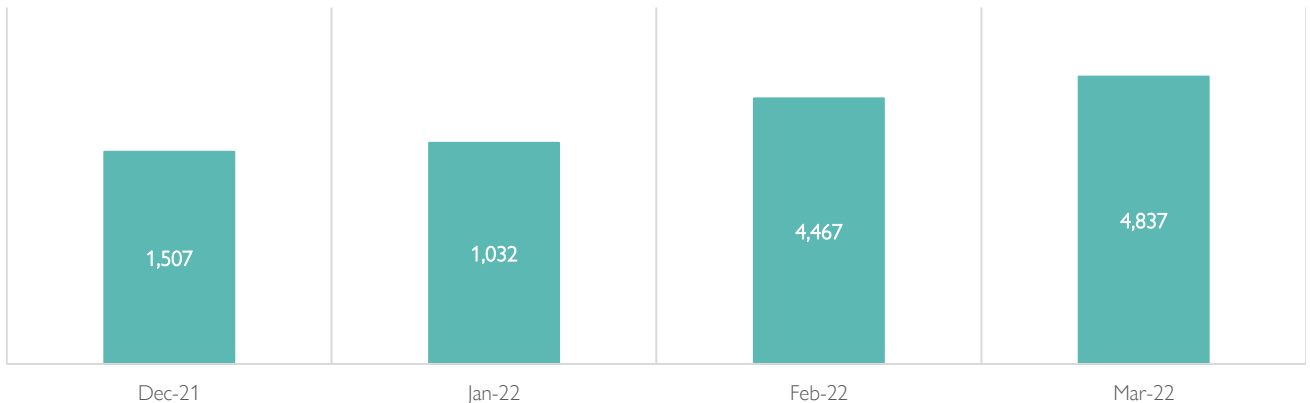
3. People in mobility through the Americas is understood as the migration flow of people who migrate from Panama to Costa Rica, through Central America and North America, and is mainly composed of nationals from Haiti, Cuba, as well as other countries in South America, Africa and Asia.
4. Information on the DTM: Monitoring of Migration Flows in Darien, is available at www.panama.iom.int/es/dtm-monitoreo-de-flujos-migratorios-en-darien.
5. Section 64 of the General Immigration and Foreigner Law establishes that rejection is the action by which the immigration authority denies the foreigner entry to the country, ordering his/her immediate return to the country of origin or precedence, which is executed when the person does not comply with the entry requirements demanded by the legislation in force, presents an impediment to enter the country or is caught trying to evade immigration control or entering through a place not authorized for such purpose.

REGISTRY OF VOLUNTARY DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS FROM THE MRS OF LOS PLANES, PANAMA

According to the registry of voluntary departures of migrants from the MRS of Los Planes in Gualaca, Panama, between March 1 and March 31, 2022, 4,837 departures of people from the migration flow were registered, equivalent to an average of 156 departures per day. This number represents an 8 percent increase compared to the 4,467 people who left the MRS in February 2022 (Figure 2).

Between December 2021 and March 2022, there was an increase in the migration flows, in December 2021 there was an average of 115 daily departures from the MRS of Los Planes, in January 2022 this figure increased to 120 people, 160 in February 2022 and 156 in March 2022.

Figure 2. Registered departures of migrants in the MRS of Los Planes, Chiriquí, by range of dates. December 2021 - March 2022



Source: Government of Panama, 2022



Migrants moving through the Americas in the MRS of Los Planes, Gualaca, Chiriquí, Panama.
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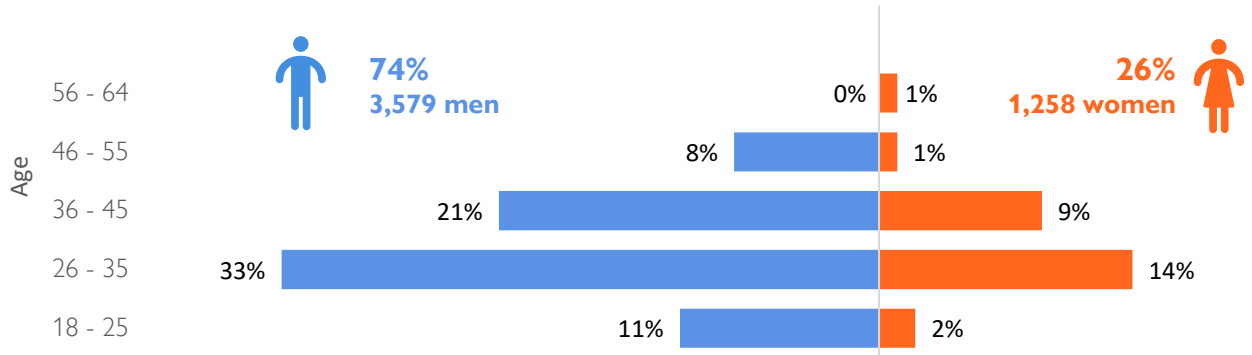
FLOW MONITORING SURVEY

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

A) Gender and age

Between March 1 and March 31, 2022, an estimated 4,837 irregular entries of migrants in mobility through the Americas was registered in Costa Rica. Most of the migration flow is composed of men (74% men and 26% women). The average age is 34 years, with a majority of people (77%) between 26 and 45 years of age (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Percentage of people in mobility situation through the Americas by age and gender



B) Country of nationality

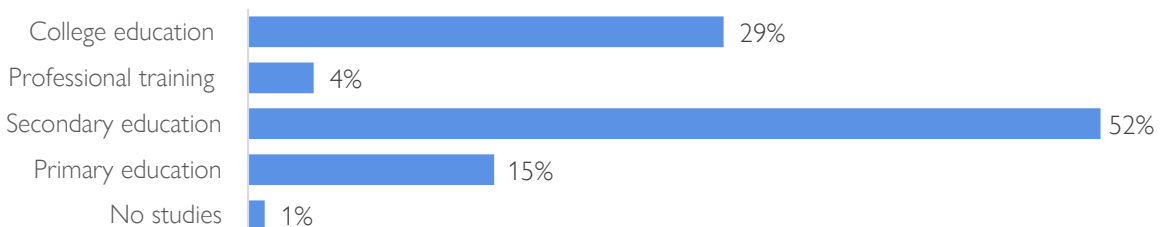


There is an increase in the flow of Venezuelan nationals and a decrease in the flow of people from Haiti and Cuba. In December 2021, 857 persons from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 643 from Haiti and 1,000 from Cuba were registered; in January 2022, 1,601 persons from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 521 from Haiti and 559 from Cuba were registered. In February 2022, 1,921 persons from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 581 from Haiti and 804 from Cuba were registered.

C) Educational level

In contrast to previous months, there was a decrease in the number of Venezuelan nationals with a completed university education; only 32 percent of the population originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has completed university studies. This percentage increased (54%) for the population originating from Cuba.

Figure 4. Percentage of people in mobility situation in the Americas by educational level completed

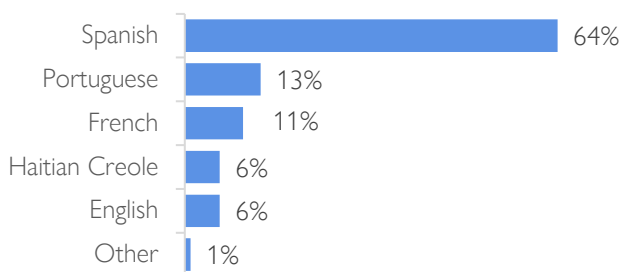


D) Language

The main language in which migrants normally communicate is Spanish (64%); however, other languages are identified in smaller proportions: Portuguese, French, Haitian Creole and English (Figure 5). Between December 2021 and March 2022, a decrease in the number of people who normally communicate in Haitian Creole has been noted, and the population that communicates in French and Portuguese has increased.

The population that normally communicates in Portuguese is composed of 56 per cent of people from Angola, 19 per cent from Senegal, 13 per cent from Haiti and 13 per cent from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The population that normally communicates in French is made up of 25 per cent of people from Senegal, 25 per cent from Haiti, and to a lesser extent, the Democratic Republic of Congo (17%), Angola (17%) and Cameroon (17%). Likewise, 100 per cent of the population who report communicating in Haitian Creole are originally from Haiti.

Figure 5. Percentage of people in mobility through the Americas according to the language in which they normally communicate



Sixty-two per cent of Haitian nationals normally communicate in Haitian Creole, followed by French (23%) and Portuguese (15%).

Eighty-two per cent of people of Angolan origin normally communicate in Portuguese, 18 per cent in French.

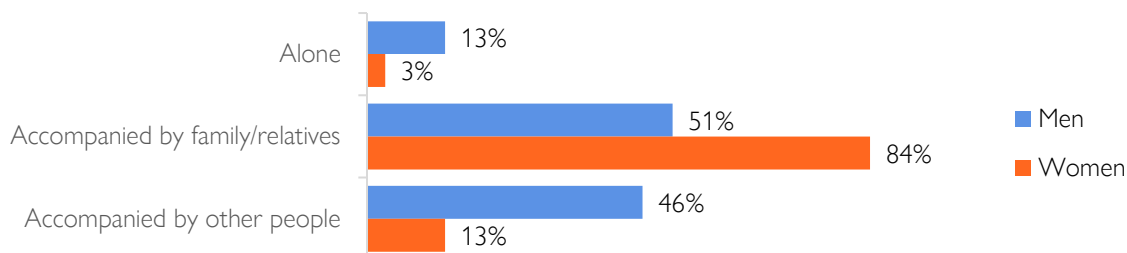
MIGRATION STATUS

E) Accompaniment during the journey

The survey collected information on the groups with whom people travel, that is, the people who accompany the surveyed migrant during their migration journey. A total of 748 people were counted, of which 68 per cent are men and 32 per cent are women. In addition, it is estimated that 20 per cent of the groups of accompanying persons are persons under 18 years of age and 3 per cent are elderly people.

However, the percentage of people traveling alone is higher among men: 13 per cent compared to 3 per cent of women (Figure 6). On the other hand, of the 90 per cent of people who reported traveling in groups, 60 per cent were accompanied by their family and/or relatives, with an average of 6 people per travel group. There was a decrease in the number of people who traveled unaccompanied, in December 2021, 17 per cent of people traveled alone, while in January and February 2022 this percentage dropped to 9 per cent.

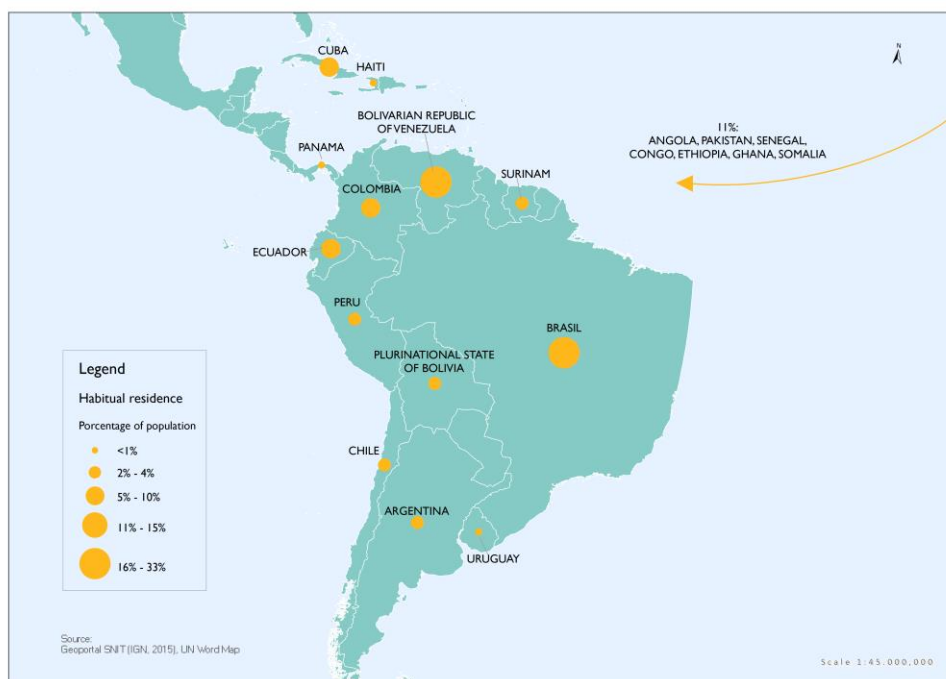
Figure 6. Percentage of travel companionship of people in mobility situation through the Americas, by gender



MIGRATION ROUTE

The main countries of habitual residence of people in mobility situation through the Americas (countries where people lived for one year or more before starting their journey) are the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (33%), Brazil (17%), Colombia (7%), Ecuador (7%), Cuba (6%) and 30 per cent among 16 other countries (Map 2).

Map 2. Country of usual residence of people in mobility situation through the Americas



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Of the 50 per cent of persons originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 65 per cent lived in their country of origin before starting their journey (24% indicated residing in Caracas, 11% in Maracaibo), 8 per cent in Colombia (3% indicated residing in Medellín, 3% in Cali), 7 per cent in Chile (5% indicated residing in Santiago), 8 per cent in Ecuador (3% indicated residing in Falcon), 6 per cent in Peru (5% indicated residing in Lima), among others.



Of the 10 per cent of persons originating from Cuba, 46 per cent indicated residing in their country of origin before starting their journey (23% indicated residing in Havana, 8% in Oriente and 8% in Santiago de Cuba), 15 per cent in Colombia (8% indicated residing in Bogotá and 8% in Medellín), 15 per cent in Suriname (15% in Paramaribo), 8 per cent in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (8% in Caracas), 8 per cent in Peru and 8 per cent in Uruguay.

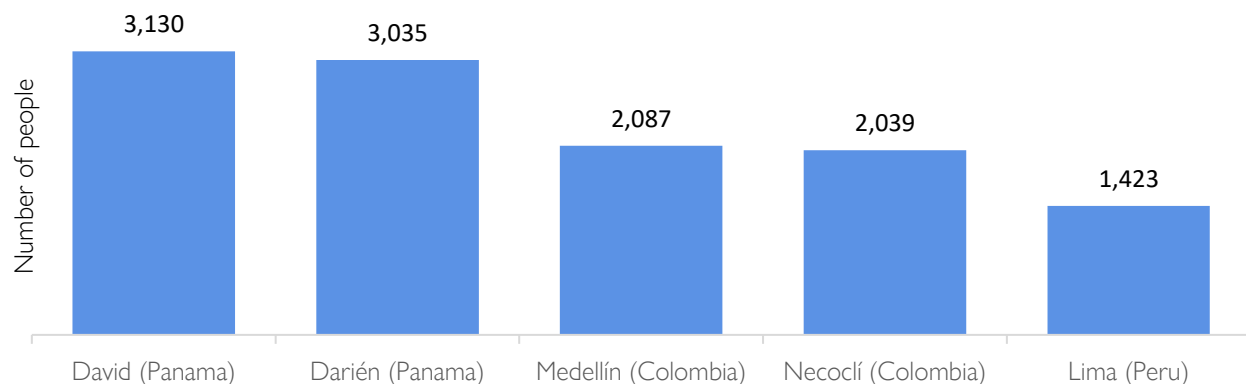


Of the 10 per cent of people originating from Haiti, 85 per cent indicated Brazil as their country of usual residence (46% indicated Sao Paulo, 15% Santa Catarina, 15% Brasilia, 8% in Paraná), only 8 per cent indicated residing in Haiti before starting their journey and 8 per cent in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.



Of the 9 per cent of people originating from Angola, 45 per cent indicated Brazil as their country of usual residence (36% indicated residing in Sao Paulo), 36 per cent in Angola (36% indicated residing in Lingala), 9 per cent in Colombia and 9 per cent in Chile.

Figure 7. Main cities reported as transit sites on the migration route
 People had the possibility of choosing more than one option.



Map 3 shows the main migration routes identified by the migrant population moving between South American countries to Central America⁷. The identified route begins in Brazil and Bolivia, continuing to Peru (mainly to the city of Lima), and then to Quito in Ecuador. From Ecuador, the route forks into two routes; one to Medellín and the other to Necoclí in Colombia. From Medellín, there is one flow that indicates heading directly to David in Panama, and two others that travel to Necoclí or Darién in Panama, and from there, the routes are distributed among various transit cities reported in Panama, mainly through the communities of Puerto Limón, Panama City, Gualaca and Chiriquí.

Map 3. Main transit route and cities of the migrant population in mobility through the Americas

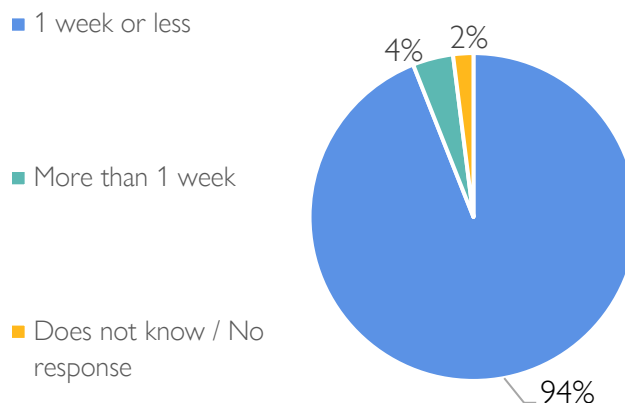


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The main countries and cities of transit reported by migrants during their journey are also identified⁶. Approximately 16 per cent of the people reported having passed through various cities in Brazil, 18 per cent in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 39 per cent in Peru (39%), 41 per cent in Ecuador, 87 per cent in Colombia; mainly through Medellín (43%) Necoclí (42%), and Capurgana (12%). Likewise, 95 percent of the flow indicated having passed through Panama, mainly through David (65%), Darién (63%), among others (Chiriquí, Gualaca, Puerto Limón).

Figure 8. Percentage of people in mobility situation through the Americas by approximate length of time they plan to stay in Costa Rica

The population surveyed indicated that they had no plans to stay in Costa Rica: 94 percent indicated that they planned to stay less than 1 week in Costa Rica and 87 percent less than 1 day (Figure 8).



INFORMATION NEEDS DURING THEIR STAY IN COSTA RICA

Fifty-four per cent of the population indicated having some information needs during their stay in Costa Rica, related to access to basic resources, documentation, and economic resources, among others, while the remaining 46 per cent indicated having no needs.

An increase in needs related to medical assistance and security was identified, compared to the previous month; 6 per cent of the flow in February 2022 indicated a need for medical assistance and 5 per cent indicated a need for security.



No need
46%



Access to food
10%



Medical assistance
13%

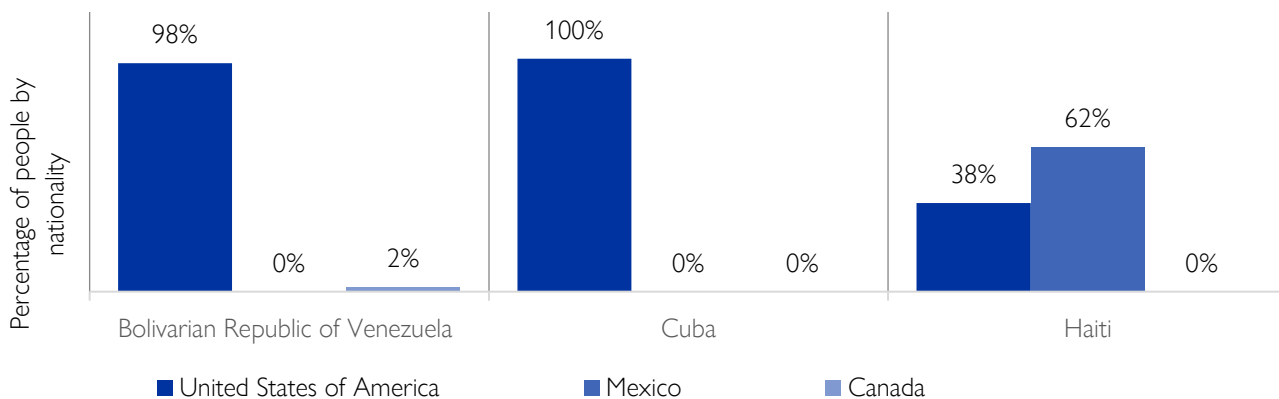


Safety
8%

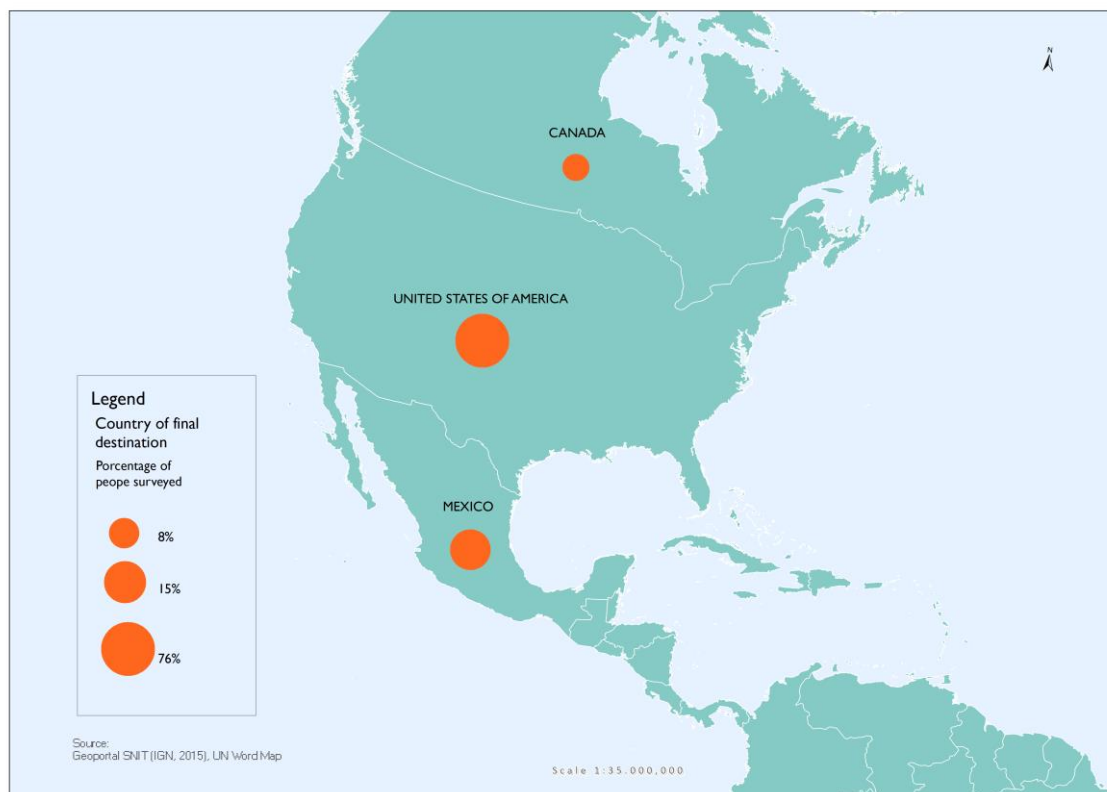
- Ninety-three per cent of the surveyed population responded on migration routes, and 11 per cent of the responding population indicated only one movement.
- Map 3 includes information on migration routes identified by 10 or more respondents, excluding all those with fewer records.

Regarding the countries of destination of the population, the United States of America was identified as the main destination country (76%), followed by Mexico (15%), Canada (8%), among others (Map 4). However, there is a percentage variation in the destination country according to the nationalities of the individuals: of those who indicated coming from Haiti, 62 per cent indicated Mexico as their final destination country, followed by the United States of America (38%). On the other hand, 100 per cent of persons originating from Cuba indicated the United States of America, and 98 per cent of persons originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela indicated the United States of America and 2 per cent Canada as their final destination country .

Figure 9. Country of final destination by main nationalities identified



Map 4. Country of final destination of people in mobility situation through the Americas

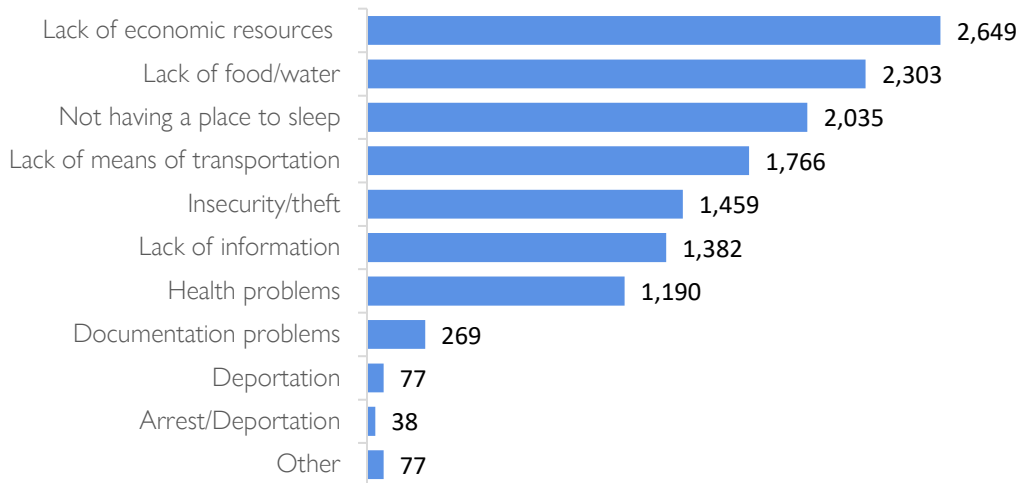


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F) Difficulties during the journey

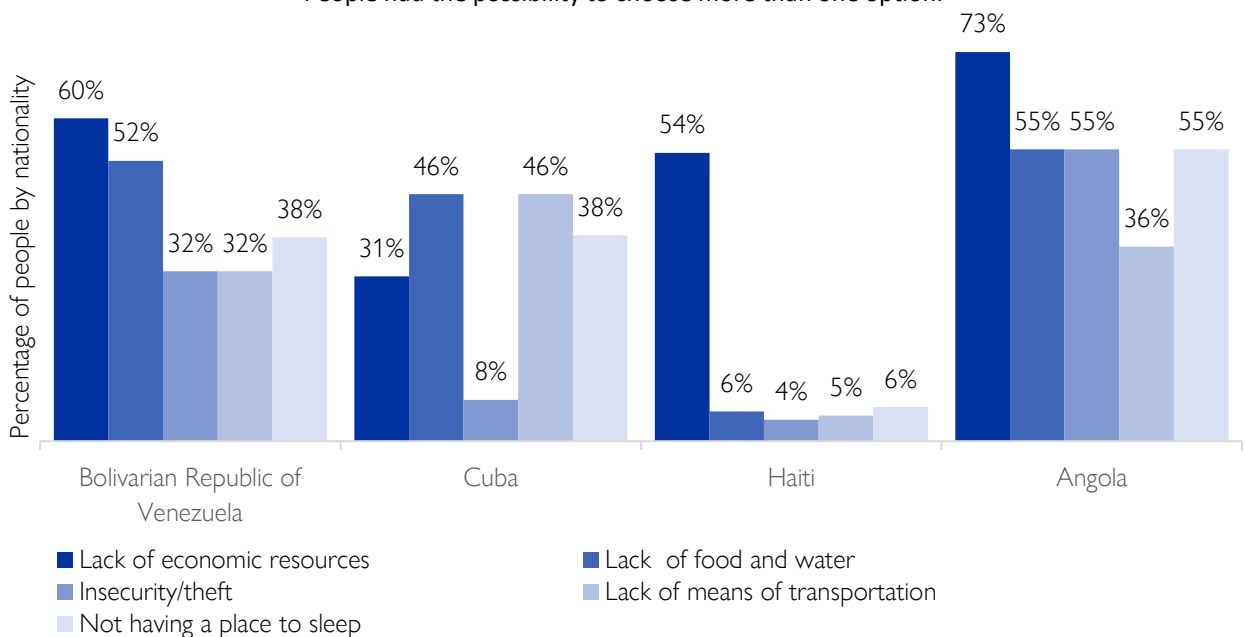
Regarding difficulties during the journey, 55 per cent of the population indicated lack of economic resources, followed by lack of food or water (48%), not having a place to sleep (42%), lack of transportation (37%), insecurity/theft (30%), lack of information (29%), among others (Figure 9). Likewise, a higher proportion of people from Angola reported difficulties during the journey, compared to people of other main nationalities identified.

Figure 10. Number of people who experienced difficulties during the journey, according to the type of difficulty
People had the possibility to choose more than one option



Other difficulties: Difficult topography (38) and loss of belongings (37).

Figure 11. Main difficulties by main identified nationalities
People had the possibility to choose more than one option.



CONCLUSIONS



The flow of migrant population in mobility through the Americas continues to be high compared to previous years and, likewise, during January and March 2022 there was an increase in the migration flow: between January and February 2022 there was an increase in departures from the MRS of Los Planes, and the consequent entry into Costa Rica.



Most people (85%) reported having completed high school or higher education levels (university, professional training); however, these proportions vary according to nationality. Haitians had lower levels of educational attainment compared to persons of other nationalities: 54 per cent of Haitians reported having completed secondary education.



The main countries of origin of people in mobility situation through the Americas are mainly the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (33%), Brazil (17%), Colombia (7%), and Ecuador (7%), among others.



The United States of America emerged as the main destination for the migration flow, although Mexico was identified as the main country of attraction for the Haitian population.



Lack of economic resources and access to food were the main difficulties identified in the migration process of the migrant population moving through the Americas, while during their stay in Costa Rica, access to food, access to health and security became important.

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