



Displacement Tracking Matrix

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - CHAGUANAS ROUND 1



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I. INTRODUCTION

The Borough of Chaguanas is the largest municipality and fastest-growing town in Trinidad and Tobago. It is situated on the western coast of Trinidad, upstream from the Caroni Swamp, between the two main cities of Port of Spain and San Fernando.¹

Chaguanas spans 59km², with a population of 83,516 persons.² It comprises several communities and sub-areas, which encompass vast areas of agricultural land.

Moreover, this region's human development index, in 2012, was 0.686 and 62.9% of its population had obtained secondary and higher education ³

Accordingly, given the trend of escalating inflows of Venezuelan nationals into Trinidad and Tobago,⁴ Chaguanas has featured in Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) 2021 as having the second highest number of Venezuelan migrant respondents in the exercise. Furthermore, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, heightened health and safety protocols to combat the spread of the virus, have inadvertently exacerbated economic issues and migrant vulnerabilities.

Notwithstanding this, in March 2021, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) conducted a re-registration exercise for Venezuelans, who were previously registered under the Venezuelan Migrant Registration Framework in June 2019, to extend their regular status and options for legitimate employment. In addition, with the assistance of the Venezuelan Embassy, there was a major voluntary repatriation exercise of 680 Venezuelan nationals, in July 2021. Apart from this, COVID-19 vaccines have been made available to Venezuelan migrants in Trinidad and Tobago.

The DTM 2021, Sub-report for the Borough of Chaguanas, therefore presented an excellent opportunity to examine the situation of Venezuelan migrants against these backgrounds, and within the framework of the Fostering local communities of solidarity for migrants and refugees project, which is funded under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DEVCO).

IOM's DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to capture, process, and disseminate critical multi-layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations, regularly and systematically. Hence, the DTM provides decision-makers and responders with insightful data to guide specific assistance to target populations.

A total of 188 Venezuelan migrants from the Borough of Chaguanas participated in DTM 2021 between October and November 2021. The areas with the highest number of respondents were Cunupia, followed by Longdenville, and Chaguanas Proper, as shown in Map 1. It must be noted, however, that 18 respondents indicated that they did not know in which community they resided.

¹ https://businessviewcaribbean.com/chaguanas-borough-corporation-progress-grows-prosperity/

² Central Statistical Office, 2012:26; 45.

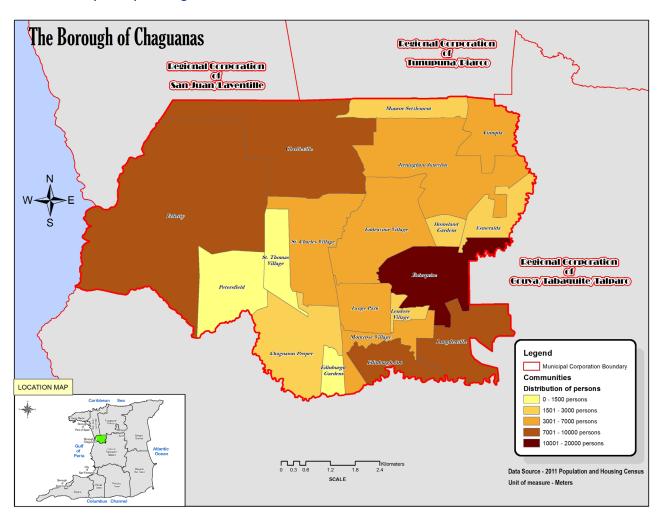
³ Human Development Atlas, 2012:168

⁴ Increased flows were primarily attributable to the deteriorating situation in Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Due to space limitations, we will refer to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as 'Venezuela'



MAP 1

Number of Surveys - Map of Chaguanas



The DTM's findings on respondents' areas of residence, in the Borough of Chaguanas, concurred with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) data on persons who it registered and were dwelling in the city of Chaguanas. More pointedly, Cunupia was highlighted as having the highest number of registrants.

2. METHODOLOGY

The 2021 DTM for the Borough of Chaguanas was informed by the national 2021 DTM dataset, from which cases for the Borough were extracted and quantitatively analyzed.

This information was also compared against data on 3,232 UNHCR registrants who resided in the region of Chaguanas.

Accordingly, surveys were administered to Venezuelan migrants, who were over the age of 18 years, and willingly participated in the interview process.

The data collection method involved telephone-based interviews, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which impeded the face-to-face approach.

An online form was developed for this round of DTM to encourage interested, eligible persons to share their contact information for inclusion in the DTM survey exercise. It was broadcast on various social media platforms and within stakeholder networks.⁵

This effort, therefore, supported the creation of a migrant database from which respondents were selected.

A purposive sampling strategy was used, as a defined sampling frame was unavailable, and the population continued to be a 'hard-to-reach' one.

Thus, this sampling method, coupled with mobility restrictions, imposed some limitations on the exercise regarding its representativeness.⁶

⁵ Some key stakeholders included UNHCR, religious organizations and non-governmental organizations.

⁶ Non-probability samples cannot be relied upon to draw conclusions or make inferences on the entire migrant population.



Data collection spanned approximately three weeks and it was executed by a team of bilingual enumerators, trained in DTM procedures. A survey instrument, which maintained respondent anonymity, was the data collection tool and the individual migrant was the sampling unit.

Furthermore, tablets were used during data capture and the information generated was cleaned, coded, and analyzed, using standardized statistical techniques.

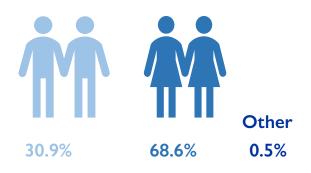
3. MIGRANT PROFILES

The minimum selection criteria for DTM 2021 determined that all respondents should be Venezuelan nationals, who are eighteen years and over.

A demographic analysis of the interviewees in the Borough of Chaguanas showed that there were significantly more female respondents than male. Also, there was one respondent who identified as other, as illustrated in Graph 1.

GRAPH 1

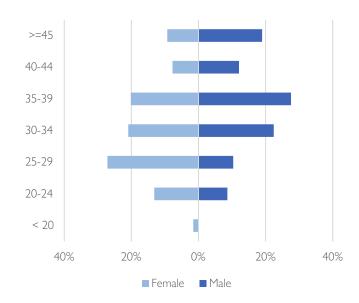
Distribution by sex



A breakdown by age and sex also revealed that the 35-39 age group had the highest number of respondents, followed by the 25-29 and the 30-34 groups. Graph 2 refers. The respondent who identified as 'other' was in the 20-24 age group. These findings were reflective of the national DTM exercise.

GRAPH 2

Distribution by Sex and Age



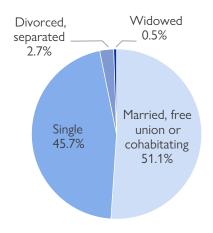
Conversely, the UNHCR's data revealed a more equitable distribution amongst the sexes.

An analysis the UNCHR's registrants by age, however, was comparable to the Chaguanas DTM 2021, since 78 per cent of the UNCHR's registrants were between the ages of 18 and 59 years old.

Regarding union status, the 2021 Chaguanas DTM highlighted that there were slightly more married, free union, or cohabiting respondents than single persons. Additionally, these two categories combined, accounted for 97 per cent of the interviewees. Graph 3 illustrates. It should be noted, however, that at the national level there were marginally fewer married persons.

GRAPH 3

Marital Status



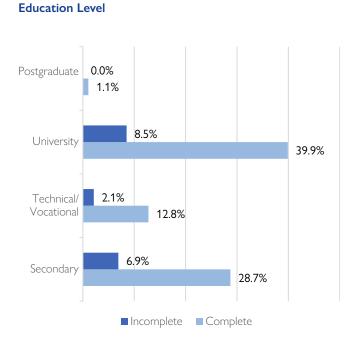


On the other hand, the UNHCR's data determined that approximately 63 per cent of its registrants were single persons, whilst about 32 per cent were in common law married relationships or were married persons.

Moreover, from the Chaguanas effort, about 7 per cent of the female interviewees were pregnant, of which approximately 63 per cent were below 30 years old and roughly 38 per cent were single.

In the area of education, 40 per cent of the interviewees had completed university education, and about 29 per cent of had completed secondary level education, Graph 4 refers.

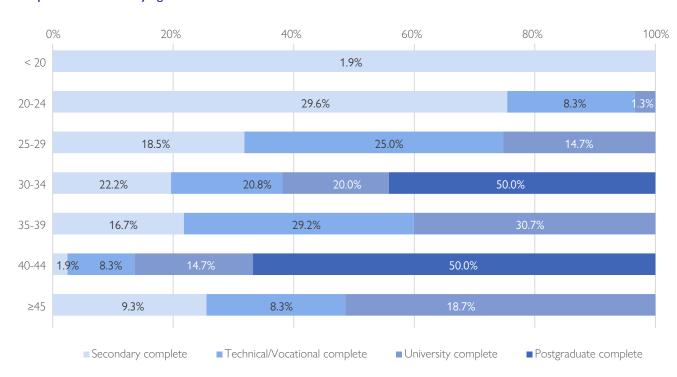
Therefore, over two-thirds of the interviewees had reportedly completed either secondary or university education.



Also, a significant portion of the respondents in the '30-34', '35-39' and the '40-44" age groups had completed university-level education, whereas the '20-24' age group had the largest percentage of secondary school graduates, as shown in Graph 5. These findings generally coincided with the national data.

GRAPH 4

GRAPH 5 Completed Education by age





Furthermore, a disaggregation of completed education by work sector showed that 16 per cent of the interviewees were university graduates, who worked in the agriculture sector, while approximately 45 per cent were university graduates who engaged in babysitting work. Within the national effort, however, there were substantially smaller percentages of persons, with reported university education, who worked in the construction sector, and to a lesser degree cleaning/domestic work.

Conversely, the UNCHR's data showed that the majority of its registrants had primary or secondary level education, and about 22 per cent had university or postgraduate education. Interestingly 8.8 per cent of the registrants had no education.

It is also notable that, within the Chaguanas 2021 DTM, all interviewees were Venezuelan nationals only.

Likewise, a large percentage of the UNHCR's registrants were Venezuelan nationals.

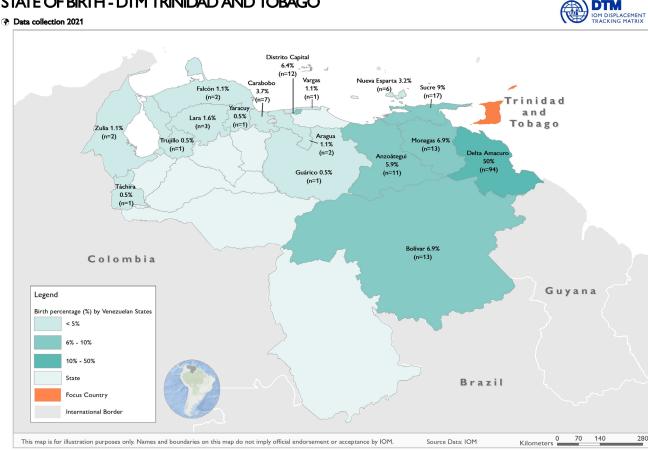
Further to this, in the Chaguanas DTM, the majority of respondents were born in the eastern states of Venezuela, and Delta Amacuro emerged as the place of birth for most of the interviewees. Map 2 refers. These patterns were also evident in the national exercise.

MAP 2

State of Birth

STATE OF BIRTH - DTM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



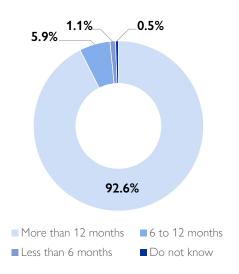


In addition, approximately 71 per cent of the respondents had resided in their state of birth before their journey to Trinidad and Tobago.

Regarding the length of stay in Trinidad and Tobago, about 93 per cent of the persons interviewed were present in the country for more than twelve months, as shown in Graph 6.

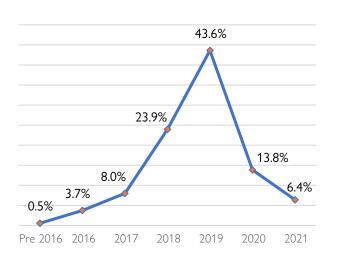


Time in Trinidad and Tobago



Additionally, more than two-thirds of the respondents arrived in Trinidad and Tobago either in 2018 or 2019, a trend also observed in the national DTM. It is important to note, however, that reported entries dropped drastically in 2020 and 2021, as depicted in Graph 7.

GRAPH 7 Date of Arrival

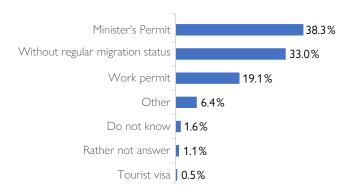


Correspondingly, UNHCR's data revealed analogous results and informed that the majority of its registrants were recorded in 2019.

A review of the migratory status of the interviewees, in the Chaguanas DTM, further indicated that approximately 57 per cent had either a Minister's Permit or a Work Permit, and 33 per cent were without regular migration status (Graph 8).

GRAPH 8

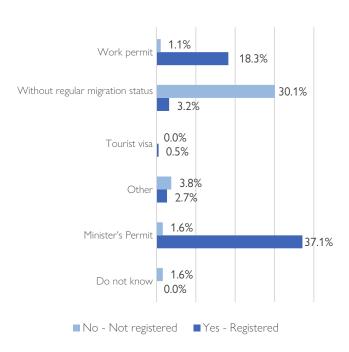
Migration Status



Additionally, a breakdown of migrant status by registration status, as it relates to the 2019 exercise, showed that many of the unregistered respondents were without regular migration status, which was also apparent at the national level. Graph 9 refers.

GRAPH 9

Registration Status by Migration Status



Moreover, it was discovered that 61 per cent of the respondents were reportedly registered during the Government registration exercise in 2019.

Further to this, approximately 76 per cent of registered interviewees participated in the Government re-registration process, in 2021, and about 79 per cent of these persons were either asylum seekers or recognized refugees, by the UNHCR. These findings concurred with the national data.

Interestingly, the UNHCR's data indicated that many of its registrants were asylum seekers.



4. ROUTES

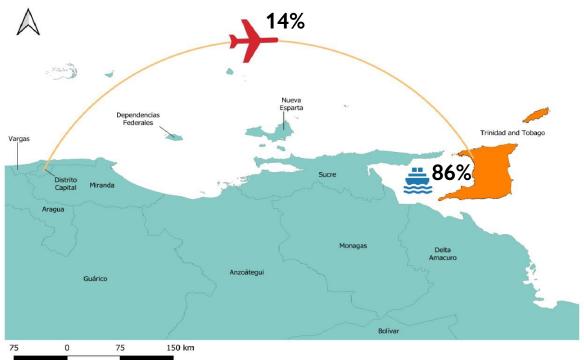
Careful examination of the transit routes, used by the respondents who resided in the Borough of Chaguanas, revealed that roughly 70 per cent began their journey in Delta Amacuro.

Incidentally, 77 per cent of these respondents also resided in this area before their departure from Venezuela.

Furthermore, 86 per cent of all valid responses confirmed that their mode of transport to Trinidad and Tobago was via boat (Map 3).

MAP 3

Routes



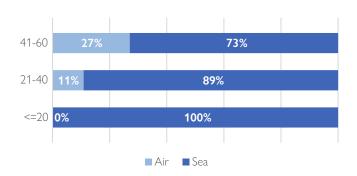
Disclaimer: this map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by

Additionally, a breakdown of the modes of transportation by age showed a predominance of sea travel among all groupings (Graph 10). These findings were consistent with the national exercise.

The results also highlighted that 77 per cent of the interviewees incurred expenses between 100 to 499 US Dollars for their trip and most of these travellers used sea routes. Notwithstanding this, a few respondents expended higher costs, as 3 per cent of the persons reportedly paid in excess of 500 US Dollars, as shown in Graph 11.

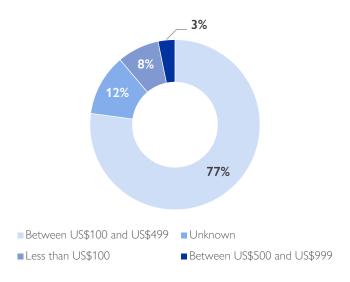
GRAPH 10

Transportation Type by Age





Cost of Trip

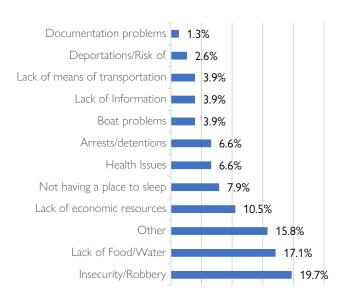


Approximately 60 per cent of the interviewed migrants entered through unofficial entry points. Added to this, 34 per cent of the respondents purportedly used their passports to cross borders. These findings coincided with information from the national effort.

Regarding the journey itself, 81 per cent of the persons did not report any difficulties during the trip. Of the 19 per cent who did encounter challenges, the most frequently cited problems were: insecurity and robbery, and lack of food/water which mirrored national results. Graph 12 refers.

GRAPH 12

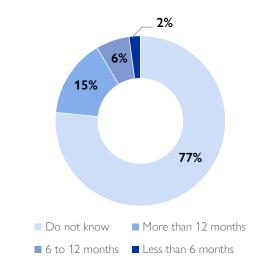
Trip Difficulties



Moreover, about 77 per cent of interviewees were uncertain of their intended period of stay in Trinidad and Tobago. Further to this, 15 per cent expressed their intention to stay for more than 12 months. Smaller percentages of the respondents reported that they intended to stay for '6 to 12 months' and 'less than 6 months,' as shown in Graph 13.

GRAPH 13

Length of Stay



Nevertheless, Trinidad and Tobago was the final destination country for 84 per cent of the persons interviewed. Venezuela emerged as the second most popular destination for a considerably lower number of respondents.

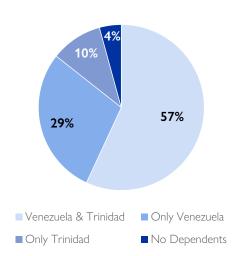
It should be noted though, that 39 per cent of the respondents planned to return to Venezuela. However, most of them were undecided on when they would do so. Of the remaining respondents, 37 per cent of the interviewees did not intend to return and 24 per cent were uncertain of their return. These findings were congruent with the national 2021 DTM.

5. DEPENDENTS

With regard to economic dependents, 57 per cent of the interviewees had dependents both in Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, while 29 per cent had dependents only in Venezuela and 10 per cent had dependents in Trinidad and Tobago only (Graph 14). Similar findings were reported in the national effort.



Dependents by Location

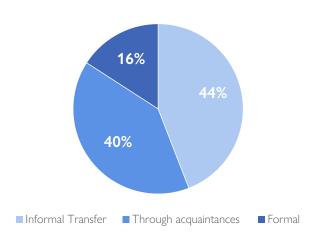


Furthermore, given the prevalence of persons with dependents in Venezuela, 85 per cent of the respondents sent resources to Venezuela, and 82 per cent of these respondents transferred money, which was periodically combined with food, medicine, and clothing.

Notably, 'informal transfer' emerged as the top method of sending money among the respondents, followed by 'through acquaintances' and 'formal options' as depicted in Graph 15 and reflective of the national effort.

GRAPH 15

Means of Remitting Money



Family Groups

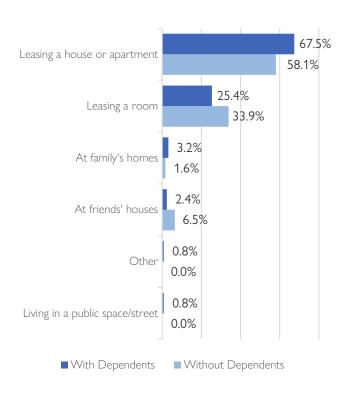
Further analysis of travelling companions showed that approximately 47 per cent of the respondents did not journey alone and 84 per cent of these persons travelled with their families.

Additionally, over two-thirds of the respondents who did not travel alone had children in their travel groups, and 72 per cent of these children travelled with their mothers.

Aside from this, approximately 68 per cent of the persons, with dependents in Trinidad and Tobago, were renting houses or apartments. However, about a quarter of the persons in this category were recorded as renting single rooms which was comparable to the national DTM. Graph 16 refers.

GRAPH 16

Accommodation



6. WORK STATUS

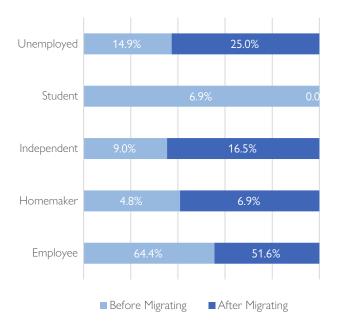
Improved economic opportunity is regarded as one of the key drivers of migration.

During the post-migration period, however, there was a rise in unemployment amongst the interviewees who resided in the Borough of Chaguanas, as well as a decrease in employment as illustrated in Graph 17.

In addition, all students discontinued their educational pursuits, after their migration, and 46 per cent of them were absorbed into the labour market as employees, while a little under one-third were recorded as unemployed. These findings concurred with the national exercise.



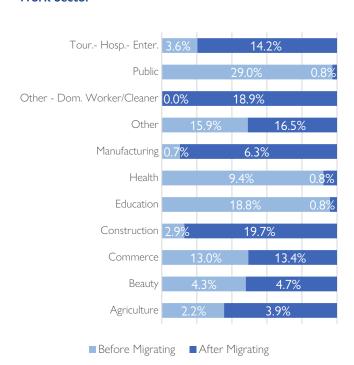
Work Status by Migration



An analysis of the pre- and post-migration work sectors also showed respondents' shift into the construction sector and domestic work. Accordingly, after their migration, about 20 per cent of the respondents were employed in the construction sector and 19 per cent in domestic work/cleaning. Graph 18 refers. It must be noted that in the national DTM there were slightly more respondents employed in domestic/cleaning work and a little less in the construction sector.

GRAPH 18

Work Sector



UNHCR's data supported these patterns as it showed that the highest number of its registrants were employed as personal service workers, labourers in mining, construction, manufacturing and transport, and cleaners and helpers, respectively.

The Chaguanas DTM data also underscored that 52 per cent of the currently employed interviewees worked in the informal sector.

Furthermore, approximately 91 per cent of the persons working in the informal sector, and 72 per cent of the persons working in the formal sector had not signed contracts and/or had no proof of payment for their services.

Similarly, an assessment of salaries, rated either hourly or monthly, indicated that 24 per cent of the respondents working in the formal sector, and 36 per cent of the respondents working in the informal sector were underpaid, as they reportedly received less than Trinidad and Tobago's minimum wages. These trends were aligned with the national exercise.

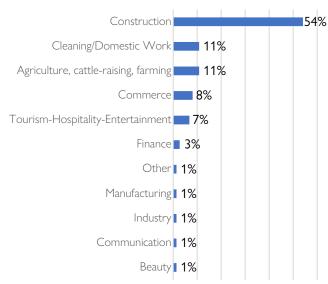
7. PROTECTION

Protection is a core aspect of the DTM, which focuses on the major vulnerabilities encountered by migrant populations.

Accordingly, it was determined that 22 per cent of the respondents, within the Chaguanas dataset, were aware of someone in their migrant community who worked and received less than the agreed payment, and 40 per cent were aware of persons who had not received payment. Additionally, approximately 54 per cent of the persons who had not received payment were reportedly employed in the construction sector, as shown in Graph 19.

GRAPH 19

Unpaid Work





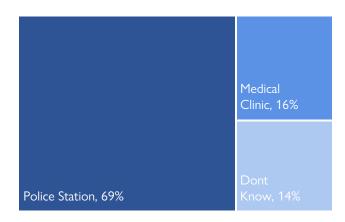
Further to this, approximately 6 per cent of the persons interviewed were aware of someone, in their migrant community who was forced to perform work, or other activities, against their will. These cases were concentrated in the construction and agriculture sectors.

In addition, 35 per cent of the respondents had witnessed physical violence and 14 per cent had witnessed sexual violence, during their time in Trinidad and Tobago.

Respondents also noted that in situations of violence against females, whom they knew, the police and a medical clinic were the primary and secondary options for seeking assistance, as highlighted in Graph 20. Interestingly, 'don't know' emerged as the third option for both the Chaguanas DTM and the national DTM.

GRAPH 20

Assistance to Female Victims of Violence



The survey data also informed that 51 per cent of the respondents experienced discrimination that was primarily related to their nationality.

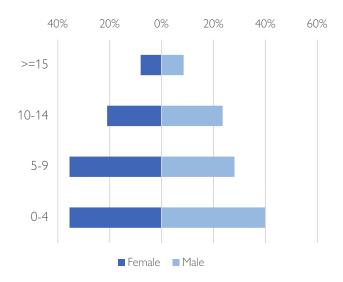
8. CHILDREN

Consistent with the national DTM effort, the specific situation of children was analyzed, and it was noted that there were 277 children, under the age of 18 years, who lived with 69 per cent of the interviewees from the Borough of Chaguanas.

Additionally, an age and sex disaggregation of these children showed that there were more males than females. The 0-4 category had the largest number of children, followed by the 5-9 age group. These patterns were also observed in the national effort. Graph 21 refers.

GRAPH 21

Children by Age and Sex



Regarding the possession of birth certificates, 14 per cent of the respondents were aware of circumstances in which children were born in Trinidad and Tobago, to Venezuelan migrants, and did not have birth certificates. Furthermore, lack of documentation, opted not to approach the authorities, and fees/costs were the major explanations for this situation.

Added to this, the data showed that 59 per cent of the children, living with the respondents, did not have access to education in Trinidad and Tobago, which was almost 20 percent higher than the national DTM.

'Fees', 'lack of access/ lack of information regarding access', and 'lack of documentation', respectively, were identified as the main reasons for this inaccessibility. There was also one case in which a respondent identified 'working' as the reason.

Moreover, respondents reported a few instances of children involved in work that jeopardizes their health, along with a small number of child detention cases.

Yet, it must be stated that there is neither a policy on, nor provisions for the detention of children by the authorities in Trinidad and Tobago. Nevertheless, there may be extenuating conditions whereby the court may place children under the custody of a specific authority.

Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent national border closure from 23rd March 2020 to 16th July 2021, however, all irregular entrants were placed within quarantine stations, according to the prevailing health protocols.

In addition, the reported situations of separated and unaccompanied children were negligible.

The data further informed that 10 per cent of the respondents had heard of situations, within their migrant community, in which children were the victims of physical violence. Also, 7 per cent had heard of cases, within their migrant community, of sexual violence against children.

Additionally, 40 per cent of the interviewees, who resided with children, reported strong changes in the child/children's



mood since their departure from Venezuela, with detachment from family and friends being the most cited reason for the change. It must be noted, however, that the reported instances of strong mood changes in children amongst the Chaguanas DTM respondents was approximately double that of the national effort.

9. HFAITH

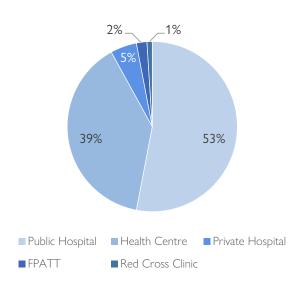
This section explored respondents' health access and issues. It was therefore observed that about 21 per cent of the interviewees had no current need for health care services.

Nonetheless, 26 per cent of the interviewees asserted that they had no access to health services when they needed them.

Of the persons who had access to health services, 53 per cent reported that the public hospital was their primary option, followed by the health centre, as shown in Graph 22. These findings were comparable to the national DTM.

GRAPH 22

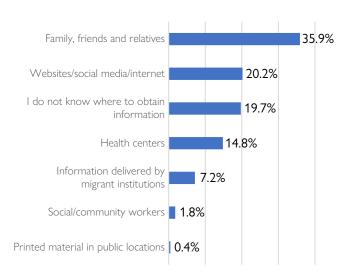
Health Service Options



It was further noted that, approximately 36 per cent of the interviewees received information about health services from their relatives and friends, and 20 per cent obtained the same from websites/social media and the internet. Interestingly, 'do not know where to obtain information' emerged as the third most popular option. This option did not feature in the national 2021 DTM. Graph 23 provides a breakdown for information sources on health services.

GRAPH 23

Sources of Information on Health Services



Additionally, 87 per cent of the respondents did not access reproductive and sexual health services. Yet, persons who did obtain these services listed contraceptives (inclusive of condoms) as the main service accessed.

Further to this, 38 per cent of the pregnant mothers did not access prenatal services, and this represented a lower percentage than the national exercise

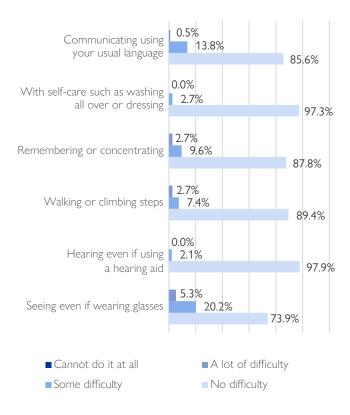
Also, 72 per cent of the interviewees advised that they did not suffer from any chronic medical conditions, whilst about 17 per cent acknowledged having chronic conditions such as: diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and respiratory diseases.

In addition, DTM 2021 probed the issue of disability, and it was determined that the majority of respondents in the Borough of Chaguanas did not encounter any difficulties engaging in key activities.

Notwithstanding this, a few interviewees reported some challenges in the following areas: seeing even if wearing glasses; communicating with usual language; remembering or concentrating, and walking or climbing stairs (Graph 24 refers). These findings were consistent with the national DTM.



GRAPH 24 Disability

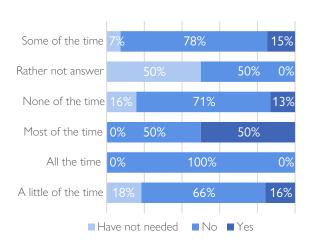


The survey also sought to ascertain the respondents' emotional well-being and 14 per cent of them had been upset 'some of the time' during the two weeks prior to the interview, whilst 20 per cent were upset 'a little of the time'.

More pointedly, 78 per cent of the persons who felt upset some of the time, and 66 per cent of those of who felt upset a little of the time did not access counselling or psychosocial support in Trinidad and Tobago, as depicted in Graph 25.

GRAPH 25

Emotional Support

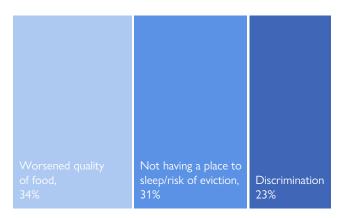


10. IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on migrants have been manifold. Thus, 68 per cent of the interviewed persons experienced difficulties since the start of the pandemic. The most pressing issue, within this population, was the worsened quality of food, which 34 per cent of the respondents had experienced. 'Not having a place to sleep/risk of eviction' and 'discrimination' were the second and third most cited concerns, respectively, as shown in Graph 26 and evident in the national effort. However, the percentage of respondents not having a place to sleep in the Chaguanas DTM was slightly higher than the national DTM.

GRAPH 26

Top Three COVID-related Difficulties



Moreover, 15 per cent of the unemployed respondents reportedly lost their jobs in Trinidad and Tobago due to the pandemic. On the contrary, at the national level, pandemic-induced unemployment was reported by a significantly higher percentage of respondents.

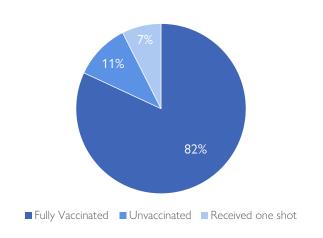
In addition, 52 per cent of the respondents did not receive support during the pandemic. Nevertheless, it was noted that 48 per cent received assistance that was primarily 'in-kind support' and extended mainly by religious organizations and international organizations.

Also, 89 per cent of the interviewees indicated that they had access to essential hygiene and disinfection supplies, inclusive of masks and sanitizers.

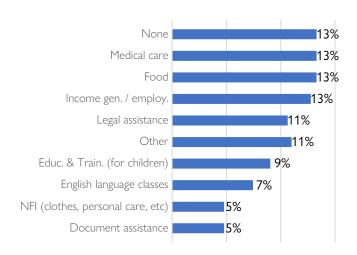
Further to this, 82 per cent of the respondents were reportedly fully vaccinated, whilst 11 per cent were unvaccinated (Graph 27). These patterns were consistent with the national DTM.



Vaccination Status



Second Priority Needs/Support

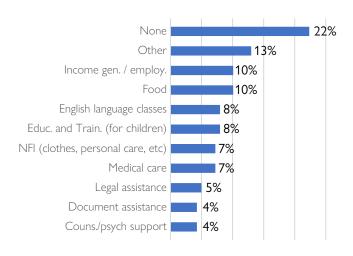


11. NEEDS

An examination of the respondents' needs highlighted food as the main need within the first level priority. In addition, medical care, legal assistance, and income generation and employment were all identified as secondary needs, and education and training for children was noted as a tertiary need (Graph 28). These needs generally coincided with the national DTM.

Interestingly, 'none' appeared at the top of both the second⁷ and third priority needs, while in the national effort 'this response topped only the third priority needs.

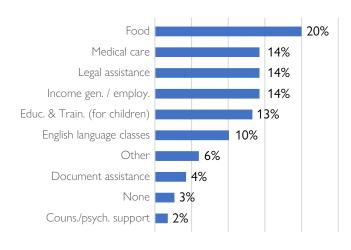
Third Priority Needs/Support



GRAPH 28

Prioritized Migrant Needs

First Priority Needs/Support



Correspondingly, a closer review of the interviewees' food circumstances revealed that 42 per cent of them 'skipped meals or ate less than usual' or 'went one whole day without eating' during the seven days before the interview.

⁷ Along with medical care, food, income generation and employment.



12. SUMMARY

The Chaguanas DTM 2021 mirrored several of the key findings of the national effort. For instance, food, medical care, and employment were all emphasized as essential needs.

Additionally, 2019 appeared to be the peak entry time for the majority of respondents, and the interviewees registered with the GORTT were comparable to the national DTM.

Furthermore, instances of employer underpayment emerged along with a few undertones of abuse against migrants, which could be symptomatic of human trafficking.

Thus, sustained monitoring of and interventions in work sectors, by the relevant authorities, to protect the rights and safety of migrant workers, regardless of their migrant status, should be promoted.

Apart from this, the Chaguanas findings echoed the conspicuously low uptake of sexual and reproductive health care amongst respondents at the national level, which could adversely affect both the migrant and host communities.

There were also positive areas of convergence such as a very high vaccination rate amongst the DTM respondents residing in the Borough of Chaguanas.

Yet, notwithstanding these similarities, the Chaguanas DTM produced unique findings. More pointedly, is the fact that the pandemic had not effected dire employment challenges for the

respondents in the Chaguanas data set.

The mismatches between reported educational qualifications and the interviewees' post-migration employment activities were also amplified in the Chaguanas DTM, particularly in the areas of babysitting and agriculture. Hence, this finding should be probed to support the productive utilization of migrant skills and expertise.

Further to this, noticeable protection and health-related information gaps were unearthed in the Chaguanas effort and housing issues appeared to be more prevalent.

Additionally, a higher percentage of children, residing with respondents from the Borough of Chaguanas, did not have access to education, in comparison to the national DTM.

Mood changes in children, residing with respondents, also seemed to be more pronounced.

Therefore, given the dynamism of migration and the gamut and volatility of the forces that shape it, regular assessments of evolving contexts are imperative to guide new and existing policies and programmes and to facilitate impactful responses to the needs of vulnerable persons.

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