

Flow monitoring of people on the move across the Americas

Locations of high transit and migrant presence in Costa Rica

Cantons: Liberia, San Carlos, Los Chiles, Upala, Corredores, San Jose, Alajuela, Heredia, Desamparados and Cartago.



Situation Report: October 2023

MAIN FINDINGS

In order to characterize and understand the needs and migratory trends across the Americas in specific locations within the Costa Rican territory, various tools from the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) were combined to create this report. These tools include Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR), Emergency Events Tracking (EET), and Flow Monitoring Surveys (FMS) from the Mobility Tracking and Flow Monitoring components, respectively¹. The results of this report present information collected from October 1 to October 31, 2023.

FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY

Source: Projection by IOM Costa Rica, based on previously published monthly data².



51,248 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ENTERED COSTA RICA FROM PANAMA IN OCTOBER 2023.
 Estimated daily average of **1,653** people
 Estimated decrease of **31 %** compared to September 2023 (**73,807** people)

EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING IN MONITORED LOCATIONS

Source: IOM Costa Rica estimation, based on key informants and direct observation.



2,389 PEOPLE STRANDED IN **3** MONITORED SHELTERS
 Average stay: **3 days**.
 Percentage of flow that spent more than one week in shelter: **0 %**



4,883 PEOPLE STRANDED IN **MONITORED PUBLIC SPACES**
 Average stay: **2 days**.
 Percentage of trend that spent more than one week stranded in a public space: **8 %**

FLOW MONITORING SURVEY: HIGH MOBILITY SITES AND CONCENTRATION OF MIGRANT POPULATIONS

Source: IOM, 2023



46 % WOMEN | **54 %** MEN
19 % ACCOMPANYING MINORS



PRIMARY NEEDS
 Food and nutrition (**43 %**)
 Water (**22 %**)
 Income (**15 %**)
 Other (**20 %**)
 Shelter and medical care, mainly.



58 % OF PEOPLE **TRAVEL ALONE**

¹ For more information, visit: www.dtm.iom.int

² Starting on August 30, 2023, there is no access to data regarding the departure of migrants from the Temporary Migration Reception Station (ETRM, by its Spanish acronym) in Los Planes de Gualaca, Chiriqui, Panama. This information gap has been addressed with monthly estimates based on previously collected data.

The data presented in this report does not represent the entire migratory flow. October 2023



Costa Rica, like other countries in Central America, has been characterized as a migratory corridor that begins when migrants cross the land bridge between Colombia and Panama at the Darien Gap, in hopes of reaching countries in North America as the primary destination. This is known as the **Flow of people on the move across the Americas**³. According to data published by the Republic of Panama, between January and October 2023, there were 460,765 entries from Colombia: 64 per cent were men and 36 per cent women; 21 per cent minors. Around 64 per cent came from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 11 per cent from Ecuador, 9 per cent from Haiti, 4 per cent from the People's Republic of China, 4 per cent from Colombia, and another 8 per cent from 31 different countries⁴.



According to the official data from the Government of Panama, **in October, 49,256 migrants in a state of mobility entered through Darien**. Of these, 70 per cent were of Venezuelan nationality, 7 per cent Haitian, 6 per cent Chinese, 6 per cent Ecuadorian and 4 per cent Colombian. The remaining 7 per cent consisted of individuals from at least 31 different nationalities.



On the night of 7 October, the Professional Migration Police (PPM, by its Spanish acronym) transferred the bus terminal for the Paso Canoas – Los Chiles route and all individuals stranded in the Campo Ferial and surrounding areas in Paso Canoas to the Temporary Attention Center for Migrants (CATEM, by its Spanish acronym). The objective is to channel the entire migratory flow to the South Migration Station⁵ (EMI, by its Spanish acronym) so that from 10 October, most of the flow would be routed to the EMI directly from the Temporary Migration Reception Stations (ETRM, by its Spanish acronym) in Darien, Panama. The aim is to provide a direct route to Los Chiles, offering safe shelter, humanitarian transportation, and food to those who cannot afford the journey, as economic activities are not allowed within the facilities. Additionally, those unable to continue their journey have the option to stay in the station accommodations until they receive remittance money to fund their trip or become candidates for the humanitarian transportation service to the northern border (individuals can become candidates for humanitarian transportation by volunteering at the South EMI). These measures also aimed to reduce overcrowding of stranded individuals in the center of Paso Canoas and address the issue of waste management, including garbage and human waste.



On 20 October, a series of protests erupted in Panama following the signing of a mining exploitation concession, leading to the closure of multiple national routes in Panama. This affected the transportation of people from the Darien ETRM to the South EMI at the planned times.



The Campo Ferial weeks before the transfer of stranded migrant individuals to the South Immigration Station (EMI).
Corredores, Puntarenas.
© IOM 2023/Gabriel ALEMÁN

The Campo Ferial one day after the transfer of stranded migrant individuals to the South Immigration Station (EMI).
Corredores, Puntarenas
© IOM 2023/ Johnny SALGUERO

³ For more information, visit: www.dtm.iom.int/costa-rica

⁴ For more information, visit: www.migracion.gob.pa

⁵ Starting in October 2023, the Temporary Migrant Care Center (CATEM Sur) became known as the Immigration Station (EMI) South. It includes both the administrative area, the sector where individuals board buses, and the shelter, which continues to be called CATEM.

The data presented in this report does not represent the entire migratory flow. October 2023



From October 2023, at the request of IOM counterparts, IOM Costa Rica is providing estimates for the FMR data. The estimated entries of migrants to Costa Rica are calculated using historical departure data available until 30 August 2023 from the ETRM in Los Planes, Gualaca as well as data on entries to Panama published on the Panama National Migration Service (SNM, by its Spanish acronym) website (www.migracion.gob.pa/inicio/estadisticas).

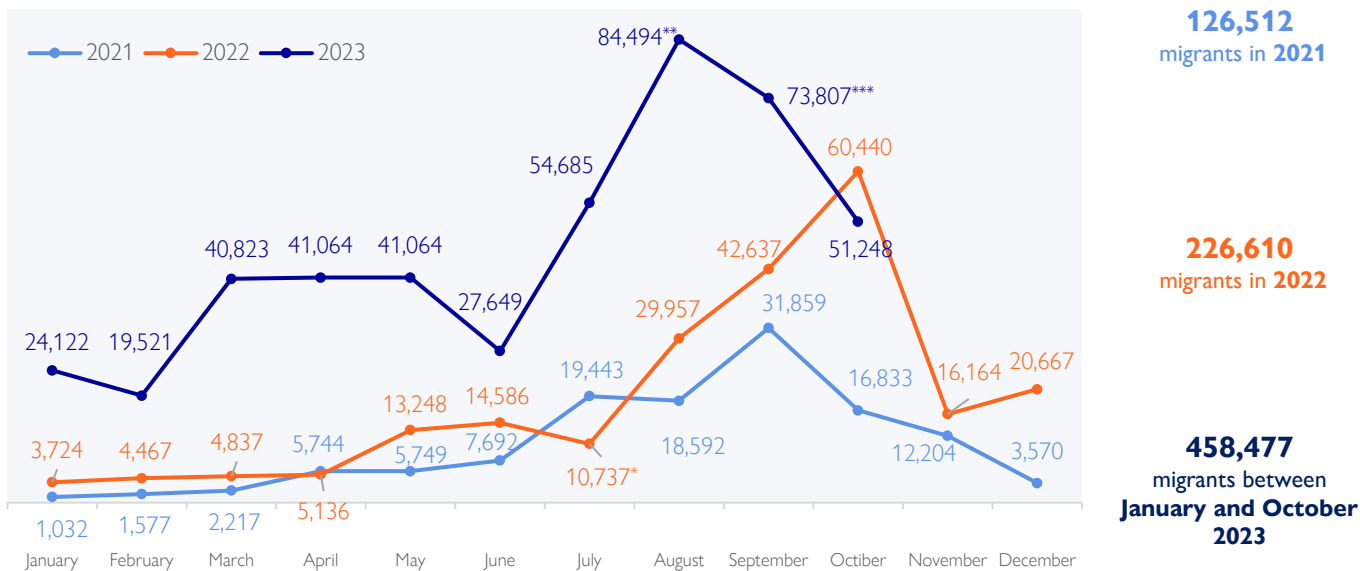
The FMS data collection method involves in-person surveys to migrants on the move across the Americas in Costa Rica, in the cantons Corredores, San Jose, Liberia, and Los Chiles. The surveys are available in Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. The flow monitoring points are locations with high migrant presence and mobility, which allow for **differentiation between those stranded in shelters and those in transit sites**. The surveys use a **non-probabilistic, convenience sampling technique, non-probabilistic**, and are applied voluntarily to adults, representatives of groups, or individuals traveling alone to gain in-depth knowledge of the profile of migrants.⁶

For the October 2023 FMS, **1,062 valid surveys** were obtained (response rate of 99 % and non-response rate of 1 %) and information on 1,616 migrants (1,062 surveyed individuals and 554 family members). 36 per cent of the surveys were conducted with individuals stranded in shelters, and the remaining 64 per cent were conducted in high-transit and concentration areas of migrants in the cantons Liberia, Los Chiles, and Corredores.

Parallel to the quantitative information presented in the report, descriptive information about the dynamics of migratory flows through Costa Rica was also obtained by the EET. This tracks sudden movements and provides timely updates through interviews with key informants, direct observation, and compilation of secondary sources. This section will be included in the report in these blue-shaded boxes.

LIMITATIONS: Currently, the Government of Costa Rica does not maintain an official record of the flow of people in state of mobility across the Americas. As of 31 October, no representative sampling has been applied to generalize survey results to the entire flow. Additionally, there are other challenges in collecting information: language and cultural barriers, the limited time individuals spend at monitoring points, and on-the-ground issues associated with the presence of human trafficking networks. On the other hand, since 30 August, at the request of counterparts, the information source on potential entries of migrant individuals to Costa Rica changed. As mentioned earlier, due to this change IOM now calculates an estimation, with a confidence level of 95%, which will be used for future reports.

Figure 1. Estimated number of migrant entries to Costa Rica, per month and year



* In July 2022, the complete set of data was not collected due to road closures in Panama. Source: Government of Panama, 2023.

** Data for August 31, 2023, was not accessible, so a weekly moving average was used.

*** Starting from September 2023, the data corresponds to estimates with a confidence level of 95%.

⁶ For more information, visit: www.iom.int/es/proteccion-de-datos



51,248

Estimated number of people entering Costa Rica. October 2023



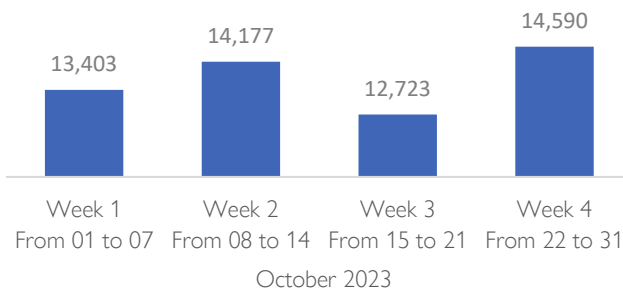
Estimated decrease of **31 %** compared to September 2023 (73,807).

According to projections from IOM Costa Rica, it is estimated that around 51,248 people entered the country in October 2023 as part of the migratory flow across the Americas, with 99 per cent entering through Paso Canoas at the border with Panama, for an estimated daily average of 1,653 people. It is estimated that the **entries between January and October 2023 (458,477) exceeded those of 2022 (226,610) by 102 per cent.**

Starting on October 8, the migration authorities of the Governments of Panama and Costa Rica coordinated operations to transfer migrants from Darien to EMI Sur, and then the Government of Costa Rica transported them by bus to Los Chiles, a trip that takes less than a day at an approximate cost of USD 30 per person. Since then, the Government of Costa Rica has encouraged migrants to use this direct route to the northern border of the country. This month, it is estimated that around 50,000 people (near the total projected flow) moved through this route (Figure 2)⁷, and the use of alternative routes decreased significantly.

It is estimated that approximately **49 per cent of the flow left Costa Rica through the Las Tablillas sector in Los Chiles**, using bus transportation from the center of Los Chiles. Individuals who hired taxis (formal and informal) were also observed. On the other hand, it is estimated that about **50 per cent of the flow left through La Trocha**, and small groups exited through Peñas Blancas and other points, while some individuals were observed returning (<1%).

Figure 2. Estimate of individuals traveling on the direct route (Paso Canoas-Las Tablillas), per week.



ROUTES AND MOBILITY SCHEDULES

While the main route goes directly from Paso Canoas to Los Chiles, misinformation about direct routes, the search for temporary rest, avoiding migration controls, and the need to find economic resources to continue the migration route motivate the use of alternative routes.

MOBILITY IN SOUTHERN CANTONS: The main entry route to Costa Rica involves bus travel from the Darien ETRM in Panama to the South EMI in Costa Rica and then to Los Chiles. This route was implemented since 10 October and channels most of the migratory flow entering Darien to the EMI Sur. The portion of the migratory flow that does not use this route but still enters Paso Canoas is also transported to the South EMI to incorporate it into this routing plan. It is estimated that, on average, 31 buses, each with 58 migrants on board were transported from the South EMI to Los Chiles daily, operating from 7 AM to 8 PM.

MOBILITY IN CENTRAL CANTONS: People who chose this route generally lack the financial means to finance the direct journey from the southern border to the northern border. This results in stays in shelters and/or public spaces in the central cantons as migrants gather resources to continue their journey, which takes approximately one week. A smaller portion of the migratory flow reaches San Jose and then hires direct taxi services to the northern border, showing variabilities in mobility strategies depending on economic resources.

MOBILITY IN NORTHERN CANTONS: Once in Los Chiles, migrants moves to the official border crossing of Las Tablillas or disembark from the bus coming from Paso Canoas at an unofficial stop in El Parque community in Los Chiles. Subsequently, individuals hire an informal taxi to the unofficial border crossing of La Trocha (which received around 50% of the flow in October 2023). In La Cruz, it is observed that the movement are primarily nocturnal and involve profiles of individuals with a relatively solvent economic situation, outlining diverse dynamics and challenges in migratory transit strategies.

⁷ The estimation of individuals is calculated based on the approximate number of buses reported by key informants. It is assumed that 58 people travel per bus.



INDIVIDUALS STRANDED AT MONITORING SITES

In October 2023, **2,389** stranded migrants were identified in monitored shelters, and **4,883** were stranded at public sites in various monitored cantons. This signifies, compared to September, a 134 per cent increase in stranded individuals in shelters and a 72 per cent reduction in stranded individuals in public sites. Particularly in Corredores, a significant presence of 3,542 stranded individuals was noted (79% of the total observed stranded individuals), while in Los Chiles, San José, Liberia, and other cantons, varied but smaller quantities were observed.



STRANDED INDIVIDUALS IN SOUTHERN CANTONS: The number of people staying overnight at the Campo Ferial was meticulously and accurately counted daily until 7 October. The same counting process was carried out at various high concentration points in the South EMI in the mornings and evenings.

Stranded individuals in public sites of the southern area were only observed in the first week of October because afterward, the process of moving people to the South EMI began. Despite this change, the trend persisted, with Corredores as the main location for stranded individuals in public sites only during the first week of the month (**3,542 people**, equivalent to 73% of the total, Figure 3). Among them, 30 per cent were minors, 40 per cent were men, and 30 per cent were women. This group of individuals spend an average of two days stranded in public sites, and only 8 per cent had been there for more than a week.

Additionally, **2,212 individuals stranded in shelters** were identified (93 % of the total individuals on the move across the Americas stranded in shelters in the country), of which 34 per cent were minors. According to key informants, those stranded in shelters had an average stay of three days.

STRANDED INDIVIDUALS IN NORTHERN CANTONS: **1,009 stranded individuals were identified in monitored public places** (21 % of the total individuals stranded in public sites), distributed across the cantons of Los Chiles (822 individuals), Liberia (147), San Carlos (34), and Upala (6) (Figure 3).

According to key informants, Los Chiles continues to be the point with the highest presence of stranded individuals in the area, with the existence of a safe space provided by the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), offering child protection and psychosocial assistance. It is worth noting that in this area, no shelter providing accommodation for migrant individuals on the move across the Americas was identified.

INDIVIDUALS STRANDED IN CENTRAL CANTONS: In October 2023, the migratory flow to this area was significantly reduced due to measures taken in the Corredores canton. However, the central canton of San José remains a key location for stranded individuals in the central cantons. **In shelters managed by non-governmental organizations (NGO), 177 stranded individuals were registered, while 332 individuals were counted in monitored public places.**

Figure 3. Distribution of stranded individuals in public places and monitored shelters in Costa Rica, by canton. (n=7,272)

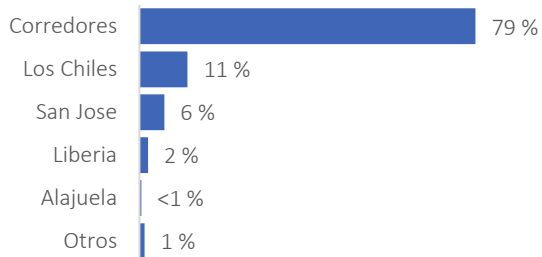
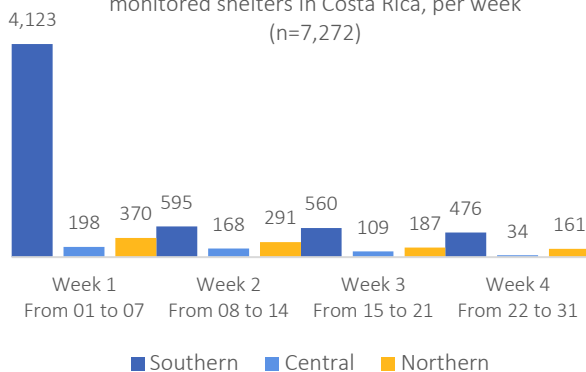


Figure 4. Number of individuals stranded in public places and monitored shelters in Costa Rica, per week (n=7,272)



Migrants in the CATEM, South EMI. Corredores, Puntarenas © IOM 2023/Johnny SALGUERO

FLOW MONITORING SURVEY

(Individuals surveyed: 1,062 | Family members: 554)

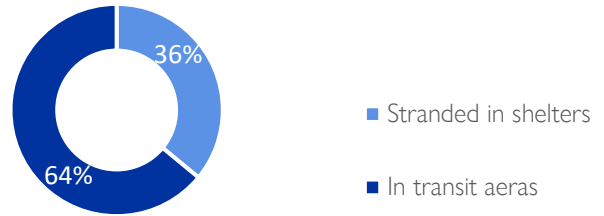
Date collection: 1 – 31 October 2023

This monitoring was conducted through individual surveys with adults (18 years or older) **stranded in three shelters (two in San Jose and one in Corredores)** and **individuals in transit in two cantons in the northern region (Liberia and Los Chiles)** and one canton in the southern region (Corredores), following a **non-probabilistic sampling methodology**. This implies that the results obtained **cannot be generalized** to the total number of individuals on the move across the Americas, but provides a description of the migratory profile of the surveyed individuals during the period. In total, information was obtained for **1,616 migrant individuals** (1,062 surveyed individuals and 554 family members).



For the purposes of this report, **on the left side, data is presented for individuals surveyed at transit points with high migrant presence** while the **on the right side, the data is presented for surveyed individuals located in monitored shelters**.

Figure 5. Surveys by type of movement of surveyed individuals (n=1,062)



680

Individuals surveyed in **high-traffic transit areas** throughout Costa Rica (San José, Ciudad Neily, Pasa Canoas, Liberia y Los Chiles)



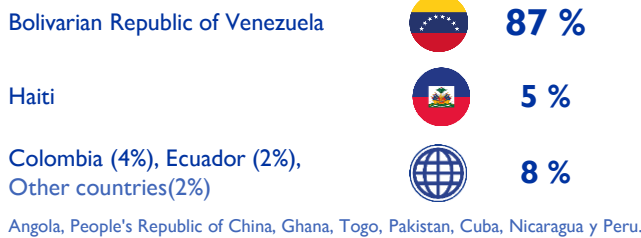
382

Individuals surveyed **stranded in shelters** in Costa Rica (two shelters in the Greater Metropolitan Area and one in Corredores).

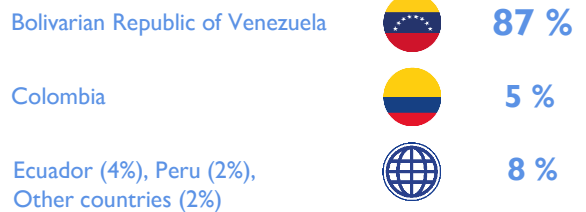
SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

NATIONALITIES OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Percentage of individuals surveyed in transit by nationality (n=680)



Percentage of individuals stranded in monitored shelters by nationality (n=382)



EDUCATION LEVELS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Figure 6. Percentage of individuals surveyed in transit by gender and highest level of completed education (n=680)

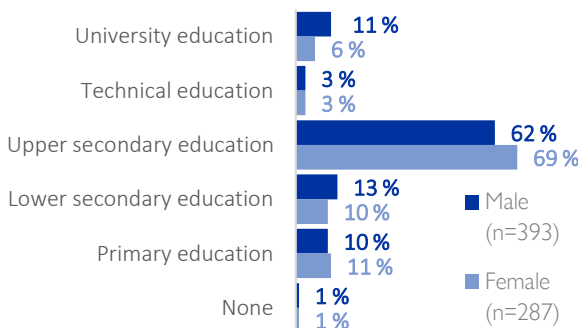
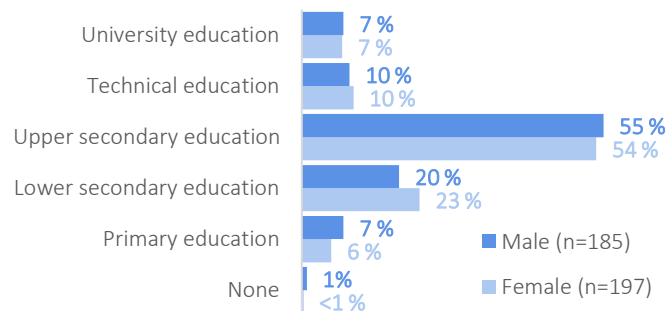


Figure 7. Percentage of individuals surveyed stranded in shelters by gender and highest level of completed education (n=382)



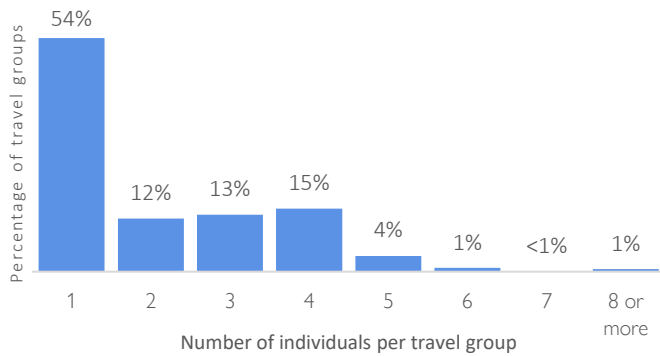
The data presented in this report does not represent the entire migratory flow. October 2023



54 per cent of the individuals in transit at the time of the survey were traveling alone, while 34 per cent of the travel groups consisted of three or more people (Figure 8), and 12 per cent of the travel groups were groups of two. Regarding groups of three or more people, 31 per cent of accompanying individuals were children, 53 per cent were traveling with their spouse, and 16 per cent were other relatives.

57 per cent of the surveyed individuals in transit and their family members were men, and 43 per cent were women. Twenty-four per cent of the individuals in the travel groups were minors (17 years or younger) (Figure 9), with average ages of 31 years for adults and 8 years for minors.

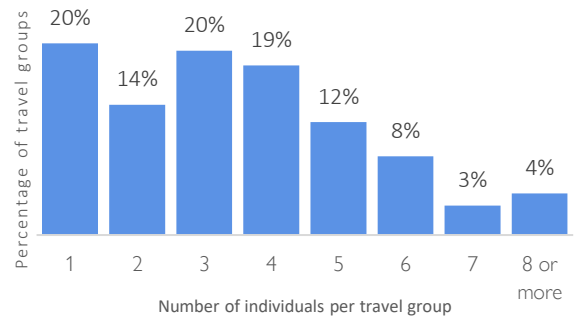
Figure 8. Size and number of travel groups of surveyed individuals in transit sites (n=680)



The identified travel groups of individuals stranded in monitored shelters were primarily composed of three or more people (66%) (Figure 10); only 14 per cent of the travel groups were couples, and 20 per cent were individuals traveling alone. Regarding those traveling in groups of three or more people, 22 per cent of the companions were children, 53 per cent were traveling with their spouse, and 15 per cent were with other relatives.

50 per cent of surveyed stranded individuals and their family members were men, and 50 per cent were women. 36 per cent were minors (17 years or younger) (Figure 11), with average ages of 31 years for adults and 8 years for minors.

Figure 10. Size and number of travel groups of surveyed individuals stranded in monitored shelters (n=382)



GENDER AND AGE COMPOSITION OF INDIVIDUALS IN TRAVEL GROUPS

Figure 9. Percentage of individuals comprising travel groups in transit, by age and gender (n=1,049)

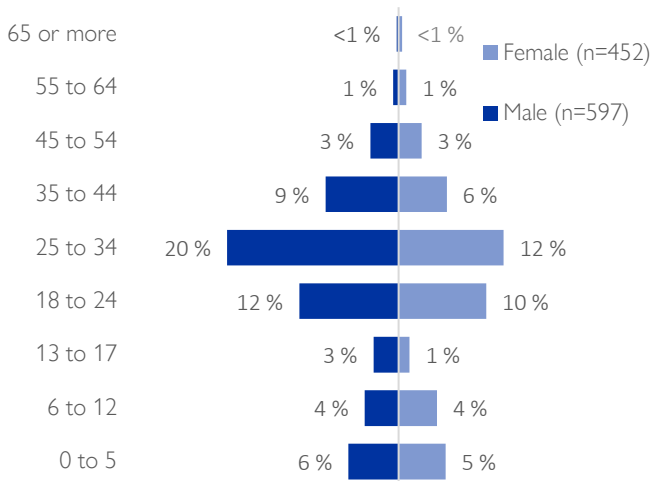
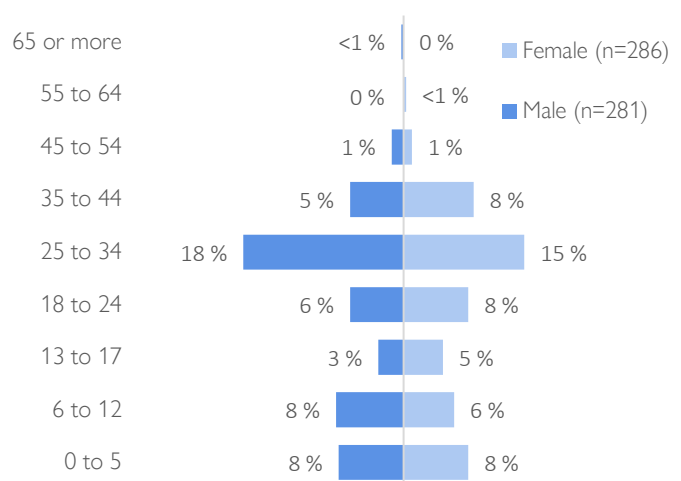


Figure 11. Percentage of individuals comprising travel groups stranded in monitored shelters (n=567)



REASONS FOR MIGRATION

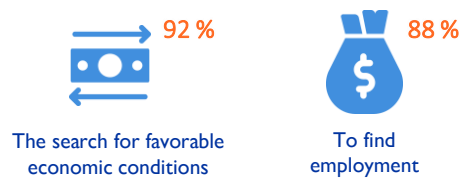
Of all the **individuals surveyed at transit sites**, 99 per cent indicated that their main reason to migrate was the search for favorable conditions to find employment. Likewise, 98 per cent stated that their primary reason for migrating was the pursuit of favorable economic conditions. 64 per cent mentioned political stability as a determining factor, followed by access to refugee processes at 55 per cent, and 6 per cent cited family reunification .

Percentage of surveyed individuals in transit by the main reason for migration (n=680)



Of all **the individuals surveyed stranded in monitored shelters**, 92 per cent indicated that their main reason for migrating was the search for socio-economic conditions, followed by the search for favorable conditions to find employment (88%), political stability at 76 per cent, access to refugee processes at 75 per cent, and family reunification (19%).

Percentage of surveyed individuals stranded in shelters by the main reason for migration (n=382)



Note: Individuals could choose more than one option.

INTENDED DESTINATION

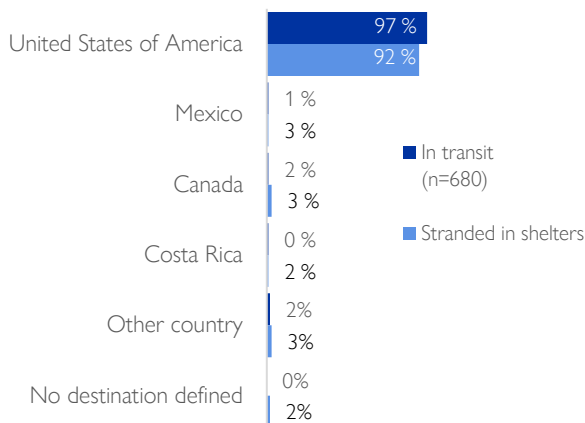
The final destination indicated by 95 per cent of surveyed individuals was the United States of America, followed in smaller proportions by other countries such as Canada, among others.

These proportions remain similar between individuals surveyed at transit sites and shelters: 97 per cent of those surveyed at transit sites indicated the United States of America as the final destination, compared to 92 per cent of those surveyed in shelters (Figure 12).

On the other hand, Mexico emerged as the main alternative country of destination (31 % of the total surveyed individuals), followed by Canada (10 %) and Costa Rica (7 %), among others (10 %). Meanwhile, 42 per cent indicated not having an alternative final destination.

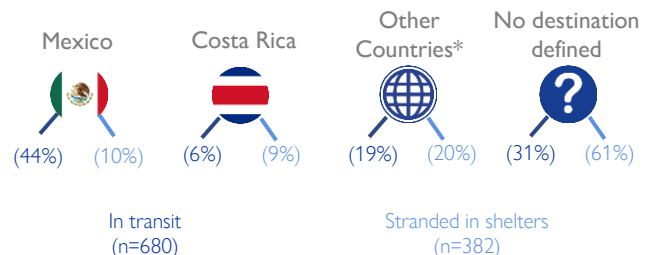
Regarding the minimum requirements to stay in the alternative country, 88 per cent and 80 per cent of the surveyed individuals mentioned economic income and regularization, respectively, and 49 per cent indicated medical attention (surveyed individuals had the option to choose more than one need). Differences in minimum requirements to stay in the alternative destination country were highlighted between individuals in transit and stranded individuals; 78 per cent of those surveyed in transit indicated regularization and 84 per cent economic income, while stranded individuals indicated 85 per cent for regularization and 96% for economic income.

Figure 12. Percentage of surveyed individuals by country of final destination. (n=1,062)



*Others: Costa Rica, Mexico, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Brazil

Percentage of surveyed individuals by alternative final country of final (n=1,062)



*Canada, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, United States of America, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Nicaragua, Panama, Brazil, Germany and Spain.

The data presented in this report does not represent the entire migratory flow. October 2023

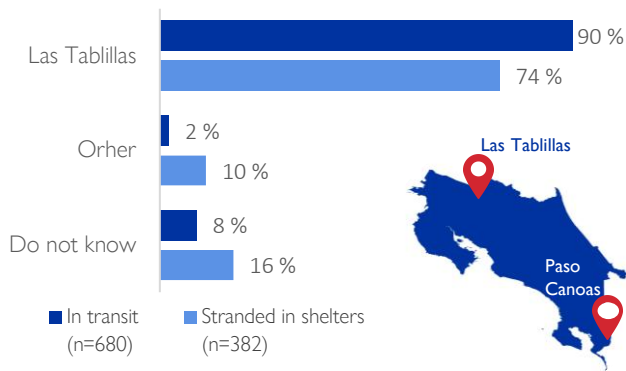
Map 1 shows the route of the surveyed individuals (in transit locations and stranded in shelters) from their country of origin to their country of habitual residence during the last 12 months before traveling to Costa Rica. 27 per cent indicated residing in a different country than their country of origin, of which 8 per cent (of the total surveyed individuals) corresponded to people who started their journey in Colombia but resided in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and then moved to live in Colombia. 7 per cent made the opposite move (from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Colombia).

Out of the 1,510 surveyed individuals, less than 1 per cent indicated traveling with a guide during their journey through Costa Rica, and this person was in one of the monitored shelters. The main location from which surveyed individuals indicated they planned to leave Costa Rica was Las Tablillas point of exit in Los Chiles (85 %), while 12 per cent indicated not knowing (the remaining 3 % indicated other border crossings). On the other hand, less than 1 per cent of surveyed individuals indicated exiting through border crossings between Costa Rica and Panama, in the opposite direction of most of the flow.

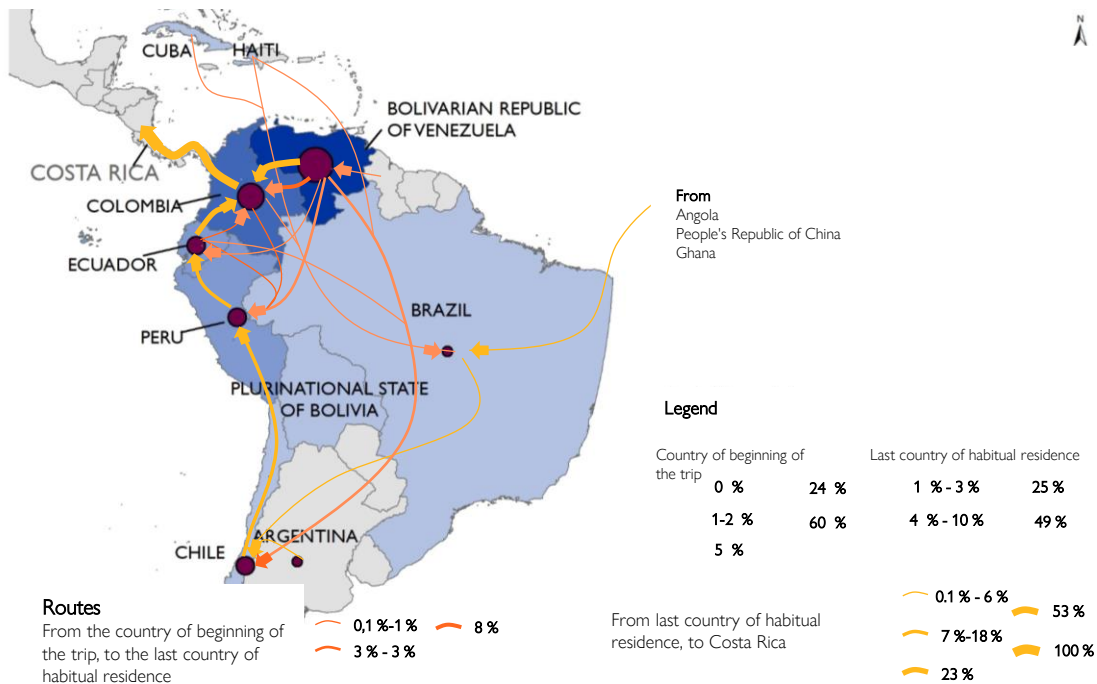
Differences in departure locations were identified among

surveyed individuals at transit sites and in shelters: 90 per cent of surveys conducted at transit sites indicated that they would leave the country through Las Tablillas, 2 per cent through other border points, and 8 per cent indicated not knowing. On the other hand, among surveyed individuals in shelters, 74 per cent would leave through Las Tablillas, 4 per cent through La Trocha, 6 per cent through other sites, and 16 per cent indicated not knowing (Figure 13).

Figure 13. Percentage of surveyed individuals by planned departure location from Costa Rica (n=1,062)



Map 1. Percentage of surveyed individuals by country of origin and last country of habitual residence. (n=1,062)



Note: This map is for illustrative purposes only. The boundaries, names, and designations used do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

The routes presented represent movements between the country of origin, the last country of habitual residence, and Costa Rica. For more details, visit the interactive dashboard (link at the end of the document).

The data presented in this report does not represent the entire migratory flow. October 2023

Figure 14. Percentage of surveyed individuals in transit by gender and main need (n=680)

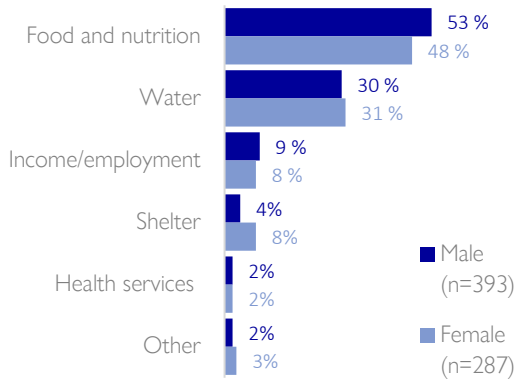
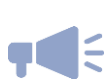
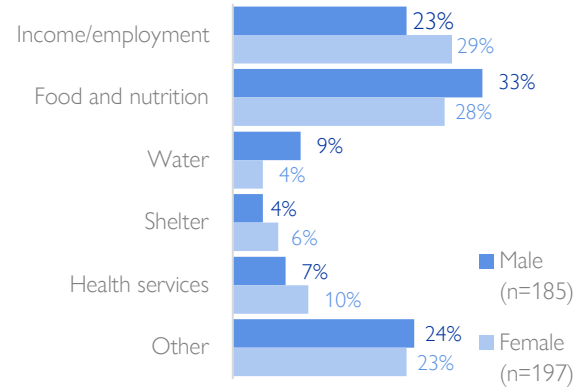


Figure 15. Percentage of surveyed individuals stranded in shelters by gender and main need (n=382)



69 % indicated the need for legal advice to understand migration options (n=680).



41 % indicated the need for legal advice to understand migration options (n=382).



36 % indicated that they lacked some information during their journey (n=680).



58 % indicated that they lacked some information during their journey (n=382).

PRIORITY NEEDS

In October, the status of migrant needs varied compared to September. Cases of dehydration, malnutrition, and diarrhea remain common, primarily in infants of Venezuelan and Ecuadorian nationality, associated with insufficient access to drinking water, medicines, and medical care. However, the incidence of these health conditions do not have the same frequency and severity as before, due to the channeling of the migratory flow to the South EMI, where migrants can take shelter from the sun and rain, have access to drinking water, and proper management of human waste such as garbage and feces.

The marked need for economic resources persists. However, the lack of these resources in the southern zone no longer means that migrants must spend the night in public places in street conditions, without access to water, sanitation, and other health-related risks. This is thanks to the new redirection of the flow to the South EMI.

While this new situation does not exempt migrants from being stranded in northern cantons, it did have a direct effect on the significant reduction of stranded individuals in all monitored sites, meaning that a higher proportion of the flow manages to continue its journey compared to September.

NECESITIES BY NATIONALITY



Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela:

The identified priority needs are food, employment and economic income, as well as medical care and legal support, especially among people with prolonged stays. Food is crucial at the beginning, but economic income becomes more relevant over the time.



Ecuador:

There has been a noticeable increase in various groups of stranded Ecuadorian individuals in different areas of the country. The presence of a considerable number of minors with health problems and poor hygienic conditions has been identified.



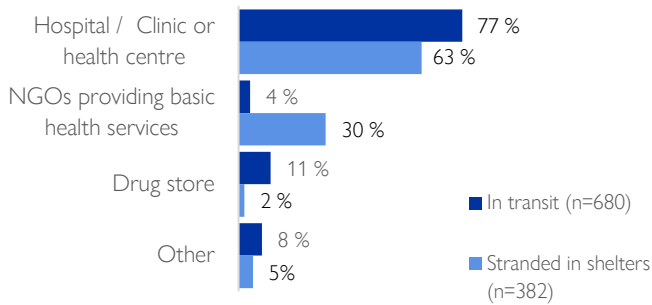
Others:

A variety of nationalities (Haiti, Nicaragua, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Peru, Cuba, People's Republic of China, Pakistan, Angola, Ghana, Togo) were identified mainly in the South EMI. Their transit was immediate; these are the nationalities that spend the least time in the country.



In case of needing medical assistance, the surveyed individuals would go to the nearest hospital or health clinic (71 %), NGOs that provide health services (13 %), pharmacies (8 %), alternative medicine (3 %), among others (5 %). Differences were found between the surveyed individuals in public places and shelters, especially in the percentage of people who would seek medical services provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs): 4 per cent of the surveyed individuals in transit sites, compared to 30 per cent of the surveyed individuals in shelters.

Figure 16. Percentage of health centers individuals surveyed would go to (n=1.062)



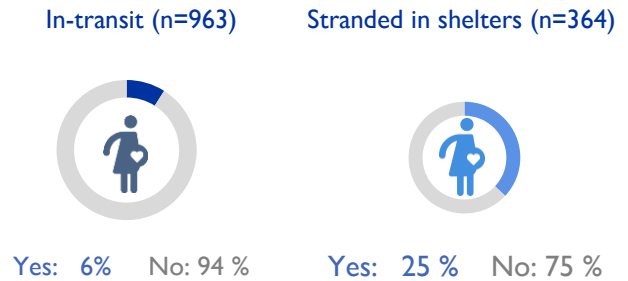
HEALTH AFFLICTIONS OBSERVED

Main health issues observed in stranded migrants include

- Gastrointestinal problems, mainly diarrhea and vomiting
- Child malnutrition
- Dermatological problems, primarily sunburns and exposed wounds.
- Psychological stress.
- Others: risk of vector-borne diseases, infections.

Regarding women (surveyed women and family members aged 15 and older), 13 per cent indicated being pregnant. The average age of pregnant women was 26 years. These percentages vary between surveyed individuals in transit locations (6 %) and individuals in shelters (25 %).

Figure 17. Percentage of women aged 15 and over by pregnancy status.



Migrants being surveyed in shelter San Jose

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Compared to September, there was a change in the flow of stranded migrants in October. Notably, the **number of individuals stranded in shelters increased by 134 per cent in October (2,389) compared to September (1,023), while the number of people stranded in public places decreased by 94 per cent (17,243 in September; 4,883 in October)**. This change in the dynamics of stranded individuals is a direct effect of measures to channel the migratory flow towards South EMI. Those who could not continue their journey had the option to stay in the station's accommodations until they could obtain remittances and pay for their trip or be candidates for the humanitarian transportation service to the northern border, thus reducing the figures of people stranded in public places in all monitoring points in the southern, central, and northern cantons.



It is estimated that the number of entries between January and October 2023 (458,527) would have exceeded the total record of 2022 (226,610) by 102 per cent. For October, it is estimated that on average, 1,653 people entered to Costa Rica per day. If this rate continues into November, after the first 25 days of the month, the number of people on the move in the Americas would reach half a million.



As in previous months, **individuals surveyed at transit sites frequently reported traveling alone (54 %) more frequently than those surveyed in shelters (20 %)**. This situation arises because shelters specifically assist the most vulnerable individuals, and the size of the travel group enhances vulnerability. Larger travel groups require more economic resources, increasing the probability of someone falling ill or the presence of vulnerable profiles among the individuals in the travel groups.



Regarding which health centers they would attend when in need medical attention, marked differences were found between individuals surveyed at public sites and shelters, especially in the percentage of people who would attend medical services provided by NGOs: 4 per cent of those surveyed at transit sites, compared to 30 per cent of those surveyed in shelters. This is because NGOs that provide medical services to the people on the move through the Americas are commonly present in shelters. It is also worth noting that a higher percentage of individuals surveyed at transit sites indicated that they would attend pharmacies (11 %) and hospitals or health clinics (77 %) than those surveyed in shelters (2 % would go to pharmacies, and 63 % to hospitals or health clinics).



Cases of dehydration, malnutrition, and diarrhea remain common, primarily in infants of Venezuelan and Ecuadorian nationality, and are associated with insufficient access to clean water, medicines, and medical care. However, the incidence of these health conditions do not have the same frequency and severity as before, due to the channeling of the migratory flow towards the South EMI. Currently, the facilities protect migrants from the heat of the sun and rain, providing access to clean water and proper management of human waste such as garbage and feces.

For more information about this study, follow this [link](#) or scan the QR code.



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IOM National Office in Costa Rica:
1A Av. and 78A street, in front of Condominios The Place.
Rohrmoser, San Jose, Costa Rica
Phone: +506 4052-3500
Email: oiomcostarica@iom.int
Website: www.costarica.iom.int