

# 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: November 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, respectively<sup>1</sup>. The results of this report present information collected from 1 – 30 November, 2023.

#### FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY



**42,150** ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ENTERED COSTA RICA FROM PANAMA IN NOVEMBER 2023  
 Estimated daily average of **1,405** individuals  
 Estimated decrease of **18 %** compared to October 2023 (**9,098** individuals)

Source: Projection from IOM Costa Rica, based on previously published monthly data<sup>2</sup>.

#### EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING IN MONITORED LOCATIONS



**10,445** INDIVIDUALS STRANDED IN **3** MONITORED SHELTERS  
 Average stay: **1.5 days**



**1,293** INDIVIDUALS STRANDED IN MONITORED PUBLIC SITES  
 Average stay: **2 days**

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

#### FLOW MONITORING SURVEY: HIGH MOBILITY SITES AND HIGH CONCENTRATION OF MIGRANT POPUALTIONS

(1,113 individuals surveyed and 1,964 family members)



**44 %** WOMEN | **56 %** MEN  
**35 %** ACCOMPANIED MINORS



**86 %** OF INDIVIDUALS TRAVEL IN **GORUPS**



#### PRIMARY NEED

Food and nutrition (**41 %**)  
 Water (**18 %**)  
 Income (**17 %**)  
 Other (**24 %**)

Shelter, medical care, sanitation and hygiene, diapers, feminine hygiene supplies, psychosocial support, safety and security

Source: IOM, 2023

<sup>1</sup> For more information, visit: [www.dtm.iom.int](http://www.dtm.iom.int)

<sup>2</sup> Beginning August 30, 2023, there is no access to data on departures of migrants from the Temporary Migrant Reception Station (ETRM) in Los Planes de Gualaca, Chiriquí. This situation has been remedied with monthly estimates based on previously collected data.

The data presented in this report does not represent the entirety of the migratory flow. November 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 **trend of people on the move across the Americas**<sup>3</sup>. 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 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 countries<sup>4</sup>.



In Costa Rica, there has been a downward trend in migration towards the end of each year, evidenced by notable decreases in the last months of 2021 and 2022. This trend has apparently reappeared in 2023, with a 31 per cent reduction in October compared to the previous month and an 18 per cent reduction in November. This downward trend could be explained by a combination of factors, such as changes in immigration policies, including the implementation of Title 42 in October 2022, adverse weather conditions at the beginning of winter in the northern hemisphere, or a decreased inclination to migrate during the year-end season due to family religious and cultural events. Likewise, economic and social circumstances in transit countries, such as road closures in Panama in July 2022 and November 2023 due to social protests, are also factors that affected these migration patterns.



As of October 7, 2023, Costa Rica's Professional Migration Police (PPM) implemented a significant restructuring in the management of cross-border transportation. They centralized the operations of buses traveling from the southern to the northern border in the same place where the Temporary Migrant Attention Center (CATEM) is located, which gave rise to the South Migration Station (EMI Sur). With the inauguration of the EMI Sur, IOM sought to optimize the management of migratory movement, and as a result, we observed an increase in the number of individuals received in this space and a reduction in the number of migrants stranded in identified public areas. While in September 2023, 23 per cent of migrants arriving in Costa Rica were observed in public sites and only 1 per cent in shelters, these proportions changed to 10 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, in October; and to 3 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively, in November. **These changes underscore how new measures effectively improve migration management.**



Recreational activity  
CATEM, Corredores, Puntarenas  
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<sup>3</sup> For more information, visit: [www.dtm.iom.int/costa-rica](http://www.dtm.iom.int/costa-rica)

<sup>4</sup> For more information, visit: [www.migracion.gob.pa](http://www.migracion.gob.pa)



At the request of key informants, starting in October 2023, IOM Costa Rica began calculating the number of potential entries of migrants to Costa Rica. These estimates are derived from historical data on outflows from the Temporary Migration Reception Station (ETRM) in Los Planes, Gualaca until 30 August 2023 and the inflows to Panama that are published on the website of the National Migration Service of Panama<sup>5</sup>. Likewise, since the beginning of November, the Migration Institute of Costa Rica (DGME, by its Spanish acronym) publishes a daily report of people moving by public transportation and the number of people who remain stranded in CATEM<sup>6</sup>.

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 (Map 1). The surveys use a non-probabilistic, convenience sampling technique, and are applied voluntarily to adults, representatives of groups, or individuals traveling alone to gain in-depth knowledge of the profile of migrants<sup>7</sup>.

For the November 2023 FMS, **1,113 valid surveys** were obtained (99% response rate and 1% non-response rate) and information on 3,077 migrants (1,113 respondents and 1,964 family members); 60 per cent of the surveys conducted were of people stranded in shelters and the remaining 40% were conducted in sites of high transit and concentration of migrants in the cantons of Liberia, Los Chiles and Corredores.

Parallel to the quantitative information presented in the report, descriptive information on the migratory dynamics of the trend through Costa Rica was also obtained through the EET, which allows tracking sudden movements and providing recent updates through key informant interviews, direct observation and compilation of secondary sources. This section will be represented in the report by a blue box, the same as this section of the methodology.

**LIMITATIONS:** During the year 2023, there is a notable discrepancy between arrival records in Darien and arrivals to Costa Rica, particularly in the months of October and November, where the data reveal a significant negative difference. In October, entries to Costa Rica exceed those to Darien by 1,992 persons, and in November this figure increased to 5,100 persons, indicating a percentage difference of -14 percentage points. These differences could suggest that a considerable number of migrants are either not being registered upon entering Darien or are being registered late in Costa Rica, possibly due to the use of alternate routes or administrative delays at CATEM. This situation underscores the complexity of migration tracking and the need for greater coordination and efficiency in the documentation and registration processes at both checkpoints.

Figure 1. Estimated number of migrants entering Costa Rica, per month and year



**500,627**  
migrant individuals  
between **January and**  
**November of 2023**

**226,610**  
migrant individuals in **2022**

**126,512**  
migrant individuals in  
**2021**

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

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

\*\*\* As of September, 2023 data correspond to estimates with a confidence level of 95%.

<sup>5</sup> For more information, visit: [www.migracion.gob.pa](http://www.migracion.gob.pa)

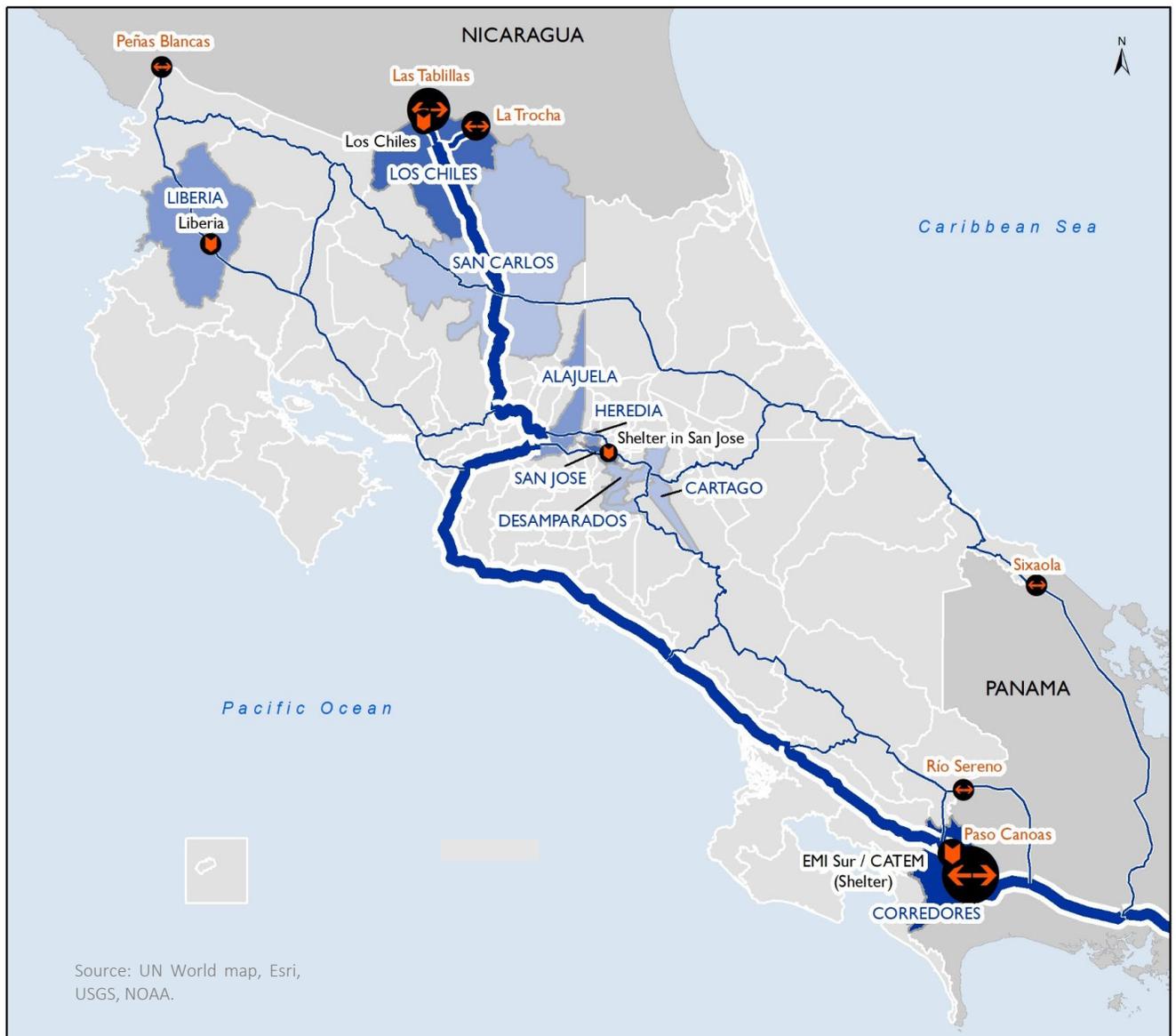
<sup>6</sup> For more information, visit: [www.migracion.go.cr/Paginas/Centro%20de%20Documentaci%C3%B3n/Estad%C3%ADsticas.aspx](http://www.migracion.go.cr/Paginas/Centro%20de%20Documentaci%C3%B3n/Estad%C3%ADsticas.aspx)

<sup>7</sup> For more information, visit: [www.iom.int/es/proteccion-de-datos](http://www.iom.int/es/proteccion-de-datos)

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# TREND DISPLACEMENT IN COSTA RICA

Map 1 Sites of high presence and transit of migrants in mobility through the Americas, and their movement through Costa Rica. November, 2023



Source: UN World map, Esri, USGS, NOAA.

## Legend

### Surveys

- < 34
- 35 - 46
- 47 - 400
- 401 - 632

### Border Crossing

- 211
- 212 - 20,864
- 20,865 - 21,075
- 22,000 - 42,000

### Route

- Direct Route Paso Canoas - Los Chiles
- Alternative Route

### Stranded Migrants in Cantons

- 1 - 31
- 32 - 73
- 74 - 884
- 885 - 10,268

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

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# 42,150

Estimated number of individuals entering Costa Rica. November 2023



Estimated decrease of **18 %** compared to October 2023 (51,248).

According to projections from IOM Costa Rica, it is estimated that around **42,150** people entered the country in November 2023 as part of the migratory flow across the Americas. The majority would have entered through Paso Canoas, on the border with Panama (99 %) with a daily average of 1,405. It is estimated that **the number of entries between January and November 2023 (500,627) have exceeded the 2022 total (226,610) by 121 per cent.**

The main route identified was directly from Paso Canoas (southern border) to Los Chiles (northern border) by bus, costing approximately USD 30 per person and taking less than a day. This month, an estimated **43,691 people** moved through this route, equivalent to **104 per cent of the total trend entering the country in the same month** (Graph 2)<sup>8</sup>. The presence of people stranded in public places in the GAM and areas far from Los Chiles and Paso Canoas are evidence that alternative routes continue to be active.

The discrepancy between the data on arrivals and departures from CATEM to Los Chiles could be due to the fact that people who were stranded in previous months are still departing. This phenomenon indicates that **the number of migrants recorded as departures in each month is not limited only to those who entered the country and CATEM in the same month**, but also includes individuals who had arrived in previous periods and remained in the center for longer than initially anticipated.

Figure 2. Estimated number of individuals traveling on direct route (EMI Sur - Los Chiles), 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 promote the use of alternative routes.

**MOBILITY IN SOUTHERN CANTONS:** In the southern zone of Costa Rica, Paso Canoas serves as the main entry point for migrants arriving directly from the ETRM in Darien, Panama, to the EMI Sur in Costa Rica. Once in the EMI Sur, people continue their route to the north of the country, mainly using public transportation services that take them to the canton of Los Chiles, located on the northern border. This main bus route is critical for the migratory flow and highlights the importance of having efficient and safe transportation services to facilitate the mobility of migrants throughout the country. Agencies such as UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders, among others, provide assistance to migrants. Additionally an Operational Manual was implemented in CATEM to standardize emergency care and the flow of migrants.

**MOBILITY IN CENTRAL CANTONS:** Since the opening of the EMI Sur, the mobility of migrants through the Greater Metropolitan Area has been low. With a slight increase in the middle of the month, reflecting the impact of transit difficulties through Panama on the direct route. Most people arrive at night through the Tracopa terminal and continue north during the day through Terminal 710 or in taxis. Despite the initial decrease in numbers, canteens and shelters are registering an increase in demand for assistance, including advice on routes in Costa Rica and legal immigration support.

**MOBILITY IN NORTHERN CANTONS:** The main route involves direct travel from the south or San José to Los Chiles, then transferring to the unofficial border crossing at Las Tablillas. A common alternative to leave Costa Rica involves getting off the bus at an unofficial bus stop in the community of El Parque in Los Chiles and then hiring an informal cab to the unofficial border crossing at La Trocha (which received about 50 % of the trend in November 2023).

<sup>8</sup> The estimate of persons is calculated by approximate number of buses reported by key informants. It is assumed that 60 people travel per bus.



## INDIVIDUALS STRANDED AT MONITORED SITES

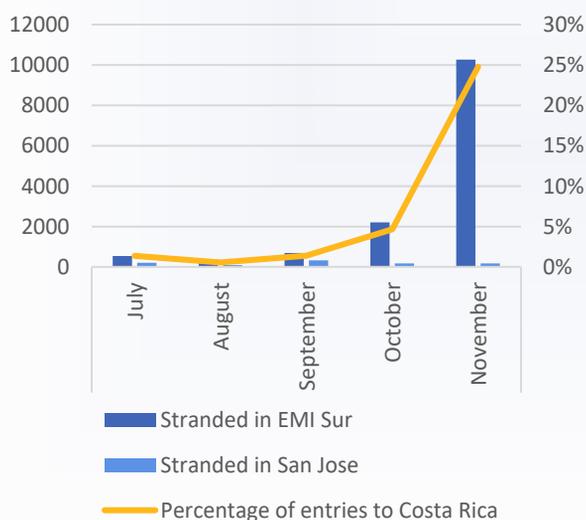
In November 2023, **10,445** migrants were recorded stranded in shelters and **1,293** in public places in various monitored cantons. The highest number in 2023 derived from CATEM, where a significant presence of 10,268 stranded people was noted, while in Los Chiles, San José, Liberia, San Carlos and other cantons, varied but smaller numbers were distributed, reflecting the heterogeneity of the migratory situation and the need for responses adapted to the particularities of each locality.



**INDIVIDUALS STRANDED IN SOUTHERN CANTONS:** Since the beginning of November, DGME has been issuing daily reports about people stranded at the EMI Sur shelter, known as CATEM<sup>9</sup>. In November 2023, **10,268** people were counted, with an average of **368** per day. It is estimated that, approximately 88 per cent of these people stay less than 1.5 days on average, while the remaining 12 per cent exceed this length of stay.

People staying at the CATEM can remain there until they receive remittance money to finance their journey or until they are selected for humanitarian transport service to the northern border. The latter is obtained through volunteer service in EMI Sur.

Figure 3. Monthly distribution of stranded individuals in monitored shelters



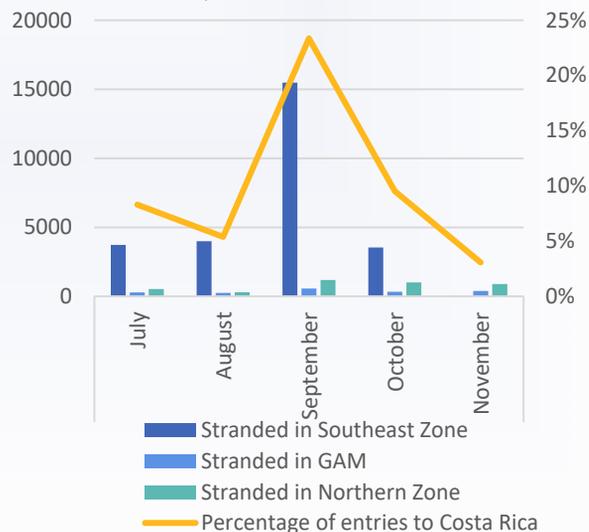
According to key informants, the measures implemented with the creation of the EMI Sur (first implemented on October 7, 2023) have helped alleviate congestion of people stranded in public places, such as Paso Canoas, and have contributed to the solution of problems related to waste management, including garbage and human waste. They have also made it possible to better organize the flow of migrants and meet basic humanitarian needs.

**INDIVIDUALS STRANDED IN CENTRAL CANTONS:** In November 2023, **398** migrants were identified as stranded in monitored public sites in the cantons of San José, Alajuela, Heredia and Alajuela (figure 4). Likewise, **177** stranded migrants were identified in three shelters in the central canton of San José (Figure 3). The presence of stranded people in this region is evidence that people are still using alternate routes in Costa Rica (Map 1).

**INDIVIDUALS STRANDED IN NORTHERN CANTONS:** A total of **895** people were identified as stranded in monitored public sites distributed in the cantons of Liberia, Los Chiles and San Carlos (figure 4). As in GAM, the presence of stranded people in San Carlos and Liberia cantons is evidence of the existence of alternate routes.

According to key informants, Los Chiles continues to be the point with the highest presence of stranded people in the northern zone, highlighting the existence of a safe space provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), where child protection and psychosocial assistance is provided.

Figure 4. Monthly distribution of stranded individuals in public monitored sites



<sup>9</sup> The estimate of individuals is calculated by approximate number of buses reported by key informants. It is assumed that 60 people travel per bus.

# FLOW MONITORING SURVEY

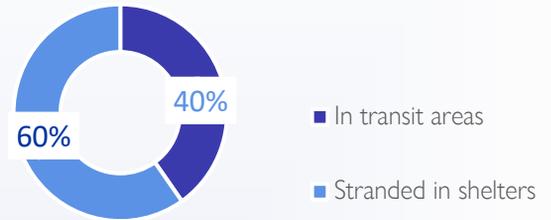
(Individuals surveyed: 1,113 | Family members: 1,964)  
Data collection: November 1-30, 2023

This monitoring was carried out through individual surveys of persons of legal age (18 years or older) stranded in **three shelters (2 in San José and 1 in the southern zone)** and people in transit in **two cantons in the northern zone (Liberia and Los Chiles)** and **one canton in the southern zone (Corredores)** following a **non-probabilistic sampling methodology**. This means that the results obtained cannot be generalized to the total number of people moving through the Americas, but it does allow us to describe the migratory profile of the people surveyed during the period. In total, information was obtained on **3,077** migrants (1,113 respondents and 1,964 family members).



It should be noted that, for the purposes of this report, the **left side presents the data of the respondents who were at points of high traffic concentration** while the **right side presents the data of the respondents who were in the monitored shelters**.

Figure 5. Surveys by type of movement of surveyed individuals (n=1,113)



**448**

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



**665**

Individual surveyed persons surveyed stranded in shelters in Costa Rica (2 shelters in the Greater Metropolitan Area and 1 in the southern zone)

## SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

### NATIONALITIES OF SURVEYED INDIVIDUALS

Percentage of individuals in transit by nationality (n=448)



Percentage of individuals stranded in monitored shelters by nationality (n=665)



### EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

Figure 6. Percentage of individuals surveyed in transit by gender and highest level of completed education (n=448)

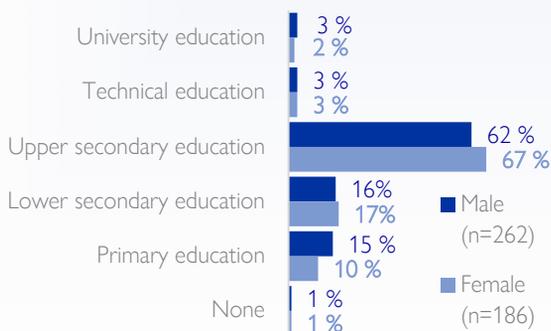
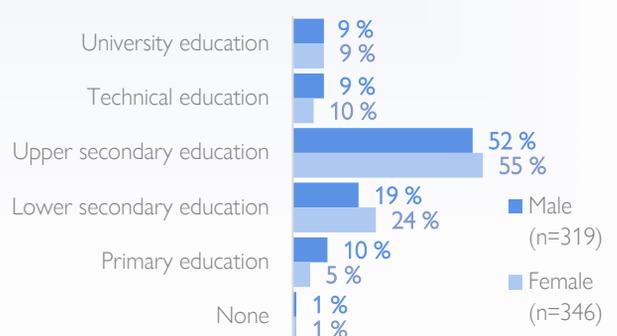


Figure 7. Percentage of individuals surveyed in shelters by gender and highest level of completed education (n=665)



The data presented in this report does not represent the entirety of the migratory flow. November 2023

Of the 448 people surveyed at transit sites, information was obtained on 498 travel companions, equivalent to a total of **946 family members and respondents**. Of the groups analyzed, 26 per cent were traveling alone (33 % for men and 17 % for women), and 13 per cent were couples, of which 65 per cent were spouses and 15 per cent were fathers or mothers with a son or daughter. The largest groups (3 or more persons), representing 61 per cent of the total, consisted mainly (81 %) of couples and their children (Figure 8)

In terms of gender and age distribution, 56 per cent of the people in the travel groups, including respondents and their family members, were male, while 44 per cent were female. Minors (17 years of age or younger) constituted 33 per cent of the total. The average age of adults was 31 years and that of minors was 7 years, as detailed in Figure 9.

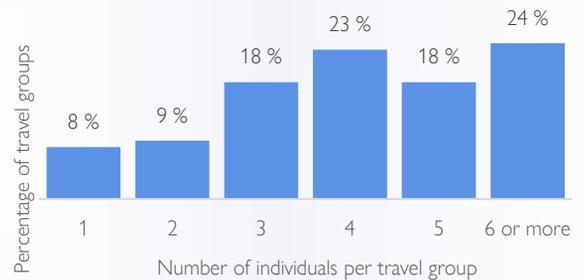
Figure 8. Size and number of travel groups of surveyed individuals at transit sites (n=946)



Of the 665 people surveyed in **3 shelters** in the southern zone (1) and San José (2), information was obtained on 1,466 travel companions, equivalent to a total of **2,131 family members and respondents**. Of the groups analyzed, 8 per cent were traveling alone (18 % men and 2 % women), and 9 per cent were couples, of which 52 per cent were spouses and 24 per cent were fathers or mothers with a son or daughter. The largest groups (3 or more persons), representing 83 per cent of the total, consisted mainly (76 %) of spouses and their children (Figure 10).

In terms of gender and age distribution, 56 per cent of the members of the travel groups, including transit respondents and their family members, were male, while 44 per cent were female. Minors (17 years of age or younger) constituted 38 per cent of the total. The average age of adults was 31 years and that of minors was 8 years, as detailed in Figure 11.

Figure 10. Size and number of travel groups of surveyed individuals stranded in monitored shelters (n=2,131).



**GENDER AND AGE COMPOSITION OF INDIVIDUALS IN TRAVEL GROUPS**

Figure 9. Percentage of individuals comprising travel groups in transit, by age and gender (n=946)

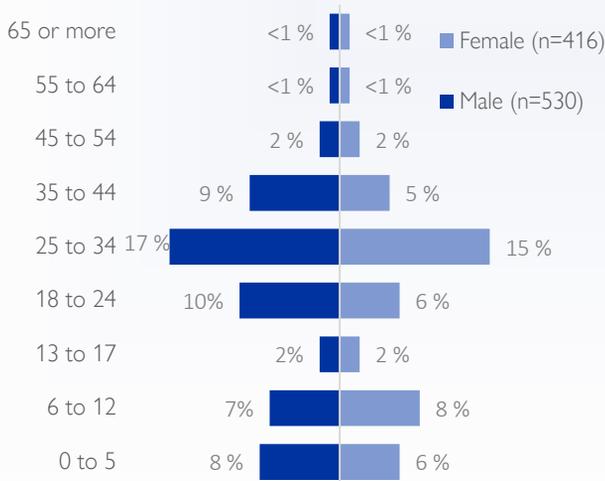
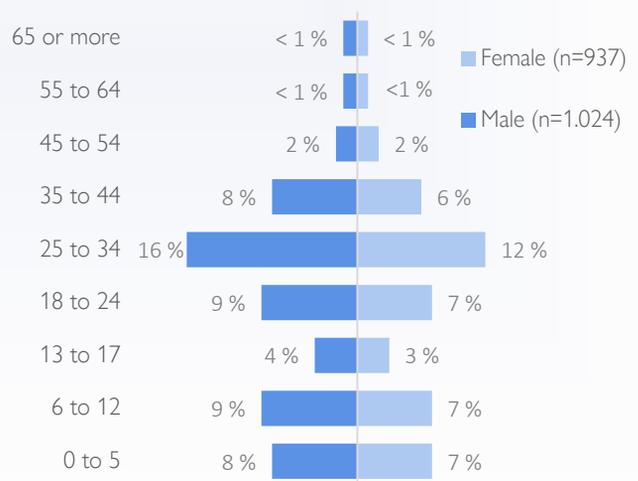


Figure 11. Percentage of individuals comprising travel groups stranded in monitored shelters, by age and sex (n=2,131)



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## REASONS FOR MIGRATING

Of the total number of **people surveyed in transit sites**, 99% indicated that their main reason for migrating was the search for favorable work conditions, followed by the search for favorable economic conditions (97%), political stability (67%), access to refugee determination processes (43%), and family reunification (1%).

Percentage of respondents in transit by main reason for migration (n=448)



Of the total number of **surveyed persons stranded in monitored shelters**, 95% indicated that their main reason for migrating was the search for socioeconomic conditions, followed by the search for favorable conditions to obtain employment (91%), access to refugee processes (76%), political stability (74%) and family reunification (33%).

Percentage of surveyed persons stranded in shelters by main reason for migration (n=665)



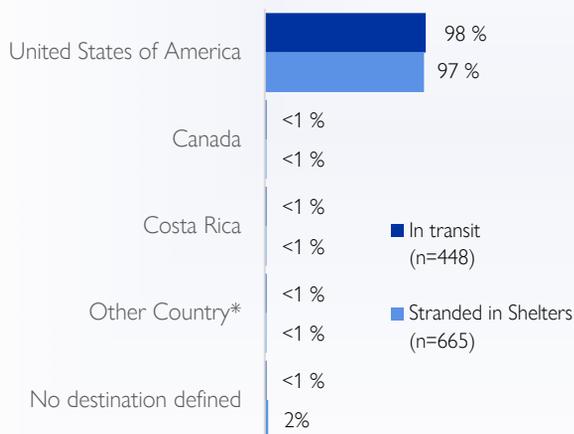
Note: individuals could choose more than one option

## INTENDED DESTINATION

Of all the **individuals surveyed at transit sites**, 98 per cent of respondents indicated the United States of America as their final destination, followed, to a lesser extent, by other countries such as Canada, Costa Rica, among others (Figure 12).

These proportions remain similar among respondents in transit sites and shelters: 98 per cent of respondents in transit sites indicated the United States of America as their destination compared to 97 per cent of respondents in shelters.

Figure 12. Percentage of surveyed individuals by country of final destination (n=1,113)

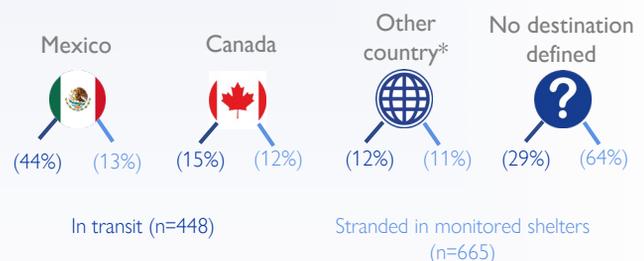


\*Others: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Brazil.

On the other hand, Mexico emerged as the main alternative destination country (26 % of the total number of people surveyed), followed by Canada (13 %) and Costa Rica (6 %), among others (5 %). Meanwhile, 50 per cent indicated not having an alternative destination.

Regarding the minimum needs to stay in the alternative country, 93 per cent cited economic income, 84 per cent cited regularization and 62 per cent indicated medical care (respondents had the option to choose more than one need). Differences in the minimum needs for staying in the alternate destination country were highlighted between transit and stranded respondents; 88 per cent of transit respondents indicated and 77 per cent indicated regularization, while 96 per cent of stranded respondents indicated income and 89 per cent indicated regularization.

Percentage of surveyed individuals by alternative destinations (n=1,113)



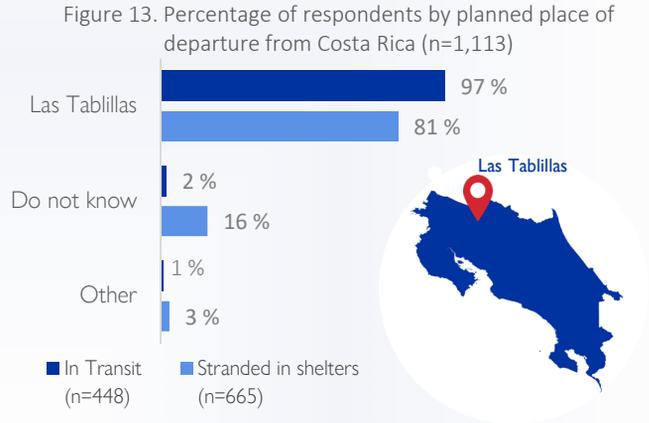
\*Costa Rica, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, United States of America, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Nicaragua, Panama and Brazil.

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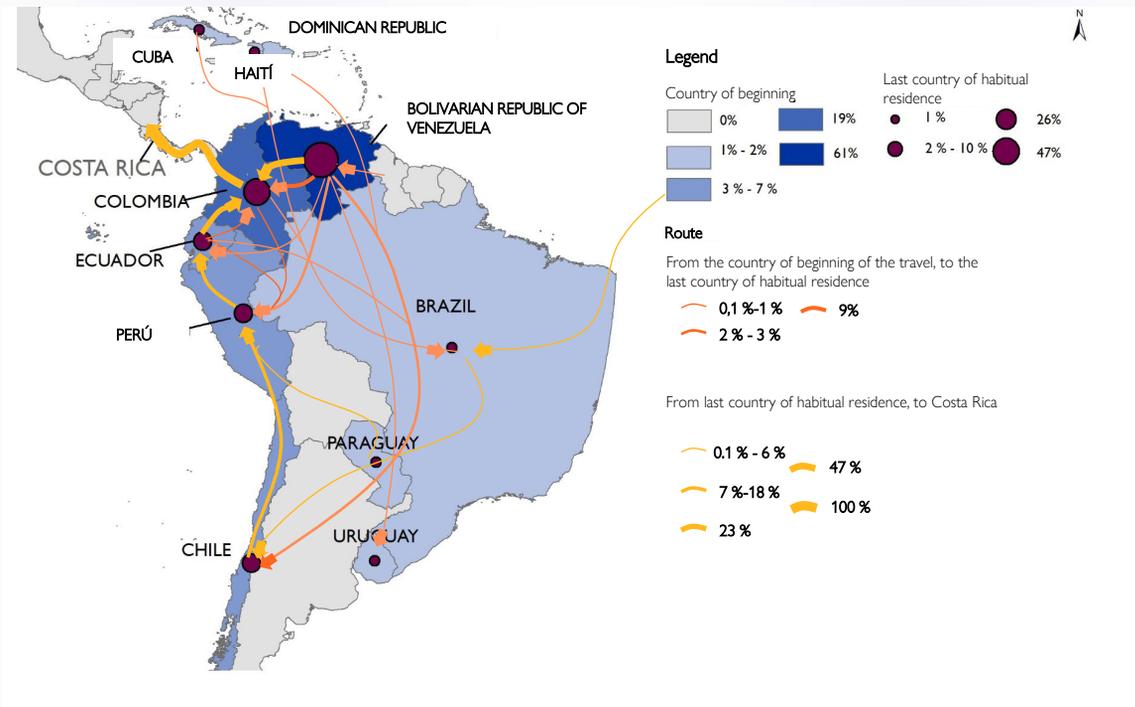
Map 2 shows the route of respondents (in transit sites and stranded in shelters) from their country of departure to their country of usual residence during the last 12 months, and then on to Costa Rica. **20 per cent reported residing in a country other than their country of departure**, of which 9 per cent (of the total number of persons surveyed) corresponded to persons who started their journey in Colombia but resided in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela but went to live in Colombia. Additionally, 3 per cent made this movement from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Peru.

Most respondents indicated planning to leave Costa Rica through the Las Tablillas border crossing in Los Chiles (87%), while 10 per cent indicated they did not know where they would exit (the remaining 3% indicated other border crossings). On the other hand, less than 1% of the migrants surveyed indicated leaving through border points between Costa Rica and Panama, that is, in the opposite direction of most of the trend.

Differences emerged in the cited exit locations between those surveyed in transit sites and in shelters: 97 per cent of those surveyed in transit sites indicated that they would exit the country through the Las Tablillas sector, 1 per cent through other border posts, and 2 per cent indicated that they did not know where. On the other hand, of those surveyed in shelters, 81 per cent would exit through Las Tablillas, 3 per cent through other sites, and 16 per cent indicated that they did not know (Figure 14).



Map 2. Percentage of surveyed individuals by country of origin and and last country of usual residence (n=1,113).

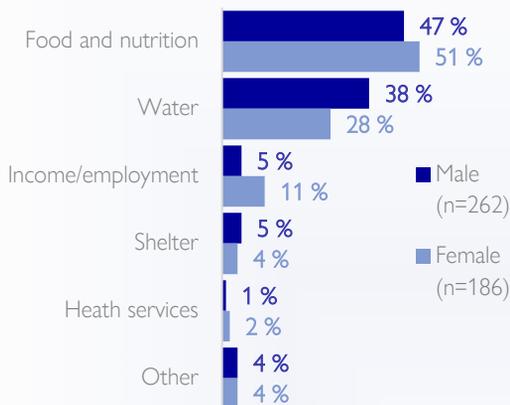


Note: This map is for illustrative purposes only. The boundaries, names and designations used do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

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

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Percentage of surveyed individuals in transit by gender and main need (n=448)



 **77 %** indicated a need for legal advice to learn about migration options (n=448).

 **33 %** indicated that they were missing some information during their journey (n=448).

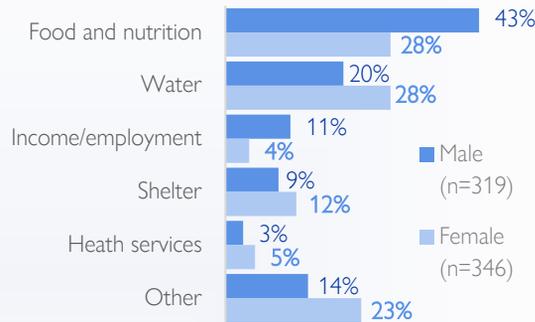
PRIMARY NEEDS

In November 2023, the mobility of migrants to Costa Rica was affected by demonstrations in Panama, interrupting the Darien-EMI Sur route until November 27 and slowing arrivals. Migrants reported charges by taxi drivers and difficulties in accessing food and medical services, exacerbated by language barrier. In EMI Sur, deficiencies in food supplies, clothing and hygiene items were highlighted, in addition to frequent health problems such as colds and gastrointestinal problems. Organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF intervened by offering humanitarian and psychosocial assistance and improved sanitary conditions at the site.

In the GAM, migrants, mostly from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia, expressed critical needs for funding, accommodation, clothing, food and medical care, also facing dehydration and minor illnesses. It is suggested that support be strengthened in terms of information on routes and legal assistance, and that the quality of food and services in shelters be improved.

In the northern region, needs centered on food, financing, hygiene, health and shelter. Common health problems included hunger, vomiting, diarrhea, fever and skin problems.

Figure 15. Percentage of surveyed individuals stranded in shelters by gender and main need (n=665)



Other needs: Non-food items (diapers, sanitation and hygiene items, feminine hygiene items), Communication, Protection and security.

 **53 %** indicated a need for legal advice to learn about immigration options (n=665).

 **70 %** indicated that they were missing some information during their trip (n=665).

NEEDS BY NATIONALITY



**Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela:**

The priority needs identified include food, employment and income, as well as medical care and legal support, especially among long-term residents. Food is fundamental at the beginning, but income becomes more relevant in later stages of the route.



**Ecuador:**

There has been a notable increase in several groups of Ecuadorians stranded in different areas of the country. A considerable number of minors with health problems and poor hygienic conditions were identified.



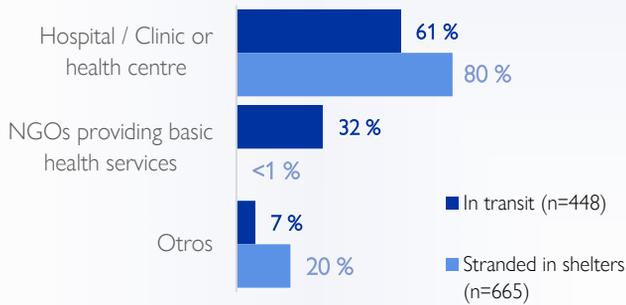
**Others:**

A variety of nationalities (Haiti, Afghanistan, Philippines, People's Republic of China, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Eritrea, Ghana, Peru, Dominican Republic, Nepal, Bangladesh, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Togo) were identified with increased crowding at the Campo Ferial in lines to board buses. As the flow of migrants has increased, cabs have become more willing to transport migrants to buses to San José, despite initially refusing to do so.



In terms of requiring medical assistance, respondents indicated that they would go to hospitals and the nearest clinic or health center (69%), pharmacies (12%), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide health services (9%), alternative medicine (7%), among others (3%). Differences were found between respondents in public sites and shelters, specifically in the percentage of people who would attend pharmacies; 12 per cent of respondents in transit sites compared to 7 per cent of respondents in shelters.

Figure 16. Percentage of surveyed individuals by type of movement and injuries suffered during the journey (n=1,113)



Other sites: Pharmacy, Alternative Medicine, Local medical or nursing professional.



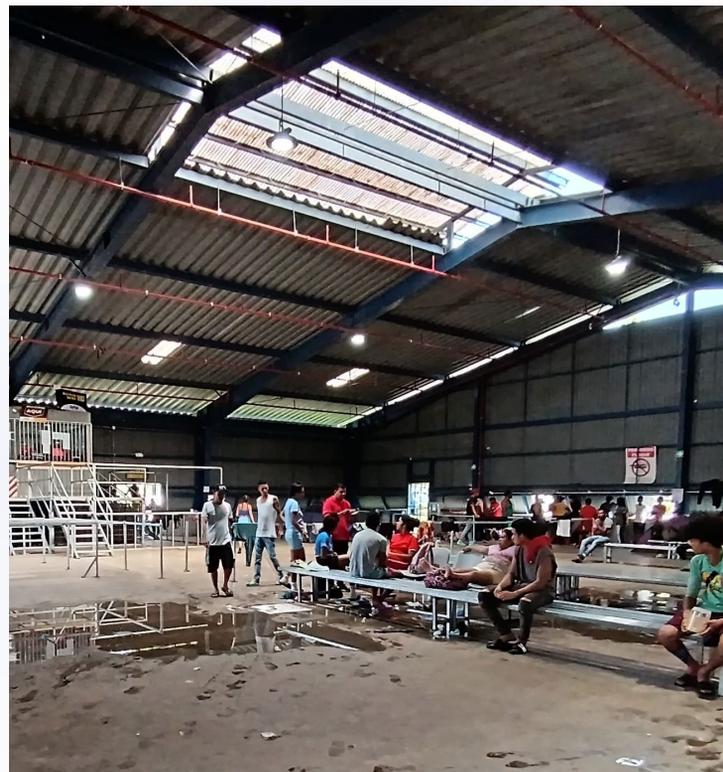
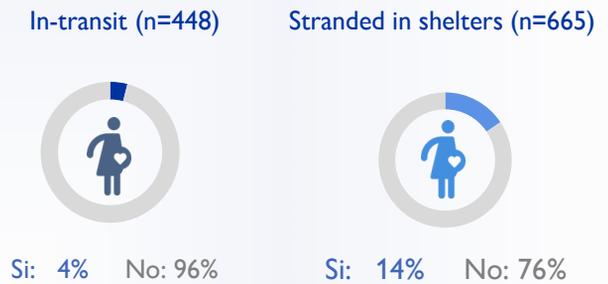
HEALTH AFFLICTIONS OBSERVED

Main health conditions observed in stranded migrants include:

- Severe dehydration.
- Gastrointestinal issues, primarily diarrhea.
- Mild flu.
- Child malnutrition.
- Dermatological problems; primarily sunburns and exposed wounds.
- Psychological stress.
- Others: Risk of vector-borne diseases, infections

Among the women (respondents and family members over 15 years of age), 11% indicated that they were pregnant. The average age of pregnant women was 27 years old. These percentages vary between respondents in transit sites, where the percentage of pregnant women is 4% and an average age of 29, and those in shelters, where these data are 14% and 26 years old.

Gráfico 17: Percentage of women aged 15 and over by pregnancy status



Individuals waiting in shelter  
 CATEM, Corredores, Puntarenas  
 © IOM 2023/Eliana SÁNCHEZ

The data presented in this report does not represent the entirety of the migratory flow. November 2023

## CONCLUSION AND KEY FINDINGS



According to IOM Costa Rica projections, the total number of entries from January to November 2023 (500,627), is estimated to have exceeded the 2022 total (226,610) by 121 per cent. In November 2023, approximately 42,150 individuals entered the country as part of the migratory trend in the Americas, mainly through Paso Canoas on the border with Panama (99 %) with a daily average of 1,405.



The main route identified was directly from Paso Canoas (southern border) to Los Chiles (northern border) by bus. This month, it was estimated that around 43,691 individuals moved through this route, equivalent to 104 per cent of the total trend that entered the country in this same month. The discrepancy between entry data and departure figures from EMI Sur to Los Chiles may be due to individuals who were stranded in previous months and who are now leaving. This indicates that the number of migrants recorded as departures in a given month is not limited only to those who entered the country and EMI Sur in that month, but also includes individuals who had arrived in previous periods and stayed in the center longer than initially planned.



In November 2023, IOM identified 10,445 migrants stranded in shelters and 1,293 in public places in several monitored cantons. This was the highest number reported for CATEM in 2023, with a significant presence of 10,268 stranded individuals. Meanwhile, Los Chiles, San Jose, Liberia, San Carlos, and other cantons experienced smaller and varied distributions, reflecting the heterogeneity of the migratory situation and the need for responses adapted to the particularities of each location.



With the inauguration of the EMI Sur, an effort was made to optimize the administration of the migratory movement. As a result, an increase in the number of people welcomed in this space and a reduction in the number of migrants stranded in identified public areas was observed. While in September 2023, 23 per cent of migrants arriving in Costa Rica were observed in public sites and only 1 per cent in shelters, these proportions changed to 10 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, in October; and to 3 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively, in November. These changes underscore how new measures effectively improve migration management.



Individuals in shelter  
CATEM, Corredores, Puntarenas  
© OIM 2023/Yirlania QUESADA

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



Official Citation: International Organization for Migration (IOM). September 2023. DTM Flow monitoring of people on the move across the Americas in locations of high transit and migrant presence in Costa Rica, IOM, San Jose, Costa Rica. For more information on the conditions of DTM information products, please visit: [www.dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions](http://www.dtm.iom.int/terms-and-conditions).

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This publication was made possible through the support of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the United States Department of State (PRM), under the Regional Migration Program. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the United States Government. This publication has not been officially edited by IOM.



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