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DTM

Displacement
Tracking Matrix

MONITORING VENEZUELAN POPULATION PRESENCE:
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

Migratory flows from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter, Venezuela) into Trinidad and Tobago have shown unprecedented increases since 2018. In 2019, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) initiated a Venezuelan Migrant Registration Framework (MRF), with subsequent re-registration exercises in 2021 and 2023. There was a total of 16, 523 registrants, which effectively legitimized their status and facilitated their access to legal employment opportunities. In that same year, the GORTT also instituted visa requirements for Venezuelan nationals to enter or transit Trinidad and Tobago.

Four years later, reports suggest an estimated total of 38,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants will reside in Trinidad and Tobago by the end of 2023.[1] Accordingly, geographic proximity and evolving political and socio-economic realities continue to motivate migration flows to Trinidad and Tobago. Notwithstanding, local authorities and past Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reports have confirmed increased irregular entries.

Given these dynamics, the 2023 DTM maintains the timely and consistent annual opportunity to explore the variable situation of Venezuelan nationals as they attempt to address their socio-economic vulnerabilities and explore sustainable livelihoods within Trinidad and Tobago. The International Organization for Migration's (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 movement, challenges, and needs of displaced and mobile populations, regularly and systematically. Hence, the DTM affords decision-makers and responders evidence-based insights to guide specific interventions to targeted vulnerable populations.

In this 2023 DTM edition, a total of 1,395 Venezuelan nationals were surveyed, between November and December 2023. The areas with the highest number of respondents were Chaguanas, Tunapuna/Piarco, and Penal/Debe as shown in Map 1.

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1   https://www.r4v.info/en/document/rmrp-2023-2024-trinidad-and-tobago-2-pager

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Number of Surveys by Region*
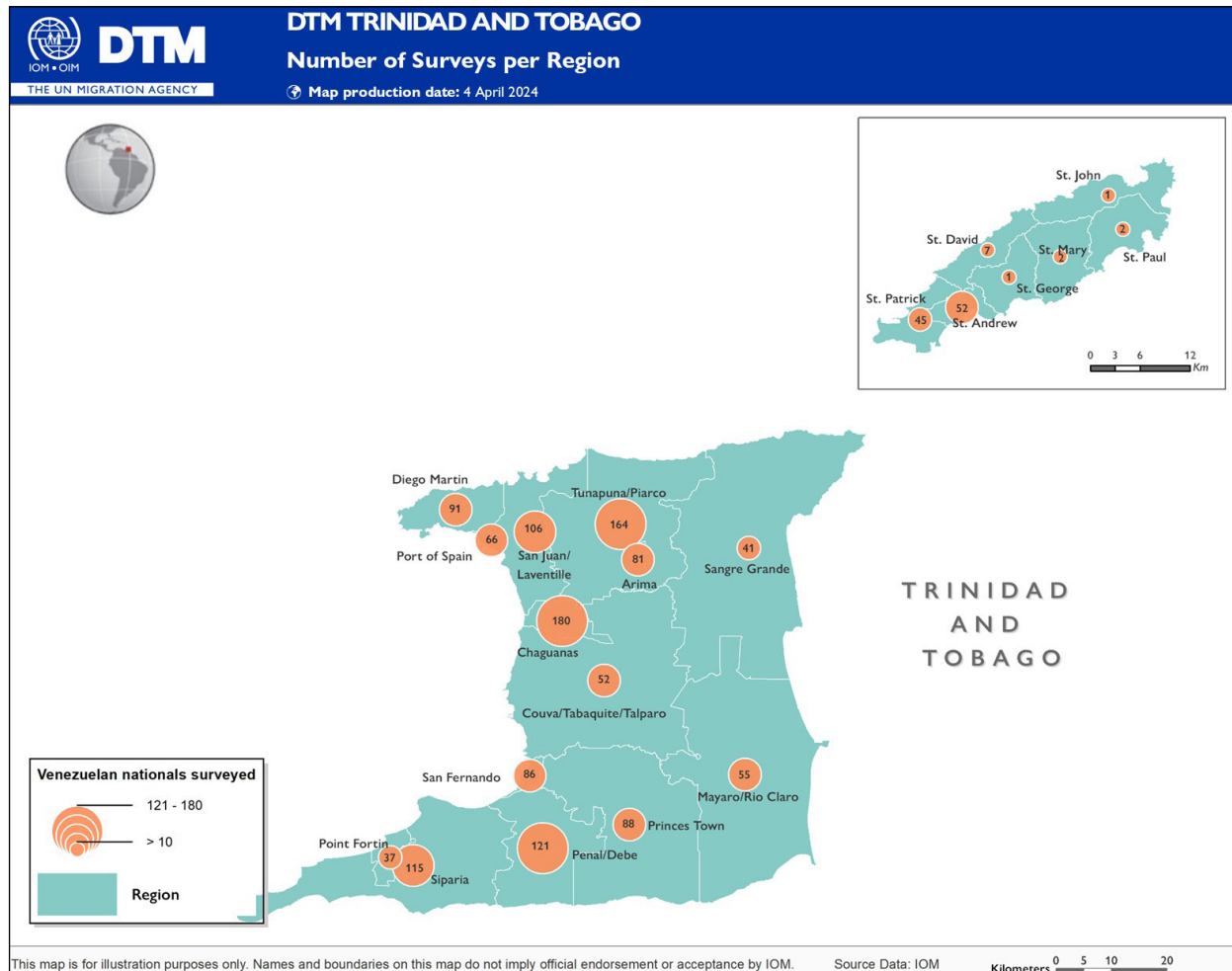
2. METHODOLOGY

The 2023 DTM consistently applied a multi-pronged data collection strategy, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods to capture information on key thematic areas.

Qualitatively, a total of 22 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with purposively selected representatives of the national authorities, non-governmental organizations and/or others who work closely with Venezuelan nationals or on the subject matter. These interviews informed preliminary migrant profiles and supported respondent referrals for participation in the survey.

These KIIs were conducted between 16th and 30th October 2023.

Subsequently, both face-to-face and telephone-based surveys were administered to 1,417 migrants and refugees, who were over the age of 18 years, and were willing to participate in the interview process during the period November to December 2023.

Referral pathways were also extended to respondents who required this assistance. It should be mentioned, however, that the participants in this exercise may have differed from the previous DTM exercises.[2]

A snowball sampling strategy[3] guided the DTM quantitative operations. This technique was deemed to be the most practical approach to access a 'hard to reach' population, in the absence of a well-informed sampling frame.

The choice of non-probability sampling, however, did impose some limitations on the exercise regarding its representativeness.[4]

Data collection 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.

Tablets were used during data capture and the information generated was cleaned, coded, and analysed, using standardized DTM procedures.

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2 At least 80% of respondents did not previously participate in any DTM exercise.

3 This is a recruitment technique where survey participants can refer or introduce potential participants to be included in a study.

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

3. VENEZUELAN POPULATION PROFILES

A total of 1,417 migrants participated in 2023 DTM, of which 1,395 were Venezuelan nationals. However, given the nature and intent of the DTM initiative, the report is focused on Venezuelan nationals only. Reporting, therefore, filtered respondents based on specific criteria regarding their age, i.e., they had to be 18 years and over, and nationality, i.e., they had to be Venezuelan.

A review of the demographic data showed that women respondents significantly surpassed men respondents. In addition, three respondents identified as other designations. Refer to Graph 1 for more details.

Similarly, interviews with key informants (KIs) highlighted that there were marginally more women than men migrants in Trinidad and Tobago.

GRAPH 1

Distribution by Sex

38.4% **61.4%** Non-Binary **0.2%**
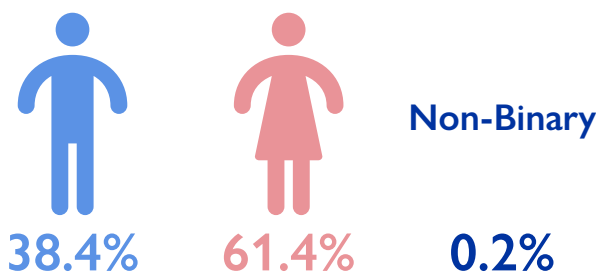
An examination of age and sex further revealed that the highest number of respondents were in the 26-35 age group (39%), followed by the 18-25 (27%) and the 36-45 (22%) groups. Furthermore, both women (39%) and men (37%) respondents were highest in the 26-35 age group as highlighted in Graph 2. The respondents who identified as 'other' were in the 18-25, 26-35, and 36-45 age group respectively.

GRAPH 2

Distribution by Sex and Age
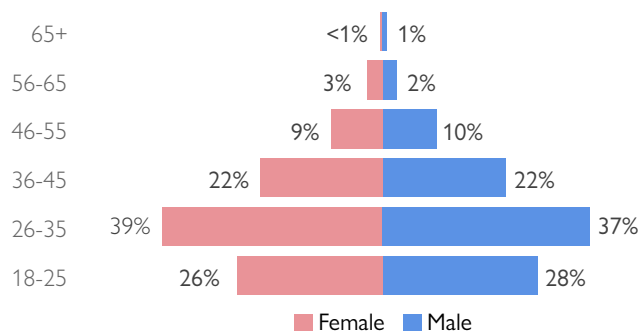
_____
5 Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

4

Regarding union status, there were slightly more married, free union or cohabiting respondents than single respondents.

Additionally, as illustrated in Graph 3, these two categories, combined, accounted for approximately 97 per cent of the respondents.

GRAPH 3

Marital Status
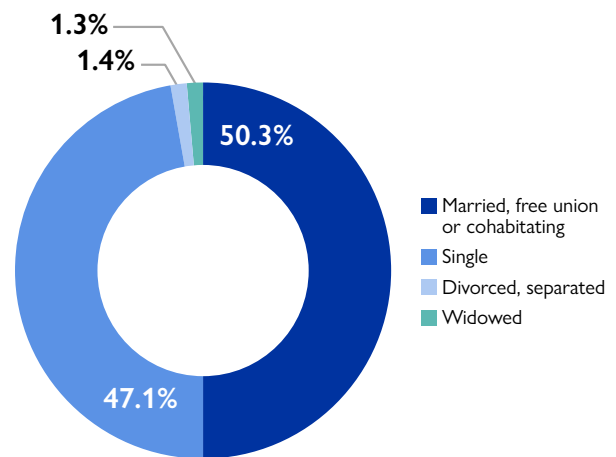
Moreover, approximately 17 per cent of the women respondents were pregnant or breastfeeding. Added to this, 32 per cent were single. The majority (51%) were between the ages 26 and 35 years old.

Over 60 per cent of KIs confirmed that there were pregnant women migrants in Trinidad and Tobago and pointed out that there were both migrants who had travelled to the country pregnant or became pregnant after their arrival.

Inquiries concerning respondents' ethnicity revealed that most of the respondents (92%) did not align with any ethnic group. However, of those who did (n=104), about 85 per cent identified with the Warao ethnic grouping.

In the area of education, about two per cent of the respondents had not completed any schooling. Notwithstanding this, approximately 57 per cent of the respondents completed secondary level education. It was also reported that 18 per cent of the respondents completed university level education.

Collectively, 75 per cent of the respondents reportedly completed either secondary or university education as shown in Graph 4.[5]

Completed Education Level[1]

Primary	15%
Secondary	57%
Technical/Vocational	10%
Undergraduate	17%
Postgraduate	1%
None	2%
Prefer not to say	0%
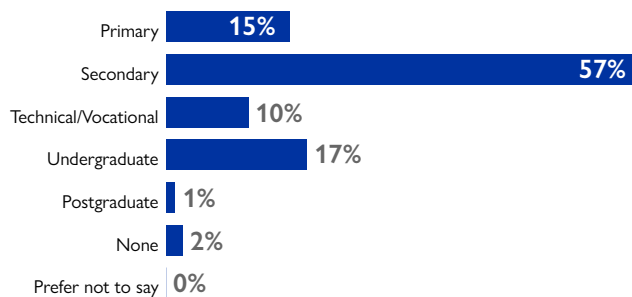
Note: [1] Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Also, a significant portion of the respondents in the 18-25 and 26-35 age groups had completed secondary level education, whereas the 26-35, 36-45 and 46-55 age groups had the largest number of university graduates as illustrated in Graph 5.

Completed Education by Age

Legend: None | Primary | Secondary | Technical/Vocational | Undergraduate | Postgraduate | Prefer not to say | Total

Further to this, a disaggregation of completed education by work sector showed that approximately three per cent of the respondents who engaged in cleaning work were university graduates, which remains consistent with the 2022 reporting.[6]

Several key informants also reported situations of underemployment among migrants.

In addition, approximately 71 per cent of respondents reportedly did not have proof of their educational background. Among those of the approximate 28 per cent who had proof, 23 per cent expressed a need to prove skills or recognition of qualifications and studies in Trinidad and Tobago.
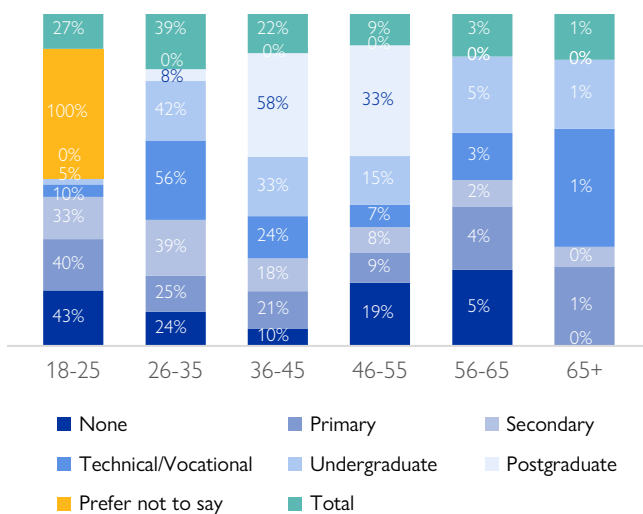
A total of 99.9 per cent of the respondents were Venezuelan nationals only, and of those with a second nationality, Trinidadian was most frequently mentioned.

Most respondents were born in the eastern states of Venezuela with the highest number of respondents (41%) reporting that they were born in Delta Amacuro. This is depicted in Map 2.

Additionally, approximately 87 per cent of the respondents resided in their state of birth before travelling to Trinidad and Tobago.

In terms of the length of stay in Trinidad and Tobago, 83 per cent of the respondents were present in the country for more than 12 months, as shown in Graph 6.

Length of Stay in Trinidad and Tobago

- Less than 6 months
- 6 to 12 months
- More than 12 months

8% / 9% / 83%
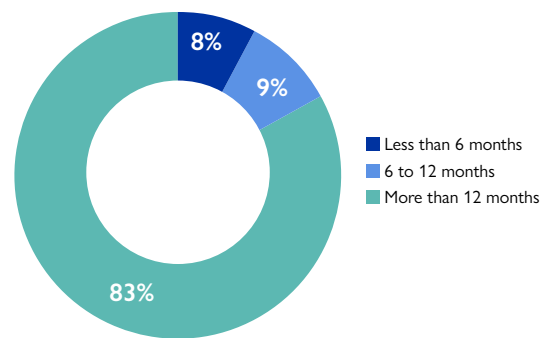
Furthermore, approximately 31 per cent of the respondents arrived in Trinidad and Tobago in 2019, followed by a drastic reduction in arrivals in 2020 (15%), 2021 (9%) and 2022 (9%). However, the figure for 2023 (16%) was higher than the previous three years respectively. Graph 7 illustrates further.

Date of Arrival in Trinidad and Tobago

Pre-2016	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1%	1%	6%	12%	31%	15%	9%	9%	16%
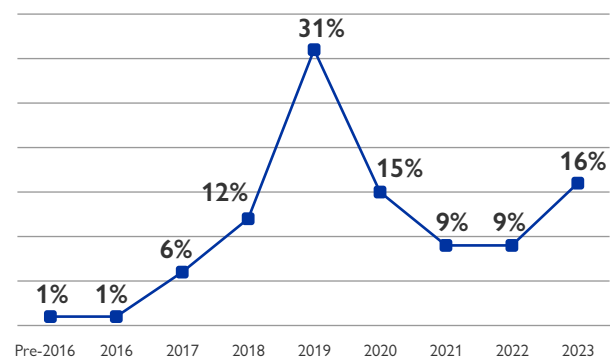
6 The 2022 DTM report can be accessed here: *https://dtm.iom.int/reports/trinidad-and-tobago-monitoring-venezuelan-citizens-presence-round-5-november-december-2022*

MAP 2

State of Birth

DTM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
State of birth
Map production date: 4 April 2024

Birth percentage (%) by Venezuelan States
- < 3.5%
- 3.5% - 15%
- 15% - 41.3%
- State
- Focus Country
- International Border

Distrito Capital 6.7% (n=93)
Carabobo 2.2% (n=31)
La Guaira 0.6% (n=8)
Nueva Esparta 3.5% (n=49)
Sucre 15.1% (n=210)
Falcón 0.4% (n=6)
Yaracuy 0.4% (n=6)
Miranda 0.8% (n=11)
Lara 0.5% (n=7)
Zulia 1% (n=14)
Cojedes 0.2% (n=3)
Aragua 1.3% (n=18)
Guárico 0.2% (n=3)
Monagas 10.2% (n=142)
Anzoátegui 5.9% (n=83)
Delta Amacuro 41.3% (n=576)
Mérida 0.1% (n=2)
Barinas 0.3% (n=4)
Táchira 0.4% (n=6)
Apure 0.4% (n=6)
Bolívar 7.9% (n=110)
Colombia
Guyana
Brazil
Trinidad and Tobago

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.   Source Data: IOM   Kilometers 0 62.5 125 250

Regarding the migratory status of the respondents, approximately 60 per cent indicated 'no regular migration status'. It was also noted that, about 30 per cent had either a Minister's permit or a Work permit. Graph 8 provides more details. Added to this, of the respondents who were not registered in 2019 (n=910), 71 per cent reported arriving in the country after 2019.
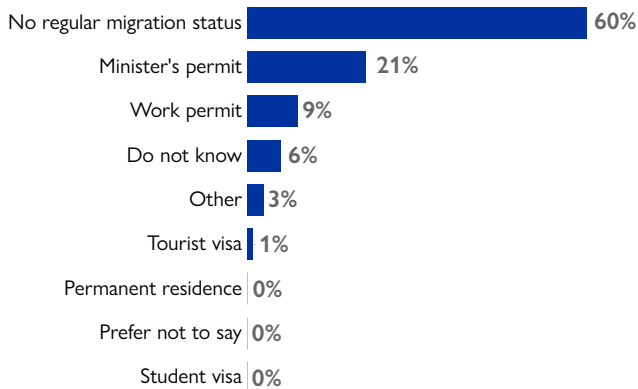
A total of 35 per cent of the respondents were reportedly registered during the Government MRF exercise in 2019 (n=483). Accordingly, a breakdown of current migrant status by the 2019 MRF registration exercise revealed that 84 per cent of the respondents who were not registered in 2019, reported that they had 'no regular migration status'. As seen in Graph 9, most of the respondents who registered in 2019, either possessed a Minister's permit (57%) or work permit (24%) respectively.

GRAPH 8

Migration Status

Status	Percentage
No regular migration status	60%
Minister's permit	21%
Work permit	9%
Do not know	6%
Other	3%
Tourist visa	1%
Permanent residence	0%
Prefer not to say	0%
Student visa	0%

GRAPH 9

2019 Registration Status by Current Migration Status

Status	Percentage
Minister's permit	57%
Work permit	24%
No regular migration status	15%
Tourist visa	1%
Permanent residence	0%
Student visa	0%
Other	1%
Prefer not to say	0%
Do not know	2%
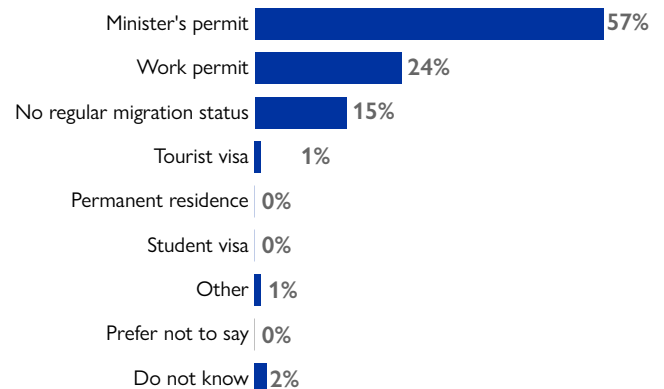
However, approximately 71 per cent of the respondents who registered in 2019 participated in the re-registration process in 2023 and of these, about 10 per cent also confirmed they had no regular migration status.

Further to their registration status, 72 per cent of respondents also reported that they were either asylum seekers or recognized refugees, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Added to this, approximately 10 per cent of respondents reported that they did not possess any identity documents.

Regarding reasons for migration, 'economic reasons/finance' (65%) emerged as the main factor that influenced respondents' decision to leave Venezuela followed by political (16%) and insecurity/violence (15%) respectively. Graph 10 refers.
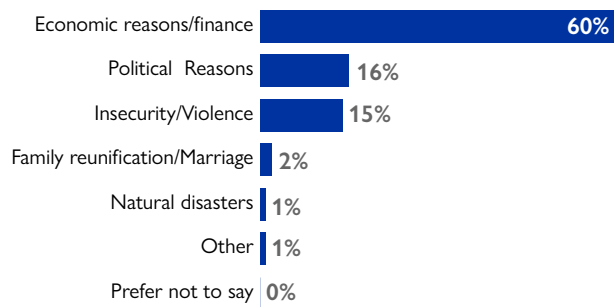
GRAPH 10

Top Factors Influencing Migration (Multiple Response Question)

- Economic reasons/finance — 60%
- Political Reasons — 16%
- Insecurity/Violence — 15%
- Family reunification/Marriage — 2%
- Natural disasters — 1%
- Other — 1%
- Prefer not to say — 0%

4. ROUTES

An examination of the transit routes used by the respondents revealed that 65 per cent began their journey in Delta Amacuro. Interestingly, approximately 68 per cent of the respondents who began their journey in Delta Amacuro also resided there before departing Venezuela (n=910).

Additionally, about 93 per cent of all valid responses confirmed that their mode of transport to Trinidad was via boat. Map 3 illustrates. This response was supported with information from the KIIs.

Added to this, disaggregation by age showed 67 per cent of respondents reported travelling by boat were within the age range 18 – 35 years old, whereas approximately 46 per cent travelling by air were within the age range 36 - 55 years old as Graph 11 illustrates.
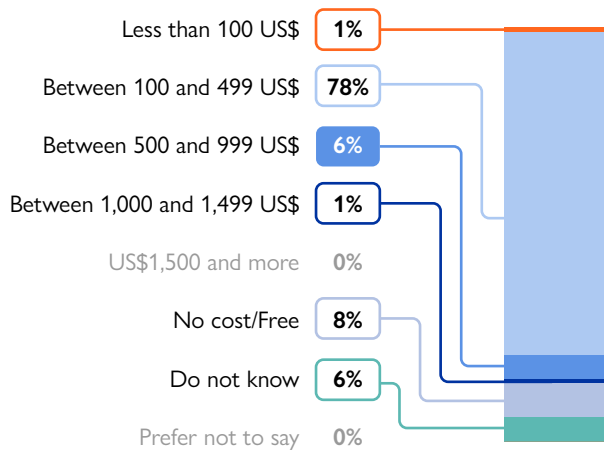
GRAPH 11

Transportation Type by Age

	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	+65
Air	11%	35%	31%	16%	7%	1%
Sea	28%	39%	21%	9%	2%	1%
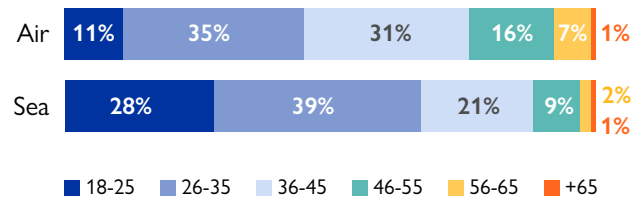
The results also highlighted that approximately 78 per cent of the respondents incurred expenses between USD 100 to USD 499 for their trips. A total of seven per cent of respondents reportedly paid more than USD 500. Like the 2022 DTM, it was noted that some respondents indicated that they incurred no costs for their trip to Trinidad (8%). Graph 12 provides a breakdown.

GRAPH 12

Cost of Trip to Trinidad and Tobago

- Less than 100 US$ — 1%
- Between 100 and 499 US$ — 78%
- Between 500 and 999 US$ — 6%
- Between 1,000 and 1,499 US$ — 1%
- US$1,500 and more — 0%
- No cost/Free — 8%
- Do not know — 6%
- Prefer not to say — 0%

Approximately 86 per cent of the respondents entered through unofficial entry points.

Concerning the journey itself, about 38 per cent of the respondents did not report any difficulties during the trip. However, the most frequently cited difficulties were lack of food/water (18%), not having a place to sleep (10%), the lack of economic resources (9%), insecurity/robbery (7%) and lack of information (6%) as shown in Graph 13.[7]

GRAPH 13

Top 5 Trip Difficulties

- Lack of food/water — 18%
- Not having a place to sleep — 10%
- Lack of economic resources — 9%
- Insecurity/robbery — 7%
- Lack of information — 6%

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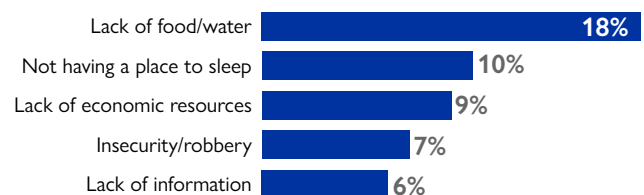
7   Multiple response question.

MAP 3
Routes

DTM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Routes
Map production date: 4 April 2024

Moreover, about 71 per cent of respondents were uncertain of their intended period of stay in Trinidad and Tobago. Added t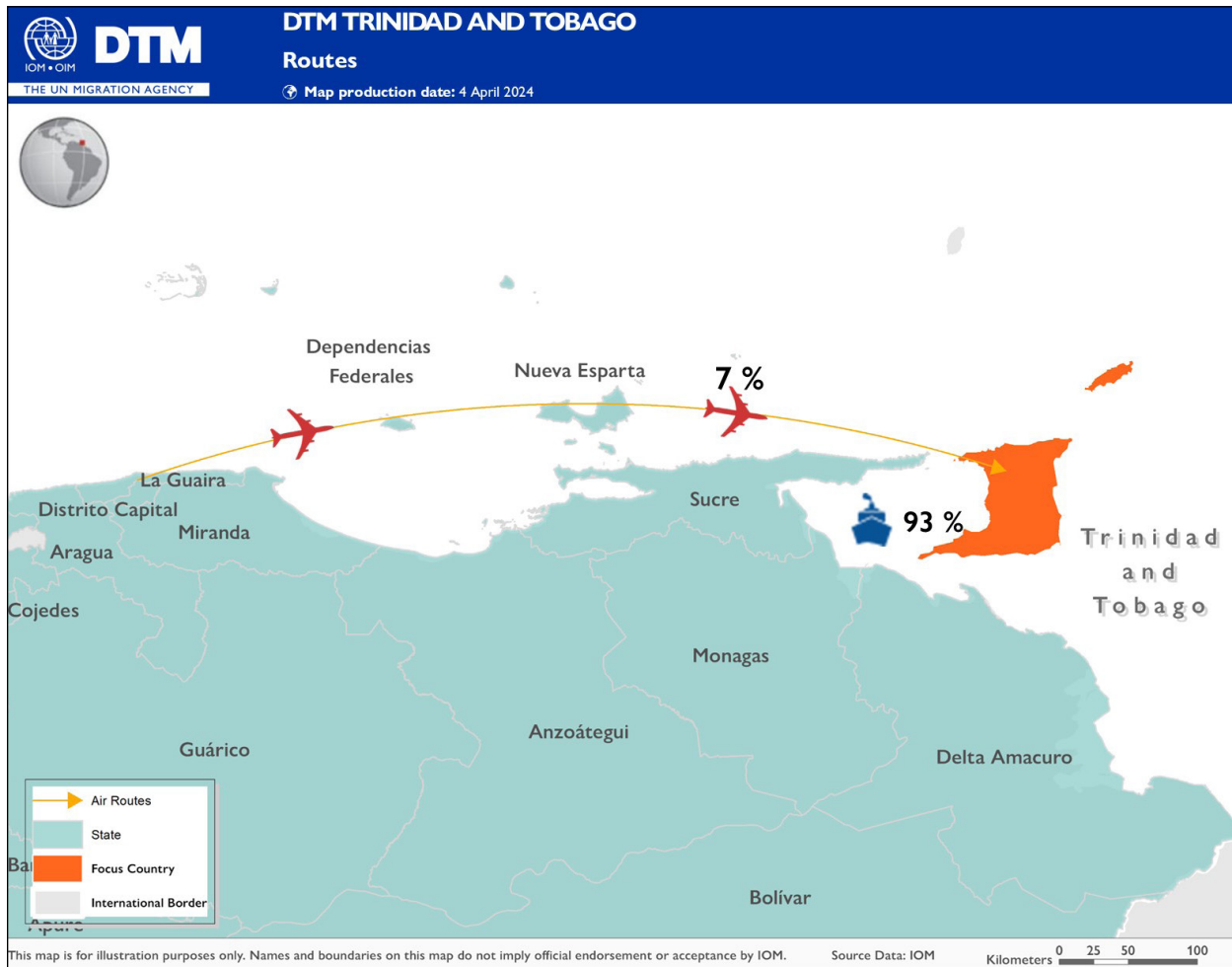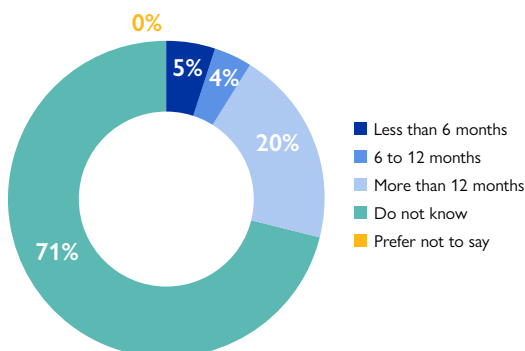o this, approximately 20 per cent expressed their intention to stay for more than 12 months. Smaller percentages of the respondents reported that they intended to stay for '6 to 12 months' (4%) and 'less than 6 months,' (5%) as shown in Graph 14.

Added to this, 58 per cent of respondents indicated that they intended to return to Venezuela. However, 68 per cent of them were uncertain of the timeframe in which they intended to return. Approximately 16 per cent indicated 'more than 12 months', whereas 9 per cent suggested '6 to 12 months' and 7 per cent reported 'less than 6 months'.

When probed as to what is required to return to their home country, 34 per cent indicated access to employment and 32 per cent suggested access to livelihoods respectively.

Notwithstanding, approximately 41 per cent of respondents did not intend to return to Venezuela. Furthermore, Trinidad and Tobago was identified as the final destination country for about 20 per cent of the respondents. This reflects a 27 per cent reduction from the 2022 DTM and continues to underscore that migrants may be opting for alternative destinations.

Notably, however, approximately 23 per cent of the respondents indicated that they 'did not know' their intended final destination and about three per cent stated that Venezuela was their final destination. Other destinations identified by respondents included the United States of America (24%), Canada (18%) and Spain (8%).

GRAPH 14
Intended Length of Stay in Trinidad and Tobago

- Less than 6 months
- 6 to 12 months
- More than 12 months
- Do not know
- Prefer not to say

5. DEPENDENTS

Regarding economic dependents, about 54 per cent of the respondents had dependents both in Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, while 30 per cent had dependents only in Venezuela, and 10 per cent had dependents in Trinidad and Tobago only, as depicted in Graph 15.

Dependents by Location -Venezuela & Trinidad and Tobago


- No dependents
- Only Trinidad
- Only Venezuela
- Venezuela & Trinidad
- Prefer not to say

0%
6%
10%
54%
30%
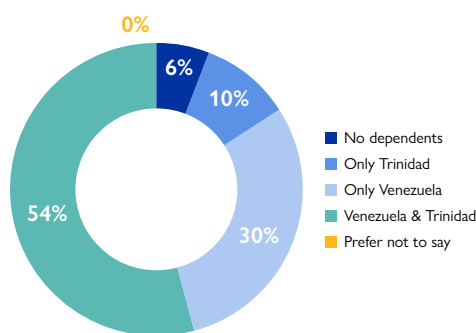
Furthermore, about 80 per cent of the respondents send resources to Venezuela. Of these respondents (n=1120), about 99 per cent transferred money, as well as medicine (28%) and food (25%).[8]

Notably, 'informal transfer'[9] (57%) emerged as the top method of sending money among the respondents, followed by 'through acquaintances' (26%) and 'formal transfer' (i.e. bank, Western Union, Moneygram etc.) (16%). Graph 16 depicts the top three means of remitting money.

Main Means of Remitting Money[1]

- Informal transfer
- Formal transfer
- Through acquaintances

26%
57%
16%
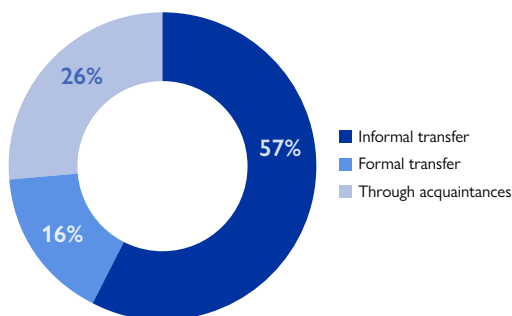
Note: [1] The graph reflects the top three means only. Percentages will not sum to 100%.

6. TRAVEL COMPANIONS

A closer analysis of the travelling companions showed that most of the respondents reported travelling alone (51%), followed by travelling with their relatives (39%). See Graph 17.

While the KIs had mixed views on this dynamic, it was suggested that persons were subsequently reunifying the family.

Travelling Companions

Alone	51%
With relatives	39%
With non-relatives	7%
With relatives and non-relatives	2%
With relatives other	0%
Prefer not to say	0%
Other	1%

Additionally, 59 per cent of the respondents who did not travel alone (n=678) had children in their travel group, and 73 per cent of these children traveled with their mothers. However, respondents also indicated that there were a relatively smaller number of cases of children travelling alone.

These results were substantiated by KIs, which referred to instances of migrants travelling in groups, and with children. However, there were fewer reports of unaccompanied and separated migrant children entering Trinidad and Tobago from Venezuela.

Apart from this, approximately 64 per cent of the respondents, with dependents in Trinidad and Tobago (n=883), were renting houses or apartments. Added to this, almost 30 per cent of the respondents in this category were recorded as renting single rooms. Moreover, few respondents continued to indicate public space/street dwelling, an issue that emerged in the 2022 DTM report. See Graph 18.[10]

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8   Multiple response question.

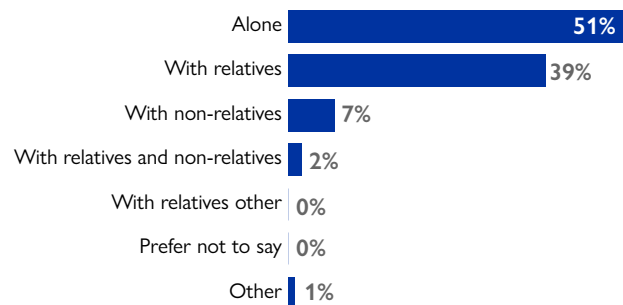9   Informal transfer are remittances in cash or in kind that are transferred outside the formal financial system.

10   Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

GRAPH 18

Respondents' Accommodation in Trinidad and Tobago[1]

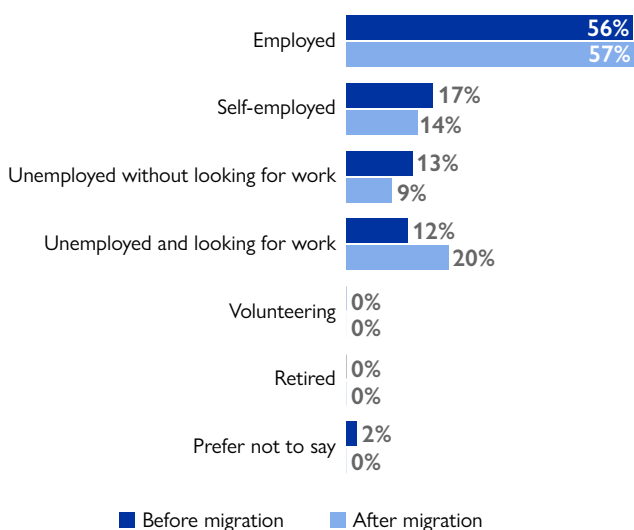|	With Dependents	Without Dependents
Leasing a house or apartment	64%	57%
Leasing a room	30%	33%
At friends' houses	1%	3%
At family's homes	3%	3%
Hotel, Hostel, boarding house	0%	1%
Living in a public space/street	1%	0%
Other	2%	3%
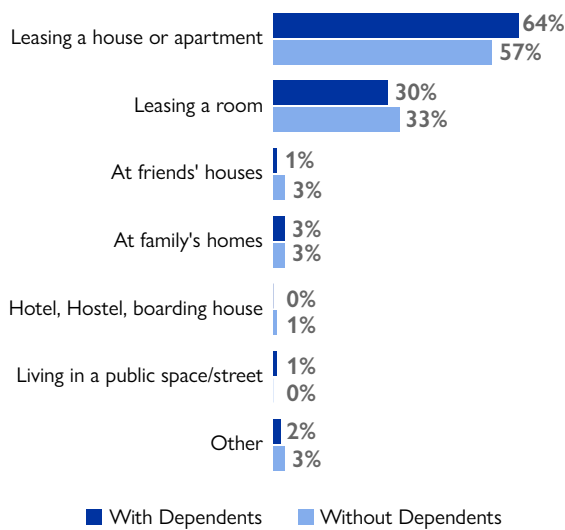
Note: [1] Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

7. WORK STATUS

Employment opportunities are a primary motivator for migration. Prior to migration, approximately 56 per cent of respondents reported being employed, whereas 12 per cent reported being unemployed and seeking employment. However, post migration, a very minimal increase in employment was registered, as well as an increase in those unemployed and seeking employment, as illustrated in Graph 19.
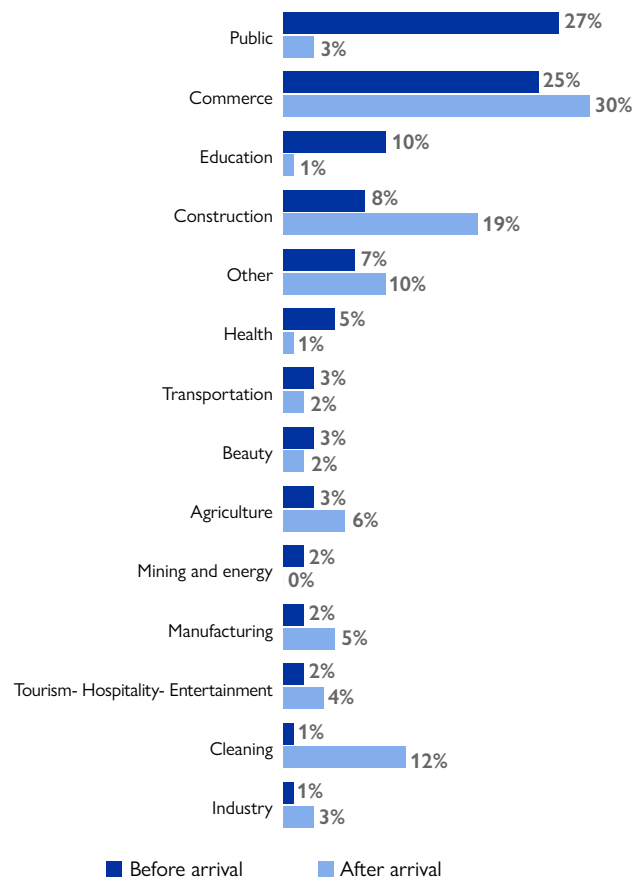
GRAPH 19

Work Status Before and After Migration

	Before migration	After migration
Employed	56%	57%
Self-employed	17%	14%
Unemployed without looking for work	13%	9%
Unemployed and looking for work	12%	20%
Volunteering	0%	0%
Retired	0%	0%
Prefer not to say	2%	0%

An analysis of the pre- and post-migration work sectors revealed a transition among some respondents into the construction, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism-hospitality, and cleaning sectors.

GRAPH 20

Main Work Sector Before and After Migration[1]

	Before arrival	After arrival
Public	27%	3%
Commerce	25%	30%
Education	10%	1%
Construction	8%	19%
Other	7%	10%
Health	5%	1%
Transportation	3%	2%
Beauty	3%	2%
Agriculture	3%	6%
Mining and energy	2%	0%
Manufacturing	2%	5%
Tourism- Hospitality- Entertainment	2%	4%
Cleaning	1%	12%
Industry	1%	3%

Note: [1] Sectors with small percentages are omitted. Percentages will not sum to 100%.

Notably, after their migration, approximately 19 per cent of the respondents were employed in the construction sector, and about 12 per cent were engaged in cleaning, as shown in Graph 20.[11]

The data also showed that approximately 49 per cent of the respondents who were employed[12] at the time of the survey worked in the informal sector.

Added to this, an assessment of salaries, rated either hourly or monthly, indicated that approximately 13 per cent of the respondents working in the formal sector and 23 per cent of the respondents working in the informal sector were underpaid, as they reportedly received less than Trinidad and Tobago's minimum wage.[13]

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11   Sectors with very small percentages of respondents (i.e., 2 per cent or less) were omitted from Graph 20 as such percentages will not sum to 100%.
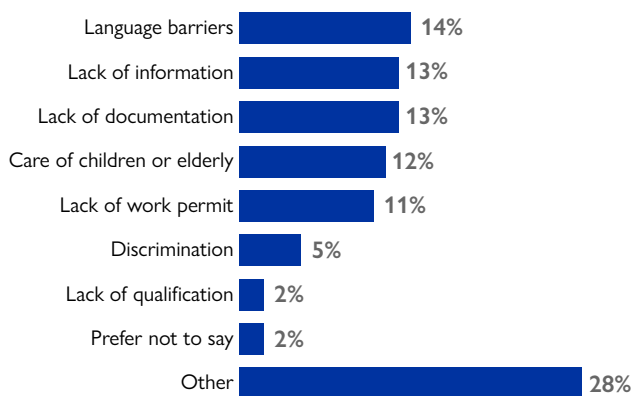12   This is based on both employed and self-employed respondents.
13   At the time of the survey minimum wage was TTD 17.50.

Notwithstanding this, 50 per cent of the employed respondents did not consider their wages to be fair, with 33 per cent of them working in commerce, 20 per cent in construction, and seven per cent in the cleaning sectors respectively.

Upon examination of respondents' access to income generating activities, it was discovered that approximately 50 per cent reported a lack of access. Top reasons cited were language barrier (14%), lack of information (14%) and lack of documentation (13%). Graph 21 provides further details.[14]

GRAPH 21

Factors Preventing Access to Income Generation (Multiple Response Question)

Language barriers	14%
Lack of information	13%
Lack of documentation	13%
Care of children or elderly	12%
Lack of work permit	11%
Discrimination	5%
Lack of qualification	2%
Prefer not to say	2%
Other	28%

8. PROTECTION

Protection concerns represent a fundamental theme in DTM, as it tracks major vulnerabilities encountered by migrant populations.

Accordingly, it was discovered that 27 per cent of the respondents had worked and received less than the agreed payment, and 11 per cent did not receive payment for work or activities conducted.

Further to this, seven per cent of the respondents indicated that they were forced to perform work, or other activities, against their will. These cases were concentrated in the construction (29%), commerce (20%) and (10%) cleaning sectors. A total of seven per cent of respondents also reported being detained by private (non-government) agents.[15]

The survey data also revealed that 54 per cent of the respondents experienced discrimination that was predominantly attributed to their nationality.

Likewise, KIIs referred to Gender- Based Violence (GBV), various forms of exploitation, harassment and xenophobia as key challenges faced by migrants.
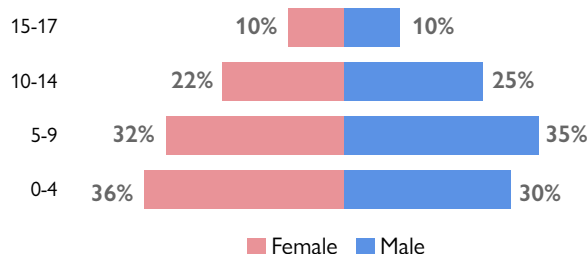
9. CHILDREN

The specific situation of children was analysed, and it was noted that there were 1,500 children, under the age of 18 years, who lived with 55 per cent of the respondents.

Additionally, an age and sex disaggregation of the children living with the respondents showed that there were more girls than boys. The 5-9 category had the largest number of children (33%), followed by the 0-4 age group (33%). Graph 22 illustrates the breakdown.

GRAPH 22

Children by Age and Sex

Age	Female	Male
15-17	10%	10%
10-14	22%	25%
5-9	32%	35%
0-4	36%	30%

In relation to the possession of birth certificates, 23 per cent of the respondents who lived with children, reported that they were aware of circumstances in which children were born in Trinidad and Tobago, and did not have birth certificates.

They reported that 'lack of information' (44%), 'fees/costs' (35%) and 'lack of documentation' (30%) were the major reasons for this situation. A significantly smaller number of respondents also indicated other explanations such as 'did not approach the authorities' (11%) and 'fear of the authorities' (11%).[16]

Correspondingly, a KI reported that birth registration amongst migrants, particularly in coastal and rural communities, continues to be a concerning issue.

Additionally, the data showed that 70 per cent of the respondents who resided with children indicated that these children did not have access to education in Trinidad and Tobago.

Like DTM 2022, 'fees/costs' (53%) and 'lack of documentation' (42%) were identified as the main reasons for this inaccessibility to education.[17] There were also seven cases where 'disability' was indicated as the reason for no access to education and 11 reports of 'working' as the reason.

Respondents reported six cases of children involved in work that can jeopardize their health or safety.

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14 Factors with very small percentages (i.e., 2 per cent or less) were omitted from the Graph.

15 This does not apply to persons officially detained by a government/state official e.g. police officer.

16 This was a multiple response question.

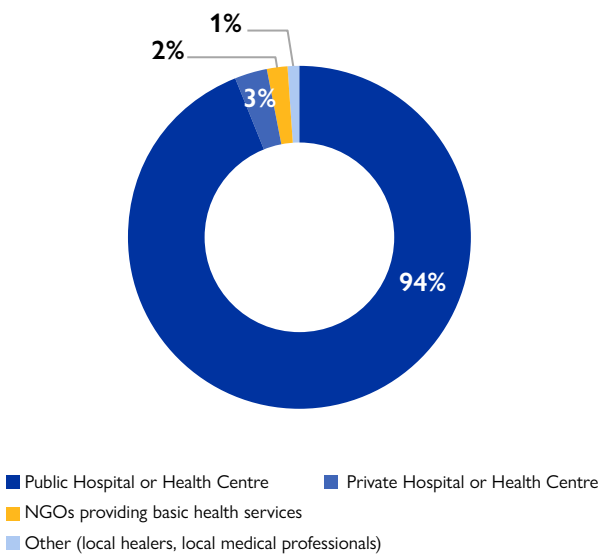17 This was a multiple response question.

10. HEALTH

This section explored respondents' access to health services and related issues. It was therefore observed that about 35 per cent of the respondents had no current need for health care services.

Furthermore, approximately 14 per cent of the respondents asserted that they had no access to health services when they needed it. In the case of pregnant respondents, 34 per cent reported that they did not access prenatal services.

Further examination of the reasons why respondents were unable to access health services revealed the top reasons as discrimination (46%), stigma (25%), and language barriers (25%), (n=194). In conjunction, one KI noted that mistrust and a lack of understanding of what services are available are key challenges migrants faced in accessing health services.

Of the persons who had access to health services (n=708), 94 per cent reported that the public hospital or health centre were their primary options, as shown in Graph 23.

Health Service Options

- Public Hospital or Health Centre
- Private Hospital or Health Centre
- NGOs providing basic health services
- Other (local healers, local medical professionals)

It was further noted that 'family, friends, and relatives' (35%) was the top source of information about health services amongst respondents. Additionally, 'I don't know where to obtain information' (18%) emerged as the top, third response, as highlighted in Graph 24. Accordingly, KIs advocate for targeted health education. Additionally, KIs continue to reiterate the concern of access to specialist or secondary health care services.

Main Sources of Information on Health Services (Multiple Response Question)
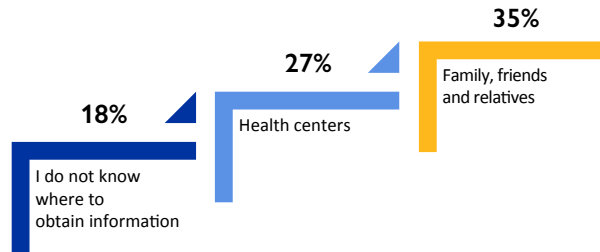
In addition, the issue of disability[18] was probed, and it was revealed that most of respondents did not encounter any difficulties engaging in key activities.

Notwithstanding this, some respondents reported struggles in the following main areas: seeing even if wearing glasses (24%); walking or climbing stairs (10%) and remembering or concentrating (9%). Graph 25 illustrates.

Disability

- A lot of difficulty
- Some difficulty
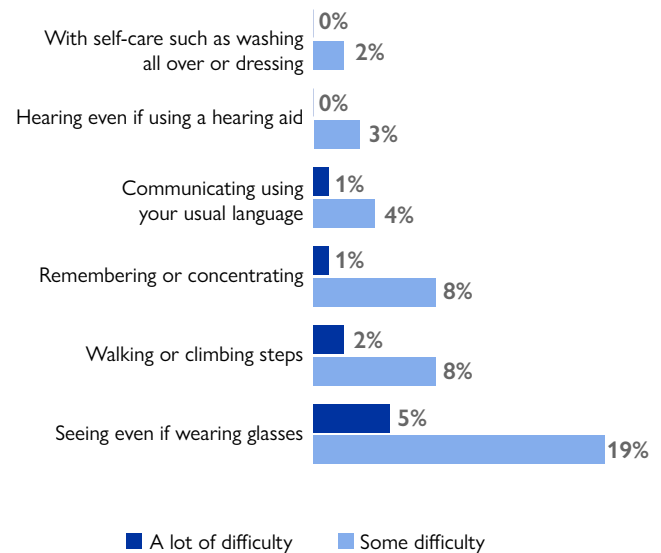
In May 2023, the World Health Organization declared an end to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as a public health emergency and recommended the integration of the COVID-19 vaccination into life course vaccination programmes. Accordingly, approximately 86 per cent of respondents reported being vaccinated.

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18 Disability questions were consistent with the Washington Group Questions.
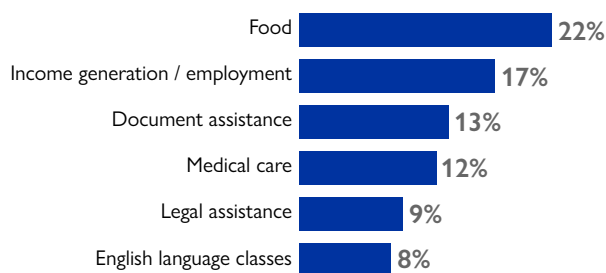
11. NEEDS

An examination of the respondents' needs highlighted food within the first (22%), second (17%) and third level (12%) priorities. Other priorities falling within the three levels included income generation/employment and education and training. Under the first level priority, income generation/employment (17%) was identified as a secondary need, and document assistance (13%), as a tertiary need, as illustrated in Graph 26.

Added to this, English language classes and 'none' featured in the top three responses for the second and third-level priorities respectively.
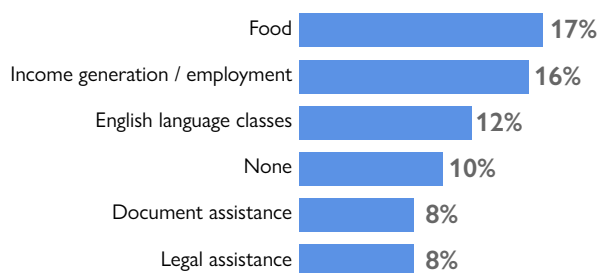
Some of these expressed needs were also reflected by KIs. High needs reported included education, legal assistance, employment, healthcare, and access to information.
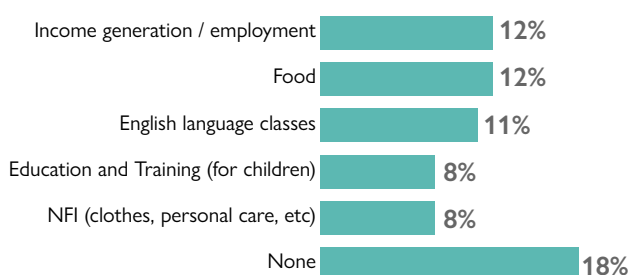
GRAPH 26

Prioritized Migrant Needs

First priority - top 6

Food	**22%**
Income generation / employment	**17%**
Document assistance	**13%**
Medical care	**12%**
Legal assistance	**9%**
English language classes	**8%**

Second priority - top 6

Food	**17%**
Income generation / employment	**16%**
English language classes	**12%**
None	**10%**
Document assistance	**8%**
Legal assistance	**8%**

Third priority - top 6

|	
Income generation / employment	**12%**
Food	**12%**
English language classes	**11%**
Education and Training (for children)	**8%**
NFI (clothes, personal care, etc)	**8%**
None	**18%**

Regarding the priority needs of children living with the respondents, the top needs included education and training (17%), as well as food (15%). Other priority needs identified were 'none' (14%), English language classes (12%), non-food items (NFIs) (9%) and day care services (7%) as portrayed in Graph 27.

GRAPH 27

Prioritized Child Needs (Multiple Response Question)

Education and training	**17%**
Food	**15%**
English language classes	**12%**
NFIs	**9%**
Day care services	**7%**
None	**14%**
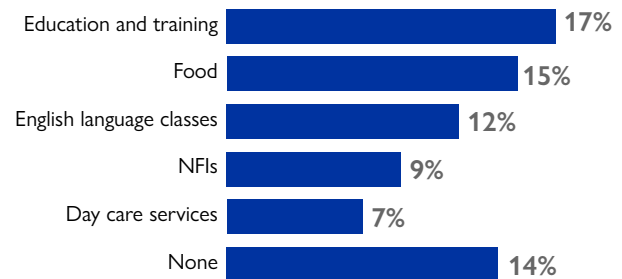
In addition, for the satisfaction and dissatisfaction ratings in relation to access to their basic needs, respondents indicated that water (22%), sanitation and hygiene (19%), as well as food and nutrition (12%), topped the satisfaction category. Conversely, education (22%), medical/healthcare (20%), and protection and security (19%) emerged as popular dissatisfaction areas amongst respondents, as depicted in Graph 28.

GRAPH 28

Basic Needs Rating

Top 3 satisfaction ratings

Water	**22%**
Sanitation and Hygiene	**19%**
Food and Nutrition	**12%**

Top 3 dissatisfaction ratings

Education	**22%**
Medical/health care	**20%**
Protection and security	**19%**

12. SUMMARY

The 2023 DTM presents the reality of the respondents as it pertained to their vulnerabilities, needs, and general circumstances, as they navigate their evolving situations since leaving their home country for improvement.

As such, the 2023 data continues to confirm sustained migratory flows to Trinidad and Tobago, reflecting an increase in 2023 compared to the last few years of DTM reporting. Added to this, it illustrated that most respondents arrived via boat, through unofficial entry points and reported 'no regular migration status' in relation to the 2019 registration exercise. Juxtaposed to which, most respondents declared the intent to return to Venezuela, and far less respondents than DTM 2022 indicated Trinidad and Tobago as their final destination. These dynamics are noteworthy as they highlight the enduring precariousness and complexities of the migration experience, particularly since the main reason for departure, among this cohort, was based on economics/finances.

Accordingly, food and income generation continue to be critical needs of the respondents, while education and training for both adults and children remained as key priorities, endorsed in the key informant interviews.

In particular, the issue of educational access among children persisted as a front burner issue for resolution, considering the GoRTT's decision to include refugee and migrant children in the national school system at the primary school level.

Employment is also a fundamental pathway to socio-economic stability, and whilst many respondents managed to secure employment post migration, several persons remain unemployed and seeking employment, as well as under-employed. Added to this, familiar barriers to education and training, such as language, and lack of information and documentation are also identified challenges to income generating activities.

Moreover, incidents of non-payment, unfair wages, performance of work against the respondent's will and being detained by private agents, which could be indicative of human trafficking, particularly for the purpose of labour exploitation are areas requiring continued vigilance towards labour compliance and the widespread implementation of safeguarding measures.

Regarding health, there were no noticeable changes in access and vaccination. However, among respondents, family, friends and relatives, as well as health centres emerged as important sources of health information compared to 2022 DTM. Information gaps continued to exist regarding the acquisition of birth certificates for children born in Trinidad and Tobago to migrant parentage. As such, targeted health and information campaigns can facilitate greater empowerment and improved access to information and services for migrants and refugees.

Exposure to discrimination among respondents was consistent with the 2022 DTM. Accordingly, stakeholders continue to report through the KIs their engagement in collaborative social programming to counteract the reported realities of GBV, exploitation, harassment, and xenophobia. It is therefore noteworthy that several of these initiatives encourage a thrust towards tolerance, non-discrimination, inclusiveness, and respect consistent with overarching goals of inclusion and social cohesion (Global Compact for Migration, objective 16).

It is further acknowledged, that based on the KIs, a range of services and resources are available to assist migrants with traversing their many needs and vulnerabilities, as they navigate their space within Trinidad and Tobago. However, there remain several gaps and limitations to adequate service delivery, as well as barriers to accessing these services. Added to this, often demand overwhelms capacity and the ability of organizations to consistently, effectively, and efficiently respond to these challenges.

Foremost, therefore, would be greater emphasis on sensitization, capacity building, education, and training, as well as strengthened partnerships and collaboration, and policy responsiveness. Accordingly, there is a continuous and critical role for data gathering and the DTM to reinforce the evidence-base required towards sustainable and strategic outcomes in effective migration management in Trinidad and Tobago.

DTM