IOM UN MIGRATION

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IOM UN MIGRATION | GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & CLIMATE INDUCED MOBILITY

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1. INTRODUCTION

Extreme weather, rising sea levels, and damaged ecosystems threaten the lives and livelihoods of millions of people around the world[1]. Globally, in 2022, an estimated 31.8 million people were displaced due to storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, and extreme temperatures[2]. Climate related disasters are further expected to impact an estimated 1.2 billion persons by 2050[3]. As such, climate change is viewed as an "increasingly potent driver of migration"[4]. Accordingly, climate change-induced mobility describes a wide range of human mobility that is influenced by environmental changes. The term covers migration, planned relocation, managed retreat, evacuation, and displacement.

Small Island Developing States (SIDs) are classified as the most vulnerable to climate change[5]. According to the World Bank, Trinidad and Tobago is vulnerable to increased temperature, changes in rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, increased flooding, and increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes[6]. Other vulnerabilities include hillside and coastal erosion, as well as loss of coastal habitats, and biodiversity[7]. The country is also vulnerable to slow-onset environmental degradation, which is estimated to affect mobility patterns in the upcoming years. Climate conditions do not differentiate between populations; thus, migrant groups are also affected. The experience of disaster/emergency is also not homogeneous. Accordingly, disaster/emergency response and recovery strategies and solutions should strive to accommodate the diversity of migrant identities and experiences.

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM's) Displacement Tracking Matrix (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[8].

This DTM activity focuses on Emergency Preparedness and Response (DTM EPR). It provides a timely opportunity to explore the unpredictable situation of migrants and the experiences they face due to climate-induced challenges and vulnerabilities within Trinidad and Tobago. In this regard, this DTM EPR will empower disaster/emergency management teams and other decision-makers with evidence-based insights that can guide strategic interventions to impacted populations.

In this DTM EPR edition, a total of 179 migrants were surveyed in May 2024. The areas with the highest number of respondents were Chaguanas, Port-of Spain, and Diego Martin as shown in Map 1.

1   https://global.virginia.edu/events/millions-move-climate-change-displacement-and-migration#:~:text=Scientists%20estimate%20that%20there%20could,and%20other%20climate-related%20disasters
2   https://api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/IDMC_GRID_2023_Global_Report_on_Internal_Displacement_LR.pdf#page=9
3   http://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/10/world/climate-global-displacement-report-intl-hnk-scli-scn/index.html
4   http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/09/13/climate-change-could-force-216-million-people-to-migrate-within
5   http://www.caribois.org/2023/06/improving-climate-resiliency-in-trinidad-and-tobago-calls-for-strategic-action/
6   http://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/trinidad-and-tobago#:~:text=As%20a%20Small%20Island%20Developing,and%20loss%20of%20coastal%20habitats.
7   http://www.caribois.org/2023/06/improving-climate-resiliency-in-trinidad-and-tobago-calls-for-strategic-action/

Map 1 - Number of Surveys by Region
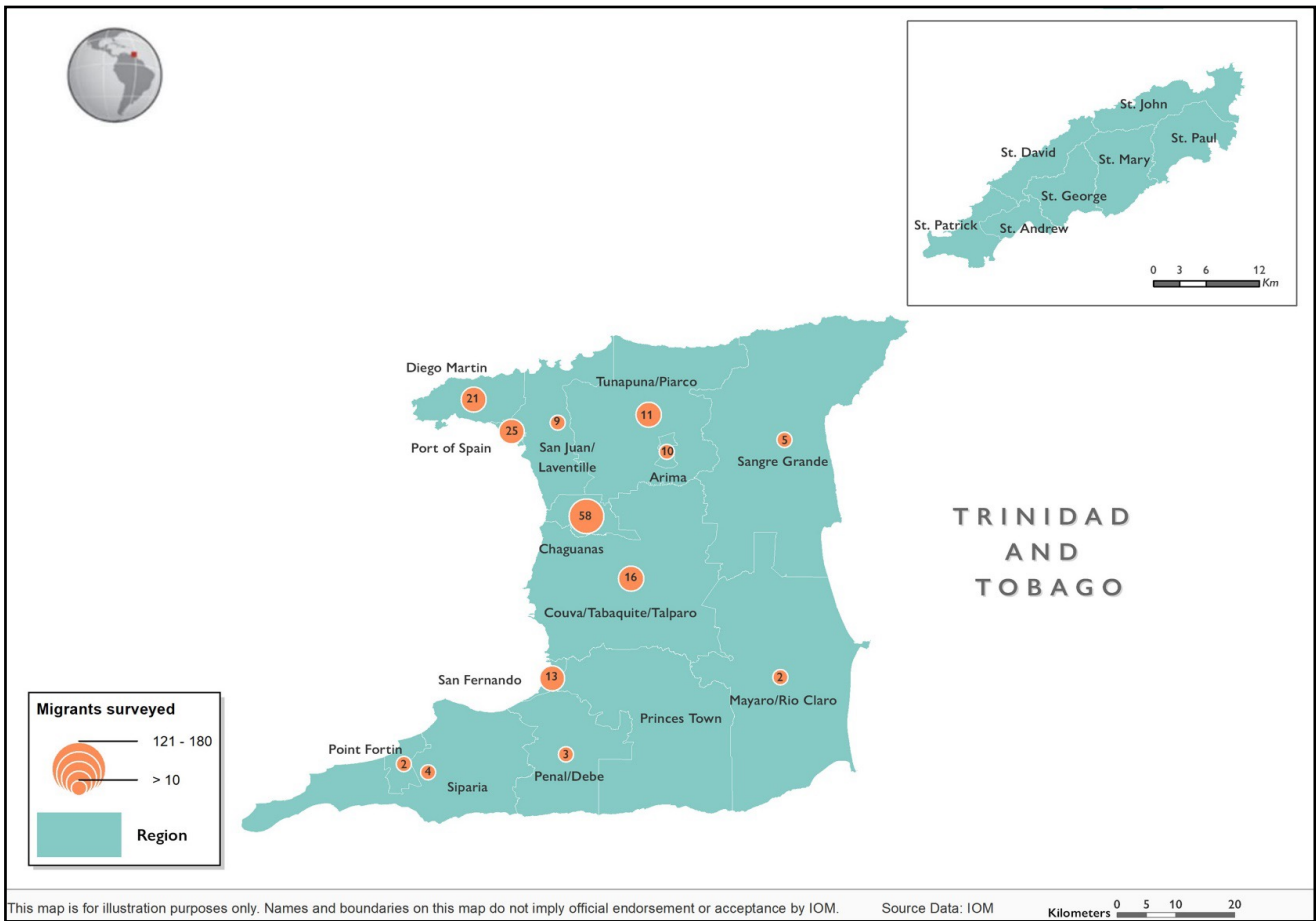
2.   METHODOLOGY

The DTM EPR applied a multi-faceted data collection strategy, utilizing desk review, as well as qualitative and quantitative methods to capture information on key thematic areas.

Qualitatively, a total of 20 structured key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with purposively selected senior representatives who work closely with migrants and/or within the area of disaster and/or emergency management including the national authorities (6), non-governmental organizations (10), private agencies (2), and international organizations (2). These KIIs were conducted between 7th May and 6th June 2024, and provided supporting information on migrant profiles and estimates, as well as perspectives on climate induced mobility, and emergency preparedness and response.

Subsequently, both face-to-face (116) and telephone-based surveys (63) were administered to 179 migrants, who were over the age of 18 years, and were willing to participate in the interview process during May 2024.

Referral pathways were also extended to respondents who required this assistance.

A snowball sampling strategy[9] guided the DTM EPR 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[10].

Data collection for the survey was executed by a team of bilingual enumerators, trained in DTM procedures. A survey instrument designed using KoboCollect[11], 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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[9]   This is a recruitment technique where survey participants can refer or introduce potential participants to be included in a study.
[10]   Non-probability samples cannot be relied upon to draw conclusions or make inferences on the entire migrant population.
[11]   KoboCollect is an open source tool used for primary data collection.

3. MIGRANT PROFILES

A total of 179 migrants participated in 2024 DTM EPR.

A review of the demographic data showed that females respondents significantly surpassed males respondents. In addition, three respondents identified as other designations. Refer to Graph 1 for more details[12].

Graph 1 - Distribution by Sex
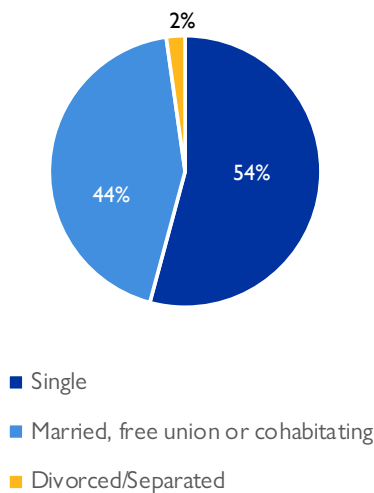

28%   72%   **Other Designation** <1%
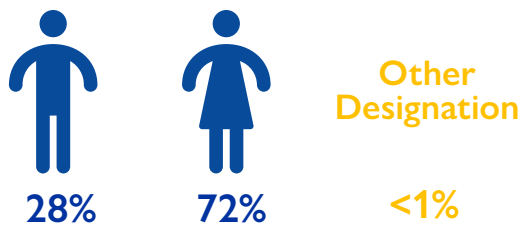
An examination of age revealed that the highest number of respondents were within the 26 – 35 age category (32%), followed by the 36 – 45 age category (26%) and then the 18 – 25 age category (24%). There were 15 per cent in 46 – 55 age category and 3 per cent in the 56 – 65 age category[13].

Regarding union status, there were slightly more single respondents (54%) than married, free union or cohabiting respondents (44%). As illustrated in Graph 2, these two categories, combined, accounted for 98 per cent of the respondents.

Moreover, approximately 11 per cent of the females respondents were pregnant or breastfeeding.

Graph 2 - Marital Status

- Single
- Married, free union or cohabitating
- Divorced/Separated

Inquiries concerning respondents' ethnicity revealed that most of the respondents (93%) did not align with any ethnic group. Accordingly, 92 per cent of the respondents were Venezuelan nationals as shown in Graph 3[14].

Graph 3 – Respondents' Nationalities

- Venezuelan
- Cuban
- Jamaican
- Dominican
- Guyanese
- Mexican
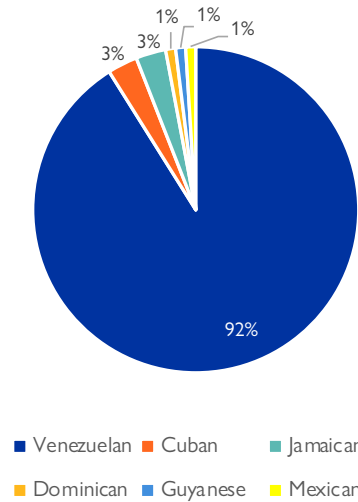
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Other participating nationalities included: Cubans (3%), Jamaicans (3%), as well as Dominicans, Guyanese and Mexicans: - each at one per cent.

In the area of education, 50 per cent of the respondents completed secondary level education, and 28 per cent of the respondents completed university level education as their higher level of education.

Collectively, 78 per cent of the respondents reportedly completed either secondary or university education as shown in Graph 4[15].

Graph 4 – Completed Education Level

- Primary 12%
- Secondary 50%
- Technical 10%
- Undergraduate 27%
- Postgraduate 1%

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[12] Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
[13] Percentages are based on n=149. There were 30 missing values.
[14] Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
[15] Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
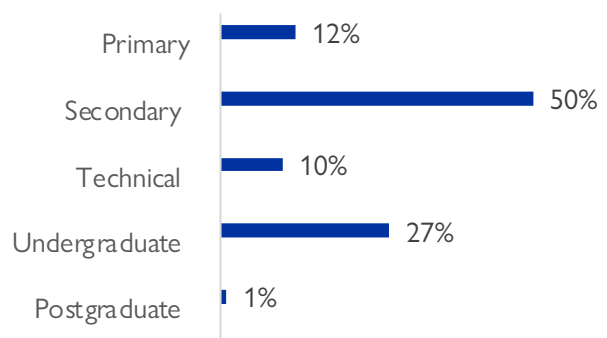
Most of the respondents arrived in Trinidad and Tobago in 2019 (30%). This coincides with the initial period of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's (GORTT's) Venezuelan Migrant Registration Framework (MRF)[16]. Among the respondents, reduced arrivals were reported in 2020 (11%), 2021 (7%) and 2022 (8%). However, the figure reflects an increase in 2023 (12%). Graph 5 illustrates further.

Graph 5 – Year of Arrival
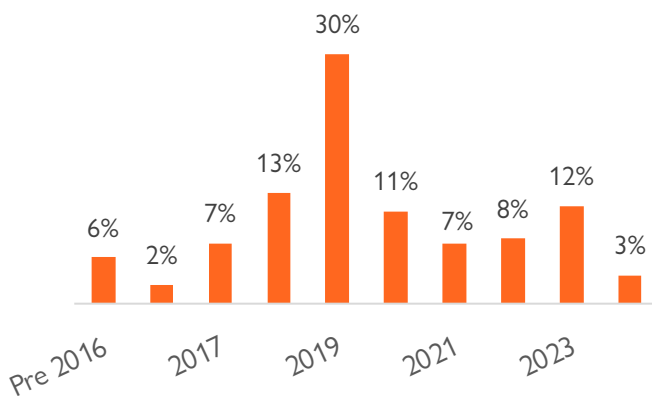
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Regarding the migratory status of the respondents, 58 per cent indicated having 'no regular migration status'. It was also noted that about 34 per cent had either a Minister's permit or a Work permit. Graph 6 provides more details.

Added to this, two per cent of respondents reported that they did not possess any identity documents. Those with identity documents possessed documents such as a valid passport (36%), a birth certificate (17%), and/or an identity card (46%).

Graph 6 – Migration Status
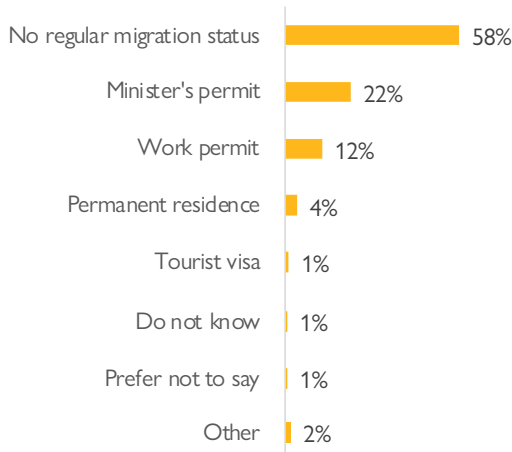

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

4. WORK STATUS

Regarding employment status, 55 per cent of respondents reported being employed, whereas 23 per cent reported being unemployed and seeking employment, as illustrated in Graph 7.

Graph 7 – Current Work Status
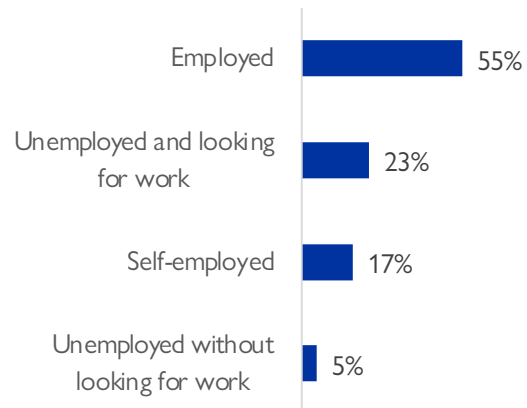
An analysis of the main work sectors revealed that most respondents reported being in commerce, as well as cleaning/housekeeping (13%) and construction (9%) as shown in Graph 8.

Graph 8 – Main Work Sector
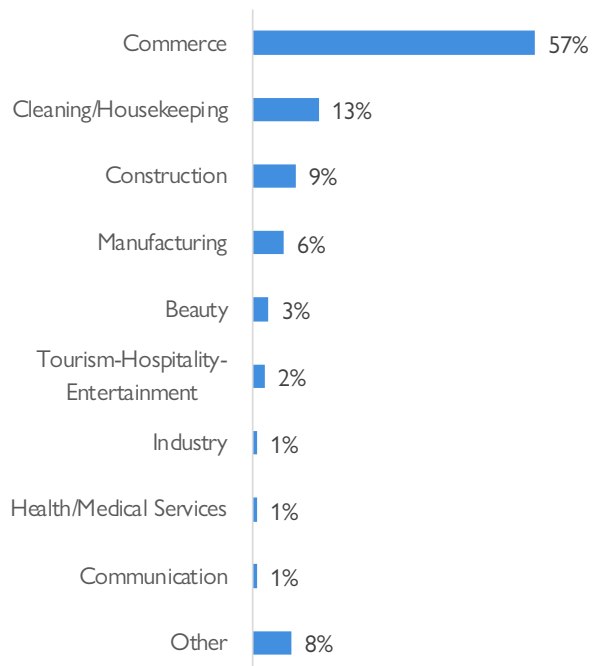
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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[16] The MRF was launched in 2019 to register migrants with the Ministry of National Security. It allows registered migrants to apply for a six-month work permit. It has been consecutively renewed since its launch.

5. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND ACCOMODATION

A closer examination of the respondents' household composition showed that most of the respondents reported living with two other family members (26%), followed by those who reported living with one family member (20%) and those living with three family members (15%). Twelve per cent reported living with four family members and another 12 per cent reported living with no family members. The other 15 per cent of respondents reported living with between 5 to 10 family members.

In the case of children, there were 173 children, under the age of 18 years, who lived with 49 per cent of the respondents.

Added to this, an age and sex disaggregation of the children living with the respondents showed that there were more girls (54%) than boys (46%). The 10 - 14 age categor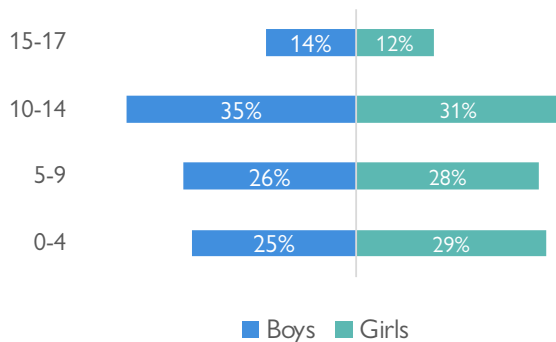y had the largest number of children (33%). Both the 0 - 4 and 5 - 9 age category had 27 per cent respectively. Graph 9 illustrates the breakdown.

Graph 9 – Children by Age and Sex (n=173)

Apart from this, 79 per cent of the respondents were recorded as renting houses or apartments and 19 per cent as renting single rooms. See Graph 10 for additional details[17].

Graph 10 – Respondents' Accommodation in Trinidad and Tobago

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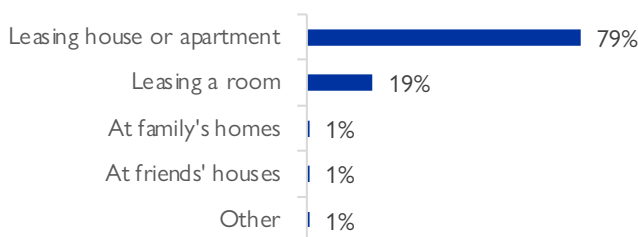
[17]   Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Regarding reasons for living in Trinidad and Tobago, "favorable socio-economic conditions" (45%) emerged as the main reason followed by "favorable conditions for access to employment (33%) and "political stability" (12%) respectively as depicted in Graph 11.

Graph 11 – Main Reasons for Living in Trinidad and Tobago (Multiple Response Question)
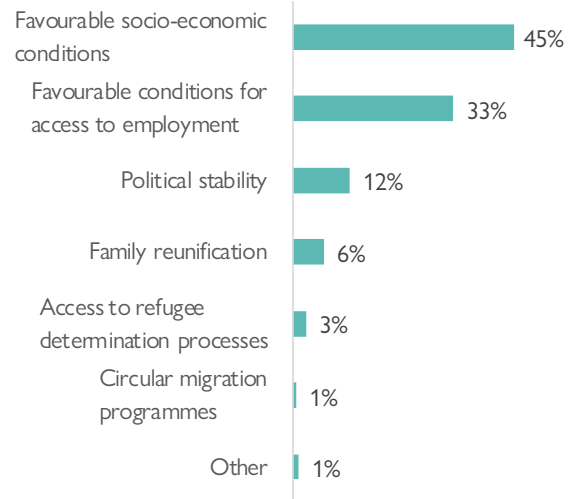
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

6. FINAL DESTINATION

Furthermore, Trinidad and Tobago was identified as the intended destination country for about 52 per cent of the respondents. However, of those respondents who identified an alternative destination country (n=86), the following destinations were the United States of America (34%), Canada (13%) and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereafter referred to as Venezuela) (10%).

Accordingly, the undermentioned minimum needs were identified by respondents as necessary to facilitate their stay in Trinidad and Tobago as an alternative destination country: employment (42%), regularization (33%) and medical assistance (17%). Graph 12 illustrates.

Graph 12 – Minimum Needs to Stay in Trinidad and Tobago (n=86)
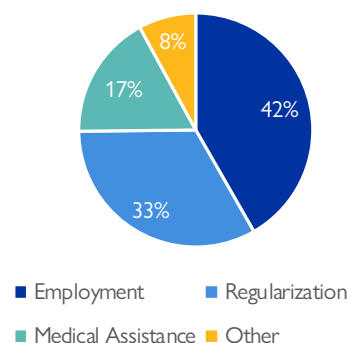
7.   HEALTH

This section explored respondents' access to health services and related issues. It was observed that 43 per cent of the respondents did not require access to health care services within the last year.

However, 17 per cent of the respondents asserted that they did not have access to health services when they needed it, within the last year. A total of 85 percent of KIs reported that migrants did have access to health services within the last year.

Deeper examination of the reasons why respondents (n=30) were unable to access health services revealed the top reasons as discrimination (33%), and language barriers (22%). These reasons were also supported by KIs.

Of the persons who had access to health services within the last year (n=73), collectively 84 per cent reported that the public hospital or health centre were their primary options, as shown in Graph 13. This information was also corroborated by KIs. However, KIs reported that migrants also accessed services at NGOs (47%) and private facilities (35%).

Graph 13 – Health Service Options (n=73)

- ■ Nearest clinic or health centre
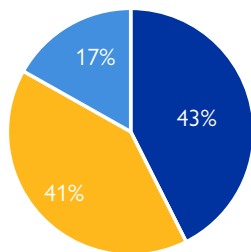- ■ Hospital
- ■ Local medical or nursing professional

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

KIs (n=19) further informed that females (32%), particularly pregnant females (26%), children (26%) and the elderly (26%) face additional obstacles in attempting to access healthcare services.

When disability[18] was assessed, it revealed that most of respondents did not encounter any difficulties engaging in key activities (68%).

Notwithstanding, 33 per cent of respondents reported struggles seeing even if wearing glasses (22%), walking or climbing stairs (5%), hearing even if wearing a hearing aid (3%), and remembering or concentrating (3%)[19]. Graph 14 illustrates this in more detail.

Graph 14 – Disability
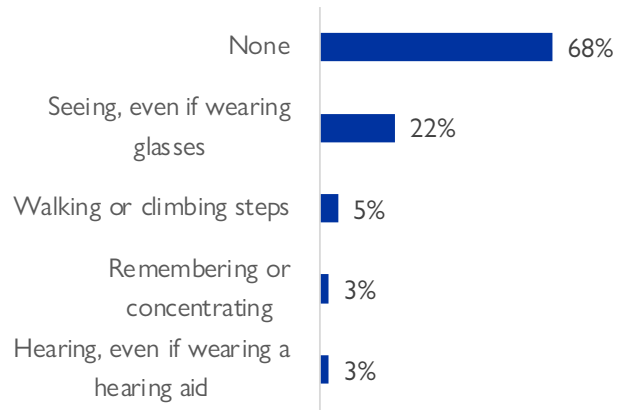
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Additionally, of those respondents who did indicate some level of difficulty (n=50), 86 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not receive any assistance in Trinidad and Tobago to address their disabilities.

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[18]   Disability questions were consistent with the Washington Group Questions.
[19]   Multiple response question.

8. CLIMATE INDUCED MOBILITY

The assessment examined the reasons for migration among the surveyed population. It was revealed that 98 percent of migrants did not leave their country of origin due to disasters, natural hazards or environmental degradation. However, few KIs (n=5) considered that migrants have traveled to Trinidad due to disasters, natural hazards or environmental degradation in their home country.

Of the respondents who reported that they migrated for climate-related reasons, (n=4), the main factors that affected them were floods and forest fires. All of them reported being from Venezuela. While 15 per cent of KIs agreed that migrants have been motivated to migrate by flooding, they also suggested that migrants have been affected by drought/irregular rainfall, volcanic eruption, shoreline erosion/saltwater intrusion and hurricanes/tropical storms.

The surveyed population further reported on other factors influencing the decision to leave their home country, which included: economic reasons/finance (38%), insecurity/violence (26%) and political reasons (25%)[20].

Graph 15 – Other Factors Influencing Reasons to Migrate (Multiple Response Question)

Economic reasons/finance	38%
Insecurity/Violence	26%
Political reasons	25%
Family reunification/Marriage	5%
Prefer not to answer	5%
Other	1%
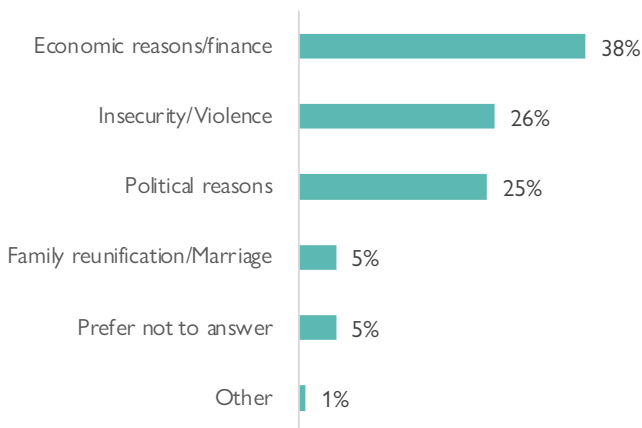
Graph 15 illustrates this in more detail. Similarly, these top three influencing factors were also reported by KIs (n=20), with the following breakdown - economic reasons/finance (100%), political reasons (85%) and insecurity/violence (70%).

It was further determined that since residing in Trinidad and Tobago, 80 per cent of respondents were not affected by disasters, natural hazards and environmental degradation.

However, of those that were affected (n=35), they mainly experienced floods (57%), drought/irregular rainfall (16%) and storm surge (16%) as shown in Graph 16[21].

Graph 16 – Climate Impacts Experience in Trinidad and Tobago (n=35)

Floods	57%
Storm surge	16%
Drought	16%
Earthquake	6%
Forest fires	2%
Landslides	2%
Other	2%
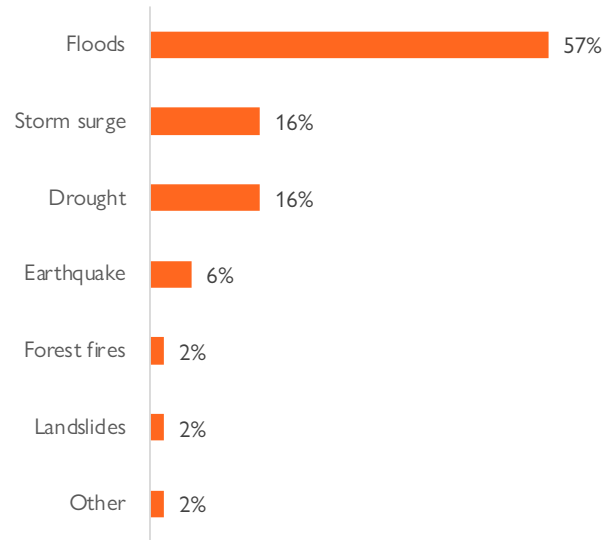
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Likewise, 90 per cent of KIs (n=18) agreed that migrants have been affected by disasters, natural hazards or environmental degradation while living in Trinidad and Tobago over the last five years. Similarly, they reported that these factors mainly include floods (60%), drought/irregular rainfall (13%), residential/forest fires (10%) and landslides (7%)[22].

Moreover, respondents reported being most recently impacted in 2024 (17%), 2023 (29%), and 2022 (26%). Graph 17 illustrates further.

Graph 17 – Year of Most Recent Impact of a Climate Event in Trinidad and Tobago

Year	Percentage
2018	17%
2019	6%
2020	0%
2021	6%
2022	26%
2023	29%
2024	17%
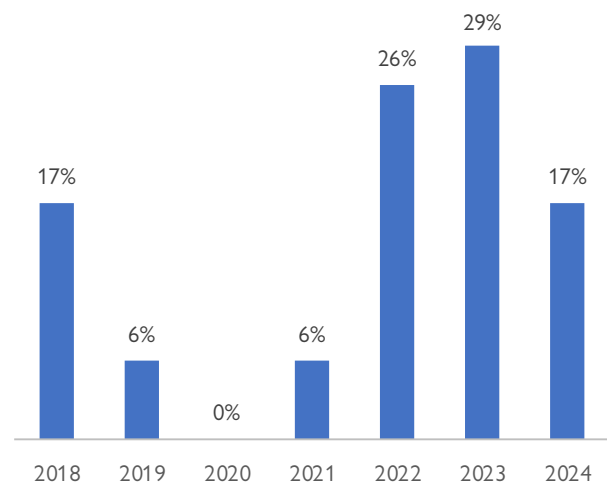
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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20   Multiple response question.
21   Multiple response question.
22   Multiple response question.

Respondents who were affected by climate events (n=35) also reported facing top three human security threats among them economic impact (27%), health impact (24%) and personal threats/rise in community insecurity, and environment degradation (18%) as Graph 18 illustrates[23].

Graph 18 – Human Security Threats Faced by Migrants Affected by Climate Impacts (n=35)

Category	Value
Economic impact	27%
Health impact	24%
Personal threats and rise in community insecurity	18%
Environment degradation	18%
Food insecurity	13%
Political insecurity	0%

KIs (n=17) also agreed that migrants were impacted by economics (33%), health (24%) and food insecurity (24%).

A total of 50 per cent of KIs further indicated that migrants changed residences due to disasters, natural hazards or environmental degradation.

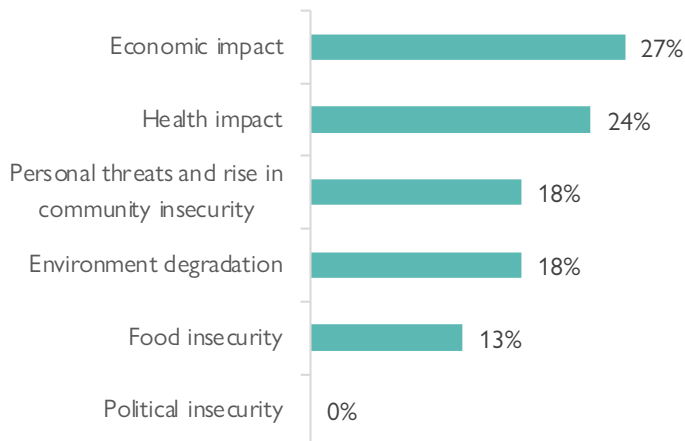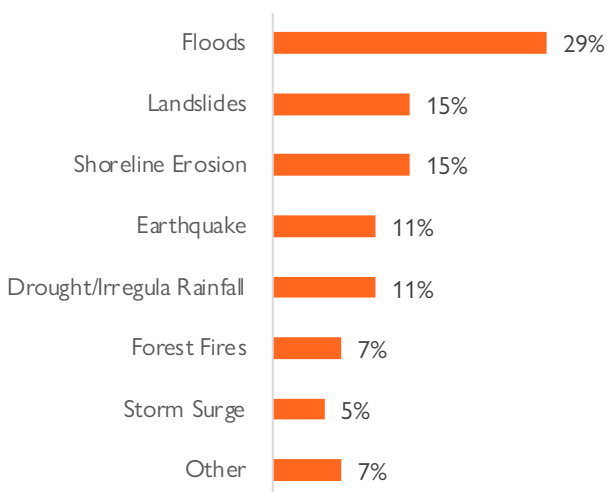Consequently 80 per cent of KIs (n=16) have identified environmental changes that can potentially cause internal displacement in Trinidad and Tobago. The top three concerns identified were floods (29%), landslides (15%) and shoreline erosion (15%). Graph 19 further illustrates[24].

Graph 19 – Environmental Changes that can Cause Internal Displacement (Multiple Response Question)

Category	Value
Floods	29%
Landslides	15%
Shoreline Erosion	15%
Earthquake	11%
Drought/Irregula Rainfall	11%
Forest Fires	7%
Storm Surge	5%
Other	7%

Regarding their coping mechanisms, affected respondents (n=33) indicated that their top three strategies were to ask for help (24%), spend their savings (24%) and borrow money to buy food (16%) as shown in Graph 20[25].

Graph 20 – Means of Coping with Climate Impacts (n=33)

Category	Value
Ask for help	24%
Spent savings	24%
Borrowed money to buy food	16%
Scavenging	4%
Reduce remittances	4%
Reduced health or medicine related expenses	2%
Worked in exchange for food	2%
None	18%
Other	6%
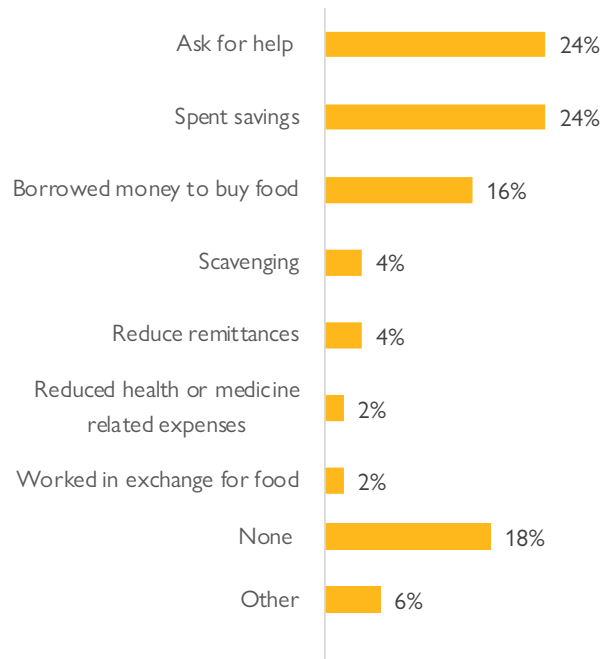
Added to this, 63 per cent of respondents reported that did not receive any assistance during the period when they were affected. However, of those who did receive assistance (n=13), 37 per cent reported that it was mainly provided by family/relatives.

Overall, 87 percent of respondents reported that their livelihood was not affected by disasters, natural hazards and environmental degradation in Trinidad and Tobago.

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23   Multiple response question.
24   Multiple response question.
25   Multiple response question.

9. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Seventy-five per cent of KIs indicated that they were aware of an official national strategy or plan for crises or emergencies in Trinidad and Tobago. The KIs identified the following frameworks/mechanisms as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – National Strategic Mechanisms for EPR (Identified by KIs)

National Strategic Mechanisms for EPR	
• Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) Documents for Emergency Response and Planning • National Disaster Management Plan • ODPM Strategic Plan • ODPM Legislation • Public Alert Notification System (PANS) • ODPM Emergency Messages, Public Awareness Updates • ODPM Bulletins via media and social media	• Regional Corporations' Disaster Management Units (DMUs) • Chaguanas Emergency Operation Plan • DMUs Guidelines for Disaster and Emergency Response • Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)
• Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) • TEMA's Emergency Relief Programme	• SOPs for Emergency Shelters • National Shelter Management Framework
• Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS)	• National Response Framework
• Oil Spill Management	• Hazard Response Plans
• United Nations Making Cities Resilient (UNMCR)	

Likewise, a total of 65 per cent of KIs indicated that they were aware of national guidelines or standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the operations of Emergency Shelters within Trinidad and Tobago. Of these KIs (n=13), the majority (62%) did acknowledge a national shelter policy or SOPs for Emergency Shelters under the auspices of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government.

Emergency Shelters and Humanitarian Aid

Ninety per cent of KIs agreed that migrants can be included in emergency shelters in Trinidad and Tobago. However, 97 per cent of migrant respondents confirmed that they did not know where emergency shelters were in Trinidad and Tobago.

Added to this, KIs reported that the main protection services available at emergency shelters during crises and emergencies include social workers (19%), trauma and stress recovery services (13%), and case management for violence survivors (13%) as shown in Graph 21[26,27].

Graph 21 – Protection Services Available at Shelters (Multiple Response Question)

Social workers	19%
Stress and trauma recovery services	13%
Case management for violence survivors	13%
Unknown	13%
Family reunification services	11%
Identification of UAM/separated children	8%
Safe places for recreational activities	6%
Alternative care for UAM /separated children	6%
None	6%
Other	6%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

As such, 67 per cent of KIs indicated that emergency shelters do not satisfy the main needs of migrants during crises and emergencies. KIs (n=10) further indicated that this may be due the following reasons, language barriers (50%), lack of consideration for migrants despite operational guidelines (30%) and discrimination (20%).

Further examination of migrants' feelings of safety when accessing humanitarian aid during a crises or emergency in Trinidad and Tobago revealed that 50 per cent of respondents felt safe when accessing humanitarian aid services during a crises or emergency in Trinidad and Tobago.

However, of those who did not feel safe (n=89), top reasons for those feelings included discrimination (30%) and the language barrier (17%) as illustrated in Graph 22.

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26   Multiple response question.
27   UAM refers to Unaccompanied Minors.

Graph 22 – Reasons for Not Feeling Safe to Access Aid During a Crises or Emergency

Category	Percentage
Discrimination	30%
Language	17%
Prefer not to say	16%
Fear of deportation	15%
Stigma	9%
Hostile staff	4%
Other	9%
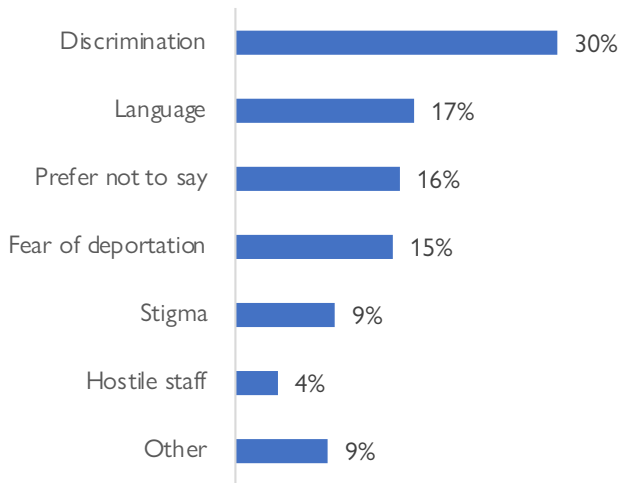
Correspondingly, 57 per cent of respondents who felt safe also agreed that emergency shelters satisfy the main needs of migrants during crises and emergencies.

Respondents further highlighted several avenues where they access humanitarian aid including through humanitarian organizations (46%), non-profit organizations (27%) and the government (13%) as shown in Graph 23.

Graph 23 – Humanitarian Aid Options

Category	Percentage
Humanitarian organizations	46%
Non-profit organizations	27%
Government	13%
Private sector	3%
Other	12%
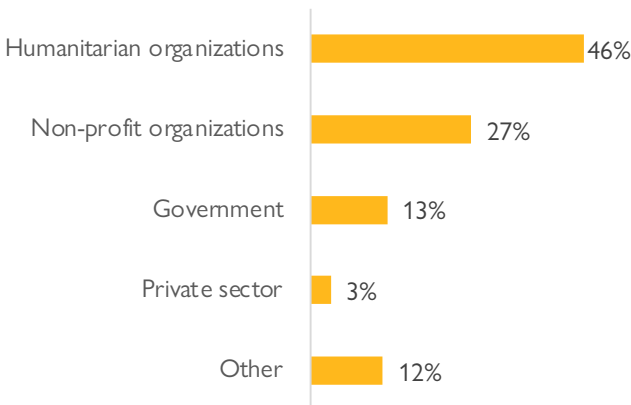
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Eighty-five per cent of KIs did confirm that migrants can access aid services (such as NFI, health and shelters) during crises and emergencies. KIs also expressed similar sentiments to migrants, and reported that during crises and emergencies, migrants access humanitarian aid through non-profit organizations (33%), humanitarian organizations (25%), government and private sector (18% each)[28].
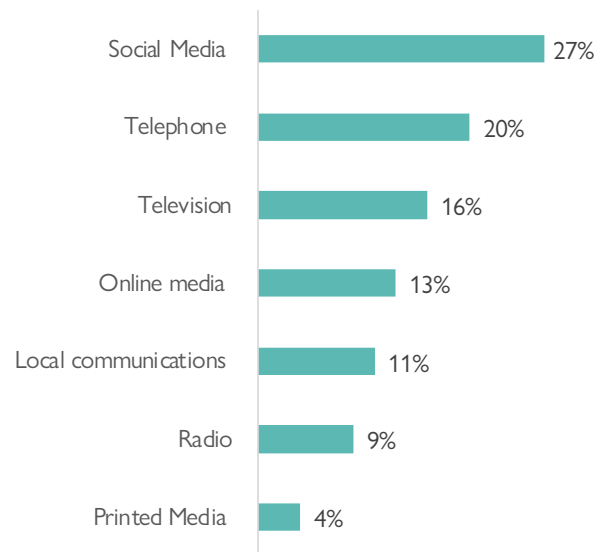
Awareness and Communications

In the area of awareness and communication, 63 per cent of KIs (n=12) confirmed that there were communication channels to inform migrants in emergency preparedness. These KIs identified the top three channels as social media (Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, Instagram) (27%), telephone (Calls, SMS/Texts) (20%) and television (16%) as illustrated in Graph 24[29].

Graph 24 – Communication Channels for Migrants During Emergency Preparedness

Channel	Percentage
Social Media	27%
Telephone	20%
Television	16%
Online media	13%
Local communications	11%
Radio	9%
Printed Media	4%

As such, 53 per cent of KIs agree that migrants are included in awareness campaigns on emergency preparedness.

Likewise, KIs confirmed that there are also emergency channels to inform migrants during emergency response. Again, KIs identified the use of the popular mediums such as social media (29%), telephone (18%), online media (Online news) (14%) and local communications (posters, leaflets, loudspeakers, talking to someone face to face) (14%)[30].

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28 Multiple response question.
29 Multiple response question.
30 Multiple response question.

Migrant Integration in EPR

Concerning migrant inclusion in disaster preparedness and response, 66 per cent of the surveyed population did not think that migrants are included in emergency preparedness and response in Trinidad and Tobago. A total of 58 per cent of KIs (n=11) shared a similar view.

Furthermore, KIs had varying perceptions of the emergency response model as is shown in Graph 25.

Graph 25 – Approach to Emergency Response
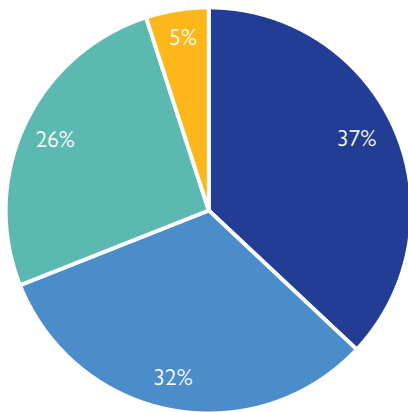
- People-centred – (Inclusive, participatory and ensures the participation of affected individuals and communities)
- Other
- Prevention-Oriented – (Focuses on preventative responses that are proactive and not reactive).
- Don't know

Accordingly, 100 per cent of KIs indicated that migration should be included into emergency preparedness and response.

Based on the organizations that KIs represent, they reported that migration was included in EPR through the undermentioned measures as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 – Current Measures to include Migration in EPR (Identified by KIs)

	Current Measures to Include Migration in EPR
1	Strategic Planning, Policy Adoption and Project Development
2	Awareness/Advocacy through use of Bilingual staff
3	Research, Risk, Impact and Vulnerability Assessments
4	Service Delivery and Identification of Service Gaps
5	Collaborating with Regional Corporations and national Emergency Response Agencies
6	Training and Capacity Building

Likewise, 100 per cent of KIs also considered it important to include internal displacement for both migrants and locals into emergency preparedness and response.

Based on the organizations that KIs represent, they further reported that internal displacement was included in EPR through the undermentioned measures as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Current Measures to include Internal Displacement in EPR (Identified by KIs)

	Current Measures to Include Internal Displacement in EPR
1	Research and Maintenance of Vulnerable Databases, Shelter Mapping, Special Needs Survey, Vulnerability Mapping, Impact Assessment
2	Emergency Housing Placement Protocols, Planned Relocation, Medium-term Housing and Short-term Rental Assistance Programmes
3	Grant Assistance and Provision of Basic Necessities – Food, Clothes, Shelter, Transportation
4	Collaborate with national Disaster Management Agencies
5	Crisis Intervention
6	Training in Shelter Management, Spanish Language for Emergency Responders

Migrant Preparedness

Moreover, 91 per cent of the surveyed population reported that they did not have an emergency plan, and 79 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not possess a basic emergency or disaster supplies kit. Added to this, 93 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not receive any awareness or training on emergency preparedness within the last year as is illustrated in Graph 26.
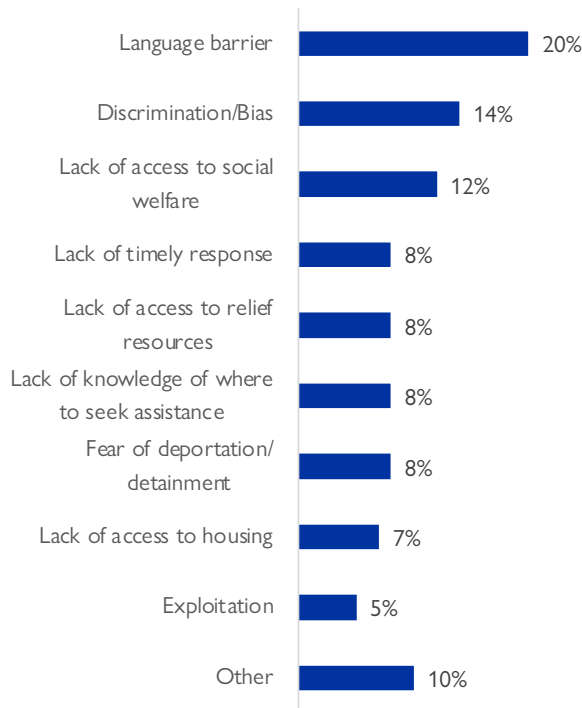
Graph 26 – Migrants' Lack of Emergency Preparedness (Multiple Response Question)
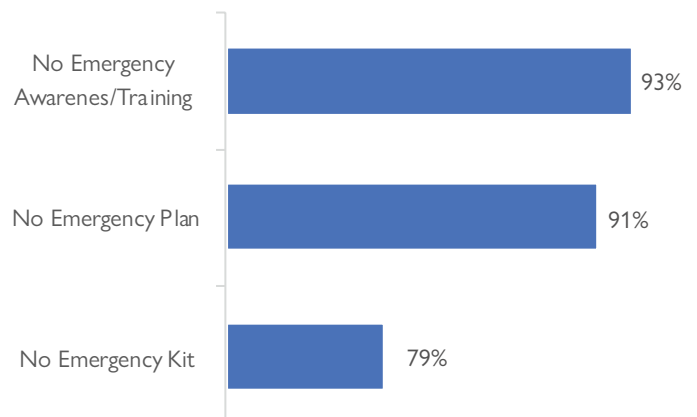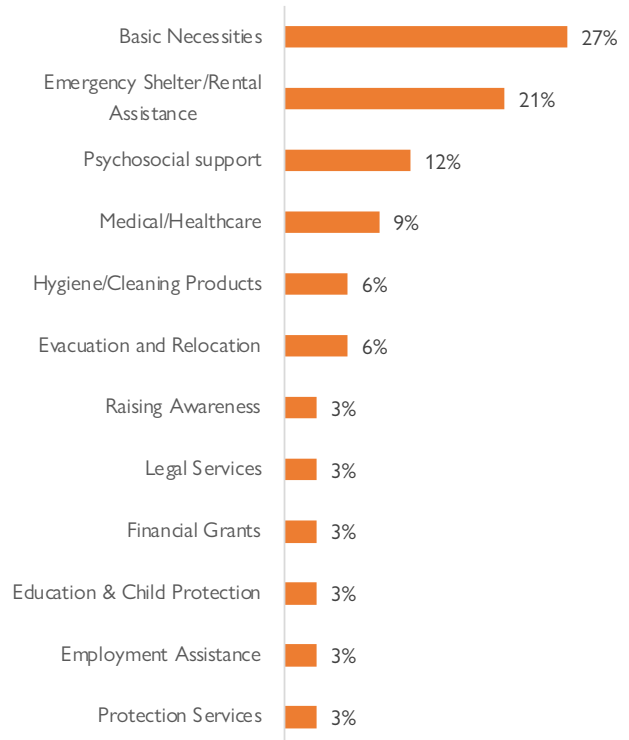
10. CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

KIs identified several challenges faced by migrants during crises and emergencies. The top three challenges identified included the language barrier (20%), discrimination (14%) and lack of access to social welfare (12%) as shown in Graph 27[31].

Graph 27 – Main Challenges Faced by Migrants During Crises and Emergencies (Multiple Response Question)

Language barrier — 20%
Discrimination/Bias — 14%
Lack of access to social welfare — 12%
Lack of timely response — 8%
Lack of access to relief resources — 8%
Lack of knowledge of where to seek assistance — 8%
Fear of deportation/ detainment — 8%
Lack of access to housing — 7%
Exploitation — 5%
Other — 10%

A total of 80 per cent of KIs (n=16) further reported that they provide a suite of support services to affected migrants during crises and emergencies. The top three services provided by their organizations include providing basic necessities such as food, clothing, clean water (27%), emergency shelter or housing rental assistance (21%) and psychosocial support (12%) as shown in Graph 28[32].
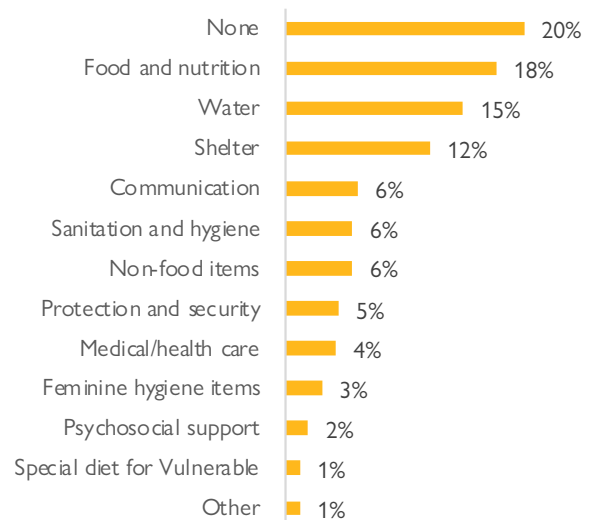
Graph 28 – Crisis and Emergency Needs
(Multiple Response Question)

Basic Necessities — 27%
Emergency Shelter/Rental Assistance — 21%
Psychosocial support — 12%
Medical/Healthcare — 9%
Hygiene/Cleaning Products — 6%
Evacuation and Relocation — 6%
Raising Awareness — 3%
Legal Services — 3%
Financial Grants — 3%
Education & Child Protection — 3%
Employment Assistance — 3%
Protection Services — 3%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

However, 20 per cent of the surveyed population indicated that they did not have access to relief items during crises and emergencies. While 18 per cent of respondents reported that they had access to food and nutrition, water (15%) and shelter (12%) as shown in Graph 29[33].

Graph 29 – Accessible Crisis and Emergency Items
(Multiple Response Question)

None — 20%
Food and nutrition — 18%
Water — 15%
Shelter — 12%
Communication — 6%
Sanitation and hygiene — 6%
Non-food items — 6%
Protection and security — 5%
Medical/health care — 4%
Feminine hygiene items — 3%
Psychosocial support — 2%
Special diet for Vulnerable — 1%
Other — 1%

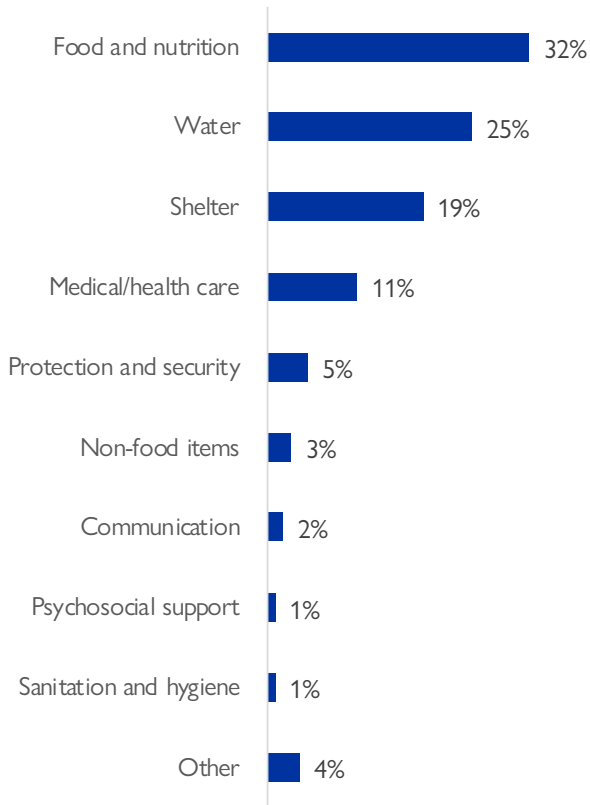[31] Multiple response question.
[32] Multiple response question.
[33] Multiple response question.

Accordingly, an examination of the respondents' needs during crises and emergencies highlighted the prioritized need for food and nutrition (32%), followed by water (25%) and shelter (19%) as illustrated in Graph 30[34].
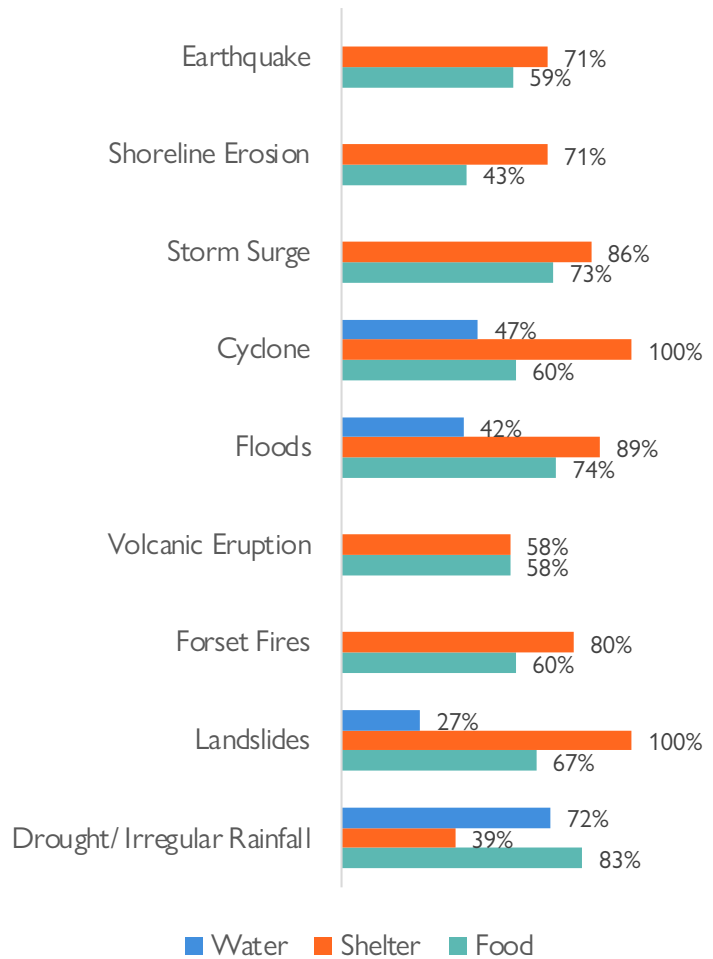
KIs further detailed the three most important needs of migrants during crises and emergencies for each listed type of disaster, natural hazard, or environmental degradation. Food and nutrition, shelter and water were the identified recurring needs irrespective of the potential crises or emergency as shown in Graph 31[35].

Graph 30 – Crisis and Emergency Needs

Need	Percentage
Food and nutrition	32%
Water	25%
Shelter	19%
Medical/health care	11%
Protection and security	5%
Non-food items	3%
Communication	2%
Psychosocial support	1%
Sanitation and hygiene	1%
Other	4%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Graph 31 – Prioritized Migrant Needs during Crises and Emergencies (Multiple Response Question)

	Water	Shelter	Food
Earthquake		71%	59%
Shoreline Erosion		71%	43%
Storm Surge		86%	73%
Cyclone	47%	100%	60%
Floods	42%	89%	74%
Volcanic Eruption		58%	58%
Forset Fires		80%	60%
Landslides	27%	100%	67%
Drought/ Irregular Rainfall	72%	39%	83%

■ Water   ■ Shelter   ■ Food

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[34] Multiple response question.
[35] Multiple response question.

11. GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KIs also highlighted several gaps in the provision of support and protection to migrants during crises and emergencies within the following thematic areas: Communication, Cultural Competence, Resources, as well as Planning and Policy, and Other gaps. See Table 4 for more details.

Table 4 – Service Gaps in EPR (Identified by KIs)

Service Gaps in EPR
1 Communication • Linguistic barriers in disaster preparedness and response • Lack of information on available assistance and eligibility • Lack of bilingual staff at shelters and first responders. • Lack of translated preparedness materials, translated emergency alerts, posters and campaigns • Lack of translated medical prescriptions, hospital signage and post disaster healthcare information • Testing of MHEWS[36] with multiple languages
2 Cultural Competence • Lack of cultural competence by service providers • Failure to address fears of deportation/mistrust/victimization • Xenophobic healthcare staff • Ignorance of migrant culture and beliefs • Lack of multilingual doctors and nurses
3 Resources • Lack of funding for food security, medical support, and shelter services • Lack of transportation and relocation assistance • Lack of effective rescue vehicles (flat bottom boats, kayaks, dinghies) • Documentation/administrative burden • Insufficient resource allocation
4 Planning and Policy • Lack of inclusion of migrants in disaster planning and consultations • Barriers to government relief benefits • Lack of coordination between disaster response agencies • Shelter management • Lack of migrant inclusion in CERT • Data management, community assessments and vulnerability databases • Reactive rather than proactive disaster response
5 Other • Lack of mental health support • Crime and safety

Accordingly, KIs also proposed the undermentioned recommendations to address previously identified challenges and gaps.

- Include migrants and migration issues into emergency preparedness planning.

- Continuously train first responders and other emergency staff to appropriately assist migrants, taking into consideration their different situations of vulnerability.

- Consider the implications of internal displacement.

- Promote greater awareness of the emergency support services available and how it can be accessed.

- Engender greater trust when assisting migrants during emergencies, e.g. ensure responders have proper identification.

- Provide translated emergency bulletins and alerts (e.g. Spanish).

- Introduce multiple languages into the Occupational Health and Safety framework (e.g. Spanish).

- Encourage funding from the private sector.

- Facilitate greater partnerships between government and international organizations, such as IOM, in emergency planning and response.

- Facilitate partnerships between IOM and NGOs to sponsor relief items to migrants during emergencies.

- Develop gender-specific emergency shelters and/or establish gender specific sleeping zones within shelters.

- Foster and facilitate collaborative efforts among humanitarian organizations serving the migrant community.

- Address intersecting issues facing migrants in the areas of educational access, employment, exploitation and migrant rights.

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[36] Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS)

12.   SUMMARY

The 2024 Trinidad and Tobago DTM EPR is the first such DTM within this thematic area within the Caribbean. It explores climate-induced mobility and the inherent vulnerabilities, challenges and needs of the migrant population, as well as the existing response and recovery frameworks targeting this population.

As such, the 2024 data provides a snapshot of some cases to reflect on the dynamics of the Trinidad and Tobago situation. It is useful to note that much of the data regarding migrant profiles mirrors the findings of the last few years of DTM reporting for Trinidad and Tobago[37].

In the survey, few migrants reported leaving their countries due to disasters, hazards and environmental degradation. KIs, however, were of the view that climate related hazards motivated migrants to leave their country of origin and choose Trinidad and Tobago as their destination. However, climate change is rarely the only reason why people move[38].

Migration is a multi-causal phenomenon, and there is a complex interplay between social, political, economic, cultural and environmental factors that can influence a person's decision to migrate[39]. As such, it may be problematic to assign or predict environmental led mobility[40].

In this regard, the data continues to be insightful in highlighting the complexities of the migration experience, which can strengthen resource allocation and policy responses towards disaster affected migrant populations.

Accordingly, flooding, appears to be the recurring concern among respondents and KIs alike, as it relates to disasters, natural hazards or environmental degradation. Other key concerns include shoreline erosion, storm surge, landslides and fires.

Familiar barriers to service also exist within emergency management for migrant populations. These include the language barrier, information gaps, discrimination, fear and mistrust, as well as cultural ignorance and insensitivities.

As such, the drive should be towards inclusive emergency management that considers how migrant populations are integrated into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness and response. Plans should also recognize the heterogeneity of migrants and avoid a one-size-fits all approach to emergency management.

Added to this, communication and cultural competence is a prerequisite to appropriate service delivery to migrants.

Equitable access to emergency information can reduce disaster risk and improve resilience. Consequently, designing effective communication strategies targeted to migrants, as well as capacity building for first responders, emergency staff and volunteers is critical to effective emergency management, as well as migrant empowerment.

Communication plans should also incorporate how information materials can be translated immediately and rapidly for mass dissemination in the event of a wide-spread disaster/emergency. As such, this will necessitate evaluating the language requirements for education materials for preparedness and response. This survey has identified Spanish as a translation priority.

Notwithstanding this, several organizations provide assistance and support services to migrants faced with the traumatizing impact of disasters/emergencies. However, few organizations included migration dynamics and internal displacement concerns within their planning frameworks, rendering them areas for further exploration and discussion.

Necessarily, the discussion should also focus on the services available at and SOPs for emergency shelters. Particularly the issues of the limited availability of protection services, resource capacity, language barrier and discrimination. KIs further expressed the need to monitor whether shelter operations were in keeping with established guidelines and were culturally appropriate. As such, attention should be paid to potential protection concerns that can arise throughout the disaster/emergency management cycle and reinforces the need for recruiting multilingual staff, as well as cultural sensitivity training among shelter staff.

Prioritized emergency needs among migrant respondents included food and nutrition, water and shelter. These needs, along with medical/health care, sanitation and hygiene were also endorsed in the KIIs.

Notably, the lack of preparedness among the migrant respondent population is also cause for serious concern. As such there is need to build the capacity of migrant groups in preparedness and response, but more so stressing the need for inclusive emergency outreach and public education.

In conclusion, effective emergency preparedness, response and recovery strategies and frameworks must be evidence-based, and grounded in robust research that can pinpoint service gaps and inequities. Based on the foregoing, the 2024 DTM EPR provided a valid opportunity to identify limitations and areas of focus within the local emergency management context. As such, this installment of DTM for Trinidad and Tobago satisfied information needs that can assist in strengthening the country's overall emergency management framework.

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[37]   The 2023 DTM report can be accessed here: https://respuestavenezolanos.iom.int/en/resources/monitoring-venezuelan-population-presence-trinidad-and-tobago
[38]   http://www.shareweb.ch/site/Migration/Documents/Topics/Factsheet.pdf
[39]   http://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/MIgration_Report.pdf
[40]   https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/climate-change-induced-migration-uk-collaboration-with-international-partners/

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