



DTM interviews in Barima-Waini (Region 1). Picture: IOM Guyana

## INTRODUCTION

The increasing population flow to countries in South America as well as to other regions, is of special interest to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in its objective to promote safe, orderly and regular migration based on the respect for the rights of migrants. These processes of human mobility pose urgent challenges, including in the South American context.

A large proportion of the population in conditions of human mobility in the region comes from Venezuela, with Guyana being one of the destination countries. For this reason, the Government of Guyana expressed the need to monitor the current situation and IOM has sought to generate data to assist governmental entities and humanitarian actors to develop concrete actions for the benefit of the mobile Venezuelan population.

The purpose of this analysis, based on the implementation of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) between August and September 2018, is to characterize the Venezuelan population along with returning Guyanese who previously resided in Venezuela so as to inform decision-making, as well as to obtain a better understanding of their profile, migratory routes, economic and labor situation, living conditions and main protection needs. This first round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix was funded by IOM and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

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## I. METHODOLOGY

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)<sup>1</sup> is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on-site or en route. The DTM plays an essential role in providing primary data and information on displacement, both in country and at regional and global levels. IOM utilizes the DTM to gain in-depth knowledge on the development of the migration process.

IOM Guyana designed the first round of the DTM process through the implementation of interviews in two regions (Barima-Waini and Demerara-Mahaica). In Region 1, interviews were conducted with the help of the Toshias<sup>2</sup> and other community leaders. In Georgetown, surveys were done mostly in shopping areas, bars, restaurants, and with the help of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

- **Region 1, Barima-Waini:**
  - Whitewater
  - Kamawatta
  - Mabaruma
  - Khan's Hill
  - Imbotero
  - Smith's Creek
  - Hosororro
  - Kumaka
  - Bumbury
  - Port Kaituma
  - Matthew's Ridge
- **Region 4, Demerara-Mahaica:**
  - Georgetown

Regions 1 and 4 were selected due to the increasing influx of Venezuelan nationals and returning Guyanese in those areas. Region 1 shares a porous border with

Venezuela, which means arrivals and departures cannot be easily monitored while Georgetown is the capital of Guyana and one of the main areas of trade in the country.

In total, 444 persons were interviewed between 27 August and 17 September 2018. Of those interviewed, 338 were interviewed in Barima-Waini while 106 interviews were conducted in Georgetown. Of the total, 89 individuals identified themselves as returning Guyanese, 354 as Venezuelans and one classified as other.

The first round of surveys was implemented by IOM Guyana with the assistance of 6 trained enumerators.

Finally, since the sample was constructed for convenience, the results are only indicative of the characteristics of the surveyed population. It is not possible to establish a probabilistic generalization for all Venezuelan citizens in the country.

## II. POPULATION PROFILE

In Round 1, almost 59 per cent of persons interviewed were women.

Graph 1. Gender of assessed individuals

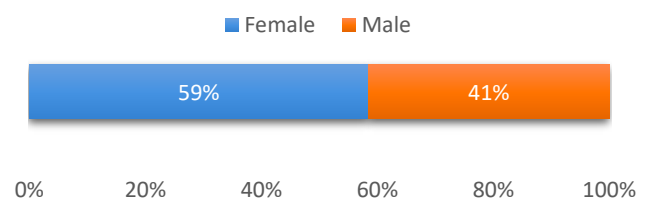


Table 1. Gender of surveyed individuals by nationality

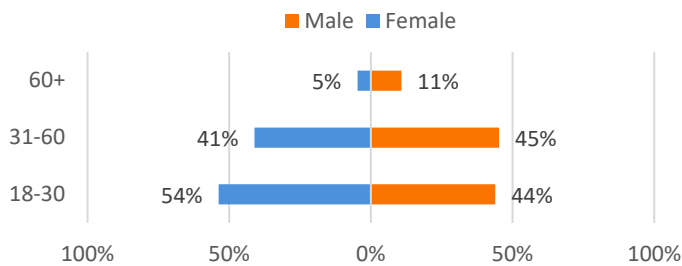
Population Group	Female	Male	Total
Returning Guyanese	57	32	89
Venezuelan	203	151	354
Other		1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>444</b>

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.globaldtm.info/global>, September 2018

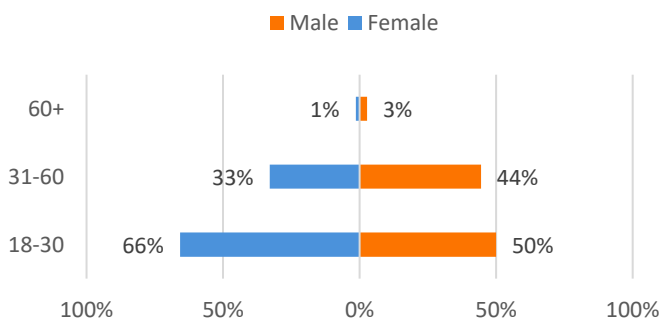
<sup>2</sup> Toshias: Leader of indigenous community

Most of the persons interviewed are between 18 and 30 years old (52%), while 41 per cent are between 31 and 60 years old. Only persons above 18 years of age were interviewed.

Graph 2. Age and sex distribution in Region 1



Graph 3. Age and sex distribution in Region 4



Most of the persons interviewed declared to be married. In Region 1, approximately 60 per cent of persons interviewed are married, cohabitating or in a free union relationship. In Region 4, specifically Georgetown, the majority are single (65%).

Graph 4. Civil status of surveyed individuals

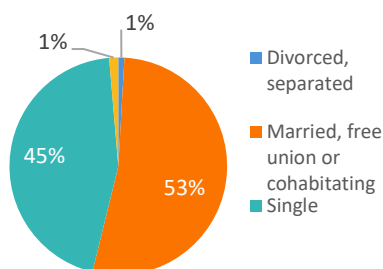
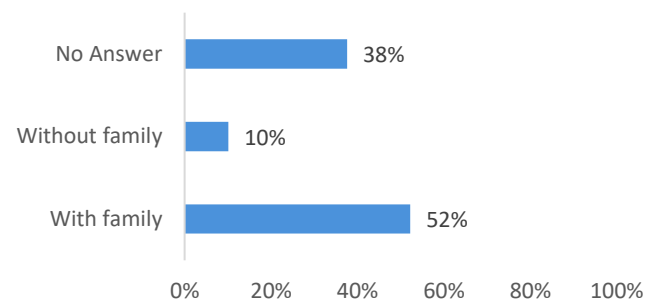


Table 2. Civil status of assessed individuals by regions

Civil Status	Region 1	Region 4
Divorced, separated	1%	0%
Married, free union or cohabitating	59%	33%
Single	38%	65%
Widowed	1%	2%

52 per cent of persons interviewed travelled with family.

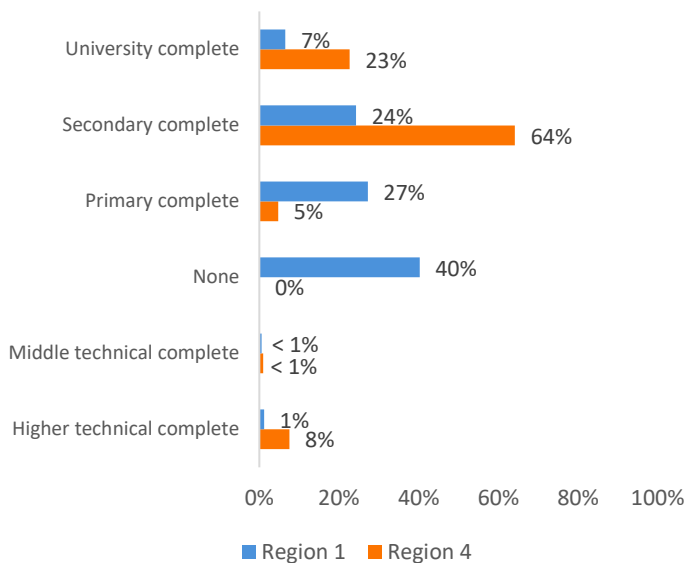
Graph 5. Percentage of respondents who traveled alone or in groups



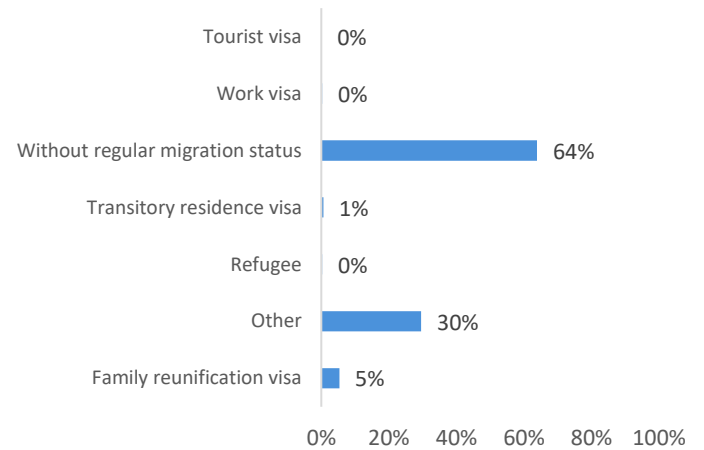
The difference in percentage between Region 1 and Region 4 with respect to persons travelling with family is minimal (1%). In Region 1, the average family size is approximately 2.5 persons and approximately 58 per cent travelled with at least one child. Of the total number of children declared by interviewees, 55 per cent are male and 45 per cent are female.

Of those interviewed, 22 per cent possess primary education, 31 per cent secondary education and 31 per cent no formal education. In Barima-Waini, approximately 40 per cent of interviewed individuals have no formal education compared to 0 per cent in Region 4. On the other hand, 64 per cent possess secondary education in Georgetown compared to 24 per cent in Region 1. Of those interviewed, 24 per cent in Region 4 completed university compared to 6 per cent in Region 1.

Graph 6. Level of education of surveyed individuals by regions



Graph 8. Migration status of persons interviewed in Region 1

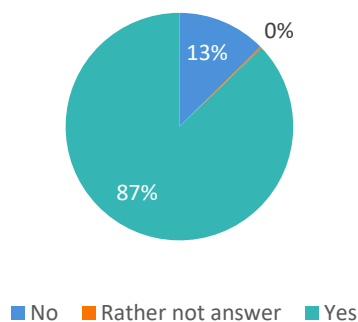


### III. MIGRATION STATUS

Venezuelan citizens in Region 1 and Region 4 were asked about their current migration status, 34 per cent have been without regular migration status for more than a month, 7 per cent for more than a year while an additional 7 per cent indicated irregular status for about one to four weeks.

When asked if they possessed identification documents, 87 per cent of those interviewed responded positively. In Region 1, Barima-Waini, 84 per cent of interviewees responded positively compared to 97 per cent who have identification documents in Georgetown.

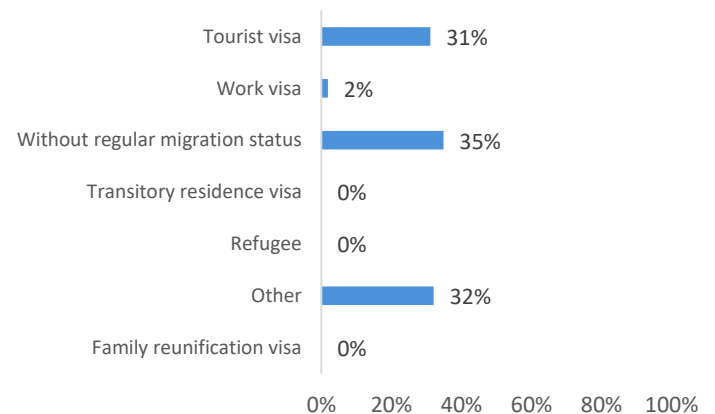
Graph 7. Surveyed individuals with Identification Documents



In Region 1, Barima-Waini, approximately 64 per cent of Venezuelans indicated they were without regular migration status and 29 per cent mentioned *other* types of migration status.

Approximately 35 per cent of the population of Venezuelan citizens interviewed in Georgetown said their migratory status is irregular, while 31 per cent are on a tourist visa and 32 per cent indicated *Other*.

Graph 9. Migration status of persons interviewed in Region 4 – Georgetown

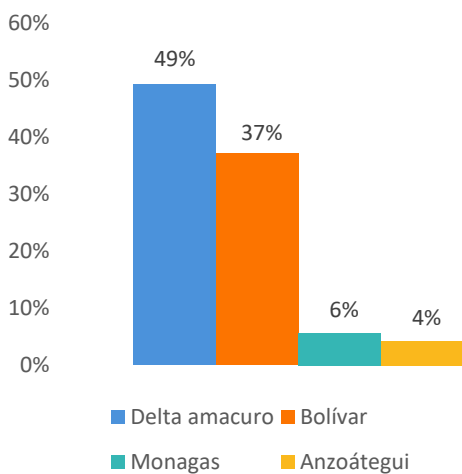


#### IV. MIGRATION ROUTE

##### State of origin

The majority of Venezuelan nationals started their journey in the state of Delta Amacuro (49%), followed by Bolívar (37%), Monagas (6%) and Anzoátegui (4%).

Graph 10. State where surveyed individuals began their journey



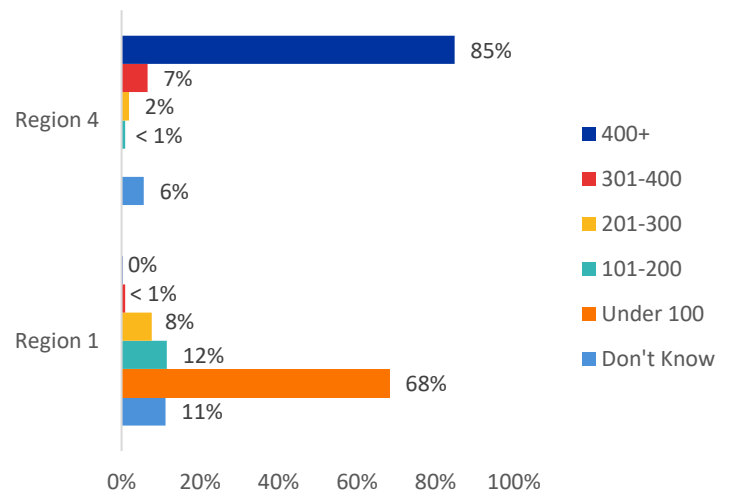
In Region 1, Venezuelans travelled mainly from Delta Amacuro (65%), Bolívar (25%) and Monagas (7%). In Region 4, the majority started their journey from Bolívar (76%) and Anzoátegui (11%).

##### Destination country

A total of 99 per cent of persons interviewed stated Guyana as their final destination. Of those interviewed in Region 4, 92 per cent declared Georgetown and 7 per cent Essequibo Islands as their cities of final destination. The clear majority (98%) of individuals interviewed in Region 1 declared Barima-Waini as their final destination.

#### Cost incurred during the trip

Graph 11. Cost of trip, by region of survey



##### To Region 4, Demerara-Mahaica

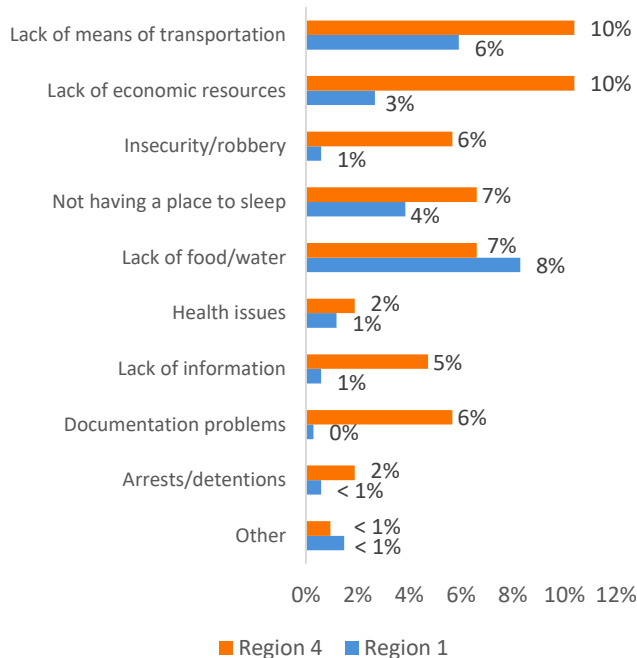
Based on the interviews conducted in Region 4, 85 per cent of Venezuelan citizens travelling to Georgetown from their country of origin paid over 400 USD to arrive. An additional 7 per cent indicated that they paid between 300 and 400 USD. The primary mode of transportation used to arrive in Region 4 was by sea (95%).

##### Difficulties experienced during the trip

23 per cent of persons interviewed in Regions 1 and 4 confirmed to have suffered some form of difficulty during their trip.

The difficulties reported in Region 1 were: Health issues (1%); lack of food/water (8%); lack of place to sleep (4%); lack of economic resources (3%); lack of transportation (6%); security issues (1%).

**Graph 12. Difficulties encountered during the trip by surveyed individuals by region**



In Region 4, similar difficulties to those provided in Barima-Waini were mentioned during the interviews: Health issues (2%); lack of food/water (7%); lack of place to sleep (7%); lack of economic resources (10%); lack of transportation (10%); security issues (6%). In addition, some individuals indicated encountering difficulties related to arrest or detention (2%), robbery (6%) and lack of information (5%).

Overall, 34 per cent of the total interviewed population mentioned document assistance in terms of having legal status in Guyana as their primary need. 23 per cent chose food as a primary need while 18 per cent selected employment. Other areas of assistance included: shelter (2%), Non-Food Items (2%), medical care (5%), education (2%) and security (4%). When asked about their second most important need, respondents selected employment (49%), food (14%) and document assistance (7%). Approximately 1 per cent did not provide any answer (i.e. *None*).

**Table 3. Information and Assistance most needed in Region 1**

Assistance Needed Most	Region 1
<b>Document assistance</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Food</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Income generation / employment</b>	<b>18%</b>
Legal assistance (including migration status and refugee status determination)	5%
Medical care	4%
Other	2%
Safety and security	2%
Secure shelter/accomodation	2%
Education and training	2%
Nfi (clothes, personal care, etc)	2%
None	1%

**Table 4. Information and Assistance most needed in Region 4**

Assistance Needed Most	Region 4
<b>Document assistance</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Income generation / employment</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Legal assistance (including migration status and refugee status determination)</b>	<b>15%</b>
Safety and security	8%
Medical care	8%
Nfi (clothes, personal care, etc)	4%
Food	4%
Secure shelter/accomodation	3%
Education and training	3%
Other	1%

**Table 5. Information and Assistance needed (2<sup>nd</sup> most) in total**

Assistance needed (2nd most)	Total
<b>Income generation / employment</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Food</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Document assistance</b>	<b>7%</b>
Education and training	6%
Legal assistance (including migration status and refugee status determination)	6%
Safety and security	6%
Nfi (clothes, personal care, etc)	5%
Secure shelter/accomodation	3%
None	2%
Medical care	1%
Other	1%

## V. ECONOMIC AND LABOR SITUATION

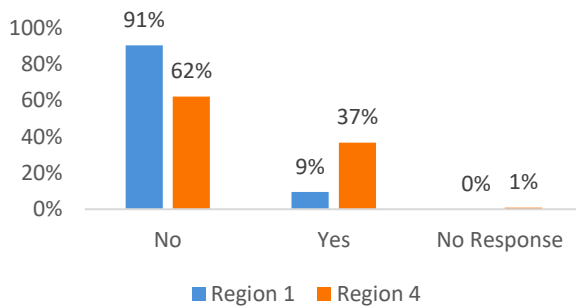
### Employment status in the country of origin

32 per cent of persons interviewed in both regions were unemployed in their country of origin. 60 per cent were either employed or working independently and 5 per cent were students.

### Employment situation

Only 9 per cent of the interviewed population in Region 1 indicated that they received a job offer in Guyana.

Graph 13. Job offer received by surveyed individuals in regions



Of those interviewed in the region, 4 per cent worked without receiving payments, 9 per cent obtained less than initially agreed and 7 per cent did not answer. This population worked in various sectors, including commerce, construction, agriculture and mining.

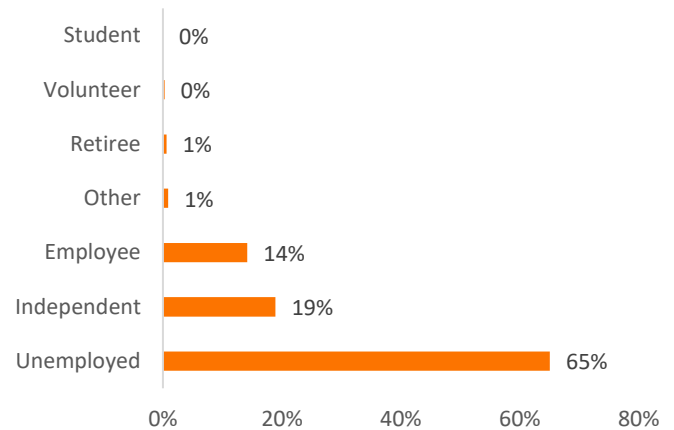
17 per cent of the interviewed population said they were sending resources back to their origin country and 77 per cent of those indicated mentioned money as the resource.

In Region 4, 33 per cent of persons interviewed were unemployed. However, 53 per cent of those interviewed are employed.

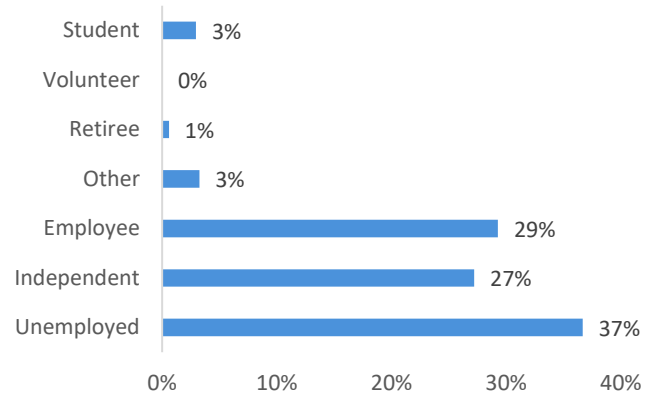
37 per cent of those interviewed in Region 4 declared that they had received a job offer. Of those interviewed in Georgetown, 5 per cent worked without receiving payment, 6 per cent obtained less than agreed and 21 per

cent chose not to respond.

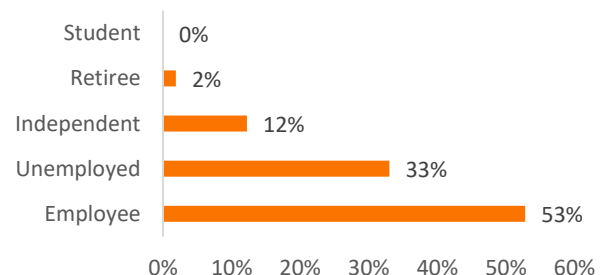
Graph 14. Employment status of surveyed individuals in Region 1



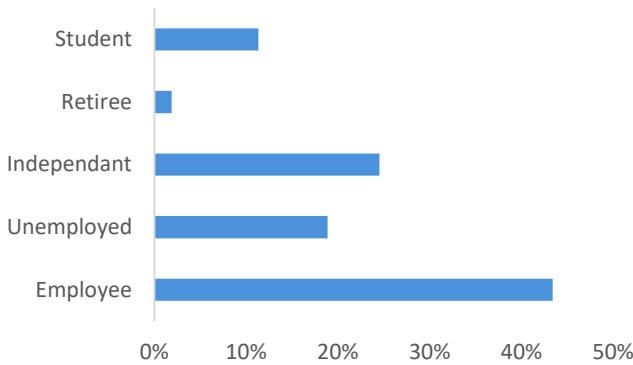
Graph 15. Employment status in country of origin of surveyed individuals in Region 1



Graph 16. Employment status of surveyed individuals in Region 4



Graph 17. Employment status in country of origin of surveyed individuals in Region 4



In total, 58 per cent in Region 4 said they were sending resources to their country of origin and 6 per cent preferred not to answer. 78 per cent of those sending resources listed money as the resource.

## VI. PROTECTION RISKS

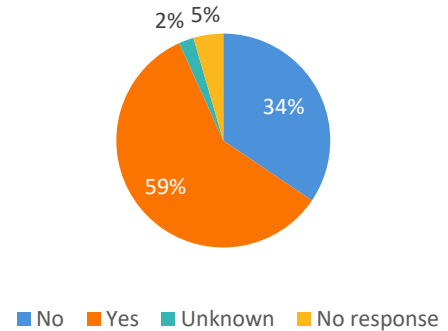
There exist groups of persons in mobility that may be more vulnerable than others. During the analysis, it was identified that:

- 49 per cent of women interviewed have at least one child.
- 12 per cent of women interviewed are single mothers.

### Health

- 59 per cent of the persons interviewed mentioned having access to health services.
- 4 per cent of interviewees identified specific health conditions while 5 per cent indicated that they require daily medical attention.
- 19 per cent mentioned that they had suffered some infectious or contagious disease over the past year.

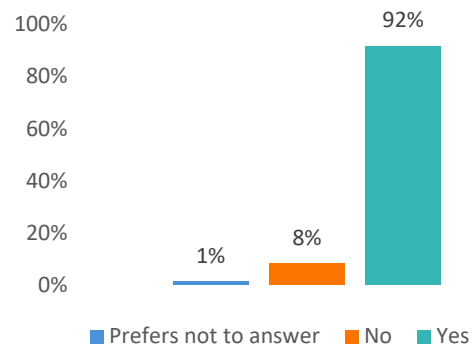
Graph 18. Access to health services by surveyed individuals



### Personal security

92 per cent of persons interviewed feel safe in Guyana.

Graph 19. Are you feeling safe?



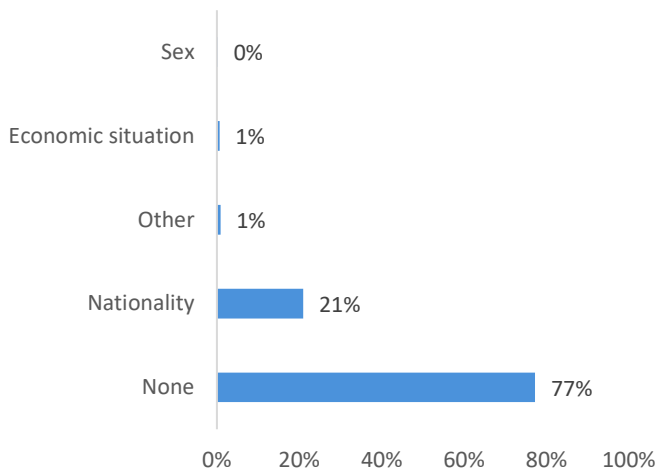
98 per cent responded negatively when asked if they had experienced some form of violence during their trip.

### Discrimination

23 per cent of the population in mobility experienced some form of discrimination. In Region 1, 14 per cent experienced discrimination compared to 50 per cent in Georgetown.



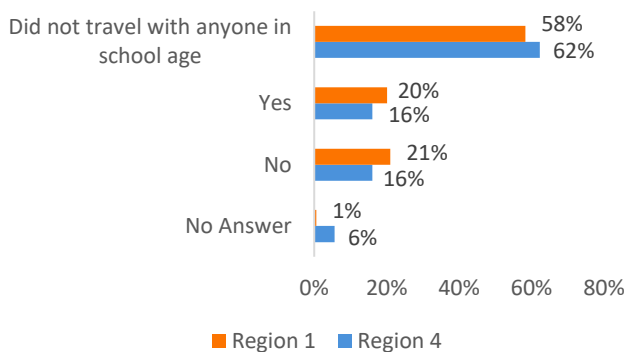
Graph 20. Reasons for discrimination



### Education

In total, 20 per cent of persons interviewed said their children do not have access to education.

Graph 21. Percentage of individuals with access to education by Regions



### VII. Summary

- Guyana is not a transit country. The majority of persons entering Guyana have intentions to remain.
- 58 per cent of Venezuelan citizens entering Guyana were women.
- 52 per cent of persons entering are between 18 and 30 years old.
- Most people arriving in Region 4 are single while in Region 1, the majority was married or with family.
- In Region 1, 40 per cent of persons interviewed do not have formal education.
- In total, 20 per cent of those interviewed said their children do not have access to education.
- 64 per cent in Region 1, compared to 35 per cent in Georgetown, do not have a regular migration status. Most persons entering Guyana originated from Delta Amacuro, Bolívar, Monagas and Anzoátegui.
- Approximately 85 per cent of interviewees arriving in Georgetown paid 400 USD or more.
- Documentation assistance is a primary need for this flux, followed by food and income generating activities.
- 65 per cent of persons interviewed in Region 1 are unemployed compared to 33 per cent in Region 4.
- 34 per cent of surveyed individuals mentioned that they lack access to health services.
- 23 per cent of the population in mobility have experienced some form of discrimination.
- 92 per cent of interviewees mentioned feeling safe in Guyana.



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