MARCH 2023

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DTM

Displacement
Tracking Matrix

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FLOW MONITORING SURVEYS OF INDIGENOUS VENEZUELAN NATIONALS IN GUYANA, ROUND 5

This DTM activity was funded by the US Department of State – Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and implemented by IOM.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ESL	English as a Second Language
FMP	Flow Monitoring Point
FMS	Flow Monitoring Survey
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MOE	Ministry of Education
MPHSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
NDC	Neighbourhood Democratic Council
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
RDC	Regional Democratic Council
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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Displacement
Tracking Matrix

Round 5
GUYANA - SOUTH AMERICA
March 2023

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UN MIGRATION

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The methodology used to conduct this DTM exercise on Indigenous migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter referred to as Venezuela) was a household survey adapted to suit DTM standards. A non-probabilistic sample size system with the snowballing technique was used. The IOM team of enumerators worked with key informants and government officials to identify flow monitoring points where Indigenous migrants reside. Enumerators interviewed one member from each household and used snowball sampling to capture as many households as possible. From March 19-28, 2023, 162 interviews were conducted in regions 1, 2, 7, and 9.

Socio-Demographic Profile

162
Interviews

46% Males
54% Females

- Of the 162 interviews, 54 per cent were with females and 46 per cent with males.

- Of indigenous nations' respondents, 90 per cent were Waraos, primarily located in Regions 1 and 2. Their mother tongue was their native language, called Warao.

- Regarding the civil status of respondents, 84 per cent were married or cohabiting, while 13 per cent were single.

- Eighty-eight per cent travelled with their family, and 11 per cent came alone.

- Nine per cent said yes to travelling with a guide, while 7 per cent did not answer.

- Of respondents with family members in Venezuela, 14 per cent said they left behind their children.

- One per cent of respondents indicated a maximum household size of 20 family members. The highest percentage of respondents (16 per cent) stated a household size of six.

- The households were mainly extended families, with 55 per cent being children.

- Respondents stated they have household members with difficulties in seeing (8 per cent), hearing (4 per cent), walking (4 per cent), cognitive (4 per cent), self-sufficiency (3 per cent) and communication (5 per cent).

Movement

- There were 11 flow monitoring points where the interviews were done, with Blackwater having the highest percentage of interviews, with 25 per cent.

- The mode of arrival for 66 per cent of respondents was by river, while 26 per cent came by sea and 8 per cent by land.

- The highest percentage of respondents that arrived in 2022 was 22 per cent. In March 2023, the data shows 12 per cent of respondents arriving.

- Sixty per cent said the arrival cost was less than USD 100.

- Regarding the origin of the journey from Venezuela, 90 per cent of respondents said they travelled from Antonio Diaz, a municipality in Delta Amacuro state.

- The main difficulty encountered on the journey, as stated by 84 per cent, was a lack of food and water.

- The top three reasons for respondents leaving their home country were food shortages (59 per cent), lack of employment (52 per cent), and rising market prices (50 per cent).

- The top three reasons for choosing Guyana as a destination country were to find work (56 per cent), earn higher income (54 per cent) and obtain health care (35 per cent).

- Regarding migration status, 15 per cent had active stay permits while 34 per cent had expired stay permits, and 48 per cent had no regular migration status.

- Sixty-two per cent of respondents have spent more than a year in Guyana, while 37 per cent have spent less than a year.

11
Flow Monitoring Points

<$100
Arrival cost (For 60%)

84%
Lacked food and water on journey
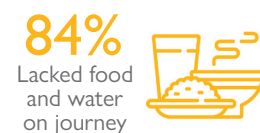
Overall Needs

- Respondents shared their level of dissatisfaction with their various needs. The top three areas where respondents were very dissatisfied included livelihoods (21 per cent), food and nutrition (20 per cent) and children's hygiene (19 per cent).

Humanitarian Sectors

Education

- Sixty-four per cent had no education, 23 per cent had primary and 12 per cent had secondary education.

- Fifty-nine per cent of respondents stated that their children were not attending formal classes. The top three reasons for not attending were language barriers, distance to school, and lack of teachers.

Food Security

- Regarding the number of meals per day, 17 per cent said once per day, while 53 per cent said twice.

- Seventy-nine per cent said they lacked access to markets for the following reasons: no market available, distance to market, cost of items at the market and transportation cost to reach the market.

Nutrition

- For the household's diet, 94 per cent of respondents stated they consume high-energy foods such as rice. These households included 10 per cent pregnant and 19 per cent lactating women.

Health

- For access to healthcare, 73 per cent mentioned they use public health facilities, followed by 12 per cent who used alternative medicine such as herbal and spiritual.

- Eight per cent of respondents indicated they had health complications, 2 per cent with infectious diseases, 1 per cent non-communicable diseases and 5 per cent with injuries.

- Regarding COVID-19 vaccination of household members, 18 per cent of respondents said their households received AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sputnik V, Sinopharm, Johnson and Johnson vaccines.

- Five per cent of respondents mentioned that pregnant and breastfeeding households need maternal healthcare, 5 per cent need child healthcare, and 2 per cent need prenatal health services.

- Ninety per cent of respondents stated that no psychosocial services are available within the communities.

Shelter

- Regarding their housing situation, 79 per cent resided in Indigenous settlements on land and on the edges of rivers.

- For access to electricity, 10 per cent said yes, while 90 per cent said no.

- Three per cent said they have access to the internet, while 97 per cent said they did not have access.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- For access to drinking water, 81 per cent said no, while 19 per cent said yes. Those who said no relied significantly on rivers for all sanitation uses.

Integration

- Seventy-six per cent of respondents were unemployed, 23 per cent were employed full-time, and 1 per cent did seasonal work.

- Agriculture was the main area of employment, with 49 per cent of respondents involved in farming and 14 per cent in fishing.

- Regarding payment issues, 19 per cent said they experienced payment issues. Of these, 11 per cent said they worked and were paid less than agreed upon, and 8 per cent said they worked and did not receive any pay.

- For sending resources, 3 per cent said they send NFI, food, and money to their families in Venezuela whenever possible.

- For receiving resources, 3 per cent said they had received resources such as NFI, food, and money from their families in Venezuela and other parts of Guyana.

- The top five skill sets for specific skills are as follows: 29 per cent in agriculture, 20 per cent in crafts, 11 per cent in construction of boats and houses, and 9 per cent in sewing and music, respectively.

- Regarding communication channels, 81 per cent of respondents stated they had no access. Seventeen per cent said they can access radio, TV, cell phones, and social media.

Protection

- Respondents were asked if they felt safe in the community. Eighty-six per cent said yes, 10 per cent said no, and 4 per cent did not answer.

- Regarding discrimination, 85 per cent of respondents said they did not experience discrimination, and 7 per cent said they did due to their nationality.

- For documentation status, 75 per cent had their Venezuelan ID card, 19 per cent had a birth certificate, and 5 per cent had no documents.

Returns

- Eighty-two per cent said no to returning home to Venezuela, 14 per cent considered returning, and 4 per cent said yes to returning. Of this 4 per cent, 2 per cent said they would leave in a few months, while the other 2 per cent said they would return after the crisis.

II. CONCEPT

PHOTO: An interview being conducted on the Pomeroon Riverbank by an IOM enumerator © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

The economic crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereinafter referred to as Venezuela) has resulted in the massive displacement of Venezuelan nationals throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. To clearly understand the impact of this crisis on Venezuelan nationals residing in these countries, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been conducting Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) exercises across the globe. The objective of DTM is to capture data on various humanitarian needs such as protection, health, education, integration, food security, shelter, mental health, and the like to establish population profiles, track movements, map routes, and identify entry and exit points.

The data derived from this assessment will help inform stakeholders such as Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies, government entities, and donors of the situation displaced persons are currently facing. The entities can utilize this information to aid in developing response plans to support migrants in vulnerable situations.

Since 2018, IOM Guyana has been conducting DTM activities on Venezuelan nationals. This 2023 DTM is the first conducted strictly on Indigenous Venezuelan nationals.

This report uses data from the fifth round of DTM carried out in Guyana from March 19 -28, 2023. This round of DTM activities is funded by the US Department of State – Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) within the RMRP.

PHOTO: GPS coordinates being recorded by an IOM enumerator © IOM 2023/Aura VASQUEZ

III. INTRODUCTION

Country Profile

On May 26, 1966, British Guiana obtained independence from Great Britain, and the name was changed to Guyana - an Indigenous word meaning "Land of many waters." On February 23, 1970, Guyana became a republic, officially the Co-operative Republic of Guyana[1], and remains the only English-speaking country in South America.

The Head of State is the Executive President followed by the Prime Minister and the Vice President. General elections are held every five years, and each Executive President has a two-term limit. The population is estimated at 746,955 inhabitants, and the capital city is Georgetown.

Geography

South American[2] neighbours are Suriname to the east, Venezuela to the west, Brazil to the south and south-west, and Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana's Caribbean neighbour to the north. The Corentyne River separates Guyana from Suriname, and the Ireng River separates Guyana from Brazil. Guyana and Venezuela have rivers separating and joining them; Amacuro and Barima in the northwest and Cuyuni and Wenamo in the absolute west.

Guyana[3] is divided into ten Administrative Regions and four Natural Regions: the Highland Region, Interior Savannahs, Low Coastal Plain, and the Hilly Sand and Clay Region. Each has its own vegetation, topography, climate, and soil type and is divided into administrative districts. The Low Coastal Plain is below sea level, hosts the capital city, and is the most populated region. The Hinterland Region is the largest and mainly comprised of the Amazon[4] rainforest (87 per cent). The Hilly, Sand and Clay Region is principally known for bauxite mining, and the Interior Savannah is known for cattle ranching and shares the official crossing point with Brazil.

Economy

Guyana's main exports[5] have always included minerals such as gold, diamonds, and bauxite. Its agricultural products include rice, sugar, seafood, and timber. Petroleum and natural gas, which were recently discovered and continue to be discovered, now make up 68.4 per cent of Guyana's exports; as a result, the World Bank projected 43.5 per cent of economic growth.[6]

Geopolitical Context

Guyana and Venezuela have been locked in a longstanding border dispute. Venezuela has laid claim to the Essequibo Region, along with its adjacent maritime territories.[7] Essequibo is the largest county or state in Guyana. The case is currently being handled by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

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1   https://www.britannica.com/place/Guyana
2   https://factpage.glsc.gov.gy/population-data/
3   Ibid.
4   https://guyanatourism.com/about/
5   https://statisticsguyana.gov.gy/
6   https://goinvest.gov.gy/greater-economic-growth-projected-for-guyana-in-2021-world-bank/
7   https://dppa.un.org/en/mission/border-controversy-between-guyana-and-venezuela

IV. METHODOLOGY

PHOTO: Respondent being interviewed by an IOM enumerator in Yarakita settlement © IOM 2023/Fiona STOLL

Data Collection and Sampling Size

The first phase of the data collection process was to engage with key informants, NGOs such as Hope Foundation, and national authorities. A coordination team visited some areas beforehand to assess the situation and interacted with key government officials and key informants within the migrant communities, which paved the way for the data collection team.

Five bilingual (Spanish and English) IOM enumerators, four females and one male, conducted surveys in various Regions 1, 2, 7, and 9 locations. One representative from each household was interviewed from the locations visited. Each location had its sample size, depending on the number of households. A non-probabilistic snowball sampling technique was used to obtain the interviews. The method consisted of entering a location and reaching as many households as possible within a given period. Key informants within the migrant communities knew the number of households; however, not all household representatives were willing to participate.

Two hundred twenty-four people were reached, but only 162 participated in the DTM surveys. These surveys were conducted from March 19-28, 2023.

Coverage

Interviews were done in various locations across Administrative Regions 1, 2, 7 and 9. The demographics of interviewees were strictly Indigenous Venezuelans, namely Waraos, Akawaios, and Taurepan.

The following locations, including major flow monitoring points (FMPs), were visited:

- Region 1 – Farm Corps, Imbotero, Barima River, Blackwater, Yarakita, Anabisi and Canal Bank.

- Region 2 – Charity, Pomeroon River.

- Region 7 – Kaikan.

- Region 9 – Lethem.

Limitations and Constraints

Indigenous language barriers continue to be one of the significant challenges; even though there were translators who did an excellent job, the time taken to do an interview increased when the translation was needed. Another issue was obtaining the consent of respondents. One Indigenous nation called Eñepas refused to participate, stating that assessment fatigue.

V. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Population Profile

Indigenous nations make up approximately 2.8 per cent of Venezuela's population. According to the 2011 Indigenous Census, some fifty-one different Indigenous Peoples live in Zulia, Amazonas, Bolivar, Delta Amacuro, Anzoátegui, Sucre, Apure, Nueva Esparta, Lara, Falcón, and Mérida states.[8]

Since the crisis began, there has been an influx of Waraos into Guyana. This DTM exercise seeks to identify the different Indigenous nations and highlight their concerns, needs, and vulnerabilities.

GRAPH N°1

Indigenous nations of respondents

96%

- Warao
- Akawaio
- Taurepang

3%
1%
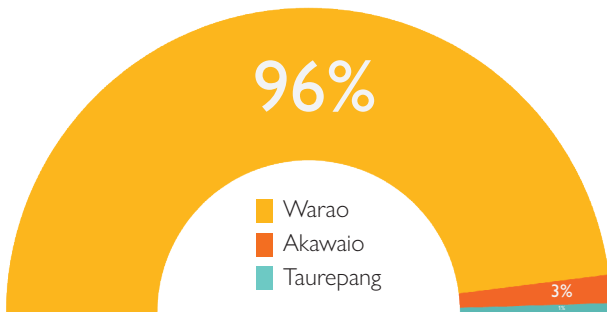
Graph 1 shows that most, 96 per cent, of the interviews were done with respondents of Warao heritage, followed by Akawaio and Taurepang. Taurepang is also referred to as Pemón. Both Akawaio and Taurepang were found in Kaikan, Region 7.

Three per cent of the respondents stated they were Guyanese returnees, and discussions with key informants revealed that many Indigenous Guyanese have returned to their villages and reside with their families.

GRAPH N°2

Gender of respondents

Graph 2 shows the gender breakdown of respondents. There are more females (54 per cent) than males (46 per cent). During the surveys, it was observed that most males were working in the fields, and the females were at home.

54% Males
46% Females
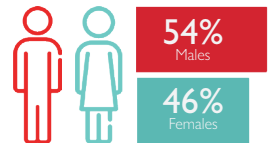
GRAPH N°3

Languages spoken by respondents

90%

8%

2%

- Indigenous
- Spanish
- Akawaio
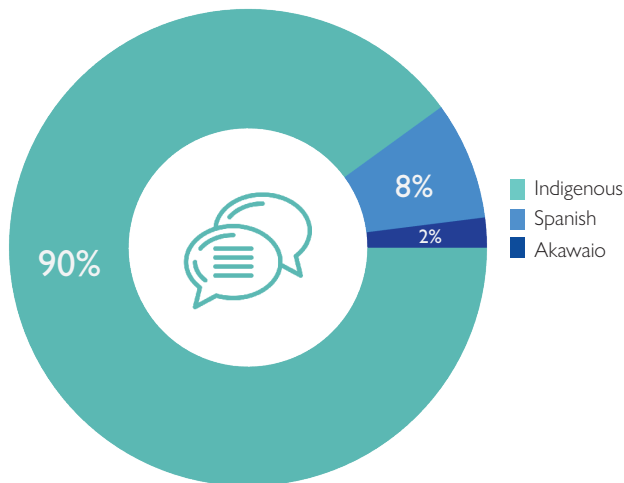
As shown on the left, most respondents (90 per cent) indicated that their first language or mother tongue is their Indigenous language, and each Indigenous nation spoke its language.

The remaining 10 per cent of respondents stated that their first language is Spanish (8 per cent) and English (2 per cent).

They explained that even though they are Indigenous, they do not speak their native language because of the locations where they resided.

8 https://www.iwgia.org/en/venezuela/4677-iw-2022-venezuela.html

GRAPH N°4

Civil status of respondents

84% Married/Cohabitating

13% Single

1% Windowed

1% Separated

1% No Response
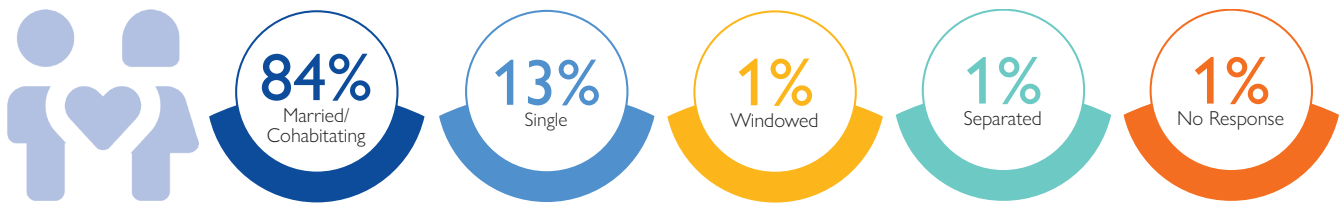
The data shows that 84 per cent of respondents were married and or cohabiting, 13 per cent were single, 2 per cent each indicated widowed and separated, and 1 per cent gave no answer.

Household Profile

GRAPH N°5

Respondents travelling with family

Eighty-eight per cent, the majority, said they traveled with their families, 11 per cent said they traveled alone, and 1 per cent traveled without a family group.

88% With Family Group

11% Alone

1% Without Family Group

GRAPH N°6

Travelled with a guide

9% Yes   **83%** No   **7%** No Response

Respondents were asked if they travelled with a guide. Eighty-three per cent said no, 9 per cent said yes, and 7 per cent did not answer.

GRAPH N°7

Family members of respondents who remained in their home country

56%

38%

3%

25%

10%

14%

- Other Relatives
- Siblings
- Parents
- Children
- No Response
- Spouse
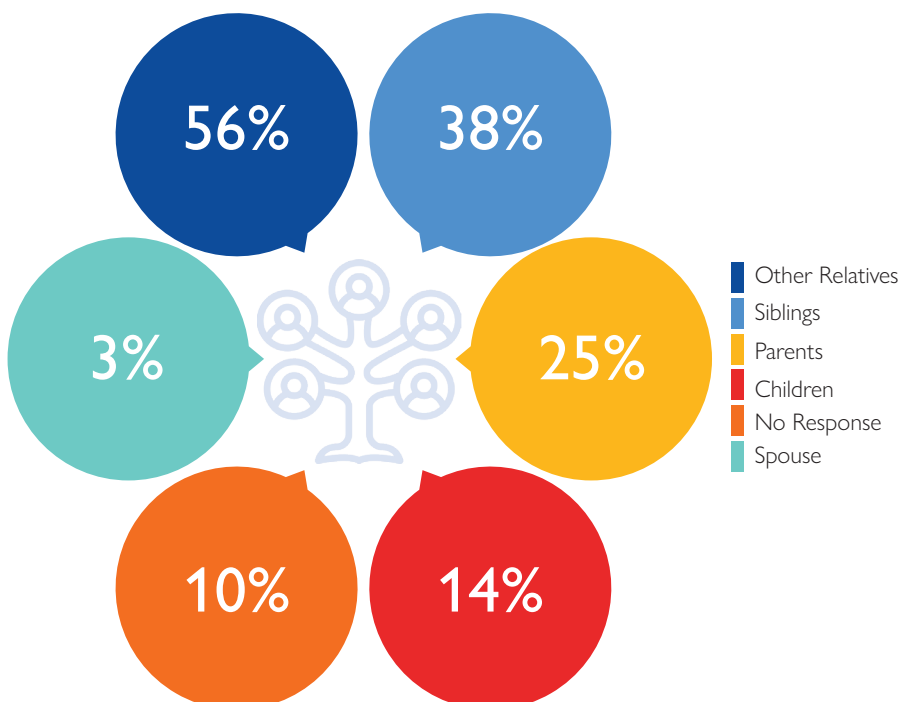
Respondents indicated that they have family members in their home country.

Fifty-six per cent said they have extended relatives such as aunts, uncles and so forth in their home country.

Thirty-eight per cent said they had their brothers and sisters, 25 per cent had their parents and 14 per cent had their children.

Three per cent had their spouse, and 10 per cent gave no answer.

For this question, respondents were allowed to select multiple options. The responses of these options can be seen as seen in Table 1.

Table 1 shows that the plurality of respondents (16 per cent) indicated that their household size was six, followed by 15 per cent with a household size of five and 14 per cent with a household size of three.

One per cent had the largest household size of twenty and fourteen, respectively.

Respondents explained that large family sizes can include relatives from other family members. The graph below shows the relation of family members to the interviewee.

TABLE 1

Household sizes of respondents

Household Sizes	Respondents
1	8%
2	9%
3	14%
4	12%
5	15%
6	16%
7	9%
8	8%
9	4%
10	1%
12	2%
14	1%
20	1%
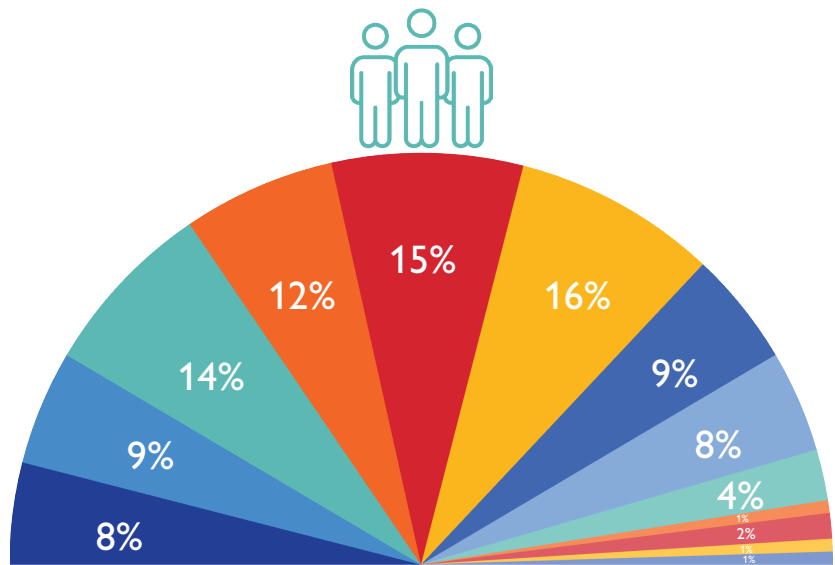
GRAPH N°8

Relation to the interviewee

Relation	Percentage
Son	28%
Daughter	27%
Wife	9%
Head of Household	8%
Other Relatives	4%
Partner	4%
Sister	4%
Husband	3%
Brother	3%
Nephew	1%
In-laws	1%
Granddaughter	1%
Uncle	1%
Mother	1%
Father	1%
Grandson	1%
Niece	1%
Aunt	1%
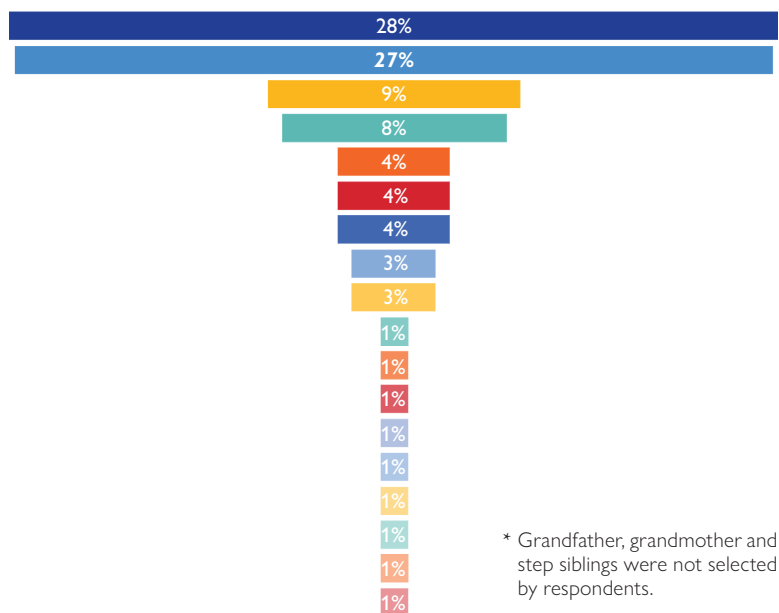
* Grandfather, grandmother and step siblings were not selected by respondents.

The data shows that the respondents had extended families; children accounted for 55 per cent of households, followed by wife and partner with nine and four per cent, respectively.

GRAPH N°9

The difficulty level of household members

Seeing
- 1% Lots of Difficulty
- 1% Cannot Do Activity
- 6% Some Difficulty

Hearing
- 4% Some Difficulty

Walking
- 2% Cannot Do Activity
- 2% Some Difficulty

Cognitive
- 1% Lots of Difficulty
- 1% Cannot Do Activity
- 2% Some Difficulty

Self-sufficient
- 1% Cannot Do Activity
- 1% Lots of Difficulty
- 1% Some Difficulty

Communication
- 2% Cannot Do Activity
- 1% Lots of Difficulty
- 2% Some Difficulty
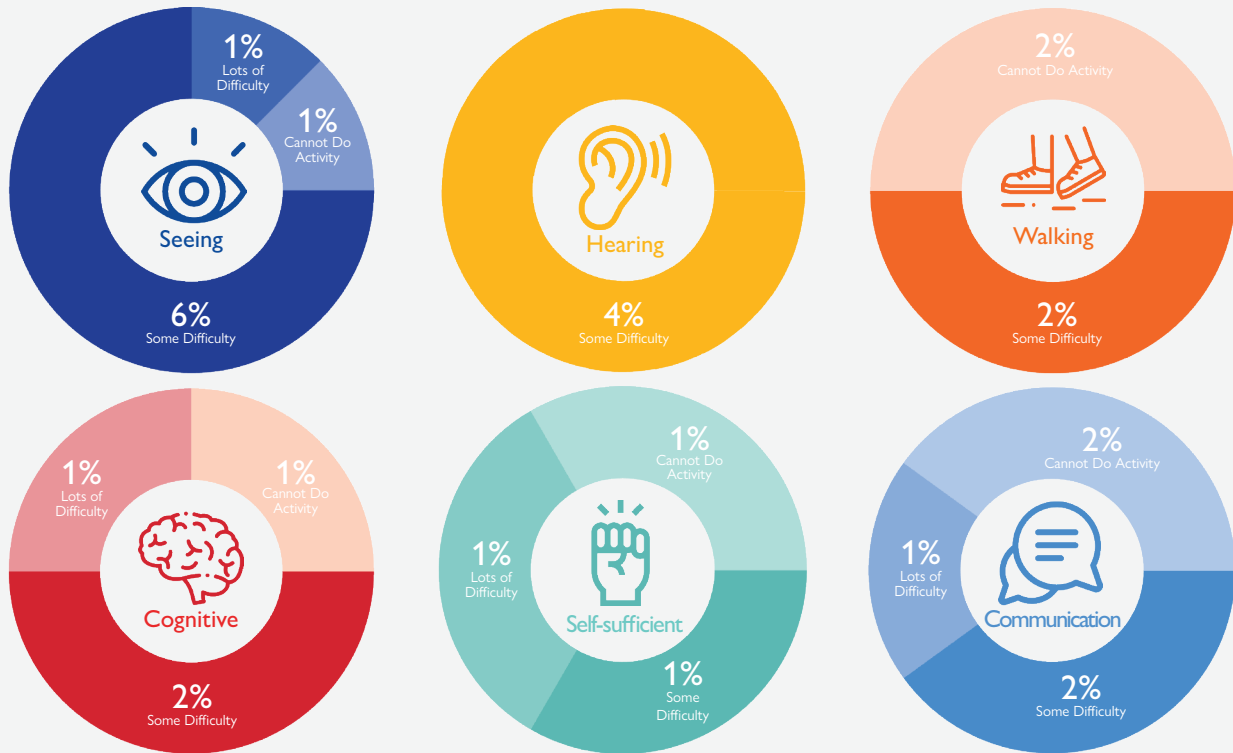
Respondents indicated that members of their household experienced difficulties in the following areas:

- Regarding difficulties with sight, 1 per cent of respondents stated that they have household members with visual impairment.

- Four per cent of respondents stated that they have household members with some hearing difficulties.

- Two per cent of respondents stated that they have household members who cannot walk.

- One per cent of respondents stated that they have household members with cognitive difficulties.

- One per cent of respondents stated that they have household members with self-sufficiency difficulties.

- Two per cent of respondents stated that they have household members with communication difficulties

VI. MOVEMENT - MIGRATION ROUTE AND STATUS

MAP 1

Bubble map of Guyana showing where surveys were conducted

FLOW MONITORING POINTS - DTM GUYANA

The map shows the locations that were accessed according to the logistical and operational criteria of the mission. Data collection 2023
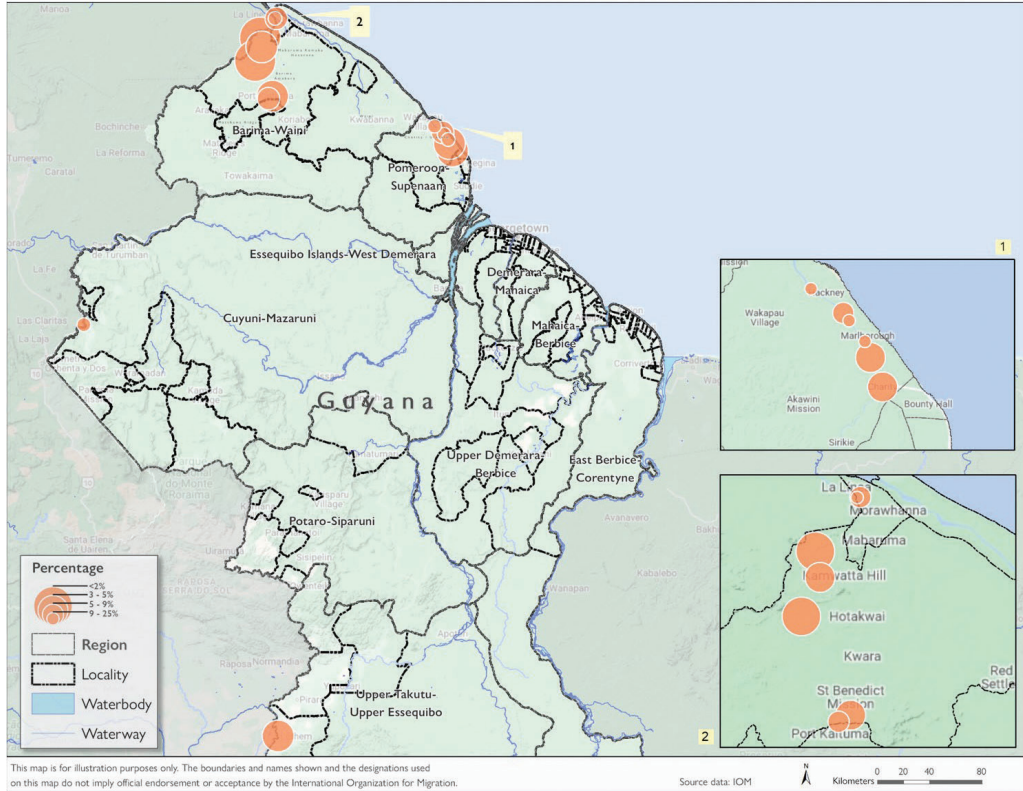
The map above shows the geographic location of where interviews were done. The size of the bubbles is based on the number of interviews, with the larger bubbles meaning more interviews. Further analysis is done in Graph 10.

Flow Monitoring Points (FMP) where interviews were conducted

Blackwater	Pomeroon River Bank	Yarakita	Farmcorps	Lethem	Charity
25%	17%	15%	9%	7%	7%

Imbotero	Kaikan	Barima River	Canal Bank	Anabisi
2%	3%	4%	5%	7%

Graph 10 shows these are the FMPs or locations where the DTM surveys were conducted. Blackwater had the highest number of interviews (25 per cent), followed by Pomeroon Riverbank (cluster of locations along the Pomeroon River) (17 per cent) and Yarakita with 15 per cent. Blackwater is one of the areas with a direct connection to Venezuela, it, and it is known for pendular movement and is now becoming a destination area. The image below shows a Landing Point/Flow Monitoring Point

PHOTO: One of the Flow Monitoring Points (FMP) where interviews were conducted © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

GRAPH N°11

Mode of arrival

66% — River
26% — Sea
8% — Land
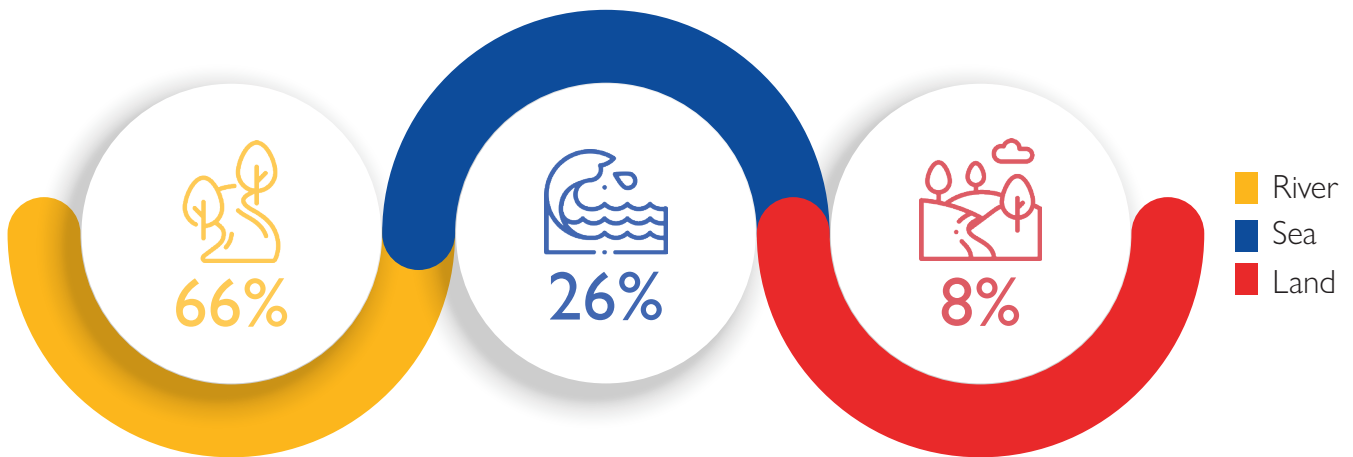
Respondents indicated three arrival modes: river, sea, and land. Rivers are the most frequent arrival mode, as shown in Graph 11, followed by sea and land.

Map 2 shows the sea, river, land routes and flow monitoring points captured from DTM activities in Guyana since 2018. The blue river routes highlight two main entry and exit routes from Venezuela into Guyana. In the north, the Barima River connects Delta Amacuro in Venezuela to the Waini River Region 1 in Guyana. The Waini River connects to several rivers, such as the Imbotero River, Port Kaituma River, and Anabisi River. The image below, left, shows the point in the Barima River where Guyana meets Venezuela.

The sea route shows the movement from the Delta Amacuro coast along the coastline of Region 1 Guyana to the Pomeroon River in Region 2 Guyana.

In the West or Region 7, The Cuyuni River source is in Venezuela, and the river intersects with the mouth of the Wenamu and runs eastwards towards its junction with the Mazaruni River. The Wenamo River runs along the border of Guyana and Venezuela north from Kaikan to its junction with the Cuyuni, southwest of Ankoko Island.

MAP 2

Flow monitoring routes to and from Guyana
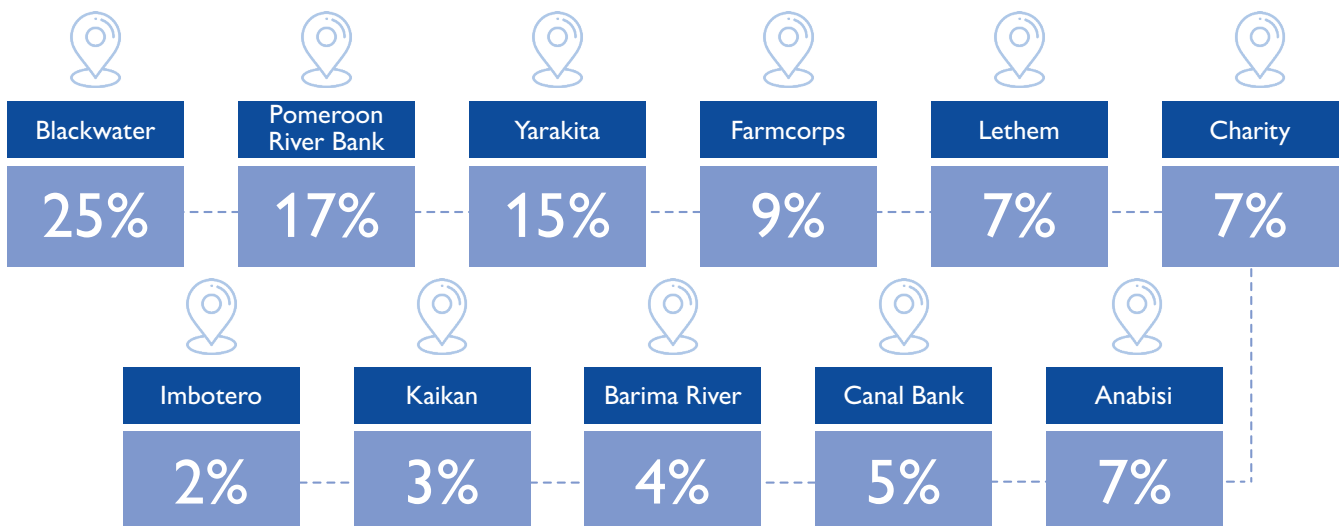

MIGRATION FLOWS GUYANA - DTM GUYANA

The map shows the locations that were accessed according to the logistical and operational criteria of the mission. Data collection 2018-2023

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

PHOTO: The Barima River, where Guyana meets Venezuela © IOM 2023/ Shivanand WILLIE

PHOTO: The Venezuelan side of the Wenamo River © IOM 2023/ Shivanand WILLIE

PHOTO: The Takutu River Bridge that connects Guyana and Brazil, a view of the Takutu river is seen © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

In the south or Region 9, Lethem is a town in Guyana that borders Bonfim in Brazil. The official entry and exit point from Guyana into Brazil is at this border. From Lethem, there is a land route through the Amazon rainforest to the capital city of Guyana, Georgetown. The Takutu and Ireng Rivers separate Guyana from Brazil, and there is a bridge over the Takutu River that connects Guyana and Brazil, as shown in the image on the left.

Due to how the countries are connected, there is much pendular movement along the borderline.

GRAPH N°12

Year of arrival
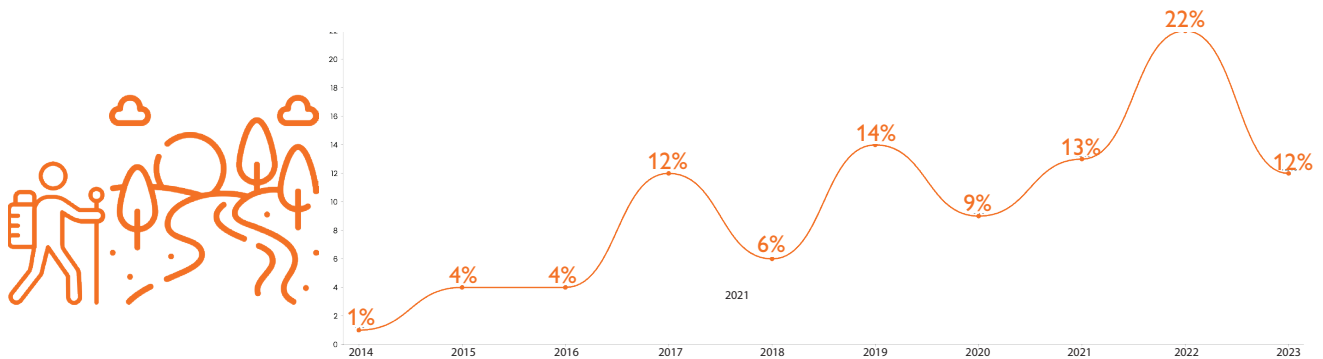
Graph 12 shows that since 2014 respondents have been coming from Venezuela to Guyana. There was a spike in 2019, and 2020 showed a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, and from 2021 onwards, there was an increase in the number of respondents arriving in Guyana. It is important to note that 2023 represents only three (3) months.

GRAPH N°13

Cost of arrival

- 19% Did Not Know
- 15% Did Not Answer
- 60% Less Than $100 US
- 7% Between $100 and $500 US
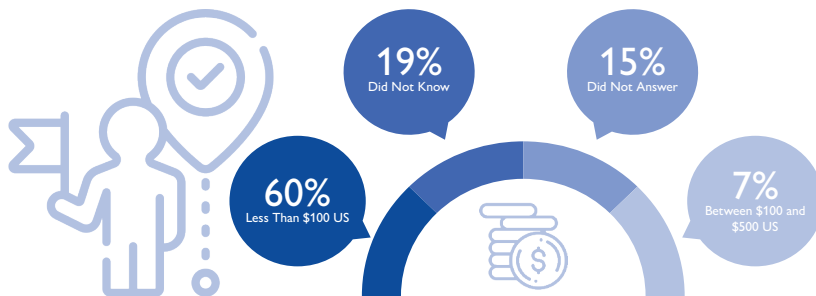
Respondents explained that they came with their boats (canoes), 60 per cent said it cost less than USD 100 and this was just supplies for the journey, 19 per cent did not know, and 15 per cent did not answer. The 7 per cent who paid between USD 100 and USD 500 would have travelled using various modes of arrival.

MAP 3

The states of origin in Venezuela

STATE OF ORIGIN - DTM GUYANA

The map shows the states that were accessed according to the logistical and operational criteria of the mission. Data collection 2023

State of travel start Value
High : 90%
Low : 0%

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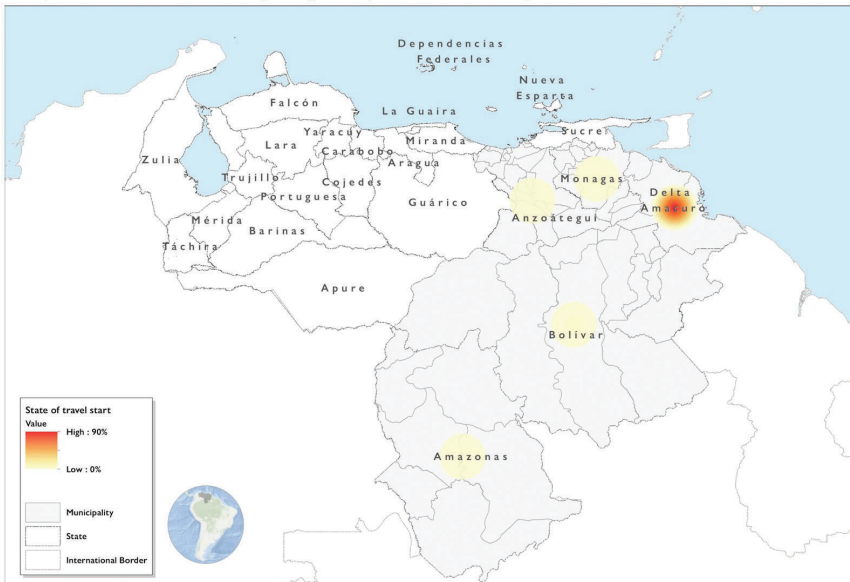
This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.   Source Data: IOM   Kilometers 0 62.5 125 250

GRAPH N°14

States of origin in Venezuela

- 90% Delta Amacuro
- 4% Bolívar
- 3% Monagas
- 2% Amazonas
- 1% Anzoátegui
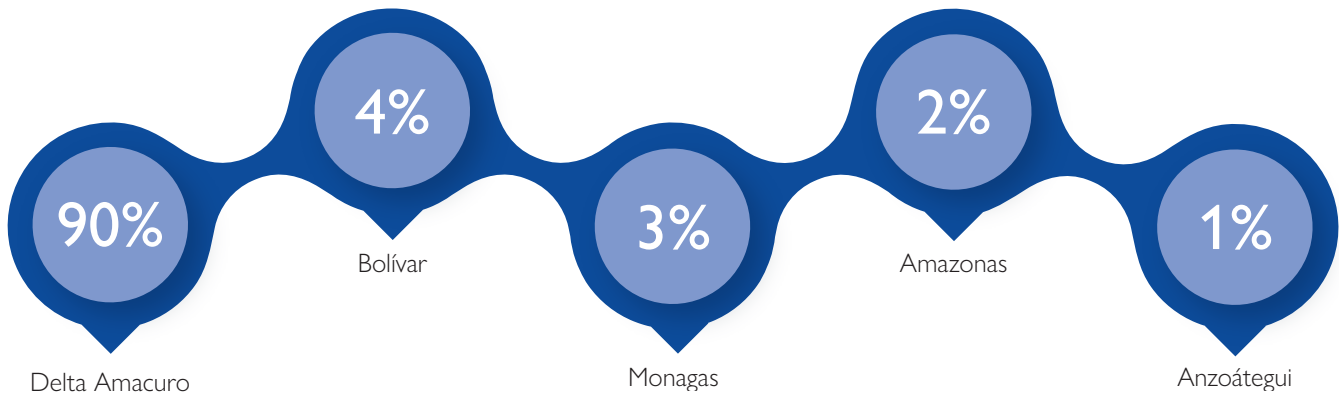
The data in Graph 14 show that 90 per cent of the respondents' journey originated from the Delta Amacuro state, followed by Bolivar with four per cent. Monagas was three per cent, Amazonas was two per cent, and Anzoátegui was one per cent. Further analysis of the Delta Amacuro state municipalities revealed that the highest percentage of respondents originated from Antonio Diaz, as shown in Graph 15.

GRAPH N°15

Municipalities of Delta Amacuro

- Antonio Diaz 90%
- Pedernales 3%
- Tucupita 3%
- Casacoima 3%
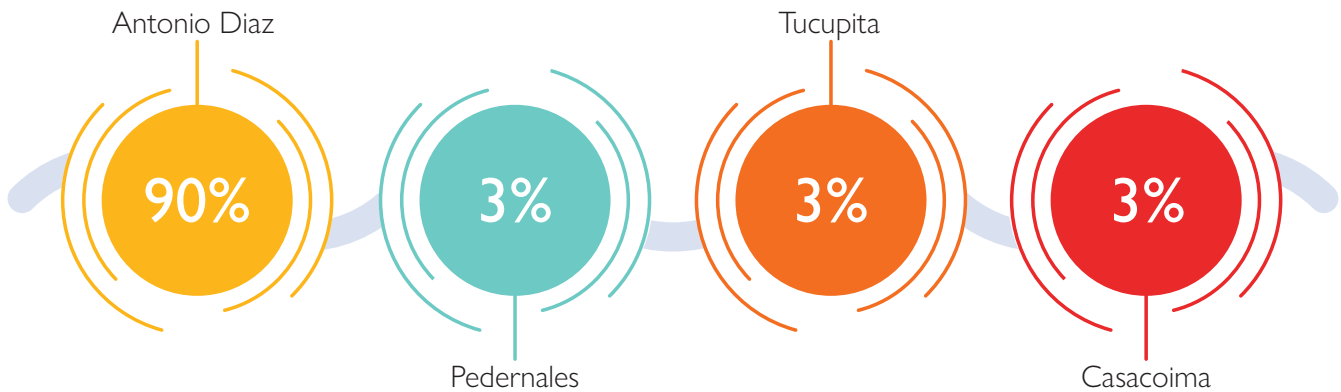
GRAPH N°16

Difficulties experienced by respondents on their journey

- Health Issues 7%
- Lack of Food and Water 84%
- Refusal at Border 4%
- Insecurity /Robbery 1%
- Not Having a Place to Sleep 47%
- Lack of Means of Transportation 33%
- Closed Border 1%
- Lack of Information 17%
- Other 1%
- Lack of Economic Resources 35%
- Documentation Problems 1%
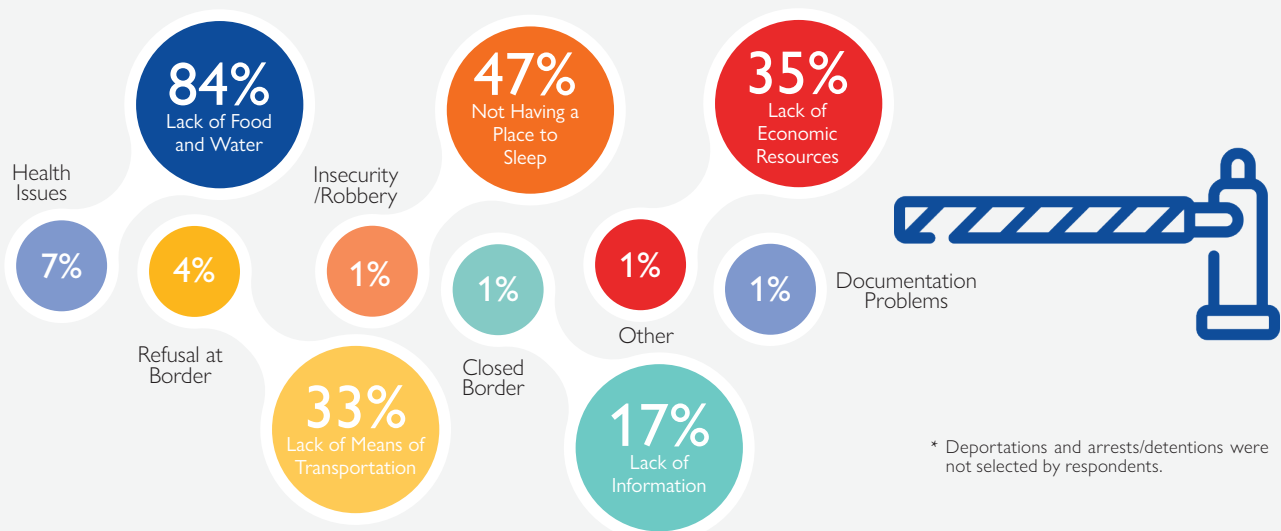
* Deportations and arrests/detentions were not selected by respondents.

The data above shows that respondents faced significant hardships in their journey. Eighty-four per cent said they lacked food or water, 47 per cent said there was no place to sleep, 35 per cent mentioned a lack of economic resources, and 33 per cent lacked a means of transportation. Lack of means of transportation meant that the boats did not have engines, so the respondents paddled their way through.

GRAPH N°17

Reasons for leaving home country

Very Important | Important | Slightly Important | Unimportant | Very Unimportant | No Answer | Not Applicable
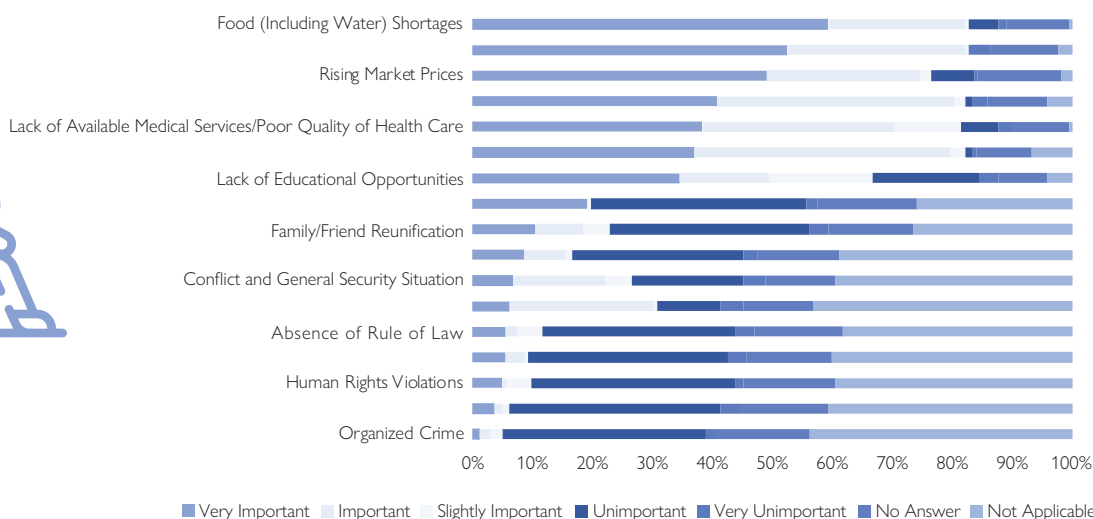
The respondents were asked to rate the reasons that caused them to leave their home country. As shown in Graph 17, the rating was from very important to very unimportant. In Table 2 below, the percentages of respondents who stated very important can be seen. Based on this data, it can be concluded that the most important reason for leaving was food shortages.

TABLE 2

Reasons and percentages of respondents who indicated very important

Reasons for Leaving	Very Important
Food (including water) shortages	59%
Lack of employment/livelihood	52%
Rising market prices	50%
Lack of economic growth at country level	41%
Lack of available medical services/poor quality of health care	38%
Financial problems/inability to access cash	37%
Lack of educational opportunities	35%
Floods/landslides/drought (natural disaster)	19%
Family/friend reunification	10%
Personal/family insecurity/threats (Persecution)	9%
Conflict and general security situation	7%
Debts	6%
Ethnic/religious/gender/other discrimination	6%
Absence of rule of law	6%
Human rights violations	5%
Marriage	4%
Organized crime	1%

59%
Food
(including water)
shortages
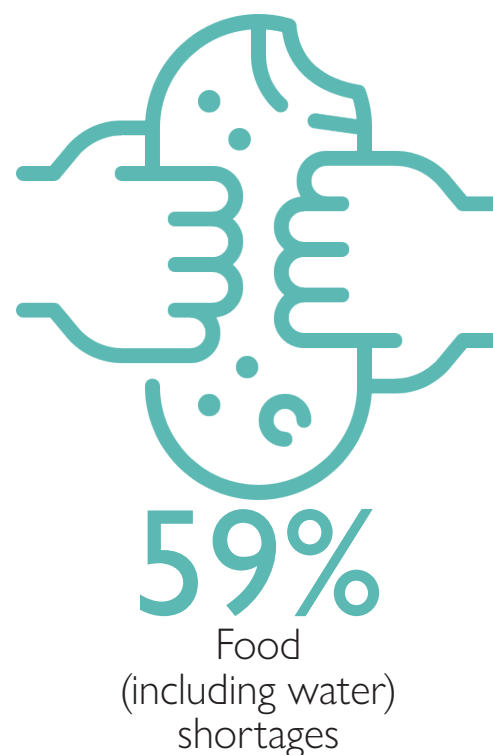
GRAPH N°18

Reasons for choosing the destination country

To Find Work/Livelihood Opportunities
To Get a Job/Earn a Higher Income
To Obtain Health Care
To Obtain Education for My Children
To Have a Lifestyle Similar to That of Someone You Know
To Obtain Education for Myself
To Do Business
To Obtain Asylum/Refugee Status
To Get Married
To Obtain the Nationality of That Country
To Fight/Be Part of the Opposition Group/Be Part of the Army

100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0%

■ Not Applicable ■ No Answer ■ Very Unimportant ■ Unimportant ☐ Slightly Important ☐ Important ■ Very Important

The respondents were also asked to rate the reasons that caused them to choose their destination country. The rating was from very important to very unimportant. Table 3 shows the ranking of the reasons for selecting the destination by percentage of importance. Work/livelihood opportunities were very important to respondents in choosing Guyana as their destination country.

TABLE 3

Factors and percentages of respondents who indicated very important

Reasons for choosing destination country	Very Important
To find work/livelihood opportunities	56%
To get a job/earn a higher income	54%
To obtain health care	35%
To obtain education for my children	30%
To have a lifestyle similar to that of someone you know	19%
To obtain education for myself	14%
To do business	10%
To obtain asylum/refugee status	5%
To get married	4%
To obtain the nationality of that country	3%
To fight/be part of the opposition group/be part of the army of the host government	2%

GRAPH N°19

Migration status of respondents

50% Stay Permit   <1% Work Permit   <1% Naturalized Citizen

48% No Regular Immigration Status   <1% Child of Returning Guyanese   <1% Guyanese Residency In Process
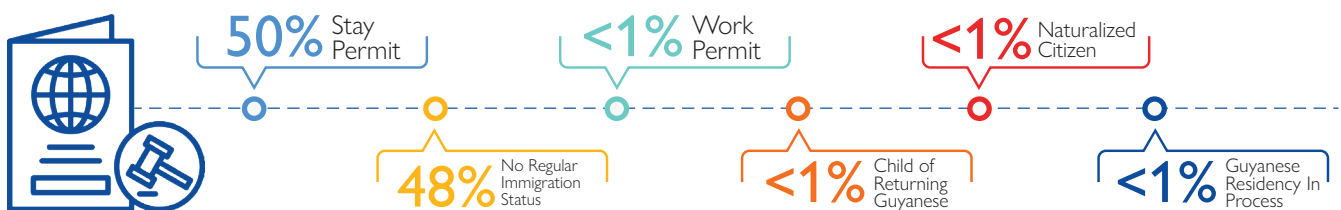
The data in Graph 19 shows that 50 per cent had stay permits, 48 per cent were without regular migration status, and the remaining percentages had some form of regular migration status. Further analysis of those who had stay permits is shown in Graph 20.

GRAPH N°20

Stay permit status

15% Active **1%** Awaiting Extension **34%** Expired
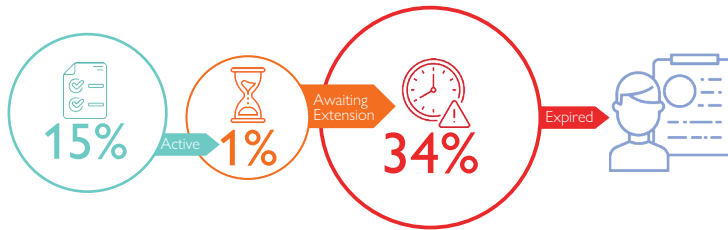
Of the 50% stay permit mentioned in Graph 19, it can be seen in Graph 20 that 34 per cent of respondents have expired stay permits which technically puts them into the category of having irregular migration status.

Fifteen per cent said their stay permits were active, and 1 per cent indicated they were awaiting an extension.

GRAPH N°21

Time spent in Guyana

Category	Percentage
More than 3 Years	33%
Between 2 and 3 Years	9%
Between 1 and 2 Years	20%
Between 6 and 12 Months	17%
Between 3 and 5 Months	9%
Between 1 and 2 Months	5%
Between 1 and 4 Weeks	4%
Less Than 1 week	2%
Does Not know/Rather Not Answer	1%
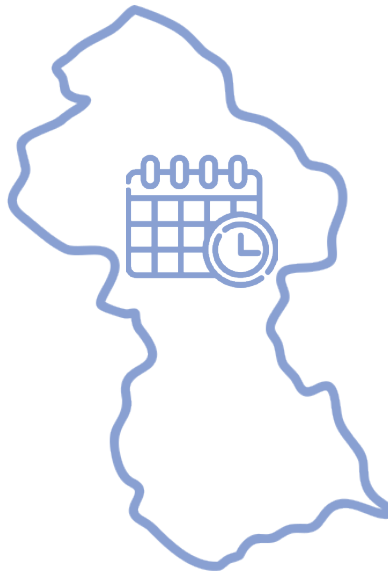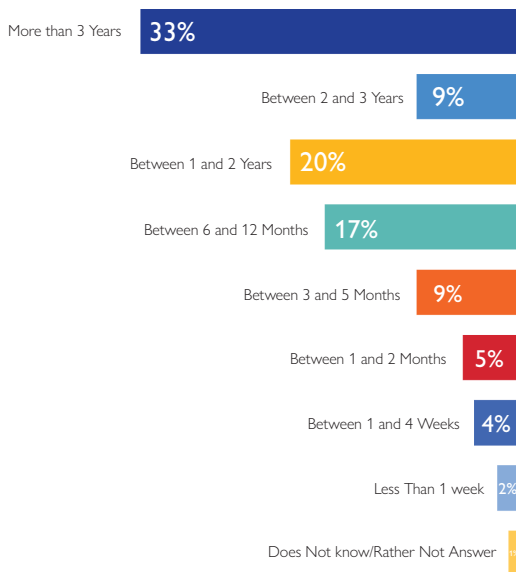
The data shows that the majority (62 per cent) of the respondents have spent more than a year in Guyana, while 37 per cent spent less than a year, and 1 per cent gave no answer.

VII. NEEDS

GRAPH N°22

Overall needs assessment of respondents

Very Dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied ■ Sometimes Satisfied ■ Frequently Satisfied ■ Satisfied ■ Very Satisfied
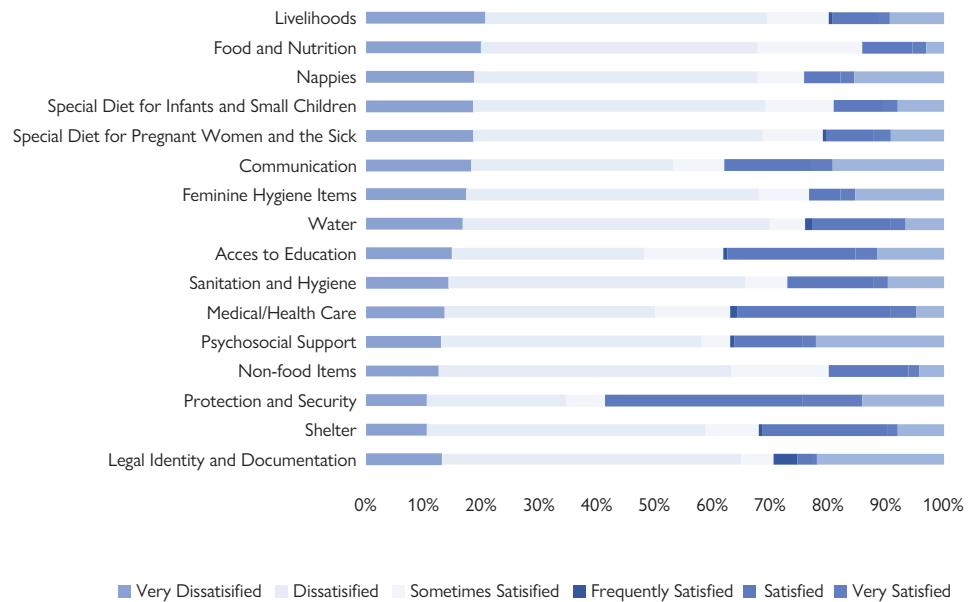
Respondents were asked to rate their needs from very dissatisfied to very satisfied. Table 4 below shows the needs and the percentage levels of dissatisfaction. The data shows respondents were very dissatisfied with their livelihood, followed by food, children's hygiene, nutrition for pregnant women and children, communication, WASH, health, and more.

TABLE 4

Percentage of respondents who were very dissatisfied with their present humanitarian situation

Sectors	Very Dissatisfied
Livelihoods	21%
Food and nutrition	20%
Nappies	19%
Special diet for pregnant women and the sick	19%
Special diet for Infants and small children	19%
Communication	18%
Feminine hygiene items	17%
Water	17%
Access to education	15%
Sanitation and hygiene	14%
Medical/health care	14%
Legal Identity and Documentation	13%
Psychosocial support	13%
Non-food items	13%
Shelter	10%
Protection and security	10%

21% Livelihoods

20% Food and Nutrition

Most Dissatisfied Sectors

19% Nappies and Special Diets

18% Communication
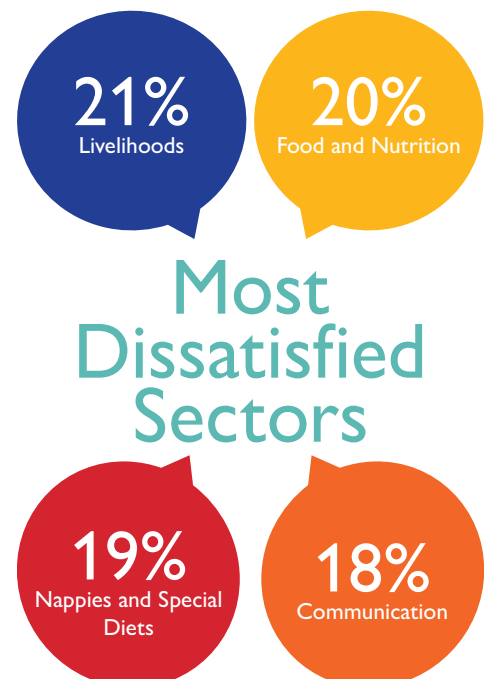
VIII. HUMANITARIAN SECTORS

Education

GRAPH N°23

Education level of Respondents

64% None

23% Primary

12% Secondary

1% Technical Institute
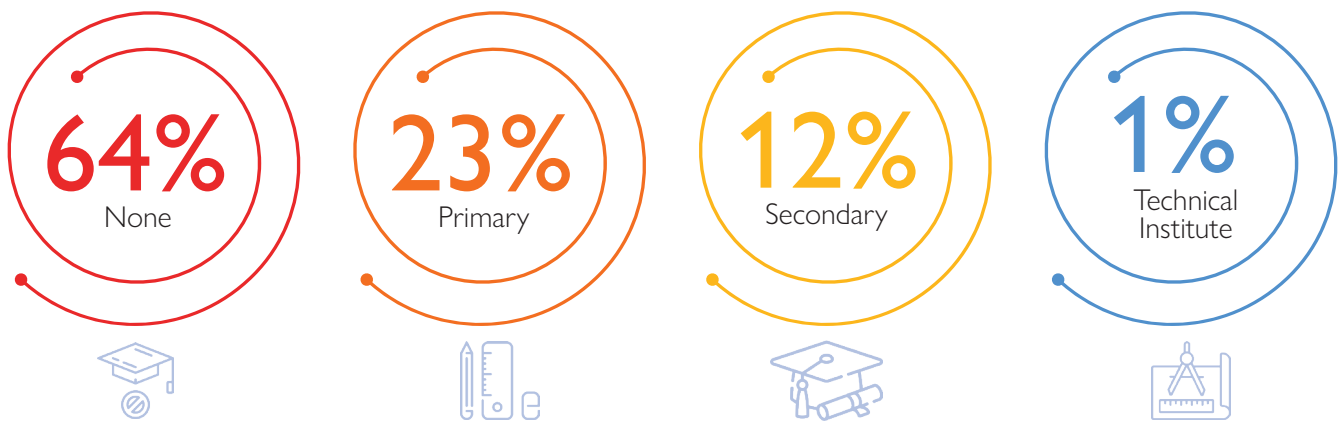
Graph 23 shows the educational levels of the respondents. A majority (64 per cent) stated they had no education, 23 per cent said they had primary level education, 12 per cent with secondary, and 1 per cent attended technical institutions.

GRAPH N°24

Children of respondents who attended formal classes

38% Yes

3% No Answer

59% No

Respondents were asked if the children who were a part of their household were attending classes at school (formal classes). Fifty-nine per cent responded no, 38 per cent said yes, and 3 per cent did not answer. Further analysis of why the children were not going to school is shown in Graph 25 below.
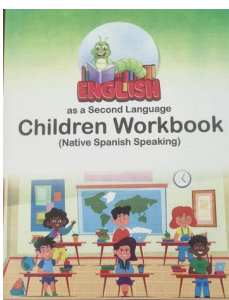
ESL book cover page

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has collaborated with several organizations to offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes nationwide in various communities.

The ESL classes, provided by the MoE in collaboration with UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF, address the language needs of children already enrolled in government schools.

They consist of after-school (extra) classes to strengthen their English language skills and knowledge. The image on the left shows an example of an ESL book used as a teaching aid to help children learn English.

Reasons stated for not attending school

Lack of Study Materials	School Transportation Cost	Lack of Teachers	Distance to School	Language Barrier	No Answer
1%	3%	4%	14%	19%	59%
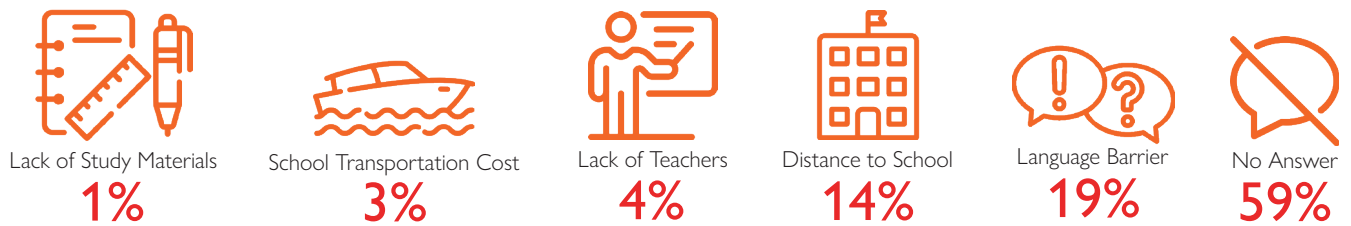
Most respondents (59 per cent) did not answer why their children were not attending school. The remaining 41 per cent stated that language barriers (19 per cent), distance to school (14 per cent), transportation cost (3 per cent) and lack of teachers and materials (5 per cent) are the main reasons why their children were not attending school. Further analysis into where they were not attending school is shown in Table 5.

Locations where the respondent's children were not attending school

Locations	Respondents' Children
Kaikan	1%
Canal Bank	1%
Yarakita	2%
Lethem	4%
Farm Corps	4%
Imbotero	6%
Charity	6%
Anabisi	6%
Blackwater	14%
Pomeroon Riverbank	17%
Total	59%

17% Pomeroon Riverbank
6% Anabisi
6% Imbotero
1% Canal Bank
6% Charity
14% Blackwater
4% Lethem
59% Children Not Attending School
4% Farm Corps
2% Yarakita
1% Kaikan
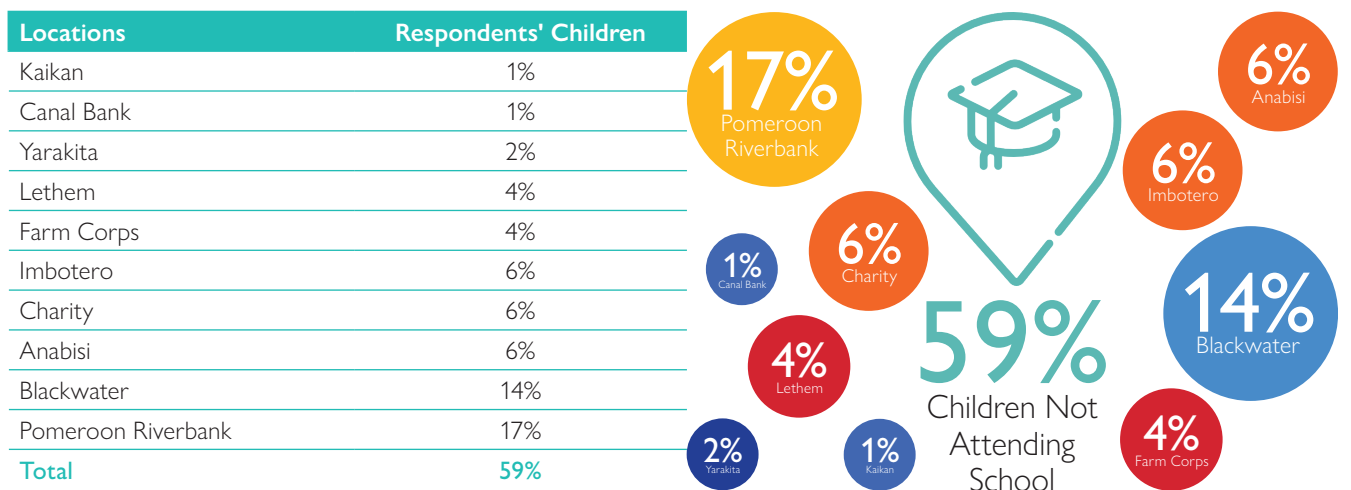
Children of Respondents who are attending informal classes

31% Yes
9% No Answer
60% No

In Graph 26, most respondents (60 per cent) per cent said that their children were not attending informal classes. Thirty-one per cent stated their children attended informal classes, while 9 per cent did not answer.

Food Security

Number of meals per day

17%
Once

53%
Twice

30%
Thrice
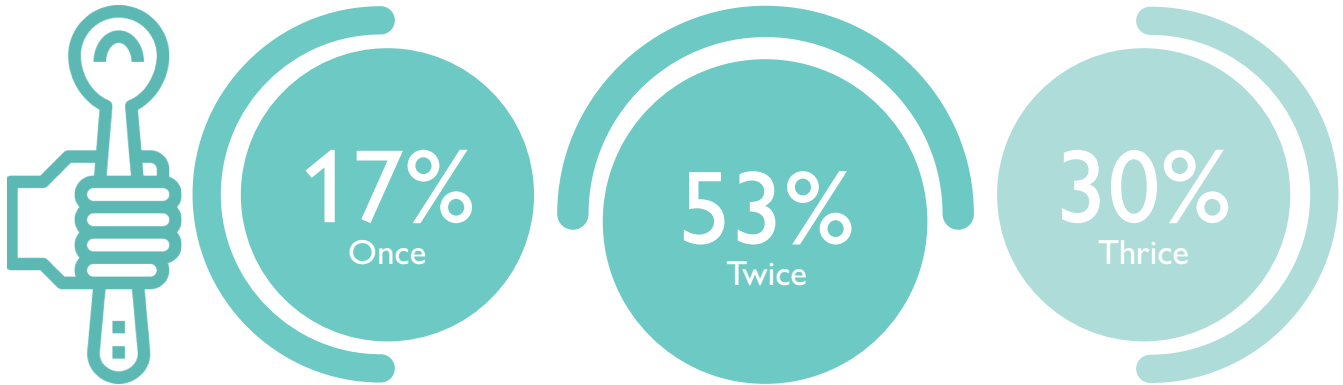
Graph 27 shows the number of meals available to the respondents per day. Fifty-three per cent said they consume food twice a day, 30 per cent said three times and 17 per cent said once daily.

Access to markets

79% No

21% Yes

In Graph 28, 79 per cent responded that they do not have access to markets, while 21 per cent said that they do. Further analysis into why respondents do not have access to markets is shown in Graph 29 below.

Barriers to market access

No Market Available **54%**

Distance to Market **27%**

Cost of Items at the Market **13%**

Transportation Cost to Market **6%**
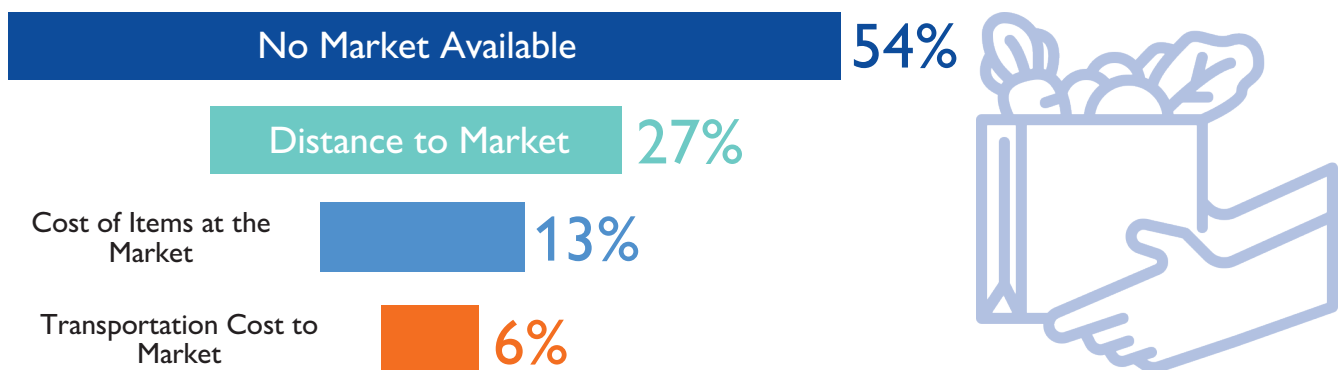
Fifty-four per cent stated there are no markets available, 33 per cent noted that the distance to the market and cost of transportation is why they do not go, and 13 per cent said the price of items is too high.

Nutrition

Household diet

94%	54%	41%	40%	27%	20%
Rice	Fish	Vegetables	Flour	Plantain	Fruits
19%	17%	14%	10%	5%	
Cassava	Corn	Meat	Milk	Eddo	

Respondents were asked about the diet of their household. The data shows that it is a high-energy diet, primarily carbohydrates based. Respondents and key informants also indicated that they consume a lot of cane sugar in liquid form. They explained that the high consumption of "sweets" is because of their heavy farming, which requires high-energy foods. However, key informants in Farm Corps indicated that the Waraos' staple is Dasheen.

The Turu seeds are grounded and made into tea. Respondents explained that it is very nutritional and, as such, it is consumed daily.
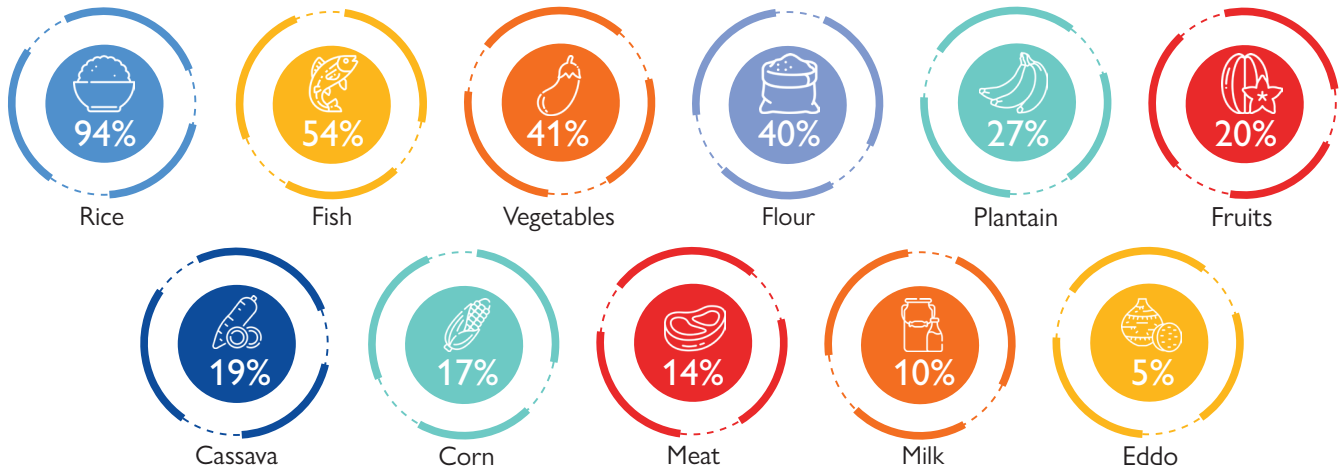

PHOTO: A hunting spear © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

PHOTO: A container of Turu seeds © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

The overall number of pregnant and lactating women in the households

19% Breastfeeding   **10%** Pregnant

Respondents were asked how many pregnant and lactating women were in their households. They indicated that 19 per cent of females were breastfeeding while 10 per cent were pregnant.

GRAPH N°32

Age breakdown of household members

Age	Male	Female
Infant	2%	2%
1-4 Yrs	11%	7%
5-9 Yrs	9%	10%
10-17 Yrs	10%	11%
18-59 Yrs	21%	15%
60 Yrs and Above	2%	1%

■ Male
■ Female
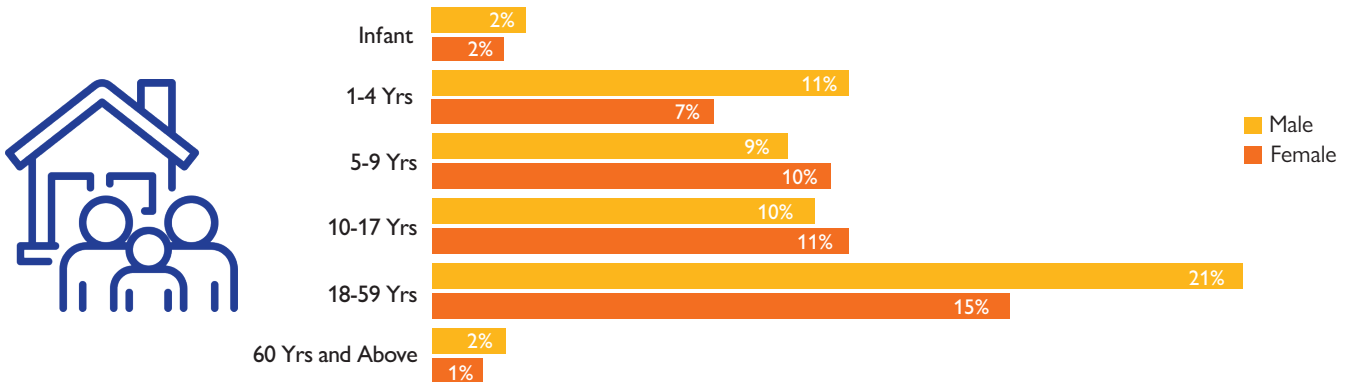
Graph 32 shows that 4 per cent of respondent households had infants, 36 per cent had small children between the ages of 1 to 9, 21 per cent had adolescents between ages 10 to 17, 36 per cent had adults between ages 18 to 59, and 3 per cent had seniors.

Health

Medical Health

GRAPH N°33

Access to health services

1% — 12% — 73% — 6% — 1% — 3% — 5%

■ Community Health Worker   ■ Alternative Medicine (Acupuncture, Spiritual, etc)   ■ Public Facility   ■ Other   ■ Private Pharmacy   ■ NGO   ■ I Do Not Seek Assistance
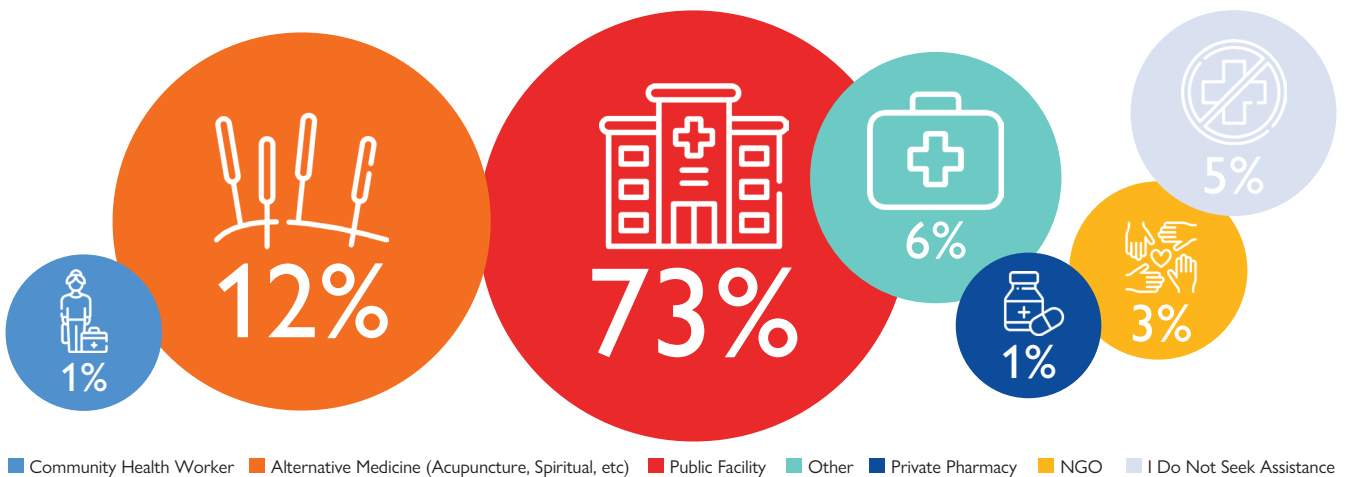
PHOTO: Suspended crab shells in a basket © IOM 2023/ Shivanand WILLIE

Most respondents (73 per cent) stated they would seek assistance at public facilities whenever they have a health situation. The Government of Guyana provides free health care and free medication to all migrants. The 5 per cent who responded that they do not seek assistance indicated that it was due to a lack of access to transportation to health facilities and language barriers. Some health facilities have Spanish-speaking Guyanese doctors (recipients of the Guyana-Cuba scholarship program) who can support them with language barriers. However, in the case of Indigenous languages, there are very limited options.

Spiritual medicine: some respondents had suspended crab shells in a basket in their houses, saying they believed the crab shells protected them from sickness.

GRAPH N°34

Various flu-like symptoms experienced by respondents

Fever or Chills
27%

Diarrhea
23%

Nausea or Vomiting
16%

Headache
14%

Cough
11%

Sore Throat
3%

Muscles or Body Aches
7%

Congestion or Runny Nose
4%

No Answer
1%
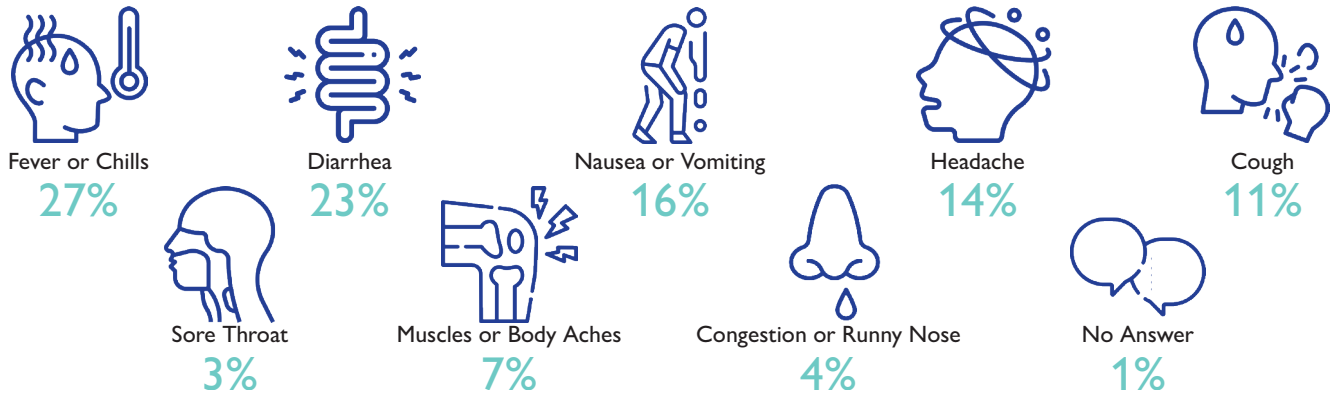
Respondents were asked if they had experienced any flu-like symptoms within the past 48 hours. Sixty-six per cent said no, while 44 per cent said yes. Of those who said yes, the graph above, Graph 34, shows the symptoms experienced.

GRAPH N°35

Respondents who had injuries, infectious and non-communicable diseases

5% ■ Injuries
2% ■ Infectious Diseases
1% ■ Non-communicable Diseases
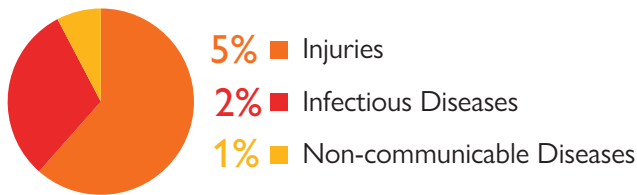
Respondents were also asked if they had any injuries or infectious and non-communicable diseases. Eight per cent indicated they do. The graph shows a breakdown. Four per cent indicated they required daily medication.

COVID-19 Vaccination

GRAPH N°36

Vaccination types that household members received

Respondents were asked if members of their household received COVID-19 vaccines. Eighteen per cent said yes.

Graph 36 shows the various types of vaccines received.

Astrazeneca **38%**

Pfizer **29%**

Sputnik V **23%**

Sinopharm **6%**

Johnson and Johnson **5%**
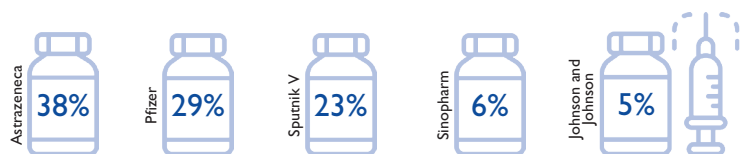
Maternal Health

GRAPH N°37

The various needs expressed by respondents with pregnant and lactating household members

5% Maternal Health

5% Child Health
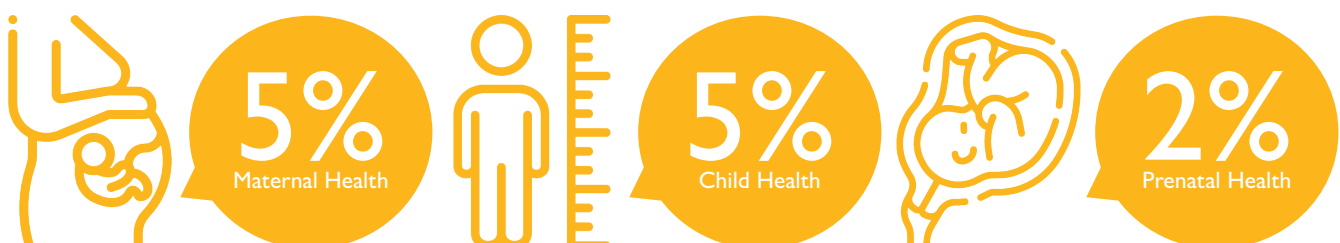
2% Prenatal Health

The female respondents were asked if they or anyone else in the household needed maternal health (e.g., breastfeeding counselling), Prenatal care (childbirth and postpartum care) and child health (growth and development). Five per cent indicated maternal and child health, respectively, while 2 per cent said prenatal care.

Reproductive and Sexual Health

Respondents were asked if they have access to reproductive and sexual health services, 64 per cent said they do not require, 27 per cent said they needed but did not have access, and 9 per cent said they had access.
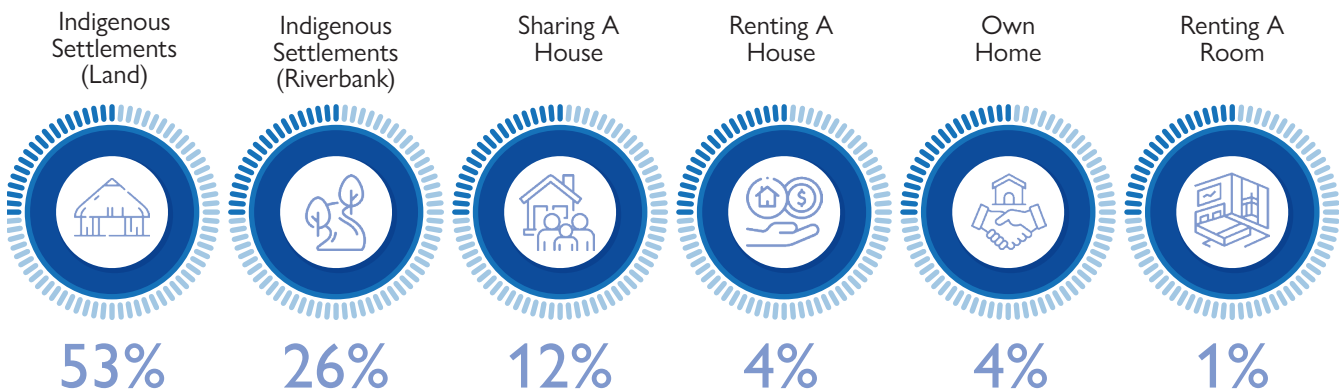
Mental Health

Respondents were asked about the presence of psychiatrists or psychologists, or both, in their communities who could treat persons with mental disorders. Eleven per cent said they did not know, while 89 per cent said no. Respondents were also asked if they knew of any services available in the community to treat anyone who does not feel psychologically well. Ten per cent said they are unaware of any such service, while 90 per cent said no service is available.

Shelter

GRAPH N°38

The housing situation of respondents

Indigenous Settlements (Land)	Indigenous Settlements (Riverbank)	Sharing A House	Renting A House	Own Home	Renting A Room
53%	26%	12%	4%	4%	1%

The data in Graph 38 shows that most of the respondents (79 per cent) reside in Indigenous settlements, 53 per cent on land, and 26 per cent are alongside the rivers. It is important to note that these houses were built by Indigenous families using raw materials from the Amazon rainforest. The images below depict these settlements.

Respondents were also asked if they lived with people, not from their family nucleus. Seventy per cent said no, while 30 per cent said yes. The 30 per cent that said yes mentioned that even though they are not immediate family, they are known community members.
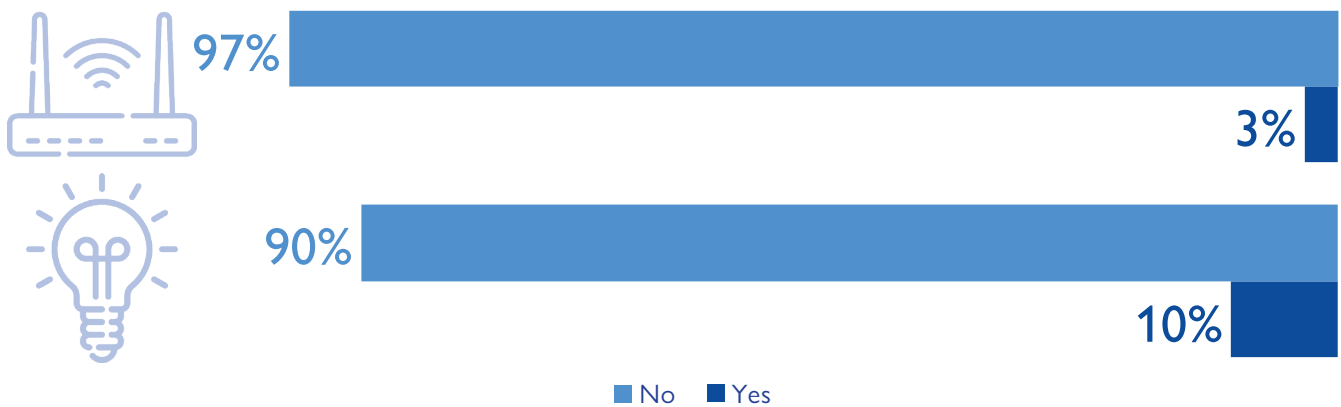

PHOTO: Indigenous settlements along the Anabisi River © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

PHOTO: Indigenous settlements on land © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

GRAPH N°39

Access to electricity and internet

97%

3%

90%

10%

■ No   ■ Yes

Respondents indicated that electricity and Internet access is extremely limited. Ten per cent indicated having access to electricity, while 3 per cent had internet access.

GRAPH N°40

Shelter issues of respondents

51% No Problems Currently

23% Problems With Public Services

10% No Way to Keep Your Home Clean

6% Overcrowding

2% Eviction

1% Unsafe Structure

1% Lack of Ability to Pay

1% Issues With the Landlord

* Flooding/rising water and security issues were not selected by respondents.

The data in Graph 40 shows that 51 per cent of respondents stated that they have no issues, and 23 per cent responded that they have problems with public services. The respondents' locations are very remote, and therefore, many services (access to education, health, and legal) may not be available. Ten per cent said they could not keep their home clean due to limited sanitation supplies, and 6 per cent mentioned overcrowding is an issue.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to drinking water

19%
Yes

81%
No

As seen in Graph 41, a majority (81 per cent) of respondents stated they have no drinking water access. These respondents rely on rivers and creeks for daily usage of water and sanitation. Graph 42 below shows the breakdown by location.

Access to drinking water disaggregated by FMP

Pomeroon River Bank		Yarakita		Lethem		Kaikan		Imbotero
3% Yes	**14%** No	**3%** Yes	**12%** No	**4%** Yes	**4%** No	**1%** Yes	**2%** No	**6%** No

Farmcorps		Charity		Canal Bank	Blackwater		Anabisi
2% Yes	**6%** No	**4%** Yes	**2%** No	**5%** No	**1%** Yes	**23%** No	**7%** No

Graph 42 shows only two locations or FMPs where the "yes" equals or exceeds the "no" responses. These locations are Charity and Lethem.
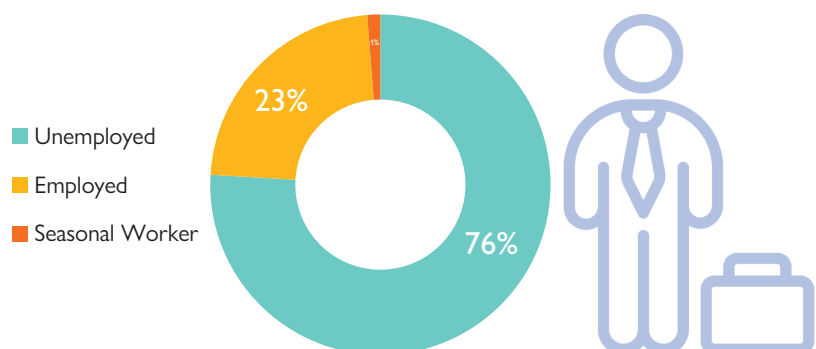
Integration

Economic Profile
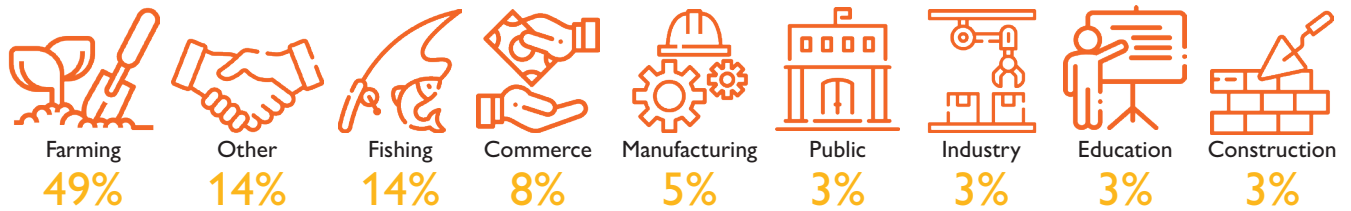
Employment status of respondents

Graph 43 shows that 76 per cent of respondents were unemployed, 23 per cent stated they were employed full-time, and 1 per cent did seasonal work.

Further analysis into unemployment status disaggregated by sex showed that 48 per cent were females and 28 per cent were males.

- Unemployed
- Employed
- Seasonal Worker

23%

1%

76%

GRAPH N°44

Areas of employment

Farming	Other	Fishing	Commerce	Manufacturing	Public	Industry	Education	Construction
49%	14%	14%	8%	5%	3%	3%	3%	3%

The data in Graph 44 shows that agriculture was the main area of employment amongst respondents, with 49 per cent involved in farming and 14 per cent in fishing. Farming included mainly cassava and coconuts; cassava farming is done throughout the areas mentioned in Graph 10, while coconut farming is primarily in the Pomeroon River area. Other areas of employment refer to a series of informal jobs.

GRAPH N°45

Informal vs formal employment

14% Formal Sector

Informal Sector **84%**

3% Rather Not Say
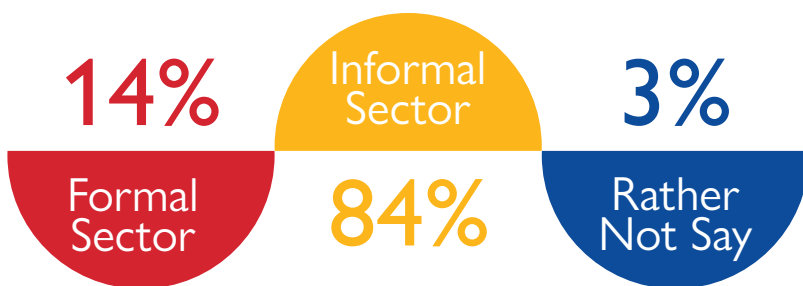
Most respondents (84 per cent) mentioned that they worked in the informal sector, while 14 per cent said they worked in the formal sector, and 3 per cent did not answer.

GRAPH N°46

Respondents who experienced payment issues

Respondents were asked if they were paid fairly for their work. Graph 46 shows that 68 per cent said yes, 19 per cent said no, and 14 per cent did not answer. Of the 19 per cent that said no, 11 per cent indicated that they were paid less than agreed upon, and 8 per cent said they worked and did not receive any payment, creating difficulties in sustaining their families.
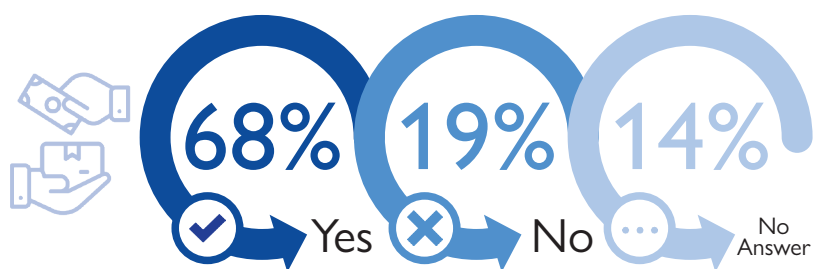
68% Yes **19%** No **14%** No Answer

TABLE 6

Respondents sending and receiving resources

Respondents	Sending	Receiving
No	95%	93%
Yes	3%	3%
No Answer	2%	4%

In Table 6, 3 per cent of respondents said they send resources to their families in Venezuela whenever possible. These resources included food, NFI and money. Money was sent through informal channels (sent via known associates). Three per cent also said they had received resources from their families in Venezuela and other parts of Guyana now and then.

GRAPH N°47

Special skills of respondents

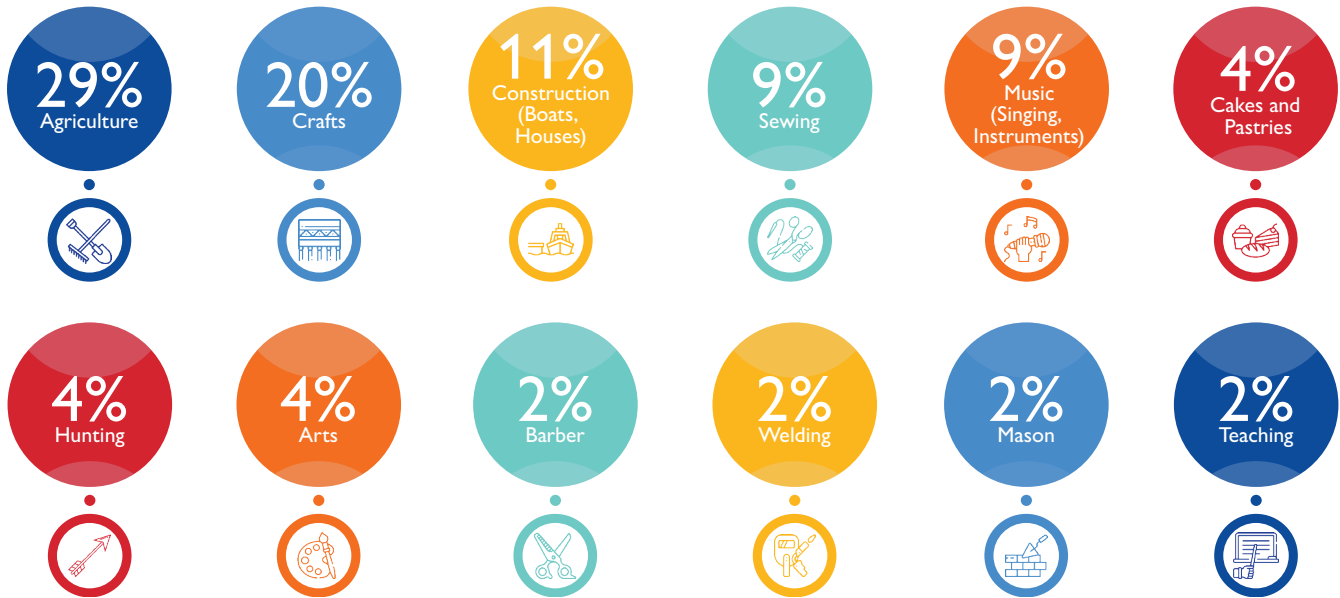|					
29% Agriculture	**20%** Crafts	**11%** Construction (Boats, Houses)	**9%** Sewing	**9%** Music (Singing, Instruments)	**4%** Cakes and Pastries
4% Hunting	**4%** Arts	**2%** Barber	**2%** Welding	**2%** Mason	**2%** Teaching

PHOTO: A placeholder © IOM 2023/ Shivanand WILLIE

Twenty-nine per cent of respondents indicated they possess special skills in agriculture. One example is building and repairing fishing nets, as shown in the image below. Twenty per cent said that crafts are an important skill set as they form part of their livelihoods and are one of the leading commercial activities (see Commerce in Graph 44). Crafts include ornaments, baskets (matapee), hammocks (chinchorro), hats, and the like. The image on the left shows an example of such a craft.

Eleven per cent can build their own boats (see a canoe on page 36) made from tree trunks and houses made of trees, as shown in the images on pages 31 and 32 Nine per cent said they can sew but need sewing kits and machines. Nine per cent also indicated having music skills. Also below is an image showing a respondent with a guitar. Four per cent each said they have skills in hunting, cake and pastry making and arts. Two per cent said barber, welding, mason, and teaching, respectively.

PHOTO: A fishing net being repaired © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

PHOTO: Respondent playing the guitar © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

PHOTO: A paddle used to row boats © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

PHOTO: An Indigenous boat (canoe) on the righ. © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

Communication

GRAPH N°48

Access to communication channels

17% Yes

81% No

1% No Answer

PHOTO: Portable solar charging device © IOM 2023/Shivanand WILLIE

Respondents were asked if they had access to communication channels, 81 per cent said they did not, 17 per cent said yes, and one per cent did not answer.

Of the 17 per cent that said yes, they explained that they have access to radio, TV, cell phones and social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook.

The image on the left shows a portable solar charging device that can play music and listen to the radio.

GRAPH N°49

Access to migrant support networks

64% No
33% Yes
3% No Answer
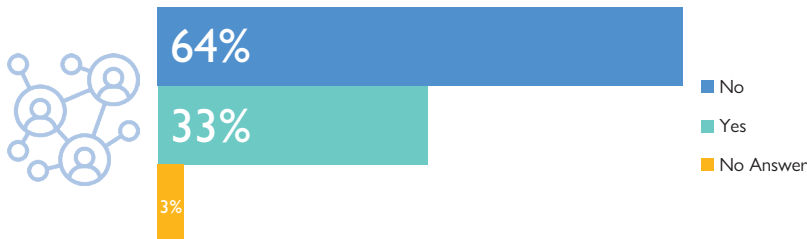
When asked if they would be interested in being a part of migrant support networks such as humanitarian NGOs and so forth, 33 per cent of respondents indicated that they would like to be a part of such networks, 64 per cent said no, and 3 per cent gave no answer.

## Protection

GRAPH N°50

Respondents feeling safe in their community

The data in Graph 50 shows that 86 per cent of respondents said they felt safe in their communities, 10 per cent said they did not, and four per cent gave no answer. Respondents were asked if they knew where to go if they had security concerns, and 38 per cent said they were aware of the police station, NGOs, and village leaders.

86% Yes
10% No
4% No Answer

POLICE
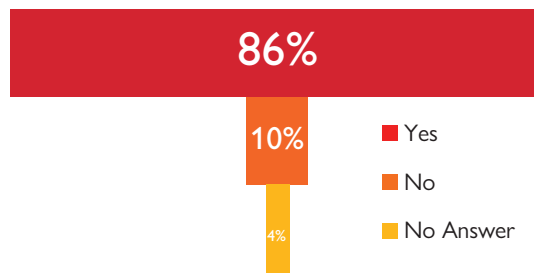
GRAPH N°51

Respondents who experienced discrimination

85% No
7% Yes
7% Do Not Know
1% No Answer
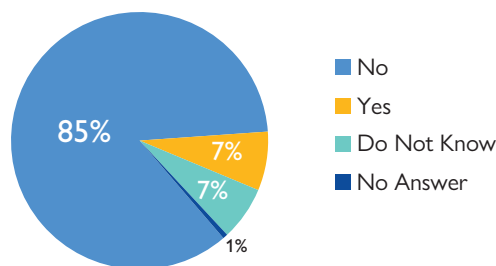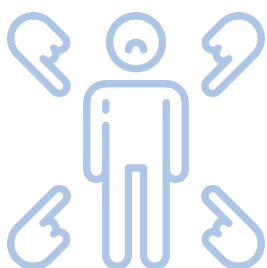
The data shows that 85 per cent of respondents said they did not experience discrimination, whilst 7 per cent indicated that they did. Another 7 per cent said they did not know, and 1 per cent gave no answer. The respondents explained that their nationality was the main reason for discrimination.

GRAPH N°52

Documentation status of respondents

75% National ID Card
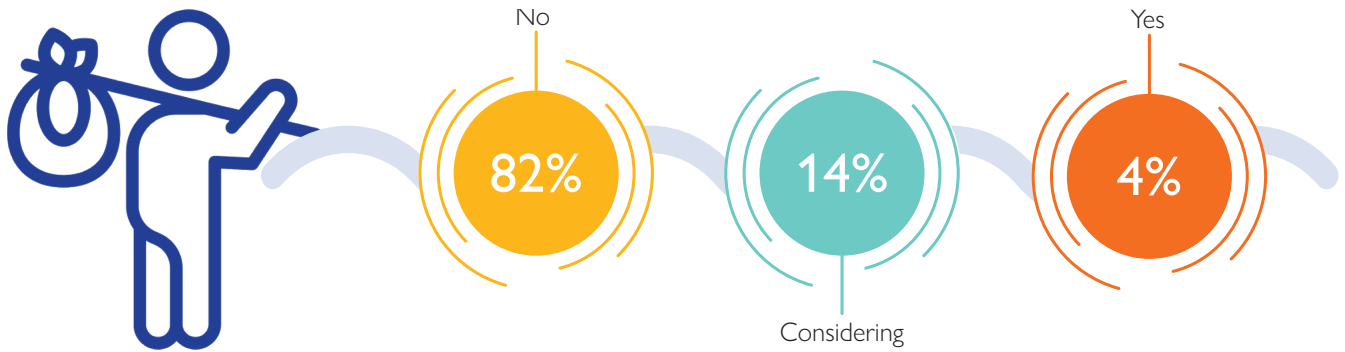19% None
5% Birth Certificate
1% Rather Not Say

Graph 52 shows that 75 per cent of respondents had their Venezuelan identification card called "cédula", 19 per cent said they had no documents, 5 per cent said they had their Venezuelan birth certificate, and 1 per cent did not answer.

IX. RETURNS

Respondents considering returning home

No
82%

Considering
14%

Yes
4%

Given their present situation in Guyana, respondents were asked if they considered returning home; 82 per cent said no, 14 per cent said they were considering it, and 4 per cent said yes.

Of the respondents that said yes, 2 per cent indicated that they would return when the Venezuela crisis is over, while the remaining 2 per cent said they would return to Venezuela in a few months.

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