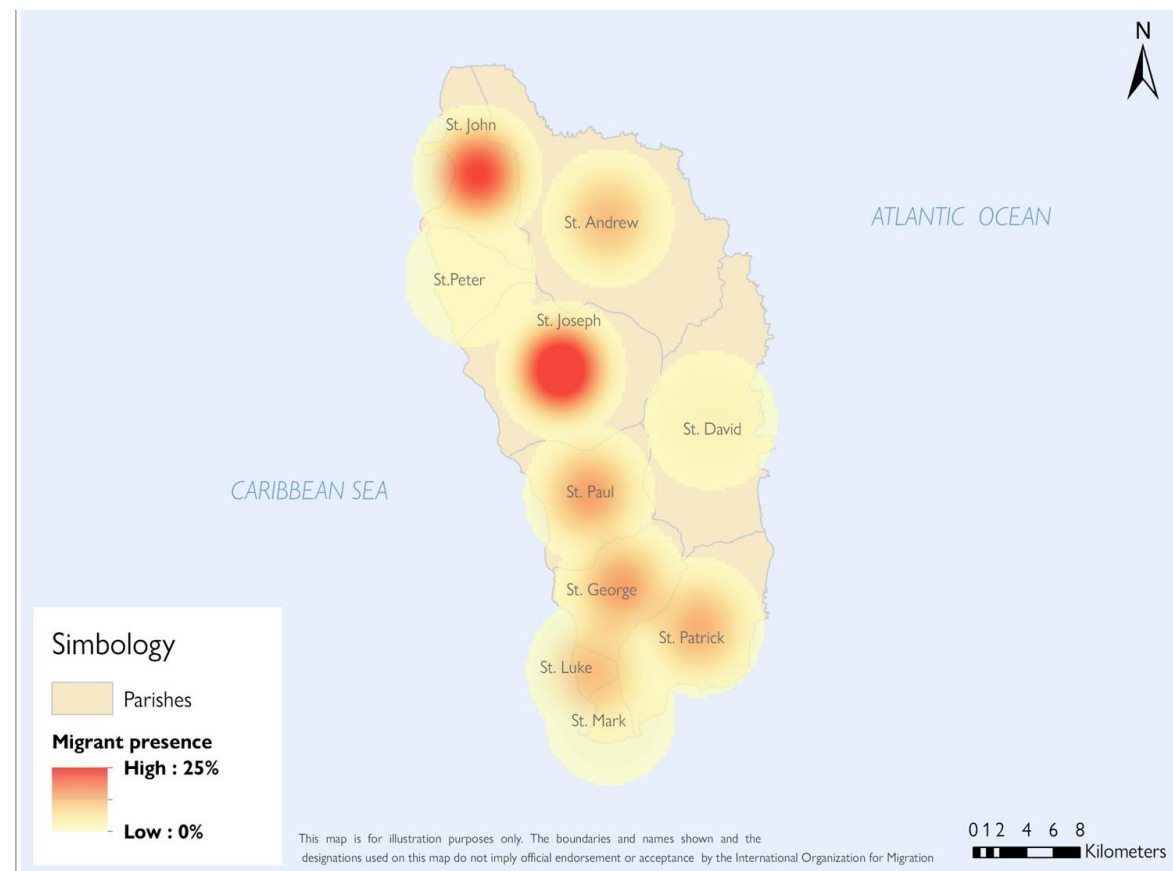## Introduction

Dominica's location in the Caribbean has made it particularly susceptible to natural hazards and disasters such as hurricanes. There is a substantial need for up-to-date data on population size and the distribution of citizens and migrants in the country, to inform disaster risk reduction and preparedness. The latest government population census was conducted in 2011, and with the 2022 census still ongoing, more recent information on the characteristics of the migrant population is required to prepare the population for natural hazards and disasters.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It plays an essential role in providing primary data and information on displacement, at the national and global levels.

To better understand the distribution of the migrant population within the country, IOM conducted a Rapid Baseline Assessment (RBA), between 30 August - 2 September 2022. The exercise consisted of a series of key informant (KI) interviews in the 10 parishes of the Commonwealth of Dominica to obtain information on migrant presence and their main characteristics. Among the interviewed KIs were government officials, community leaders and community members from their respective parishes. This information was then utilized to build the methodology and sampling frame for a DTM national survey on migrant sociodemographic characteristics, their main needs and intentions.

Figure 1 showcases a heat map of the density of migrants' presence by parish according to RBA interviews to KIs. Parishes with the highest reported estimates of migrants are Saint Joseph and Saint John. These parishes rely on productive farming and tourism as main economic activities. Additionally, it shows that Saint David Parish has the lowest estimates of migrant presence, however, this is due to a lack of available information on the area.

Figure 1. Heat Map of migrants living in Dominica based on estimates from KIs

Simbology

Parishes

Migrant presence
High : 25%

Low : 0%

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration

Methodological Approach

Between 30 August and 2 September 2022, IOM collected information from KIs in 31 different villages from all 10 Parishes of Dominica.

A questionnaire was given to all the interviewed KIs in order to collect data on migrant presence. Some KIs from government offices had access to local records of arrivals, in smaller villages key informants were able to estimate based on numbers of new faces observed in the community.

Limitations

○ Information is not available for all questions in all surveyed Parishes.
○ The analysis is based on the perceptions of key informants.

Next Steps

This exploratory exercise indicates the need to conduct detailed follow-up assessments to verify and supplement the indicative findings of this first exercise. Future assessments may result in significant changes to the findings presented in this report due to expanded geographical coverage, a larger pool of KIs, and changes in populations over time.

The information summarized in this report will be used to update the design of an individual level survey to be conducted in November 2022, aiming to provide accurate data on numbers, locations, and socioeconomic profiles of migrants in Dominica.

Main Findings

Demographics of Migrants in Dominica

During the interviews KIs identified the presence of migrants from several countries including Haiti, Saint Lucia, and Nigeria, as well as a plethora of European countries (including, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and others). Spanish speaking migrants, assumed to be from the Dominican Republic and Cuba, were also noted.

Some migrants, particularly Haitian migrants, are known to travel to Roseau for work and business – especially in the Roseau Market where they sell vegetables and other agricultural products. The largest migrant group identified by all KIs are from Haiti. Within this population, informants believe there is a significant number of families with children given their high enrolment in educational institutions.

Reported Availability of Services

Out of all the KIs who answered the question, all of them believed that migrants and their children living in the community have access to school and health services.

Education

Have access ▬▬▬▬ 58%
Did not answer ▬▬ 42%

Health

Have access ▬▬▬▬▬ 65%
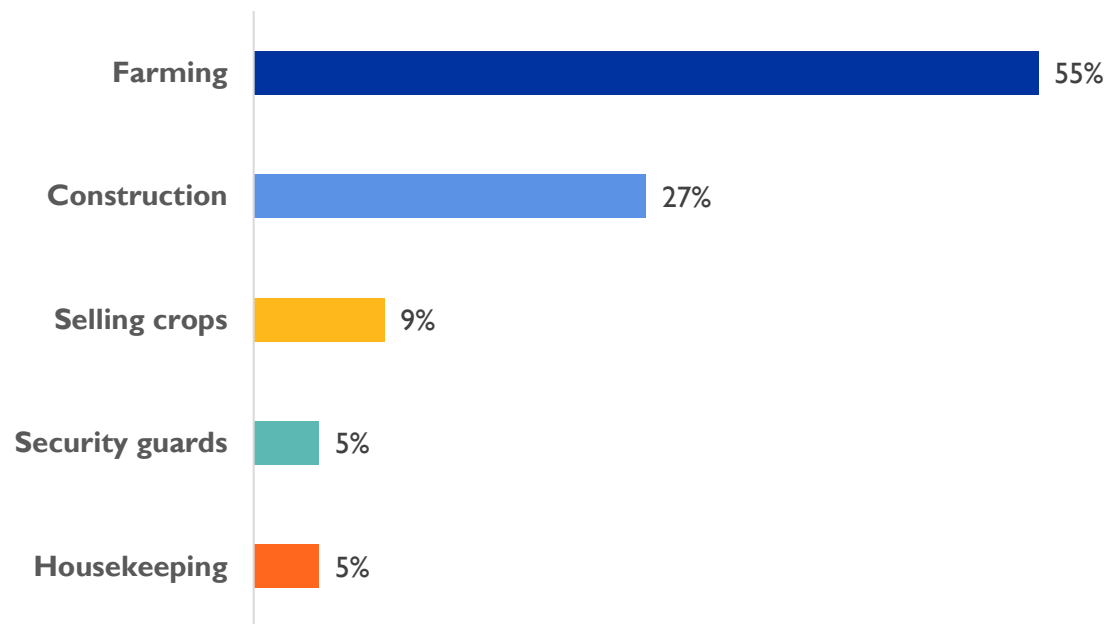Did not answer ▬ 35%

Benefits of Integration

Nearly 100 per cent of all KIs mentioned that they believe migrants are well integrated into the community and that they have positive relationships with the locals. Among the various benefits mentioned, KIs indicated that migrants are willing to work, and their presence benefits the community economically. KIs also reported that migrants farm and sell products which bring food diversity to local households.
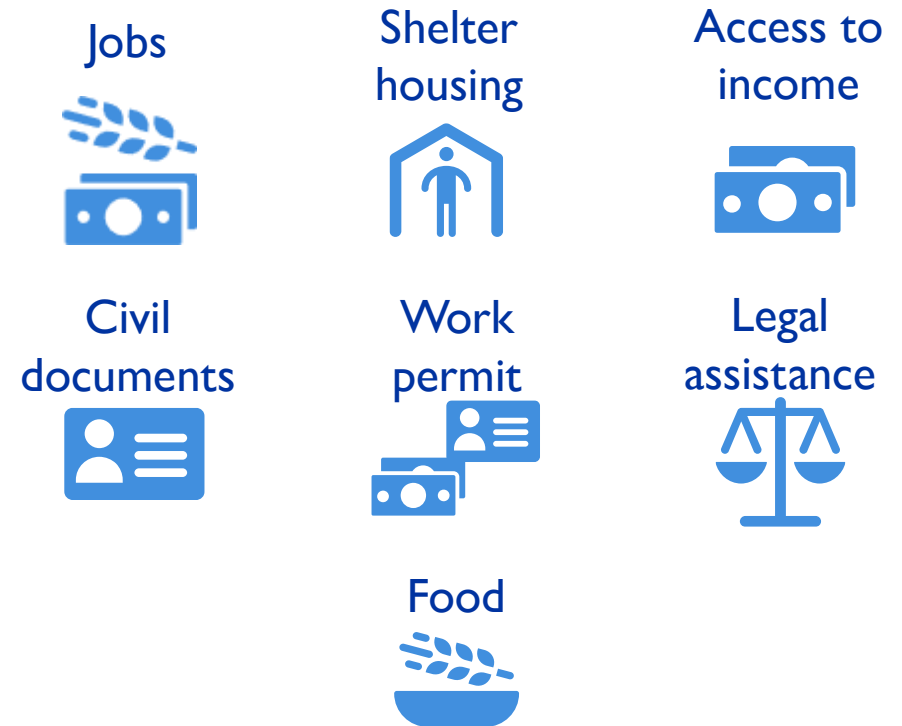
Main Findings

Livelihoods

Figure 2. Percentage of KIs that mentioned migrants' labor activities

Activity	Percentage
Farming	55%
Construction	27%
Selling crops	9%
Security guards	5%
Housekeeping	5%

More than 50 per cent of the 22 KIs that answered the question regarding the main labor activity of migrants in Dominica, think that migrants work as farmers, 27 per cent perceive that they work in construction, followed by selling crops in the market (9%), as security guards (5%) and in house-keeping (5%).

Main Needs of Migrants According to KIs

Jobs

Shelter housing

Access to income

Civil documents

Work permit

Legal assistance

Food

Thirty-four per cent of the KIs mentioned jobs and shelter/housing as the two top needs of migrants. This was followed by access to income (11%), civil documents (11%), work permit (3%), legal assistance (3%) and food (3%).