Mixed Movements
Overview of key figures and trends

- **+87 k**
  People entered Panama through the Darien province in the first quarter of 2023.

- **35% VENEZUELAN**
  **27% HAITIAN**
  **16% ECUADORIAN**
  **4% CHINESE**
  Main nationalities in 2023 in the Darien.

- **225 k**
  Expulsions from the United States under Title 42 in the first quarter of 2023.

- **38 k**
  Individuals crossed the Darien during March 2023, mainly Venezuelan and Haitian nationals.

- **+47 k**
  Individuals have applied for asylum in Central America and Mexico in the first quarter of 2023.

Record number of persons engaged in mixed and onward movements continue to be reported arriving in the Darien, where more than 87,390 arrivals have been registered during the first quarter of 2023. The number of irregular arrivals reported in the Darien up to 31 March 2023, represents a 634% increase if compared to the numbers recorded during the same period in 2022. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti and Ecuador remain the main nationalities crossing the Darien province.

Other border areas in Central America continue to experience significant mixed movements, mainly engaging people travelling northbound. Increasing movements are reported transiting through Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala where reception capacities, including temporary shelter, transportation and protection services, etc., are operating at significant strain. In Mexico, more than 37,000 new asylum claims have been registered in 2023, representing a 29% increase if compared with the numbers for the same period of 2022. Haiti, Honduras, Cuba, and Venezuela remain the top nationalities of persons seeking asylum in Mexico.

Land border encounters reported at the U.S. Southwest border reached a record number in calendar year 2022 with 2,577,699 encounters. In January and February 2023, a significant decrease of border encounters was reported at the Southwest border. Encounters dropped from 252,002 encounters reported in December 2022 to 156,787 and 156,138 in January and February 2023 respectively. Changes in the trend of arrivals reported at the U.S. land border respond in part to the impact of the U.S. announcements on new migration processes for nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela in the dynamics of mixed movements in the region.

Sources: SENA FRONT: Panama, UNHCR, 2023.
Mixed Movements
Overview of key figures and trends

As record number of arrivals continue to be reported in the Darien, changes are observed in the profile of those engaged in mixed movements during the first quarter of 2023. The arrivals of nationals from Venezuela in Darien experienced a new increase in 2023, repositioning Venezuela as the main nationality with 35% of all recorded arrivals (main nationality of arrivals reported in February and March 2023).

Despite the U.S. implementation of the migration process for Venezuelans announced in October 2022 (expansion of returns under Title 42 and implementation of humanitarian parole programme), misinformation around changes to the U.S. border regulations and the lifting of Title 42, and the implementation of CBP One, a mobile device application used as a primary method for asylum-seekers and migrants arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border to preschedule appointments for processing, have in part led to a rise in the number of Venezuelan nationals involved in mixed movements toward the U.S. Southwest border at the beginning of 2023.

On 5 January, 2023, the U.S. announced more policy changes related to asylum-seekers and migrants arriving at the U.S. Southwest border, including expanding the application of Title 42 and the establishment of a parole programme for three new nationalities: Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans. The new measures create the framework for the return of nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela back to Mexico under Title 42 if they cross the border irregularly, and the expansion of parole entry programmes for these nationalities, capped at 30,000 entrants per month.

The U.S. has confirmed that the implementation of Title 42 will terminate on 11 May 2023. As the region approaches the date set for the termination of Title 42, new changes to the U.S. migration and border regulations are being discussed. Increasing movements across Central America and Mexico could be expected in the upcoming weeks adding significant strain on already overwhelmed reception capacities at key border crossings and other locations (shelter, transportation, protection services, etc.).

Needs continue to be reported in many countries along the mixed-movement route in Central America and Mexico regarding the reinforcement of reception capacities at key border and reception locations in the areas of shelter, food, medicines/health care, information, mental health and psychosocial support, legal counselling, and protection services for cases at heightened vulnerability. Advocacy towards the implementation of legal stay arrangements also remains a priority.
Missing migrants in the Americas

- Since IOM began monitoring deaths and disappearances of migrants and people on the move, between 2014 until March 2023, 7,706 cases have been recorded in the region. Actual figures may be a lot higher as not all deaths are recorded (MMP, 2023).

- During the first quarter of 2023, 352 cases were registered in the Americas. The break-down by sub-region is: Caribbean: 122; Central America: 122; South America: 53 and North America: 55 (Idem).

Mixed Movements  Colombia

Necoclí is a small town located in the department of Antioquia, on the Caribbean coast of Colombia. Since 2021 it has received thousands of people who embark there for the shores of Panama, later undertaking a journey on foot through the jungle in the Darien Province.

The following line chart shows the daily passenger flows of individuals from all nationalities departing from Necoclí to Panama, where a doubling is recorded between the first week of January and the last week of March.

**Weekly flows of all nationalities recorded by maritime companies in Necoclí 2023**

1 January 2023 – 31 March 2023

Source: GIFMM-R4V 2023

- **125 k** Venezuelans entered Colombia in the first quarter of 2023 via official border points, according to official data.

- **124 k** Venezuelans exited Colombia in the first quarter of 2023 via official border points, according to official data.

- **10%** Increase in Venezuelan exits in the first quarter of 2023, compared to the same period in 2022.

- **38,652** Exits registered by the Colombian Government in March 2023.
Mixed Movements  Colombia

Destination countries for Venezuelan refugees and migrants - February 2022 and February 2023

Data collected from 9,700 Venezuelans nationals interviewed by IOM in 17 shelters in Colombian territory in February 2023 compared to DTM data collected in February 2022.

In February 2023, forty-six percent of individuals indicated that their final destination country was Colombia, showing a seven per cent decrease compared to February 2022.

From 11 per cent in February 2022 to 17 per cent in February 2023. This trend has been constant since January 2022, nevertheless this destination does not imply re-settling back in Venezuela, but the destination of the travel.

No significant differences are observed in the participation of other destination countries, with the countries showing the greatest variation being where the survey was conducted and the country of origin.
Mixed Movements  Panama – Darien

87,390

People entered irregularly through the Darien in 2023.

× 6 times

more irregular entries in the Darien in the first quarter of 2023, compared to the same period of 2022.

38,099

Irregular entries in the Darien Province were registered during March 2023.

66% Men

March 2023

34% Women

March 2023

Based on a DTM conducted in the Darien Province between 13 December 2022 and 13 January 2023, to 207 interviewees, 7 of 10 mentioned the lack of means as a factor for migrating. Also, 76% answered the raise of market prices as a driver (DTM, 2023).
Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

312
Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between January and March 2023. entering Panama from Colombia in the Darien province (Migration Reception Centers Lajas Blancas and San Vicente).

- Men: 75%
- Women: 25%
- Average age: 32
- Different nationalities interviewed: 25
- Reported to have experienced protection incidents during their journey through the jungle: 27%

Countries of origin:
- Venezuela: 36%
- Haiti: 13%
- Ecuador: 13%
- Colombia: 4%
- Other countries: 8%

Countries of intended destination:
- United States: 77%
- Canada: 8%
- Mexico: 8%
- Don’t know: 4%
- Other countries: 3%

Main reasons to leave country of origin:
- Lack of employment: 86%
- Fear due to situation of violence and insecurity: 44%
- Lack of access to food: 34%
- Threats, intimidation or violence: 20%
- Lack of access to medical services or medicines: 12%

Main needs and to continue the journey:
- Cash: 69%
- Food for the family: 21%
- Medicines, health care: 21%
- Legal assistance: 18%
- Other: 23%

Main protection incidents in the Darien:
- Theft: 61
- Physical threat or intimidation: 36
- Scam or fraud: 35
- Physical assault/abuse: 3
- Destruction of property: 3

90% of people on movement have food security issues. 50% have regularly skipped meals and 37% spent whole days without eating.

Mixed Movements  Costa Rica

**163**
Individuals interviewed in shelters by OIM, between Dec 15th 2022 and March 31st 2023.

VENEZUELAN  
CUBAN  
ECUADORIAN  
HAITIAN  
COLOMBIAN
Main nationalities interviewed in shelters.

**53%**
Women

**47%**
Men

Source: Interactive data dashboard on migrants moving through the Americas in Costa Rica

During January the number of people moving through the monitoring point of Los Planes increased. These flows were composed mainly by Venezuelan nationals according to the latest available figures from DTM (DTM, 2023b).

Recorded departures of migrants from Panama to Costa Rica

Source: Migration Reception Station at Los Planes of Guacala, Chiriquí, Panamá, 2022-2023 (Jan).
Mixed Movements Costa Rica

511
Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between January and March 2023. Interviews took place in Ciudad Neily, Paso Canoas and Los Chiles.

65%
Men

35%
Women

29
Average age

35%
Reported to have experienced protection incidents in other countries along the route.

55%
Reported that the fear of generalized violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin. 92% cited lack of employment or low income.

Countries of origin
- Venezuela: 14%
- Haiti: 8%
- Ecuador: 9%
- Colombia: 6%
- Other countries: 64%

Countries of intended destination
- United States: 4%
- Mexico: 4%
- Canada: 9%
- Other countries: 93%

Main reasons to leave the country of origin
(More than one option could be selected)
- Lack of employment/low income: 90%
- Lack of access to food: 67%
- Fear due to the general situation of violence/insecurity: 55%
- Lack of access to education: 37%
- Lack of access to medical services or medicine: 21%

Main needs now and to continue the journey
(More than one option could be selected)
- Cash: 97%
- Food for the family: 80%
- Housing and accommodation: 50%
- Internet and telephone access: 28%
- Medicines, healthcare: 14%

Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Costa Rica (238 people who suffered protection incidents)
- Theft: 139
- Scam or fraud: 52
- Physical assault or abuse: 31
- Physical threat or intimidation: 29
- Bribery from officials: 28

Food security
- 4 out of 5 people have food security issues. 27% have regularly skipped meals and 56% spent whole days without eating.
- 58% Consumed one meal only (48%) or none (10%) the day before the interview.

Mixed Movements Guatemala

1,501 Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between January and March 2023

Interviews were conducted in several provinces and border points including Petén, Chiquimula, Izabal, San Marcos, as well as the capital Guatemala City.

Countries of origin
- Honduras: 22%
- Venezuela: 7%
- Ecuador: 7%
- Haiti: 11%
- Other countries: 53%

Countries of intended destination
- United States: 94%
- Mexico: 3%
- Other countries: 3%

Main reasons to leave the country of origin
- Lack of employment or income: 86%
- Fear due to violence/insecurity: 44%
- Lack of access to food: 34%
- Threats, intimidation, or violence: 20%
- Lack of access to medical services or medicines: 12%

Main needs now and to continue the journey
- Cash: 86%
- Food for the family: 37%
- Housing and accommodation: 20%
- Drinking water: 14%
- Medicines and health care: 10%

Main protection incidents in Guatemala
- Theft: 477
- Bribery from officials: 89
- Scam or fraud: 38
- Threat of eviction: 12
- Physical or sexual abuse: 7

Mixed Movements
Refugees and Migrants presence in Mexico (presentations and referrals)

Refugees and migrants presented and referred to Mexican Immigration authorities 2022-2023

Totals by demographic groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Presentations</th>
<th>Referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>78% (34,923)</td>
<td>19% (4,937)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>22% (10,092)</td>
<td>28% (7,068)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minors</td>
<td>53% (1,350)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main countries of origin:
- Ecuador: 23%
- Venezuela: 15%
- Honduras: 15%
- Guatemala: 10%
- Haiti: 6%
- Cuba: 4.8%
- Nicaragua: 4.4%
- El Salvador: 4.4%


Increase of presentations and referrals of refugees and migrants by February 2023 in Mexico compared with the total events of migrants with irregular situation in the same period in 2022.

23% ECUADOR
22% VENEZUELA
15% HONDURAS
15% GUATEMALA
10% HAITI

Main countries of origin
Asylum trends in Mexico

37,606
Asylum applications were lodged in Mexico from January to March 2023, an increase of 29% compared to the same period in 2022 (COMAR, 2023).

12k
Asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023.

75%
of asylum-seekers interviewed by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023, have specific protection needs.

Top 10 Asylum applications in Mexico by country of origin
Jan - Mar 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>13,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>8,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>2,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>2,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>1,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>1,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>1,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Asylum Applications in Mexico 2020-2023 (Jan-Mar)
(all nationalities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>40,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>129,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>118,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 (Jan-Mar)</td>
<td>37,606</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Mexico: Asylum-seekers with protection needs registered by UNHCR in Jan-Mar 2023
(percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific legal and physical</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>protection needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child at risk</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious medical condition</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women at risk</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single parent</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGBV</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied or separated child</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older person at risk</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mixed Movements Mexico

1,038 individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between January and March 2023. Interviews took place in 13 cities across Mexico.

Countries of origin:
- Haiti: 25%
- Venezuela: 22%
- Honduras: 18%
- El Salvador: 13%
- Cuba: 6%
- Guatemala: 5%
- Nicaragua: 5%
- Angola: 4%
- Other countries: 6%

Countries of intended destination:
- United States: 39%
- Mexico: 21%
- Canada: 17%
- Prefer not to say: 3%

56% men, 44% women, average age 33.

80% reported their main need was food for their family.

1 in 5 individuals interviewed declared their intention to conclude their journey in Mexico.

Main reasons to leave the country of origin:
- Food security (59%)
- Fear due to violence/insecurity (59%)
- Threats, intimidation, or violence (37%)
- Lack of access to food (17%)
- Lack of employment/low income (7%)

Main needs now and to continue the journey:
- Food for the family (80%)
- Cash (73%)
- Housing and accommodation (49%)
- Legal Assistance (26%)
- Drinking water (24%)

Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Mexico:
- Theft: 248
- Bribery from officials: 178
- Physical assault/abuse: 39
- Sexual or intimate violence: 21
- Scam or fraud: 20

3 out of 5 people have food security issues. 53% have regularly skipped meals and 8% spent whole days without eating.

Consumed one meal only the day before the interview: 26%.

Source: Mixed movement monitoring UNHCR-WFP, Mexico, 2023.
138 Individuals were interviewed by DTM in Tapachula in January 2023.

Mixed Movements Mexico South Border

- **Countries of origin**: Emphasis on Mexico, United States, Canada, Other countries.
- **Countries of intended destination**: Emphasis on Mexico, United States, Canada, Other countries.

**Main reasons to leave the country of origin**
- Increase in market prices: 70% (Very important), 2% (Not important)
- Conflict and general security situation: 83% (Very important), 1% (Not important)
- Lack of rule of law/rights: 83% (Very important), 1% (Not important)

**Main reasons to choose country of destination**
- Education for my children: 89% (Very important), 6% (Not important)
- Finding better opportunities/employment: 88% (Very important), 9% (Not important)
- Obtain the nationality: 88% (Very important), 6% (Not important)

**Travel group of interviewed individuals**
- With relatives: 56% (Very important)
- Alone: 16% (Very important)

**Mixed Movements**

**Mexico North Border**

- 631 Individuals were interviewed by DTM Mexico in Matamoros in January 2023.
- 54% Men
- 46% Women
- 24 Was the average age

### Countries of origin
- Venezuela: 58%
- Mexico: 14%
- Honduras: 6%
- Nicaragua: 6%
- Haiti: 6%
- Cuba: 6%
- Other countries: 4%

### Current migratory documents in Mexico
- No documents: 67%
- Visitor’s card for humanitarian reasons: 19%
- Multiple immigration status: 12%
- Permanent resident card: 1%
- Temporal resident card: <1%
- Regional visitor’s card: <1%

### Main reasons to leave the country of origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Socio-economic conditions</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to employment</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political stability</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to legal protection mechanisms</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Source


Claims to have used the CBP ONE app: 92%

96% of those who have used the app have done so to register for one of the available processes.

46% of them have been able to schedule an appointment.

While appointments are provided for the next 14 days, some people mentioned waiting longer periods.
Land Border Encounters in Southwest in United States

14% Decrease in the encounters at the Southwestern United States border by March 2023 (191,899), in comparison to encounters in March 2022 (222,574).

251,487 All-time monthly record registered in December 2022.

70% Were adults travelling alone, 23% moving in family units and 7% unaccompanied minors.

49% MEXICO
10% GUATEMALA
9% COLOMBIA
9% HONDURAS
8% ECUADOR

Main nationalities

United States Southwest land border encounters, 2021-2023

Land Border Encounters of children on the move at the Southern border of the United States

United States Southern land border encounters, 2020 - 2023 (Jan-Feb)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023 (Jan-Feb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38,438</td>
<td>173,764</td>
<td>173,764</td>
<td>20,688</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main countries of origin in United States Southern land border encounters in 2023 (Jan-Feb)

- Ecuador: 37%
- Venezuela: 6%
- Honduras: 6%
- Colombia: 6%
- Brazil: 20%
- Chile: 11%
- Guatemala: 7%
- Other: 6%

Accompanied and unaccompanied children, 2020 (Jan-Feb) - 2023 (Jan-Feb)

- Accompanied
- Unaccompanied

Returns to Northern Central American countries (El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala)

**22,880**
Guatemalans, Hondurans and Salvadoreans were returned from the United States, Mexico and other countries from January to March 2023.

**29%**
Decrease in the total of returns in January and February 2023, in comparison to 2022.

**56% GUATEMALA**
**39% HONDURAS**
were the countries with the higher figures of returns.

---

### Returns from Mexico, United States and other countries, 2019-2022 (Jan - Feb)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Returns from Mexico</th>
<th>Returns from United States</th>
<th>Returns from other countries</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>251,778</td>
<td>133,058</td>
<td>90,138</td>
<td>471,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>115,062</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>9,166</td>
<td>119,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>47,517</td>
<td>93,511</td>
<td>125,257</td>
<td>266,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>29,646</td>
<td>84,528</td>
<td>100,641</td>
<td>214,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023 (Jan-Feb)</td>
<td>22,880</td>
<td>11,085</td>
<td>11,704</td>
<td>45,691</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>