Mixed Movements
Overview of key figures and trends

A record number of individuals engaged in mixed and onward movements are consistently being reported as arriving in the Darien region. During the second quarter of 2023, 108,981 arrivals have been officially registered. This marks an increase of 20% compared to the first quarter.

In the first half of 2023, close to 200,000 arrivals have been documented in the Darien, with 40,000 arrivals in April alone. This escalation represents a staggering 634% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The Panamanian authorities have estimated that 400,000 refugees and migrants are expected to cross by the end of the year. The main nationalities crossing the Darien remain the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti, and Ecuador. There is a noticeable increase in the arrival of extracontinental nationalities, including by Chinese, Afghan and Nepali nationals.

The number of people on the move reported missing in Central and North America (332) in 2023 remains a clear sign of the level of risks and hardship faced by people engaged in mixed movements across the region.

For additional information and analysis on mixed movements in the region covering April to June 2023, please see the quarterly R4V Movements Report.
Mixed Movements

Overview of key figures and trends

According to official figures, more than 135,000 people entered Honduras irregularly during the first half of 2023. Venezuela (38%), Ecuador (14%), Haiti (13%), Cuba (8%), and China (3%) are the main nationalities.

As observed through various data collection efforts, most people’s intention is to reach the United States. At the same time, in Mexico, over 74,000 new asylum claims were registered in the first half of 2023, a 28% increase when compared to the same period in 2022. The primary nationalities of asylum seekers in Mexico this year include Haiti (40%), Honduras (24%), Cuba (7%), and Venezuela (5%). It is relevant to mention, however, that the fact the individuals apply for asylum in Mexico does not necessarily mean they all intend to remain in Mexico in the medium or longer term.

By June 2023, more than 1.07 million encounters were reported at the U.S. Southwest land border, a 13% decrease compared to the same period in 2022. The primary nationalities include Mexico (36%), Venezuela (10%), Honduras (8%), Guatemala (8%), Colombia (7%), and Ecuador (4%). The decrease may be partly attributable to the new measures implemented as of 12 May by U.S. authorities for individuals who cross unlawfully the Southwestern border including expedited removal, a 5-year bar from reentry and a presumption of ineligibility for asylum, absent an applicable exception. At the same time the U.S. government announced a significant expansion of refugee resettlement and other lawful pathways including a humanitarian parole program for nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. In June 2023, the Safe Mobility Offices (SMO) initiative was launched in Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala by the U.S. Government with the support of UNHCR and IOM to expand access to refugee resettlement and other lawful pathways of admission to the U.S. Additional information on the program is available here.

Providing essential information to persons engaged in mixed movements on the availability of essential services, including safe shelter spaces along the migration route, access to national asylum processes, eligibility for resettlement and other pathways, including the U.S Parole Program, and the CBP One App, is an ongoing priority. Without accurate information, individuals remain vulnerable to deception, are more likely to accept offers from smugglers and to be subject to extortion, fraud, robbery, and abuse.
Missing migrants in the Americas

• Since IOM began monitoring deaths and disappearances of migrants and people on the move, between 2014 until 30 June 2023, 7,867 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 half of 2023, 495 cases were registered in the Americas. The break-down by sub-region is: Caribbean: 120; Central America: 222; South America: 43 and North America: 110 (Idem).

Mixed Movements  Ecuador

Trends in movements from and to Ecuador

Events reported by Migration Authorities of Panama, Mexico and the United States involving Ecuadorians

- Since the last part of 2022 an important increase in Ecuadorian outflows has been observed either through official exits or irregularly.
- Ecuadorian irregular movements could be observed through indirect sources such as registers of deportees received by the Ecuadorian Government from different countries and reported events by migration authorities from Panama, Mexico and the United States.
- Considering deportees received by Ecuadorian authorities, it is noticed an increasing trend from November 2022 to March 2023, with a peak of 3,377 deportees received.
- Apprehensions by United States authorities increased drastically between September and December 2022; as well as a similar trend during the same period reported by the Mexican immigration authority.

Deportees Received by Ecuadorian Government

Source: Internal Report by Migration Authorities, Ministerio del Interior de Ecuador, 2023

Mixed Movements Colombia

Necocli, a small town situated in the department of Antioquia on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, has garnered attention since 2021 due to the significant influx of thousands of people who initiate their journey there, setting sail towards the shores of Panama. Subsequently, these individuals undertake an arduous journey by foot through the jungle in the Darien Province.

The subsequent line chart illustrates the weekly flow of individuals from various nationalities departing from Necocli to Panama during the second quarter of 2023. Notably, there has been a 10% increase in comparison to the first quarter. Moreover, the month of July 2023 has witnessed a remarkable 77% surge in comparison to the total flows recorded in June 2023, which amounted to 23,359 individuals.

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

1 April 2023 – 30 June 2023

- **227 k** Venezuelans entered Colombia in the first half of 2023 via official border points.
- **220 k** Venezuelans exited Colombia in the first half of 2023 via official border points.
- **20%** Increase in Venezuelan exits in the first quarter of 2023, compared to the same period in 2022.
- **31,817** Exits registered by the Colombian Government in June 2023, 17 per cent less than in March 2023.

Source: [GIFMM-R4V, 2023](#).
Mixed Movements Panama – Darien

196,371

People entered irregularly through the Darien province by 30 June 2023.

29,722 \times 4 \text{ times}

more irregular entries in the Darien Province were registered in June 2023.

Main nationalities by 30 June 2023 in the Darien.

- 51% VENEZUELAN
- 17% HAITIAN
- 13% ECUADORIAN
- 4% CHINESE

Based on the DTM monitoring study conducted at the Migratory Temporal Reception Center (ETRM) in Darien and Chiriquí provinces, between 10-30 April 2023, 561 people were interviewed, of which 89% mentioned economic reasons as a motivating factor for migrating, in addition, the main needs identified were transportation (34%), medical assistance (20%) and food (18%). (DTM, 2023)
**Mixed Movements** Panama – Darien

315

- **Individually** interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023, entering Panama from Colombia in the Darien province (Migration Reception Centers Lajas Blancas and San Vicente).

- **67%** Men
- **33%** Women

- **32** Average age
- **22** Different nationalities interviewed
- **33%** Reported to have experienced protection incidents during their journey through the jungle.

**Countries of origin**

- 64% Venezuela
- 7% Colombia
- 6% Haiti
- 5% Ecuador
- 4% China
- 9% Other

**Countries of intended destination**

- 87% United States
- 4% Canada
- 3% Mexico
- 2% Venezuela
- 2% Costa Rica
- 2% Other

**Main reasons to leave country of origin**

- 75% Lack of employment/Low income
- 32% Lack of access to food
- 30% Fear due to situation of violence and insecurity
- 28% Lack of access to medical services or medicines
- 16% Lack of access to education

**Main needs now and to continue the journey**

- 73% Cash
- 40% Clothes and shoes
- 26% Food for the family
- 21% Medicines, health care
- 19% Legal assistance

**Main protection incidents in the Darien**

- 71 Theft
- 47 Physical threat or intimidation
- 41 Scam or fraud
- 27 Abduction or kidnapping
- 16 Physical assault/abuse

**Food security**

- 82% Faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies.
- 46% have regularly skipped meals and 36% spent whole days without eating.
- 70% Have an insufficient food consumption.
- 52% consumed one meal only and 18% none the day before the interview.

**Source:** Mixed movement monitoring UNHCR-WFP, Panama, 2023.
During May 2023, 41,064 people departed Los Planes ETRM for Costa Rica as part of the migration flow in Costa Rica, 41,064 people as part of the migratory flow in mobility through the Americas, entering mainly through Paso Canoas, on the border with Panama (99%). Paso Canoas, on the border with Panama (99%). The daily average number of departures was 1,325 and the median was 1,317, peaked on day 3 with 2,384 departures and reached a low of 474 on day 31 (DTM, 2023b).
Mixed Movements Costa Rica

623 Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023. Interviews took place in Ciudad Neily, Paso Canoas and Los Chiles.

- Men: 53% (623 individuals)
- Women: 47% (477 individuals)
- Average age: 28

Reported that the fear of generalized violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin. 69% reported to have experienced protection incidents in other countries along the route. 31% reported theft, bribery, or fraud as protection incidents.

Countries of origin: 73% Venezuela, 10% Colombia, 7% Ecuador, 6% Haiti, 5% Afghanistan, 3% Other

Countries of intended destination: 99% United States, 1% Other

Main reasons to leave the country of origin (More than one option could be selected):
- Lack of employment/low income: 83%
- Lack of access to food: 71%
- Fear due to the general situation of violence/insecurity: 69%
- Lack of access to education: 32%
- Lack of access to medical services or medicine: 28%

Main needs now and to continue the journey (More than one option could be selected):
- Food security: 88% (faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies. 60% spent whole days without eating and 28% have regularly skipped meals)
- Shelter: 98%
- Cash: 98%
- Food for the family: 77%
- Internet and telephone access: 52%
- Legal assistance: 30%

Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Costa Rica (196 people who suffered protection incidents):
- Theft: 101
- Physical threat or intimidation: 63
- Scam or fraud: 54
- Bribery: 46
- Abduction or kidnapping: 12

Main needs now and to continue the journey:
- Food security: 88%
- Shelter: 98%
- Cash: 98%
- Food for the family: 77%
- Internet and telephone access: 52%
- Legal assistance: 30%

Mixed Movements Honduras

292
Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023

- **51%** Men
- **48%** Women
- **1%** Non binary
- **32** Average age

Countries of origin
- Venezuela 72%
- Ecuador 6%
- Colombia 7%
- Cuba 6%
- Haiti 8%
- Mexico 2%
- Canada 2%
- Honduras 1%
- United States 92%
- Other 2%

Countries of intended destination
- United States 53%
- Mexico 36%
- Canada 2%
- Cuba 1%
- Haiti 2%
- Venezuela 1%
- Honduras 1%
-prefer not to say 2%

- **53%** Faced lack of food and adopted severe coping strategies.
- **36%** Have an insufficient food consumption.

- **29%** have regularly skipped meals and 24% spent whole days without eating.
- **32%** consumed one meal only and 4% none the day before the interview.

Main reasons to leave the country of origin
- Lack of employment/low income 73%
- Lack of access to food 31%
- Fear due to violence/insecurity 20%
- Threats or intimidation 14%
- Lack of access to medical services/medicines 10%

Main needs now and to continue the journey
- Cash 83%
- Food for the family 40%
- Food for children 12%
- Shelter 10%
- Legal assistance 9%

Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Honduras (105 people who suffered protection incidents)
- Theft 66
- Scam or fraud 21
- Physical assault/abuse 19
- Bribery 9
- Abduction or kidnapping 8

Mixed Movements Guatemala

2,295

Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023.

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

Countries of origin

- Venezuela
- Honduras
- Colombia
- Nicaragua
- Ecuador
- Other

Countries of intended destination

- United States
- Mexico
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Other

Main reasons to leave the country of origin

(More than one option could be selected)

- Lack of employment/low income: 88%
- Fear due to violence/insecurity: 33%
- Lack of access to food: 25%
- Lack of access to medical services or medicines: 8%
- Threats or intimidation: 6%

Main needs now and to continue the journey

(More than one option could be selected)

- Cash: 85%
- Food for the family: 40%
- Drinking water: 21%
- Shelter: 21%
- Medicines, health care: 14%

Main protection incidents in Guatemala

(1,192 people who suffered protection incidents)

- Theft: 693
- Bribery from officials: 434
- Scam or fraud: 189
- Physical threat or intimidation: 37
- Threat of eviction: 33

Reported to have experienced protection incidents in Guatemala.

33%

Reported that the fear of generalized violence and insecurity was a reason to leave the country of origin.

1,027 individuals were interviewed by DTM Guatemala between April 21 and May 31, 2023.

56% Men

44% Women

Venezuela 66%
Honduras 19%
Ecuador 12%
Other 3%

Identified vulnerabilities

5.4% of the women were pregnant
6.2% people interviewed reported suffering from a chronic or severe disease

Drivers

Better living conditions 29.6%
Work (get a job or improve salary) 22.9%
Do not consider future in country 15.3%
Dissatisfaction with government 12%
Violence 12%
Title 42 3%
Family reunification 2.6%
Loss of livelihood 2.1%
Other(*) 0.3%
Health 0.3%

In the other category are: Improving access to food; threats; discrimination; improving education; devaluation of education; currency devaluation; improving currency; improving wages and income; and some feel and some feel persecuted for their political activities in their country.

Main needs of refugees and migrants

Hosting 85%
Food 84%
Assistance travelling 67%
Internet access 56%
Personal hygiene items 51%
Drinking water 15%

Note: The interviewees had the possibility of selecting several options, so the percentages will not add up to 100%.

Source: Monitoring of flows at border points in Guatemala, DTM, OIM, 2023.
Mixed Movements
Refugees and Migrants presence in Mexico (presentations and referrals)

Refugees and migrants presented and referred to Mexican Immigration authorities 2022-2023 (Jan-June)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Presentations 2022</th>
<th>Referrals 2022</th>
<th>Presentations 2023</th>
<th>Referrals 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecuadorian</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemalan</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduran</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haitian</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombian</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals by demographic groups:

- **Presentations**: 79% (130,372) men, 21% (35,613) women, 52% (35,570) children
- **Referrals**: 20% (14,760) men, 28% (20,810) women, 20% (20,810) children

Main nationalities:

- **Arendal**: 26%
- **Honduran**: 14%
- **Guatemalan**: 12%
- **Ecuadorian**: 10%
- **Haitian**: 6%
- **Colombian**: 6%
- **Other**: 14%

Asylum trends in Mexico

74,764
Asylum applications were lodged in Mexico from January to June 2023, an increase of 28% compared to the same period in 2022 (COMAR, 2023).

16k
Asylum-seekers registered by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023.

40% HAITI
24% HONDURAS
7% CUBA
5% VENEZUELA
Top countries of origin in 2023
While in 2022, most asylum-seekers were Hondurans, Cubans, Haitians and Venezuelans (COMAR, 2023).

71%
of asylum-seekers interviewed by UNHCR in Mexico in 2023, have specific protection needs.

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


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>29,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>18,210</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>Chile</td>
<td>1,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>1,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries</td>
<td>3,048</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Mexico: Asylum-seekers with protection needs registered by UNHCR in Jan-Jun 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPN Category</th>
<th>Registered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific legal and physical protection needs</td>
<td>7,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child at risk</td>
<td>2,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious medical condition</td>
<td>1,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>1,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single parent</td>
<td>882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women at risk</td>
<td>785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied or separated child</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGBV</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older person at risk</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family unity</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mixed Movements Mexico

1,940 Individuals were interviewed by UNHCR between April and June 2023. Interviews took place in 18 cities across Mexico.

54% Men, 46% Women

33 Average age

Countries of origin
- Honduras
- Cuba
- Venezuela
- Haiti
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Other

Countries of intended destination
- United States
- Mexico
- Prefer not to say
- Other

Main reasons to leave the country of origin
(More than one option could be selected)
- 56% Fear due to violence/insecurity
- 53% Lack of employment/low income
- 44% Threats or intimidation
- 30% Victim of violence
- 15% Lack of access to food

Main needs now and to continue the journey
(More than one option could be selected)
- 67% Cash
- 64% Food for the family
- 49% Shelter
- 30% Legal Assistance
- 17% Medicines, health care

Main protection incidents in the route before arrival to Mexico
(579 people who suffered protection incidents)
- 285 Theft
- 235 Bribery
- 130 Physical assault/abuse
- 61 Scam or fraud
- 22 Sexual assault/exploitation

Source: Mixed movement monitoring UNHCR-WFP, Mexico, 2023.
Mixed Movements  Mexico South Border

211 Individuals were interviewed by DTM Mexico in Tapachula in May 2023.

56% Men | 44% Women | 41% Were under 24 years old.

Countries of origin:
- Venezuela: 31%
- Cuba: 17%
- Haiti: 17%
- El Salvador: 11%
- Guatemala: 6%
- Honduras: 6%
- Mexico: 1%
- United States: 29%
- Not defined: 1%

Countries of intended destination:
- With relatives: 32% Men, 19% Women
- Alone: 36% Men, 6% Women

Main reasons to leave the country of origin:
- Increase in market prices: 79% Men, 10% Women
- Lack of rule of law/rights: 73% Men, 14% Women
- Lack of employement/livelihoods: 77% Men, 10% Women

Main reasons to choose country of destination:
- Employment/Higher income: 81% Men, 14% Women
- Obtaining the refugee status: 80% Men, 9% Women
- Finding better opportunities/employment: 77% Men, 12% Women

Travel group of interviewed individuals:
- Men: 56%
- Women: 44%

Mixed Movements Mexico North Border

408 Individuals were interviewed by DTM Mexico in Ciudad Juárez in May 2023.

Countries of origin
- Venezuela: 10%
- Guatemala: 9%
- Honduras: 13%
- Mexico: 4%
- El Salvador: 4%
- Ecuador: 6%
- Other countries: 15%

Identity documents held by respondents
- ID card: 84%
- Passport: 24%
- Birth certificate: 15%

Men: 66%
Women: 34%

26 Was the average age

Main reasons to leave the country of origin

- Socio-economic conditions: 55%
- Political stability: 36%
- Access to employment: 35%
- Access to legal protection mechanisms: 11%
- Family reunification: 9%
- Bilateral agreements among countries: 2%

Claims to have used the CBP ONE app: 71%

66% of those who have used the app have done so to register for one of the available processes. However, only 20% do not know the process to which registration was attempted.

56% of those who have used the application have made a decision based on CBP One.

Source: Displacement Tracking Movements, Mexico, OIM, May 2023
Land Border Encounters in Southwest in United States

13% Decrease in the encounters at the Southwestern United States border by June 2023 (1.070.528), in comparison to encounters by June 2022 (1.228.213).

67% Were adults travelling alone and 27% moving in family units.

6% Were unaccompanied children and adolescents.

36% MEXICAN
10% VENEZUELAN
8% HONDURAN
8% GUATEMALAN
7% COLOMBIAN

Main nationalities

Main country of origin in United States Southwest land border encounters in 2023

United States Southwest land border encounters, 2021-2023

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

70,407
Guatemalans, Hondurans and Salvadorians were returned from the United States, Mexico and other countries from January to June 2023.

37%
Decrease in the total of returns in January and June 2023, in comparison to 2022.

53% GUATEMALA
39% HONDURAS
were the countries with the higher figures of returns.