

### OVERVIEW

Since the beginning of 2021 and through 14 February 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Haiti provided reception and post-arrival assistance to 24,671 adult and child migrants repatriated to Haiti by both air and sea. The vast majority returned in this period - 76 per cent - were returned by flight from the United States, while smaller proportions were returned by other countries and territories in the region, mainly the Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico and the Turks and Caicos Islands. A small number of migrants were returned after being intercepted at sea by the Coast Guard. Most returns by air and sea that took place in this period - 87 per cent - occurred from September 2021 onward.<sup>1</sup>

Most returned migrants assisted by IOM in this period were previously residing in Chile or Brazil - where several child returnees were born - and were returned by the United States after journeying northward. Smaller proportions of returnees migrated from Haiti more recently, mainly to locations in the Caribbean. Those departing recently reported leaving due to a combination of factors, including lack of income and job opportunities, insufficient access to basic services, the impact of natural hazards (including the earthquake of 14 August 2021, which strongly impacted Haiti's southern departments), violence and insecurity, political instability and more.<sup>2</sup>

Many returning migrants, which include individuals with chronic illnesses and disabilities, pregnant and nursing women and young

children, arrive to Haiti in highly vulnerable situations with few if any resources. Returnees are often in immediate need of humanitarian assistance, having faced a series of health and protection concerns during their migration journeys.<sup>3</sup>

IOM offers reception assistance to all migrants arriving in repatriation flights and boats to Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haïtien. In the period spanning 01 January 2021 - 14 February 2022, the vast majority - 92 per cent - of all returnees were repatriated to Port-au-Prince. IOM performs a short arrival registration questionnaire with each individual returned alone as well as with one member of each returning family (if applicable), who responds on behalf of themselves and the family members they were returned with. The registration collects information on profiles, humanitarian needs and future intentions, in order to inform and improve service provision.

**This brief presents information from questionnaires collected from returnees to Port-au-Prince between the period 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2021.** During this four-month period, 5,421 arrival registration questionnaires were realized with adults repatriated alone or with family members to Port-au-Prince, with information collected on a total of 9,260 individuals. Results in this brief do not include the approximately eight per cent of migrants who were repatriated by air or sea to Cap-Haïtien in this period, nor migrants repatriated by land from the Dominican Republic.



IOM staff providing reception assistance to returnees at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in the capital, Port-au-Prince (© IOM Haiti, 09 October 2021).

### KEY STATISTICS

► Total # of questionnaires realized between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022 **5,421**

► Total # of returnees to Port-au-Prince registered within the period of 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022, overall, by sex and age group

Adult males  **4,429** Boys  **1,125**

Adult females  **2,499** Girls  **1,154**

Sex unspecified **53** **TOTAL 9,260**

This arrival registration provides initial information on population profiles, documentation, migration intentions and priority needs at the moment returnees first return to Haiti. IOM conducts a [post-arrival survey](#) of returnees at least one month or more after repatriation, which covers more detailed information on their evolving needs post-return, their satisfaction with services received upon arrival and livelihoods profiles, amongst other key dynamics.

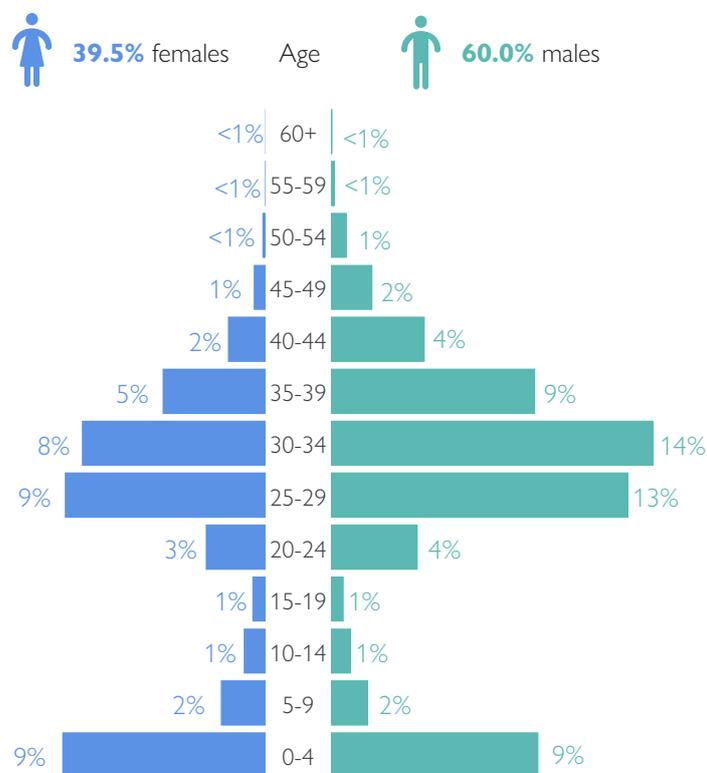
<sup>1</sup> Based on internal programmatic data maintained by IOM.

<sup>2</sup> IOM, *Situational report: Returns of migrants and reception assistance in Haiti, 19 September to 19 October 2021* (Port-au-Prince, 2022). Available [here](#) [accessed 16 Feb. 2022].

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## POPULATION PROFILE

► Population pyramid\*, all recent returnees to Port-au-Prince between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022<sup>4</sup>



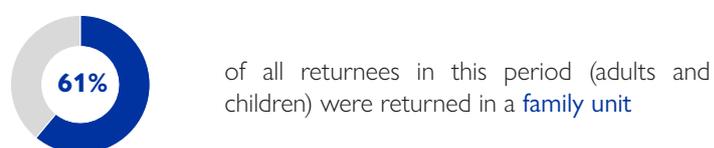
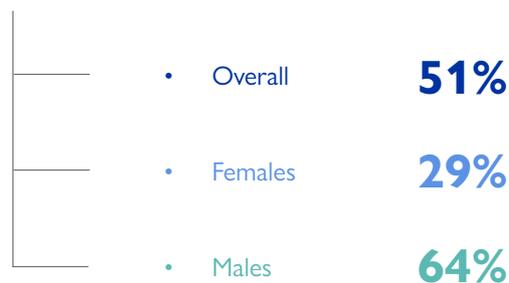
\*The above population pyramid does not include the **0.05%** of individuals (n = 53) whose sex was unrecorded or reported as 'other'.



► Median age - **child returnees** (0 - 17 years) in the specified period<sup>5</sup> **3**

► Median age - **adult returnees** (18 years and older) in the specified period<sup>6</sup> **31**

► Of all adults (18 years and over) returned to Port-au-Prince in the specified period, **% that were returned alone** (without accompanying family members), overall and by sex<sup>7</sup>



► Total # of **family units** returned to Port-au-Prince in the specified period **1,855**

► **Median # of family members** per family unit returned to Port-au-Prince in the specified period **3**

► % of recent returnees in the specified period, by reported **country of birth**



\*Others include Mexico, Guyana, the Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Argentina, Ecuador, Suriname, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Panama, United States and Costa Rica.

<sup>4</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all individuals returned to Port-au-Prince in the specified period (n = 9,260).

<sup>5</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all children returned in family units to Port-au-Prince in the specified period (n = 2,305). Data do not include unaccompanied and / or separated children returned in this period.

<sup>6</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all adults returned to Port-au-Prince in the specified period (n = 6,955). Sex disaggregation excludes adults for whom sex was not recorded (n = 27).

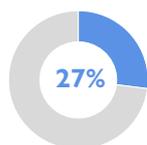
<sup>7</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all adults returned in the specified period, overall (n = 9,260), female (n = 4,439) and male (n = 2,499).

► % of recent returnees to Port-au-Prince in the specified period, by reported country of residence prior to repatriation



\*Others include: Haiti (some individuals were repatriated shortly after departing), Cuba, Argentina, Suriname, Dominican Republic, United States, Ecuador, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru and Nicaragua.

► Median age of recent returnees to Port-au-Prince reported to have been born outside of Haiti **2**



of family units returned to Port-au-Prince between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022 were female-headed<sup>8</sup>

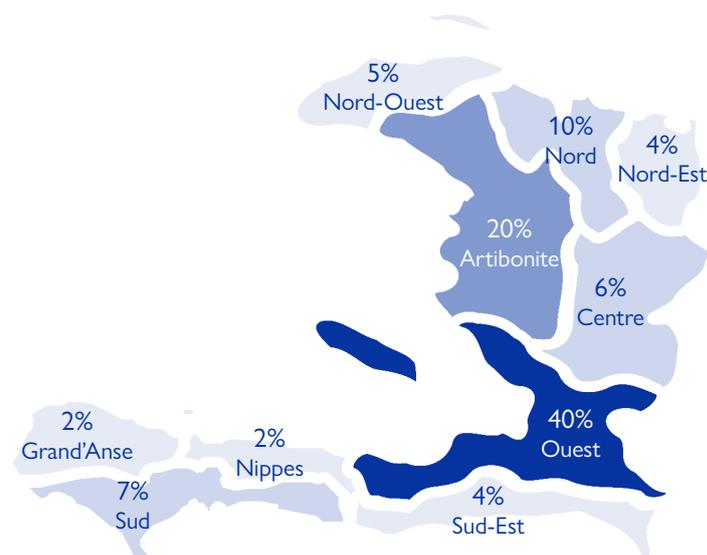
- Young adult males between the ages of 25 and 39 featured prominently amongst recent returnees repatriated to Port-au-Prince between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022, constituting 36 per cent of all returnees in this period.
- The median age of both adult and child returnees did not differ based on sex.
- Young children born within two years of repatriation featured prominently amongst the returnee population in this period, constituting nearly one in five (18%). On the other hand, there were very few elderly individuals (ages 60 and over) amongst the recent returnee population.
- Most of the young children born within two years of repatriation were not born in Haiti. Overall, one in five (20%) recent returnees in the survey period were reported to have been born outside of Haiti, mainly in Chile and Brazil.
- Approximately half of recent adult returnees were repatriated individually without accompanying family members. However, males were more likely to be repatriated alone whereas females were more likely to be repatriated in family units.
- Most family units were small (consisting of three members), and were typically bi-parental with one child.
- A significant proportion of family units - more than one in four - repatriated to Port-au-Prince between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022 were female-headed.

## REPATRIATING LOCATION & POST-ARRIVAL

► % of recent returnees to Port-au-Prince within the specified period, by origin of repatriation



► Of recent returnees to Port-au-Prince within the specified period that were born in Haiti, % by reported department of origin in Haiti<sup>9</sup>



This map is for illustrative purposes only. The names and administrative limits shown, as well as the designations utilized on this map do not imply the official approval or acceptance on behalf of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

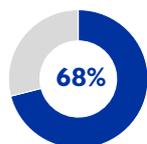
- The vast majority of recent returnees returned to Port-au-Prince between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022 were repatriated from the United States. Those repatriated from elsewhere mainly arrived from the Bahamas.
- Most recent returnees arriving to Port-au-Prince within the specified period who were born in Haiti were originally from the Ovest department, the location of the country's capital, Port-au-Prince and the most populous department in Haiti; as well as Artibonite, the largest department in Haiti (in terms of area) and the second-most populous.
- Information from [post-arrival surveys](#)<sup>10</sup> realized with recent adult returnees in January and February 2022 suggest that as many as one-fifth of recent returnees do not end up returning to their departments of origin in Haiti after repatriation.

<sup>8</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all family units repatriated to Port-au-Prince in the specified period (n = 1,855).

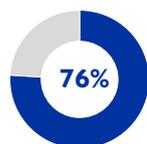
<sup>9</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all recent returnees to Port-au-Prince in the specified period who were born in Haiti (n = 7,424).

<sup>10</sup> IOM, *Brief: Post-Arrival Survey - Migrant Returns and Reception Assistance in Haiti* (Port-au-Prince, 2022). Available [here](#) [accessed 10 March 2022].

## DOCUMENTATION

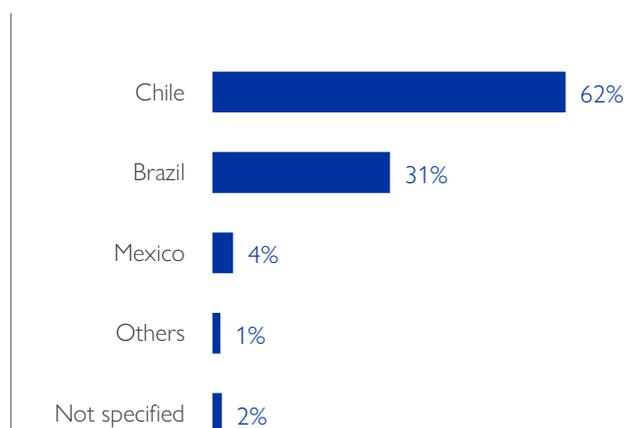


of all recent returnees to Port-au-Prince between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022 were reported to be in possession of some form of Haitian identity document<sup>11</sup>



of all recent returnees to Port-au-Prince in the specified period were reported to be in possession of some form of foreign identity document<sup>12</sup>

- ▶ Of recent returnees to Port-au-Prince in the specified period reported to possess some form of foreign identity document, % by issuing country<sup>13</sup>



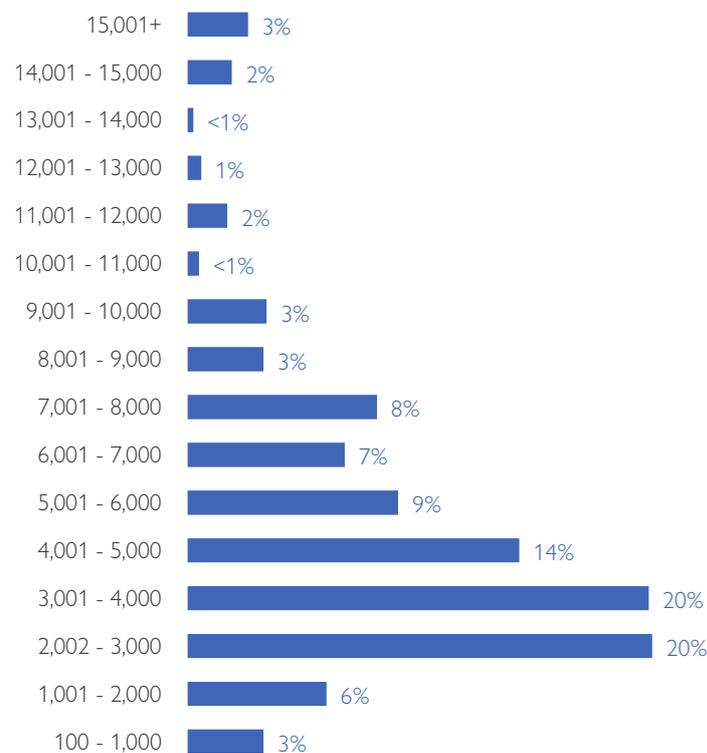
Of recent returnees reported to be in possession of a foreign identity document, % by type of identity document<sup>14</sup>

- |   |                           |     |
|---|---------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Residence permit          | 65% |
| 2 | ID (identification) card  | 24% |
| 3 | Passport                  | 13% |
| 4 | Other                     | 1%  |
| 5 | Do not know / no response | 1%  |

- Large proportions of recent returnees in the specified period were reported to possess some form of identity document, although higher proportions possessed a foreign identity document than a Haitian identity document.
- In line with where most recent returnees were reported to have resided while abroad, the majority of foreign identity documents were issued by Chile and Brazil.
- Exactly one in ten (10%) of all recent returnees to Port-au-Prince in the specified period were reported to be in possession of a foreign passport.

## MIGRATION COSTS

- ▶ Of respondents reporting how much they spent (in United States Dollars, USD) on their most recent migration experience, % by range<sup>15</sup>



- ▶ Of respondents reporting how much they spent on their most recent migration experience, mean amount spent (USD)<sup>16</sup>

**5,472**

<sup>11</sup> The questionnaire did not inquire as to whether the documentation was still valid. The Haiti National Migration Office (ONM, by its acronym in French) is present upon arrival to assist returnees in obtaining and updating their documentation if needed.

<sup>12</sup> The questionnaire did not inquire as to whether the foreign documentation was still valid.

<sup>13</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all individuals reported to possess a foreign identity document (n = 7,011).

<sup>14</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all individuals reported to possess a foreign identity document (n = 7,011). Respondents could choose multiple options.

<sup>15</sup> The denominator for this indicator is all respondents who reported how much they spent on their most recent migration journey (n = 4,357).

<sup>16</sup> The mean (average) of a data set is found by adding all numbers in the data set and then dividing by the number of values in the set.

- ▶ Of respondents reporting how much they spent on their most recent migration experience, **median amount spent (USD)**<sup>17</sup>

**4,500**

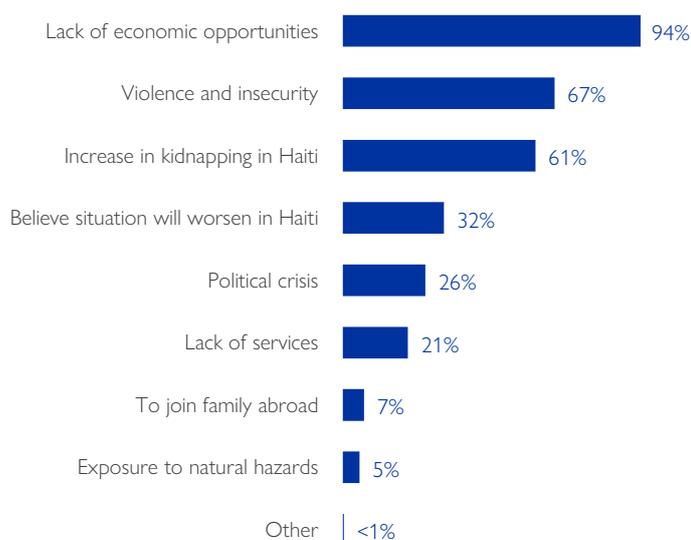
- Many respondents reported spending thousands of dollars in order to finance their most recent migration journeys, with the largest proportions - 54 per cent - spending between USD 2,000 and USD 5,000.
- The average amount spent on migration journeys differed between respondents who were repatriated alone to Port-au-Prince in the specified period versus those who were repatriated with family members. Those repatriated alone between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022 reported having spent a mean of USD 4,430 on their most recent migration journeys, compared to USD 7,478 amongst respondents who were repatriated with family members.

## MIGRATION INTENTIONS

- ▶ % of respondents recently returned to Port-au-Prince between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022 reporting that they **do not intend to remain in Haiti after repatriation**



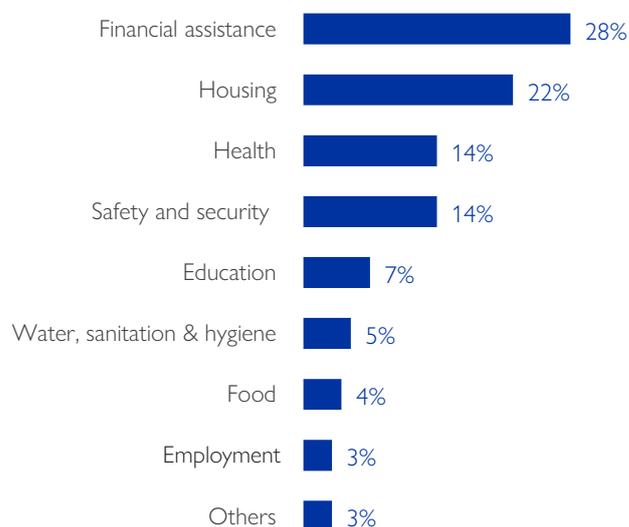
- ▶ Of respondents reporting that they did not intend to remain in Haiti, % by reasons for intending to re-migrate<sup>18</sup>



- The vast majority of respondents reported that they did not intend to remain in Haiti upon arrival. While economic motivations featured most prominently amongst reasons for wanting to re-migrate, significant proportions also cited violence and insecurity, increased crime and the ongoing political crisis as motivating factors.
- Information from [post-arrival surveys](#)<sup>19</sup> indicated that even after having spent some time in Haiti upon return (at least one month or more), the proportion of individuals reporting the intention to migrate remains equally high.

## PRIORITY NEEDS

- ▶ % of recent adult returnees reporting their **#1 priority need** at the time of data collection<sup>20</sup>



- ▶ % of respondents recently returned to Port-au-Prince in the specified period reporting selected needs as **one of their top 3 priority needs** at the time of data collection



<sup>17</sup> The "median" is the "middle" value of a set of numbers, separating the higher half from the lower half of a data sample. The denominator for this indicator is all respondents who reported how much they spent on their most recent migration journey (n = 4,357).

<sup>18</sup> The denominator for this indicator is respondents indicating that they did not intend to remain in Haiti after repatriation (n = 4,707).

<sup>19</sup> IOM, *Brief: Post-Arrival Survey - Migrant Returns and Reception Assistance in Haiti* (Port-au-Prince, 2022). Available [here](#) [accessed 10 March 2022].

<sup>20</sup> Respondents were asked to report their top 3 priority needs, in order of importance. This figure shows which need returnees selected as their #1 priority need.

- Safety and security featured most prominently amongst the top three priority needs of respondents returned to Port-au-Prince between 12 October 2021 - 14 February 2022; however, most respondents selected this need as their third-most priority need, while housing and financial assistance were the most commonly-reported top priority needs.
- Most respondents reporting employment as a priority need ranked this as their second- or third-most priority need, with very few ranking this as their top priority need upon return to Haiti.

## ADDITIONAL METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Respondents needed to be at least 18 years of age in order to respond to the questionnaire. Free and informed consent was obtained from each respondent before commencing. The tool was piloted before commencing the registration process. Data collection teams consisted of four IOM enumerators who were trained on the

questionnaire prior to beginning, including on protection principles and proper referral mechanisms.

Data were collected through the KoBo application and were uploaded to a centralized IOM database each day. Only the database manager and two Officers had access to the raw data. Data checking was conducted in order to ensure quality. Data cleaning was realized according to a set of standard protocols, including removal of inaccurate records, identification of outliers and the standardization of “other” responses.

Findings only apply to recent returnees in the specified period arriving to Port-au-Prince and do not cover those returning to Cap-Haïtien. Certain indicators may be under- or over-reported given respondent bias, particularly the tendency to provide answers which are perceived to be “correct” (social desirability bias). It is possible that IOM’s role as a service provider may have impacted responses. Indicators that refer to a subset (a part of the overall population) - for example, “of pregnant women” - may have a lower confidence interval / wider margin of error. These are signaled in footnotes.

## IOM ASSISTANCE

IOM offers the following on-site services for individual and family returnees at airports upon arrival:



Food and beverage during the registration process



Unconditional and multipurpose cash assistance for each returnee (up to USD 100 / 120 per person)



Phones to contact friends and relatives



A hygiene kit for each person, including dignity items for women and girls and specific items for babies



Psychosocial support and counseling services provided by trained IOM psychologists



First aid by an IOM doctor and referral for medical assistance when needed



Support for family reunification for UASCs alongside the Institute for Social Welfare and Research (IBESR)



Protection screenings by trained staff to identify vulnerable returnees and referral to special services

**8840**

Availability of feedback and complaint mechanisms, through IOM’s free hotline 8840



An IOM medical doctor conducts a consultation with returnees at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince (© IOM Haiti, 09 October 2021).

These activities are implemented jointly by IOM and the National Migration Office (ONM, by its acronym in French) in Haiti, with funding provided by:



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Funded by  
European Union  
Civil Protection  
and Humanitarian Aid



**Home Office**

See [here](#) for additional IOM publications on returnees in Haiti.



Further Inquiries:

Claire Gaulin  
Migrant Protection and Assistance Officer  
cgaulin@iom.int

Authored and designed by:

Mark McCarthy  
Information Management Officer  
mamccarthy@iom.int