IOM • OIM — **DTM**

UN MIGRATION

HIGHLIGHTS

FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY

Source: Migrant Reception Station (MRS) in Los Planes de Gualaca, Chiriquí.
Government of Panama, 2022

3.724 PEOPLE DEPARTING FROM PANAMA

4% increase in flow compared to the previous month (**3,570** people leaving Panama in December 2021).

FLOW MONITORING SURVEY

Source: IOM, 2022

42% OF THE FLOW IS COMPOSED OF MEN BETWEEN 26 AND 35 YEARS OLD

HIGHLIGHTED NATIONALITIES

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA (43%), CUBA (15%), HAITI (14%) AND SENEGAL (9%)

66% OF PEOPLE REPORTED COMMUNICATING IN **SPANISH**

Of the **670** people who indicated that they were originally from an African country (Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Liberia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Togo), **35%** communicated in **French** and **31%** in **Portuguese.**

75% OF PEOPLE HAVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS THEIR FINAL DESTINATION

91% OF PEOPLE TRAVEL IN THE COMPANY OF RELATIVES OR FAMILY MEMBERS

75% men

25% women

<1% elderly people (+60 years old)

13% persons under 17 years of age or younger

The Flow Monitoring component of the DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix)[1] tool consists of a registry of migrants and the application of surveys directed at representatives of travel groups and allows the generation of quantitative estimates on the flow of people in a defined location and, from this, the collection of qualitative data.

The data for the flow monitoring registry is obtained from official data provided by the Government of Panama, corresponding to the voluntary departures of migrants from the MRS in Los Planes, Gualaca, through the National Migration Service (SNM). For the application of Flow Monitoring Surveys, the instrument is available in Spanish, English and Haitian Creole, with the objective of expanding the number of people who can be surveyed and collecting data on gender, age, nationality, characteristics of the trip, migration route, country of habitual residence, in addition to counting people who make up the travel group of the people surveyed. For the definition of monitoring sites (Map 1), the Baseline Assessment of Irregular Migration Flows and Mobility Tracking in border localities in southern Costa Rica under the context of COVID-19 was taken as a reference, based on consultations with key informants[2] and field work.

For the study, records of irregular departures from Panama between January 1 and January 31, 2022, were obtained, corresponding to 3,724 irregular departures to Costa Rica. In parallel, a stratified random sampling was carried out during January by monitoring points. A total of 425 surveys were conducted with migrants, of which 66 percent (279) were valid surveys and 34 percent were invalid (refusals by respondents). The data analysis was based on the assignment of the sample weight, which is useful for extrapolating the characteristics of the persons interviewed to the rest of the persons recorded in the exit registers. With this statistical analysis it is possible to know, by means of estimates, the characteristics of the total number of people counted. Of the 425 surveys carried out, 146 responses were obtained in which informed consent was not accepted; therefore, when it came to weighting with the sample weight, they were excluded from the calculation.

Map 1. Distribution of monitoring points

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.

1.   Information associated with the data collection methodology is available at www.dtm.iom.int/about.
2.   Retrieved from: https://dtm.iom.int/reports/costa-rica-linea-base-para-la-evaluaci%C3%B3n-de-flujos-migratorios-y-presencia-de-migrantes-1

Within the framework of the COVID-19 emergency, since March 19, 2020, the Government of Costa Rica has kept its land border with Panama closed, and the Binational Controlled Flow Operation, agreed between the governments of Costa Rica and Panama at the Paso Canoas border to ensure an orderly and safe migration of migrants moving through the Americas,[3] was stopped. As of the date of this report, there is no approximate date for its reimplementation.
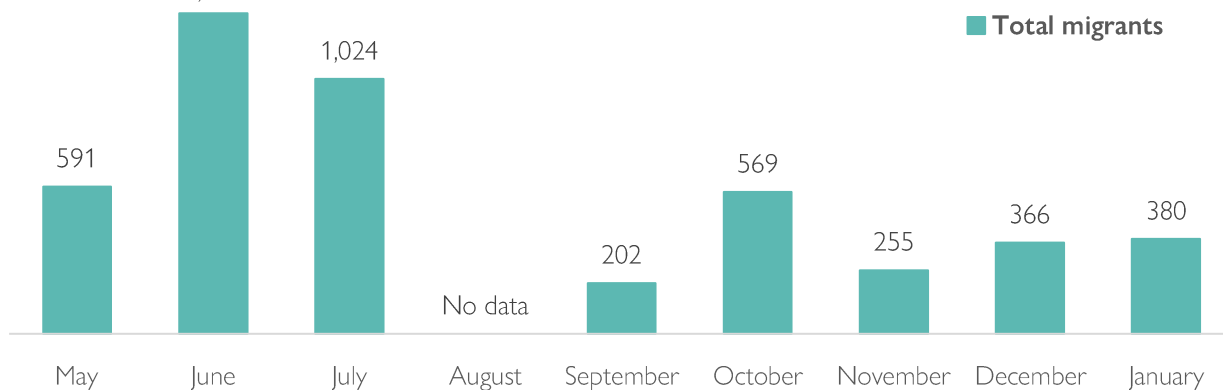
Given the presence of this irregular migration flow, since August 24, 2021, IOM Panama has published information on the irregular migration flow in Darien, Panama[4] under the context of COVID-19. Based on this information, it has been identified that during 2021 the flow of people in a situation of mobility through the Americas with destination to North America is on the rise: according to SNM data, in the period between August and November 2021, the irregular entry of 126,675 migrants of different nationalities has been registered at the border between Colombia and Panama: Haiti (62%), Cuba (13%), Chile (8%), Brazil (7%), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2%), among other countries in South America, Africa and Asia.

In Costa Rica, an increase has been identified in the number of migrants from the migration flow who decide to stay in the country, mainly people from Haiti, who, in some cases, have requested refuge in the country before the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME). According to data from the DGME, between May and December 2021, 4,296 rejections[5] were carried out in Paso Canoas.

Figure 1. Number of rejections at the Paso Canoas border, May, 2021 – January, 2022

Total migrants

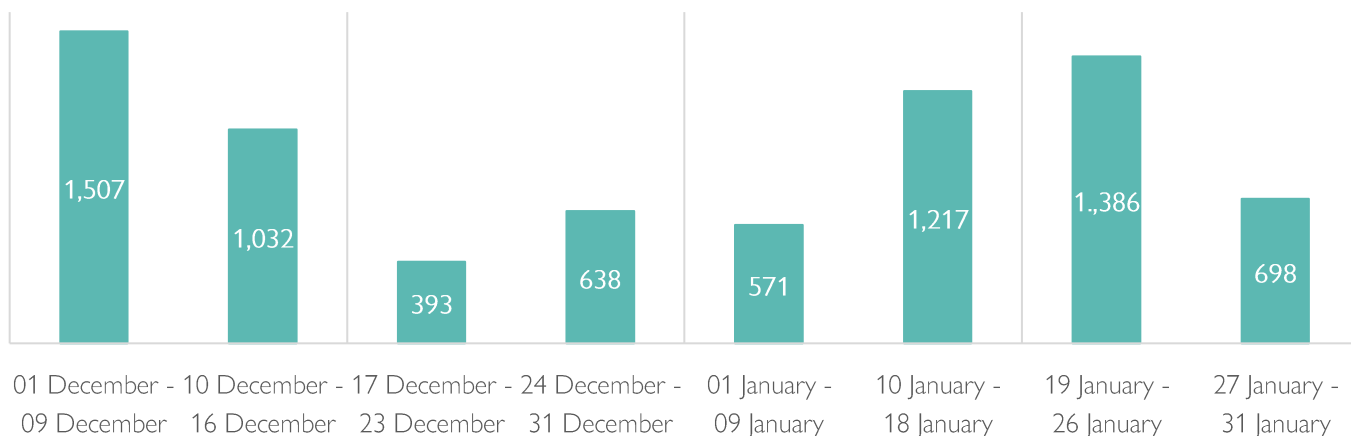| Month	Total migrants
May	591
June	1,289
July	1,024
August	No data
September	202
October	569
November	255
December	366
January	380

Source: DGME Costa Rica, 2021

3. People in mobility through the Americas is understood as the migration flow of people who migrate from Panama to Costa Rica, through Central America and North America, and is mainly composed of nationals from Haiti, Cuba, as well as other countries in South America, Africa and Asia.
4. Information on the DTM: Monitoring of Migration Flows in Darien, is available at www.panama.iom.int/es/dtm-monitoreo-de-flujos-migratorios-en-darien.
5. Section 64 of the General Immigration and Foreigner Law establishes that rejection is the action by which the immigration authority denies the foreigner entry to the country, ordering his/her immediate return to the country of origin or precedence, which is executed when the person does not comply with the entry requirements demanded by the legislation in force, presents an impediment to enter the country or is caught trying to evade immigration control or entering through a place not authorized for such purpose.

REGISTRY OF VOLUNTARY DEPARTURES OF MIGRANTS FROM THE MRS LOS PLANES, PANAMA

According to the registry of voluntary departures of migrants from the MRS in Los Planes, in Gualaca, Panama, between January 1 and January 31, 2022, 3,724 departures of people from the migration flow through the Americas were recorded, equivalent to an average of 120 departures per day. This figure represents an increase of 4 percent compared to the 3,570 persons departing the MRS in December 2021.

During January 2022, an increase is noted, mainly of population originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: between the beginning and the end of January 2021, departures from the MRS in Los Planes increased (Figure 2). Likewise, the records for 2022 remain high compared to previous years. According to data from Costa Rica's DGME, in January 2020, 1,788 migrant entries were recorded as part of the controlled flow of migrants in a situation of mobility through the Americas, so that by January 2022 there is evidence of a 40 percent increase.

Figure 2. Registered departures of migrants in the MRS in Los Planes, Chiriqui, by date range
December 2021 - January 2022

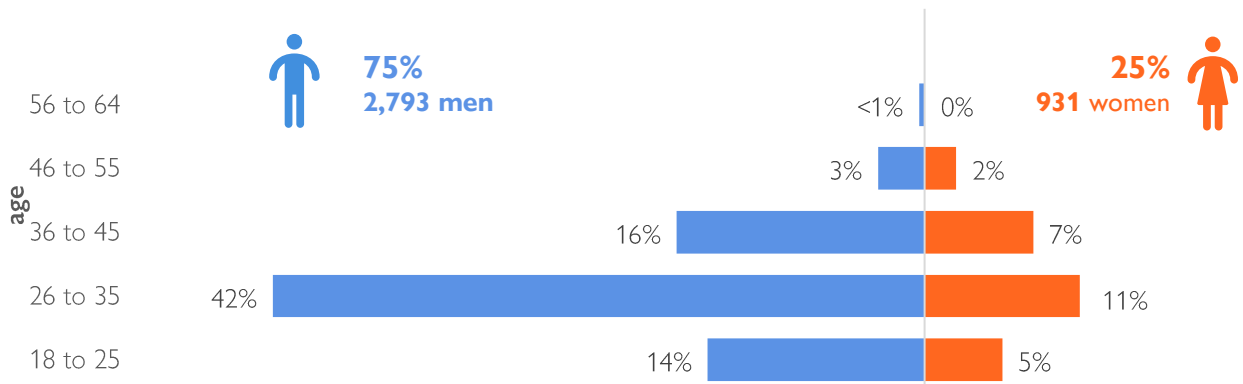| 01 December - 09 December	10 December - 16 December	17 December - 23 December	24 December - 31 December	01 January - 09 January	10 January - 18 January	19 January - 26 January	27 January - 31 January
1,507	1,032	393	638	571	1,217	1.,386	698

Source: Government of Panama, 2021

Migrants moving through the Americas in the MRS in Los Planes, Gualaca, Chiriqui, Panama.
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SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

A) Gender and age

Between January 1 and January 31, 2022, an estimated 3,724 migrants in a situation of mobility in the Americas entered irregularly Costa Rica. The majority of the migration flow is composed of men (75% men and 25% women). The average age is 34 years, with a majority of people (72%) between 26 and 45 years of age (see Figure 3).

Figure 3. Percentage of people in mobility situations through the Americas by age and gender
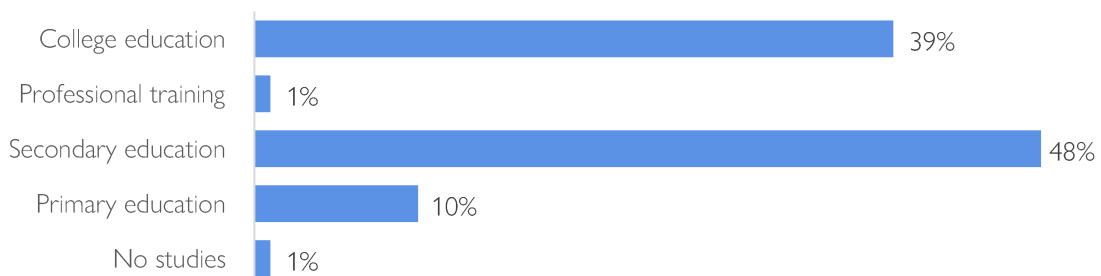
age	Men	Women
	75% 2,793 men	25% 931 women
56 to 64	<1%	0%
46 to 55	3%	2%
36 to 45	16%	7%
26 to 35	42%	11%
18 to 25	14%	5%

B) Country of nationality

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela **1,601** people	Cuba **559** people	Haiti **521** people	Senegal **335** people	Others **708** people

Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Togo, Plurinational State of Bolivia.

C) Educational level

The level of education varies according to nationality: people from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Cuba have higher percentages of completed secondary education (92% and 93% respectively), compared to people from Haiti and Senegal; 23% of the Haitian population has not completed secondary school, while 12% of the Senegalese population has not completed any level of education.

Figure 4. Percentage of people in a mobility situation in the Americas by educational level completed

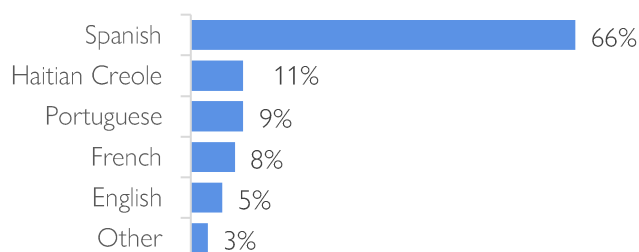| Educational level	Percentage
College education	39%
Professional training	1%
Secondary education	48%
Primary education	10%
No studies	1%

D) Language

The main languages in which migrants normally communicate are Spanish (66%) and Haitian Creole (11%). However, other languages are identified in smaller proportions: Portuguese, French and English (Figure 5). The population that normally communicates in Spanish originates mainly from countries of the American continent and 96% of the population that communicates in Haitian Creole originates from Haiti.

The population that normally communicates in Portuguese is composed of 36 percent of people from Senegal, 32 percent from Haiti and 32 percent from other countries (Angola, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea and Brazil). Regarding the population that communicates in French, 45 percent is from Senegal, 14 percent from Haiti and 41 percent from other countries (Angola, Cameroon, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Togo). Likewise, 21 percent of the population that normally communicates in English is from Nigeria, and the remaining 79 percent from Cuba, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ghana, Afghanistan, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan.

Figure 5. Percentage of people in mobility through the Americas according to the language in which they normally communicate.

Language	Percentage
Spanish	66%
Haitian Creole	11%
Portuguese	9%
French	8%
English	5%
Other	3%

Sixty-four percent of Haitian nationals normally communicate in Haitian Creole, followed by Portuguese (21%), French (8%) and Spanish (8%).

Forty percent of people of Senegalese origin normally communicate in French, 36% in Portuguese, 20% in Wolof and 4% in Spanish.
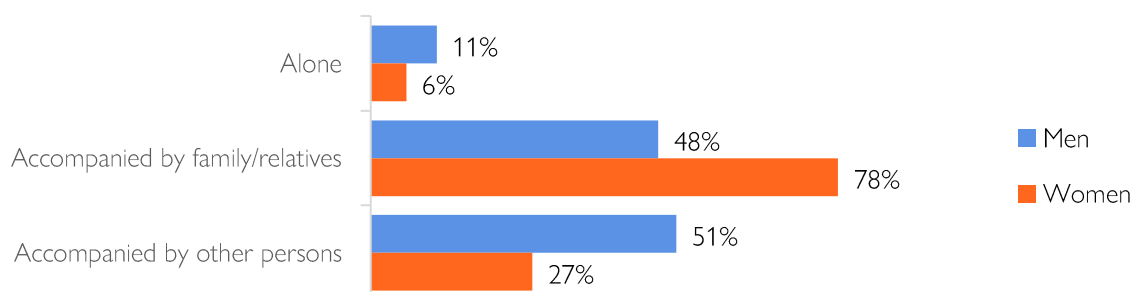
MIGRATION STATUS

E) Accompaniment during the trip

The survey collected information on the groups with whom people travel, that is, the people who accompany the surveyed migrant during their migration journey. A total of 1,428 people were counted, of which 75 percent are men and 25 percent are women. In addition, it is estimated that 13 percent of the accompanying persons are persons under 18 years of age and less than 1 percent are older persons.

Nine percent of people traveled unaccompanied; however, the percentage of people traveling alone is higher among men: 11 percent compared to 6 percent of women (Figure 6). On the other hand, of the 91 percent of people who reported traveling in a group, 56 percent were accompanied by their family and/or relatives, with an average of 4 people per travel group.
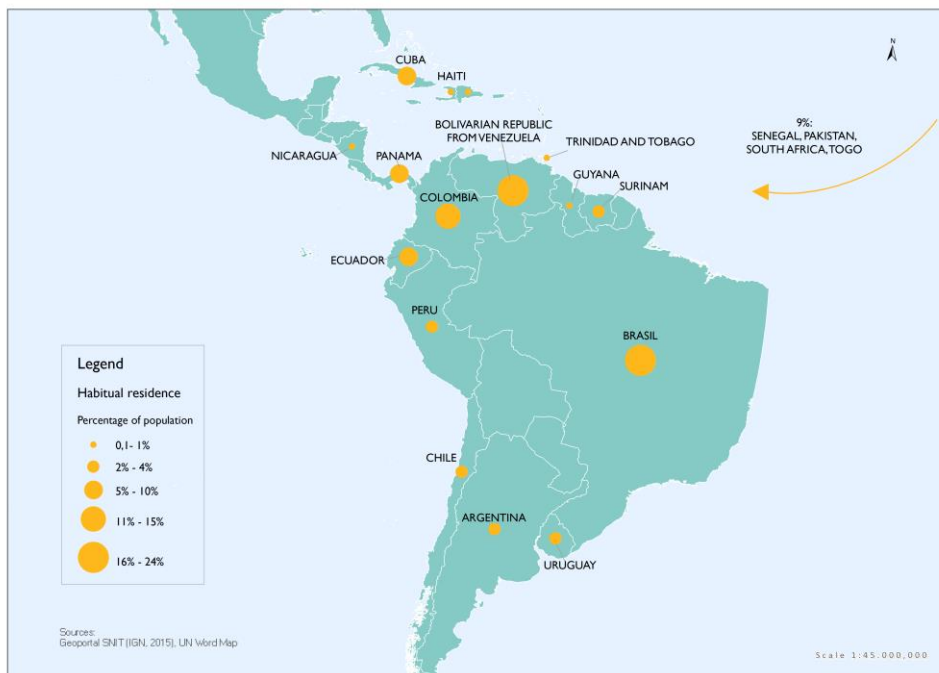
Figure 6. Percentage of travel companionship of people in mobility situation through the Americas, by gender

	Men	Women
Alone	11%	6%
Accompanied by family/relatives	48%	78%
Accompanied by other persons	51%	27%

FLOW MONITORING OF PEOPLE IN MOBILITY SITUATION THROUGH THE AMERICAS. PASO CANOAS, COSTA RICA - PANAMA ROUND 2 – JANUARY 2021

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The main countries of habitual residence of **people in mobility situation through the Americas** (countries where people lived for one year or more before starting their trip) are Brazil (24%), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (21%), Colombia (14%), Ecuador (8%), Panama (5%), Cuba (5%), Peru (4%), and 19 percent among 21 other countries (Map 2).

Map 2. Country of usual residence of **people in mobility situation through the Americas**

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Of the 43 percent of persons originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 46 percent were living in their country of origin before starting their trip (18% indicated residing in Caracas and 10% in Maracaibo), 21 percent in Colombia (9% indicated residing in Bogota), 11 percent in Ecuador (6% indicated residing in Guayaquil), 9% in Panama (5% in Panama City), 8% in Peru (7% indicated residing in Lima) and 3% in Brazil.

Of the 15 percent of persons originating from Cuba, 32 percent indicated residing in their country of origin before starting their trip (15% indicated residing in Havana, 5% in Matanzas), 20 percent in Suriname (15% indicated residing in Paramaribo) and 10 percent in Montevideo, Uruguay.
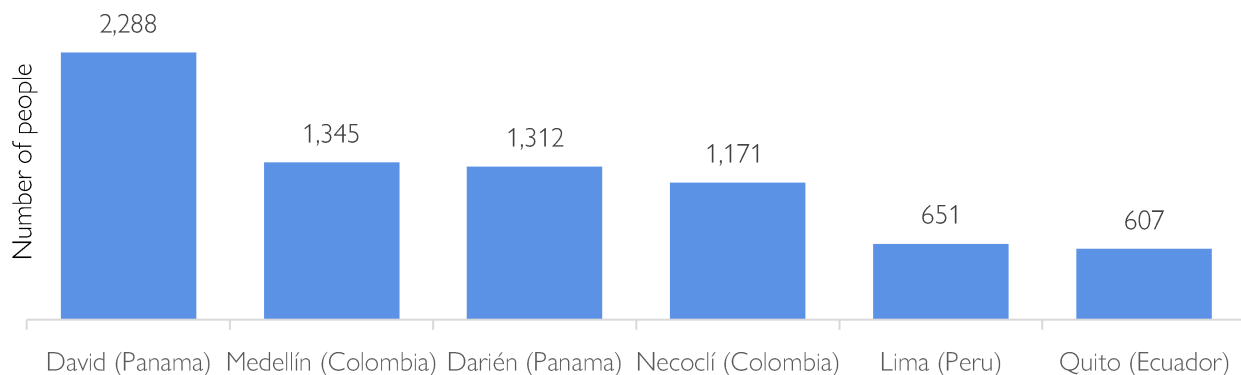
Of the 14 percent of Haitians, 82 percent indicated Brazil as their country of usual residence (33% indicated Sao Paulo, 18% Santa Catarina, 10% Paraná, 10% Porto Alegre) and only 5 percent indicated residing in Haiti before starting their trip.

Of the 9 percent of people from Senegal, 50 percent indicated Brazil as their usual country of residence (36% indicated Sao Paulo), 21 percent Senegal (8% indicated Dakar, the rest indicated they did not know the name of the city), 17 percent Argentina (12% indicated Bueno Aires), and the remaining 12 percent other countries (Ecuador, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Uruguay).

Figure 7. Main cities reported as transit sites on the migration route
People had the possibility of choosing more than one option.

	David (Panama)	Medellín (Colombia)	Darién (Panama)	Necoclí (Colombia)	Lima (Peru)	Quito (Ecuador)
Number of people	2,288	1,345	1,312	1,171	651	607

Map 3 shows the main migration routes identified by the migrant population moving between South American countries to Central America[6] . The identified route begins in Brazil and Bolivia, continuing to Peru (mainly to the city of Lima), and then to Quito in Ecuador. From Ecuador, the route forks into two routes; one to Medellín and the other to Necoclí in Colombia. From Medellín, there is one flow that indicates heading directly to David in Panama, and two others that travel to Necoclí or Darién in Panama, and from there, the routes are distributed among various transit cities reported in Panama.

Map 3. Main transit route and cities of the migrant population in mobility through the Americas
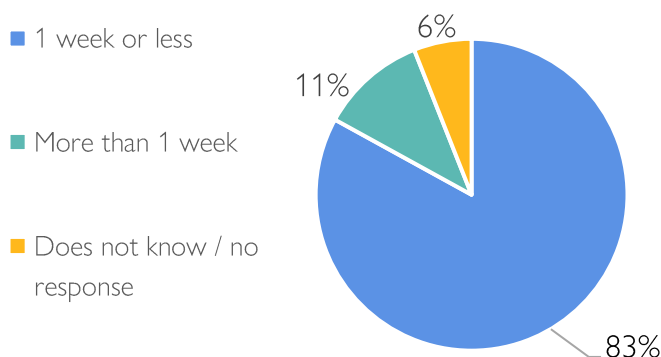

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The main countries and cities of transit reported by migrants during their journey are also identified[7]. Approximately 91 percent of the people are aware of having passed through various cities in Panama, mainly through David (76%), Darién (43%), Chiriquí (6%), Panama City (4%), San Vicente (4%), among others (Puerto Limón, Lajas Blancas, Canaán Membrillo, Colón, Gualaca, Acandí, Anachocuna, Amila, Metetí, Paso Canoas, Los Planes and Santa Marta). The next country to be reported as part of the route is Colombia, with approximately 78 percent of the flow passing through this country, mainly through the cities of Medellín (44%), Necoclí (39%), Capurganá (8%) and Bogotá (4%). Other main countries reported as part of the journey are Ecuador (42%), Peru (37%), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (20%) and Brazil (10%), Figure 7 shows an approximation of the total number of people who have transited through the main cities reported.

Figure 8. Percentage of people in mobility situation through the Americas by approximate length of time they plan to stay in Costa Rica

The population was asked about the approximate time they plan to stay in Costa Rica: 95 percent indicated that they planned to stay less than 1 day in Costa Rica (Figure 8), while 99 percent of the population indicated that they entered the country by January 2022.

- 1 week or less
- More than 1 week
- Does not know / no response

6%
11%
83%

INFORMATION NEEDS DURING THEIR STAY IN COSTA RICA

Forty-one percent of the population indicated having some need for information during their stay in Costa Rica, related to access to basic resources, documentation and economic resources, among others, while the remaining 59 percent indicated having no need at all.

No need
59%

Access to food
12%

Medical assistance
6%

Safety
5%

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6. Ninety-three percent of the surveyed population responded on migration routes, and 11 percent of the responding population indicated only one movement.
7. Map 3 includes information on migration routes identified by 10 or more respondents, excluding all those with fewer records.

Regarding the countries of destination of the population, the United States of America was identified as the main destination country (75%), followed by Mexico (19%), Canada (5%), among others (Map 4). However, there is a percentage variation in the destination country according to the nationalities of the individuals: of those who indicated that they came from Haiti, 53 percent indicated Mexico as their final destination country, followed by the United States of America (35%), Canada (10%) and 3 percent who indicated that they did not know their destination country. On the other hand, 90 percent of people originating from Cuba also indicated the United States of America, followed by Canada and Mexico (5% each). In addition, 86 percent of persons originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela indicated the United States of America as their final destination country, followed by Mexico (9%) and Canada (3%). Finally, 56 percent of the population originating in Senegal indicated the United States of America as their final destination country, followed by Mexico (32%) and Canada (12%).

Map 4. Country of final destination of people in mobility situation through the Americas
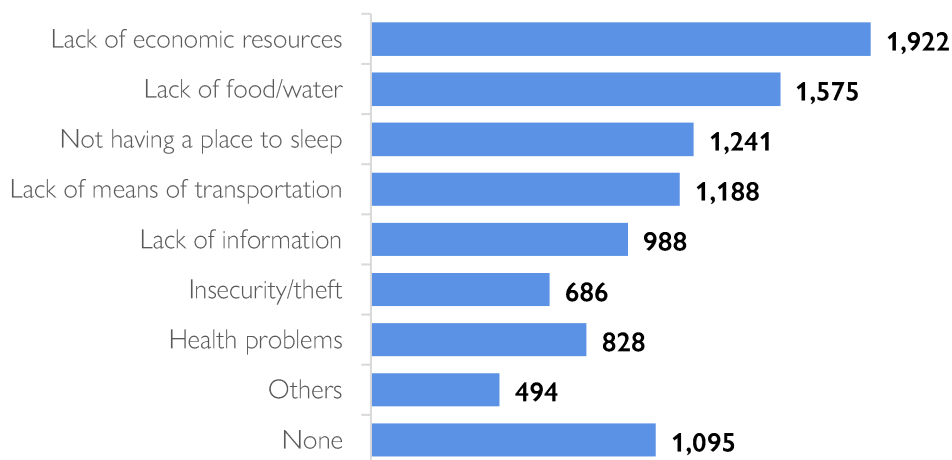

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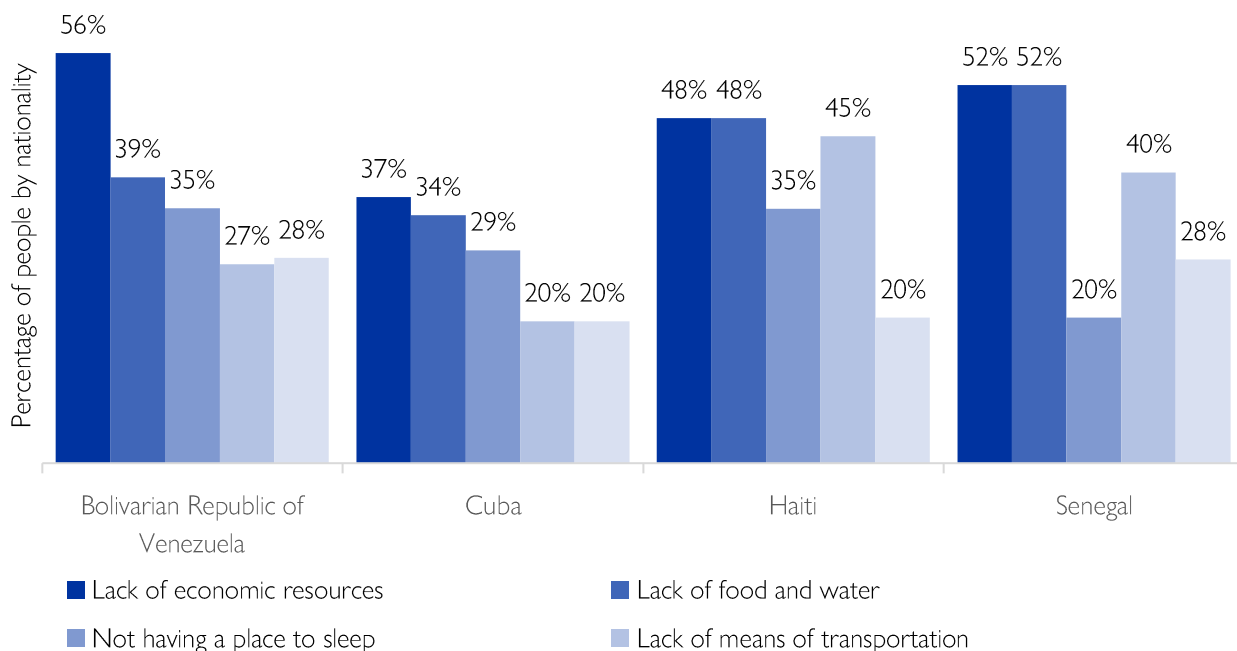
F) Difficulties during the trip

Regarding difficulties during the trip, 52 percent of the population pointed out lack of economic resources, followed by lack of food or water (42%), not having a place to sleep (33%), lack of transportation (32%), lack of information (27%), insecurity or theft (23%), health problems (22%), among others (Graph 9).

Figure 9. Number of people who experienced difficulties during the trip, according to type of difficulty.
People had the possibility to choose more than one option

Type of difficulty	Number
Lack of economic resources	1,922
Lack of food/water	1,575
Not having a place to sleep	1,241
Lack of means of transportation	1,188
Lack of information	988
Insecurity/theft	686
Health problems	828
Others	494
None	1,095

Other difficulties: Deportation, arrest/detention and documentation problems.

Figure 10. Main difficulties by main identified nationalities
People had the possibility to choose more than one option.

Y-axis: Percentage of people by nationality

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: 56%, 39%, 35%, 27%, 28%
Cuba: 37%, 34%, 29%, 20%, 20%
Haiti: 48%, 48%, 35%, 45%, 20%
Senegal: 52%, 52%, 20%, 40%, 28%

Legend:
- Lack of economic resources
- Lack of food and water
- Not having a place to sleep
- Lack of means of transportation

The flow of migrant population moving through the Americas continues to be high compared to previous years and, likewise, during January 2022 there was an increase, mainly of population originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: between the first and last week of January, departures from the MRS in Los Planes and the consequent entry to Costa Rica increased.

Most people (88%) reported having completed high school or higher education levels (university, professional training); however, these proportions vary according to nationality. People from Haiti and Senegal had lower levels of education completed compared to people of other nationalities: 79 percent of Haitians reported having completed secondary education and/or higher education, and 12 percent of people from Senegal had not completed any level of education.

A high percentage of the population began their journey in countries other than their countries of origin, indicating that the population moving through the Americas had previously migrated, mainly to South American countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay (among others).

The majority of the population (95%) indicated that they do not plan to stay more than one day in Costa Rica, which reduces the length of stay in the country compared to the flow that entered in December, which planned to stay in Costa Rica for at least a week. The United States emerged as the main destination for the flow of migrants; however, for Haitians, Mexico was identified as the main country of attraction.

Lack of economic resources and access to food were the main difficulties identified in the migration process of the migrant population moving through the Americas, while during their stay in Costa Rica, access to food, health and security became important.