



@IOM Trinidad and Tobago

DTM

Displacement
Tracking Matrix

**MONITORING MIGRANTS PRESENCE:
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. METHODOLOGY.....	3
3. MIGRANT PROFILES.....	4
4. ROUTES.....	8
5. DEPENDENTS	10
6. WORK STATUS	11
7. PROTECTION.....	12
8. CHILDREN	12
9. HEALTH	13
10. Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic	14
11. NEEDS.....	15
12. SUMMARY	16

1. INTRODUCTION

Trinidad and Tobago, similar to many other countries, continues to wrestle with the worst impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which became manifest on the island in March 2020. This virus, however, presented another layer of complexity to an already complicated context. More pointedly, since 2016, the country has been grappling with escalating inflows of Venezuelan migrants, given the deteriorating situation in Venezuela. Additionally, from as early as 2014, it encountered significant economic challenges that were precipitated by plummeting energy commodity prices and sector contraction.

Consequently, heightened health and safety protocols to combat the spread of the virus, such as the closure of national borders and non-essential businesses; the introduction of virtual school and work; and the declaration of a State of Emergency in May 2021; inadvertently exacerbated economic issues and migrant vulnerabilities.

Therefore, in March 2021, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) conducted a re-registration exercise for Venezuelans, who were previously registered under the Venezuelan Migrant Registration Framework in June 2019, to extend their legal status and options for legitimate employment. A total of 13,800 individuals participated in this process, which was 2,723 less than the number of registrants in 2019.

Furthermore, with the assistance of the Venezuelan Embassy, there was a major voluntary repatriation exercise of 680 Venezuelan nationals, in July 2021.

The rollout of an intensive vaccination programme, however, supported the re-opening of State borders on 17th July 2021 and the resumption of retail activity from 16th August 2021. It must also be noted that the COVID-19 vaccines have been made available to Venezuelan migrants in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) 2021, therefore, presented an excellent opportunity to examine the situation of Venezuelan migrants against these backgrounds.

IOM's DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to capture, process, and disseminate critical multi-layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations, regularly and systematically. Hence, the DTM provides decision-makers and responders with insightful data to guide specific assistance to target populations.

A total of 1,376 Venezuelan migrants participated in DTM 2021, between October and November 2021. The areas with the highest number of respondents were Penal/Debe followed by Chaguanas and Tunapuna/Piarco, as shown in Map 1. Notwithstanding this, three respondents indicated that they did not know in which Regional Corporation or district they resided. This may be due to a high level of internal mobility, amongst the Venezuelan migrant population, and resultant frequent changes in residence.

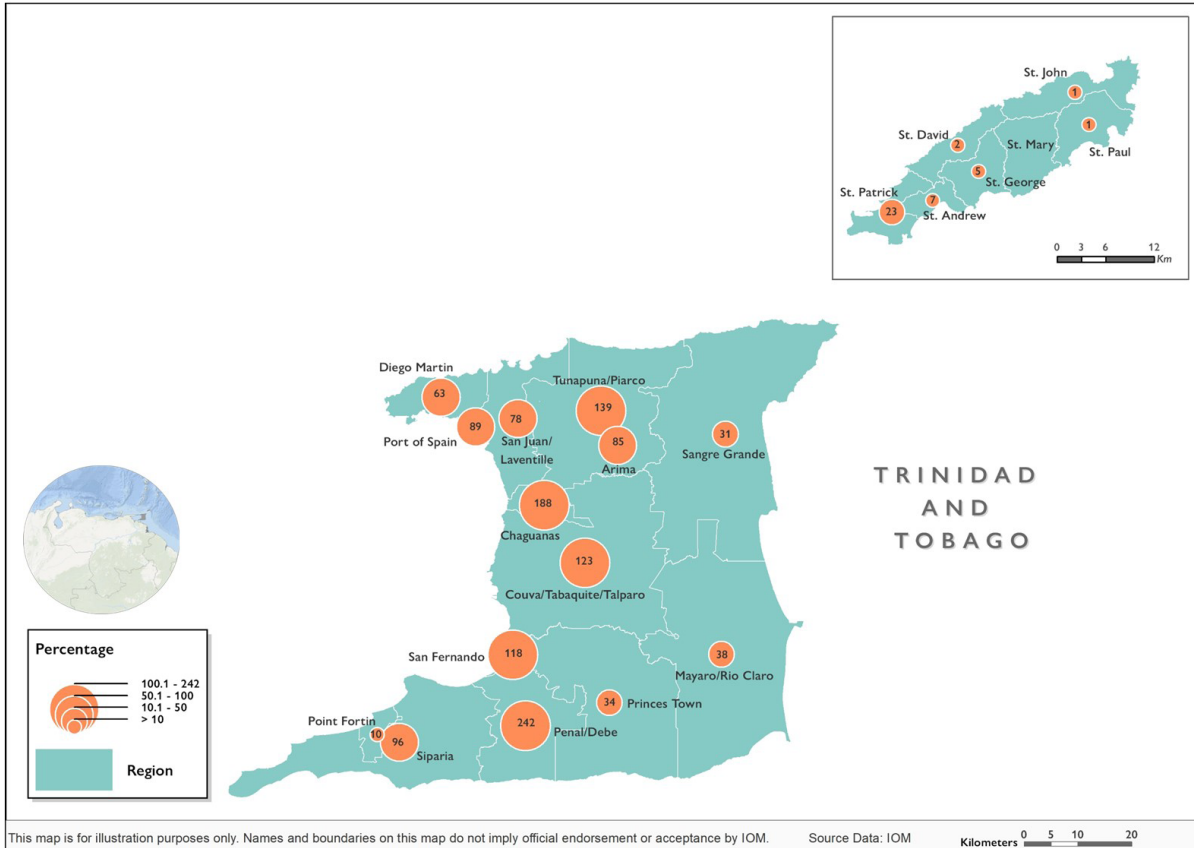
MAP 1

Number of Surveys by Region

NUMBER OF SURVEYS BY REGION - DTM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Data collection 2021



2. METHODOLOGY

The 2021 DTM relied on both qualitative and quantitative methods to capture information on key thematic areas.

More specifically, qualitative Baseline Interviews with twenty-six (26) key stakeholders, who work closely with Venezuelan migrants, informed preliminary migrant profiles, and supported the dissemination of an online form for the enumeration process. These interviews were conducted in September 2021.

Following the Baseline Interviews, surveys were administered to Venezuelan migrants, who were over the age of 18 years, and willingly participated in the interview process.

The data collection method involved telephone-based interviews, as despite improvements in the national COVID-19 situation, the face-to-face interview approach was still infeasible.

An online form was developed for this round of DTM to encourage interested, eligible persons to share their contact information for inclusion in the DTM survey exercise. It was broadcast on various social media platforms and within stakeholder networks¹.

This effort, therefore, supported the creation of a migrant database from which respondents were selected. There was also one instance of a direct referral from a stakeholder who provided contact information for migrants amenable to involvement.

Hence considering this new approach, and unlike DTM 2020, a purposive sampling strategy was used. Nonetheless, the impetus for non-probability sampling persisted, as a defined sampling frame was unavailable, and the population continued to be a ‘hard-to-reach’ one.

Thus, this sampling method, coupled with mobility restrictions, imposed some limitations on the exercise regarding its representativeness.²

Data collection spanned approximately three weeks and it was executed by a team of bilingual enumerators, trained in DTM procedures. The survey instrument, which maintained respondent anonymity, was the data collection tool and the individual migrant was the sampling unit.

Furthermore, tablets were used during data capture and the information generated was cleaned, coded, and analyzed, using standardized statistical techniques.

1 Some key stakeholders included UNHCR, religious organizations and non-governmental organizations.
2 Non-probability samples cannot be relied upon to draw conclusions or make inferences on the entire migrant population.

3. MIGRANT PROFILES

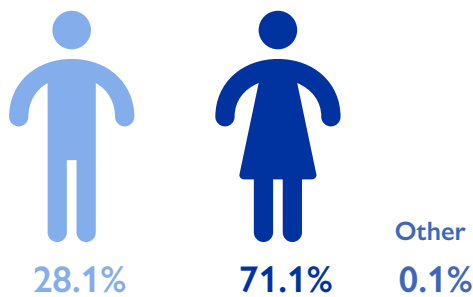
The minimum selection criteria for DTM 2021 determined that all respondents should be Venezuelan nationals, who are 18 years and over.

A demographic analysis of the interviewees showed that there were significantly more female respondents than male. In addition, one respondent identified as other. Graph 1 refers.

These findings mirrored the DTM 2020 data which, likewise, recorded a higher number of female respondents to males. In 2021, however, the gap between the two sexes widened considerably.

Interestingly, most of the baseline interviews indicated no proportional differences between the sexes of migrants, with whom they interacted.

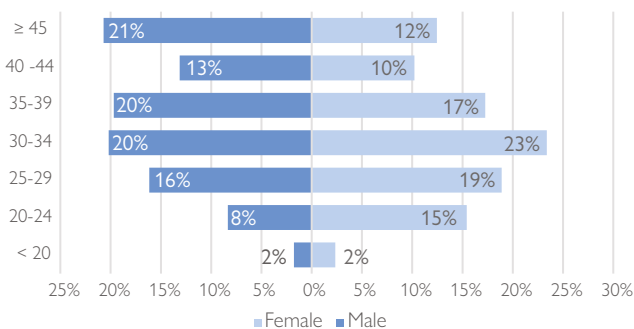
GRAPH 1
Distribution by Sex



A breakdown by age and sex also revealed that the 30-34 age group had the highest number of respondents, followed by the 25-29 and the 35-39 groups, as highlighted in Graph 2. The respondent who identified as 'other' was in the 20-24 age group.

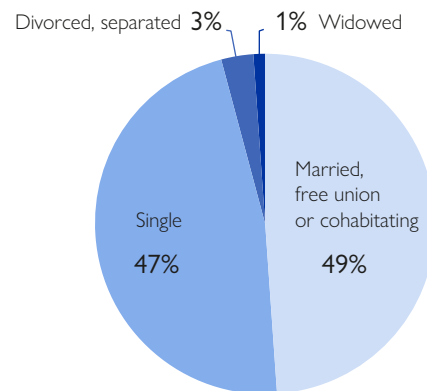
These trends were consistent with the DTM 2020.

GRAPH 2
Distribution by Sex and Age



Concerning union status, there were slightly more married, free union or cohabiting respondents than single persons, which was the inverse of the DTM 2020 findings. Additionally, these two categories combined, accounted for 96 per cent of the interviewees. Graph 3 illustrates.

GRAPH 3
Marital Status



Moreover, about 5 per cent of the female interviewees were pregnant, of which 33 per cent were single. The majority, approximately 63 per cent, were between 20 and 29 years old.

Some stakeholders, however, noted the pervasiveness of pregnant female migrants and recognized the prevalence of pregnant minors and young women.

Further to this, a small number baseline interviews highlighted a growing pattern of pregnant women returning to Venezuela to have their babies.

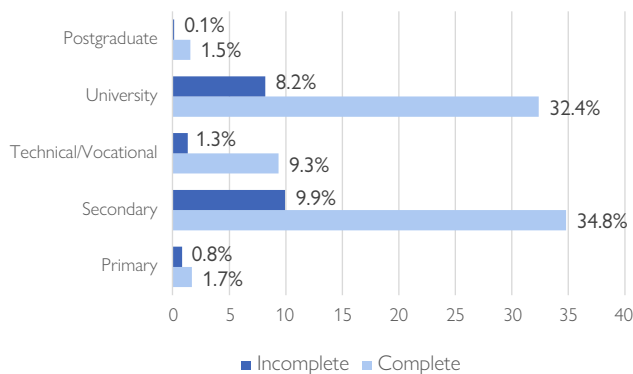
When asked about their ethnicity, the majority of the respondents did not align with any ethnic group, however, 2.8 per cent identified with Warao and 1.1 per cent with Afro-descendant.

In the area of education, about 0.4 per cent of the interviewees had not completed any schooling. Nonetheless, approximately 32 per cent of the interviewees had completed university education, which concurred with the 2020 data that indicated a finding of 33 per cent. Further to this, about 35 per cent of the interviewees had completed secondary level education (Graph 4).

Therefore, over two-thirds of the DTM interviewees had reportedly completed either secondary or university education.

GRAPH 4

Education Level



Additionally, during the baseline interviews, some key stakeholders supported these findings and reported that many migrants were not employed in their areas of expertise or qualification.

It is also notable that approximately 99 per cent of the interviewees were Venezuelan nationals only, and of those with a second nationality, Trinidadian was most-frequently mentioned.

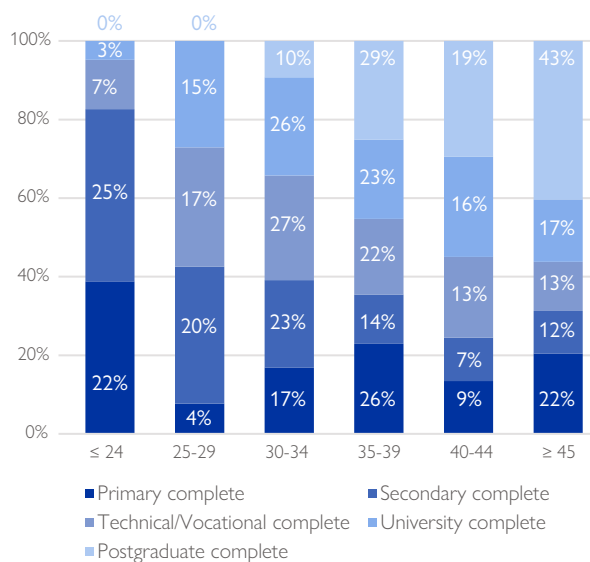
The majority of respondents were born in the eastern states of Venezuela. Moreover, the highest number of interviewees reported that they were born in Delta Amacuro, as was also evident in DTM 2020, and depicted in Map 2.

Also, a significant portion of the respondents in the '35-39', '40-44' and the '45 and over age groups' had completed university level education, whereas the 'less than or equal to 24' age group had the largest percentage of secondary graduates (Graph 5).

Information from the 2019 GORTT Registration Exercise, however, varied with these findings as it indicated that approximately 73 per cent of the registrants had only secondary education and most of them had not completed this level.

GRAPH 5

Completed Education by Age



Furthermore, a disaggregation of completed education by work sector showed that 5 per cent of the interviewees were university graduates, who worked in the construction sector, while approximately 8 per cent were university graduates who engaged in cleaning/domestic work.

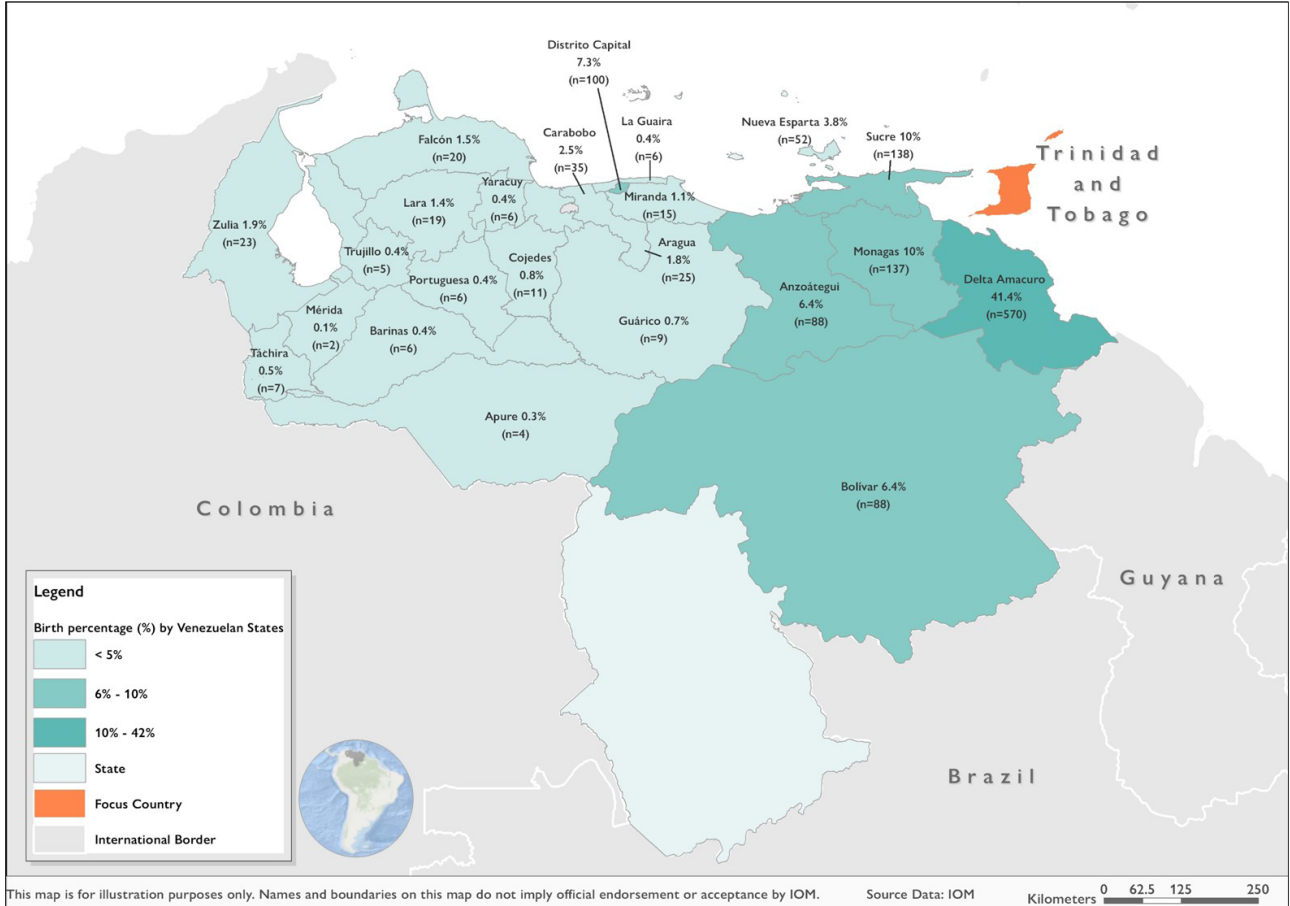
MAP 2

State of Birth

STATE OF BIRTH - DTM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



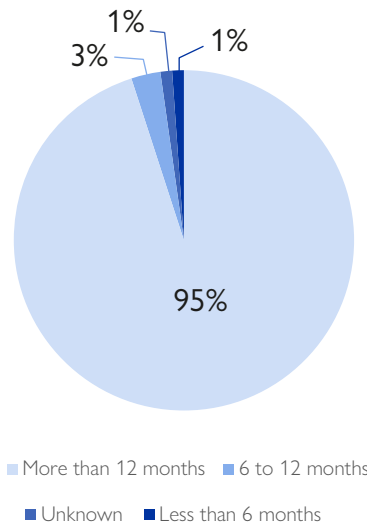
Data collection 2021



In addition, approximately 74 per cent of the respondents had resided in their state of birth before their journey to Trinidad and Tobago.

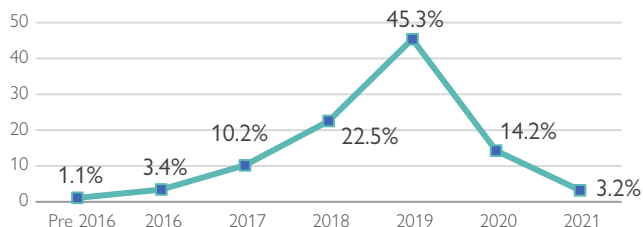
Regarding the length of stay in Trinidad and Tobago, 95 per cent of the interviewed persons were present in the country for more than twelve months, as shown in Graph 6.

GRAPH 6
Time in Trinidad and Tobago



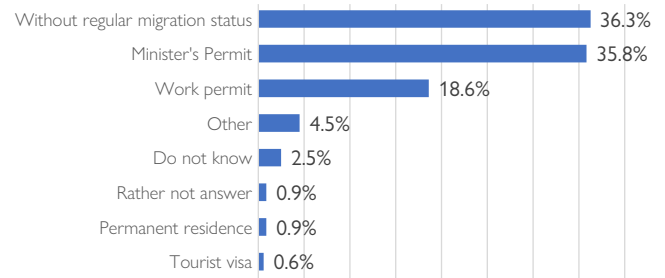
Furthermore, over two-thirds of the respondents arrived in Trinidad and Tobago in either 2018 or 2019, a trend also observed in DTM 2020. It is important to note, however, that reported entries dropped drastically in 2020 and 2021, as depicted in Graph 7.

GRAPH 7
Date of Arrival



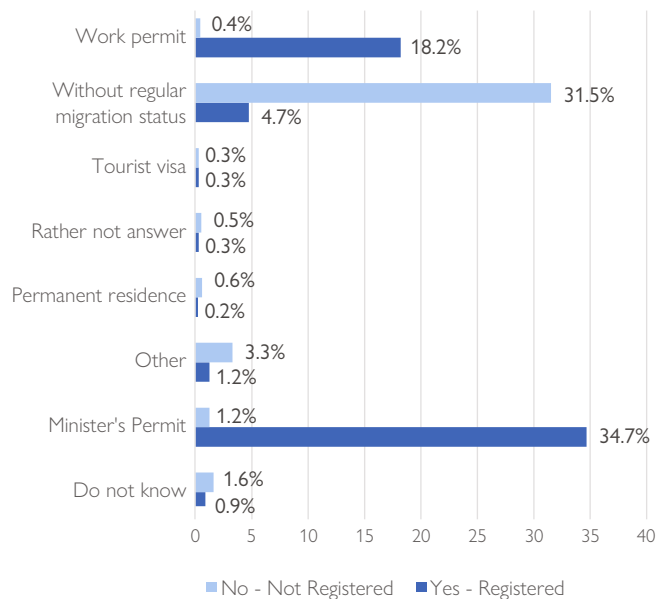
A review of the migratory status of the interviewees further informed that approximately 36 per cent were without regular migration status, and this represented an increase of roughly 18 percentage points from the 2020 findings. In addition, about 55 per cent had either a Minister's Permit or a Work Permit, which accounted for a reduction of 21 percentage points from the 2020 data (Graph 8).

GRAPH 8
Migration Status



Additionally, a breakdown of migrant status by registration status, as it relates to the 2019 exercise, showed that the majority of the unregistered respondents were without regular migration status.

GRAPH 9
Registration Status by Migration Status



Correspondingly, 60 per cent of the respondents were reportedly registered during the Government registration exercise in 2019, and this was 20 percentage points lower than the DTM 2020 data.

Further to this, approximately 79 per cent of registered interviewees participated in the Government re-registration process, in 2021, and about 79 per cent of these persons were either asylum seekers or recognized refugees, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

4. ROUTES

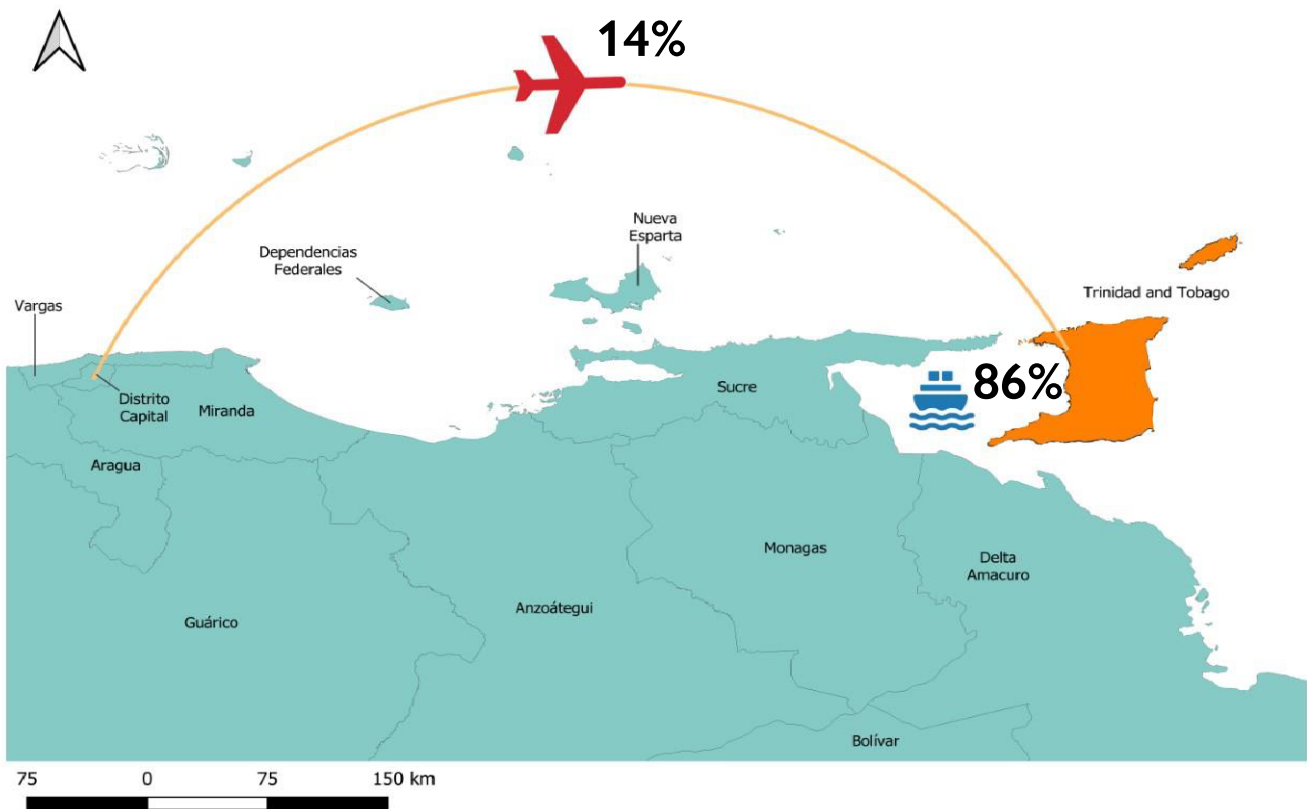
Careful examination of the transit routes, used by the respondents, revealed that 68 per cent began their journey in Delta Amacuro, which was 13 percentage points higher than DTM 2020. Interestingly, 72 per cent of the respondents who began their journey in Delta Amacuro also resided in this area before their departure from Venezuela.

In addition, 86 per cent of all valid responses confirmed that their mode of transport to Trinidad was via boat (Map 3).

These results concurred with the DTM 2020 work and supported the information captured during the baseline interviews.

MAP 3

Routes

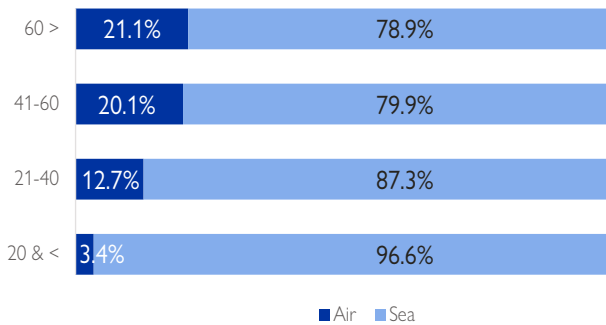


Disclaimer: this map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by

In addition, a breakdown of the modes of transportation by age showed a predominance of sea travel among all groupings, similar to DTM 2020 (Graph 10).

GRAPH 10

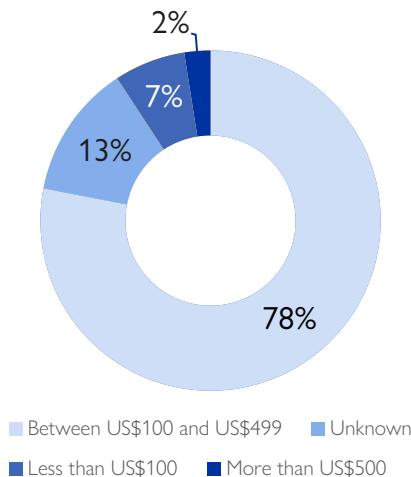
Transportation Type by Age



The results also highlighted that 78 per cent of the interviewees incurred expenses between 100 to 499 US Dollars for their trip and most of these travelers used sea routes. Notwithstanding this, a few respondents faced higher costs, as 2 per cent of the persons reportedly paid more than 500 US Dollars, as shown in Graph 11.

GRAPH 11

Cost of Trip



Roughly, 63 per cent of the interviewed migrants entered through unofficial entry points, which was 21 percentage points higher than DTM 2020. Added to this, 34 per cent of the respondents purportedly used their passports to cross borders.

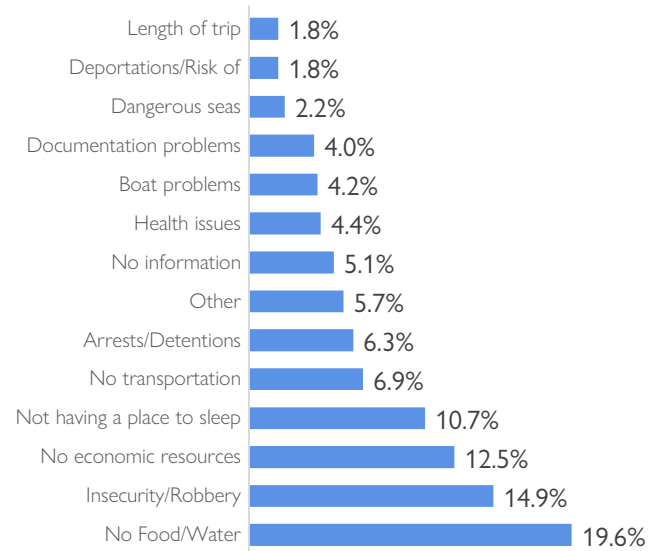
These findings coincided with information from the baseline interviews, which noted a spike in irregular entry amongst Venezuelan nationals, especially after the introduction of visa requirements for Venezuelan nationals in June 2019, and the closure of national borders in March 2020, respectively.

Concerning the journey itself, 81 per cent of the persons did not

report any difficulties during the trip. Of the 19 per cent who did encounter challenges, the most frequently cited difficulties were; lack of food/water, insecurity and robbery, the absence of economic resources and not having a place to sleep (Graph 12). These issues aligned with the DTM 2020 findings.

GRAPH 12

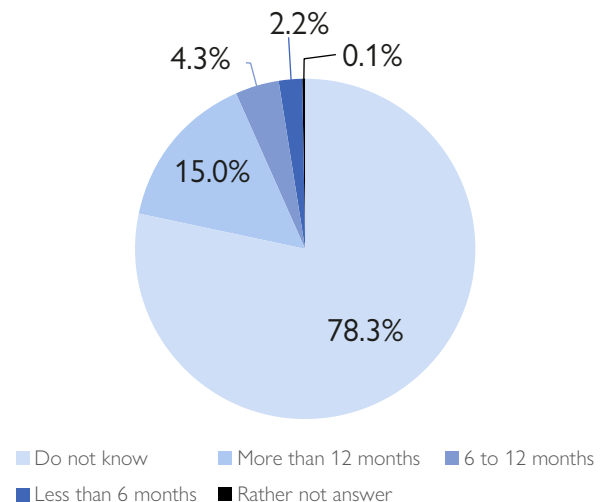
Trip Difficulties



Moreover, about 78 per cent of interviewees were uncertain of their intended period of stay in Trinidad and Tobago. Further to this, 15 per cent expressed their intention to stay for more than 12 months, which reaffirmed the 2020 DTM figure of 16 per cent for this finding. Smaller percentages of the respondents reported that they intended to stay for '6 to 12 months' and 'less than 6 months,' as shown in Graph 13.

GRAPH 13

Length of Stay



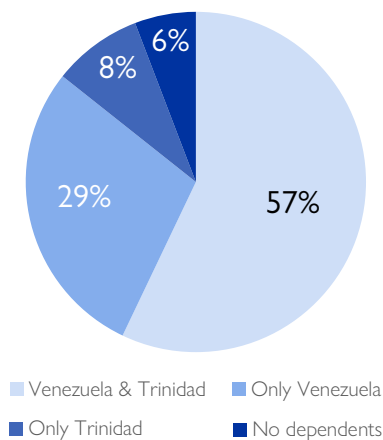
Nevertheless, Trinidad and Tobago was the final destination country for 88 per cent of the persons interviewed. Venezuela and the United States of America emerged as the second and third most popular destinations, respectively, for a considerably lower number of respondents.

It should be noted though, that 36 per cent of the respondents planned to return to Venezuela, which is 16 percentage points lower than the DTM 2020 figure, however, most of them were undecided on when they would do so. Of the remaining respondents, 39 per cent of the interviewees did not intend to return and 25 per cent were uncertain of their return.

5. DEPENDENTS

With regard to economic dependents, 57 per cent of the interviewees had dependents both in Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, while 29 per cent had dependents only in Venezuela and 8 per cent had dependents in Trinidad and Tobago only (Graph 14). These findings were consistent with the DTM 2020 data.

GRAPH 14
Dependents by Location

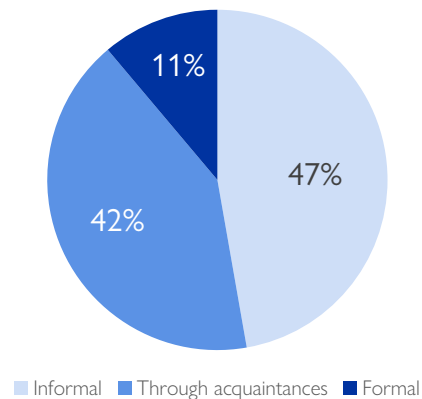


Correspondingly, the baseline interviews recognized a trend of persons entering with their families, including children.

Furthermore, given the prevalence of persons with dependents in Venezuela, 81 per cent of the respondents sent resources to Venezuela, and 75 per cent of these respondents transferred money, which was periodically combined with food, medicine, and clothing.

Notably, ‘informal transfer’ emerged as the top method of sending money among the respondents, followed by ‘through acquaintances’ and ‘formal options’ as depicted in Graph 15. This contrasts with results from the DTM 2020 where formal transfer was the most popular form of remitting funds. The number of interviewees who employed this method in DTM 2021 fell by 26 percentage points.

GRAPH 15
Means of Remitting Money



Family Groups

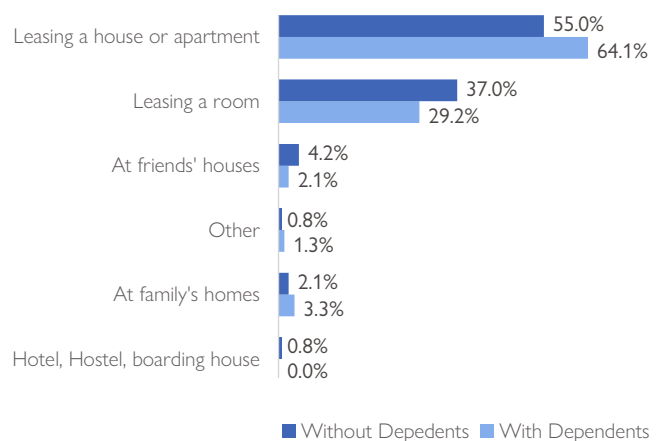
Further analysis of the traveling companions showed that approximately half of the respondents did not journey alone and 82 per cent of these persons traveled with their families, which was comparable to DTM 2020.

Additionally, over two-thirds of the respondents who did not travel alone had children in their travel group, and 73 per cent of these children traveled with their mothers.

The baseline interviews supported this data as it underscored that the incidence of unaccompanied migrant children entering Trinidad and Tobago from Venezuela was low.

Approximately 64 per cent of the persons, with dependents in Trinidad and Tobago, were renting houses or apartments. However, over a quarter of the persons in this category were recorded as renting single rooms (Graph 16).

GRAPH 16
Accommodation



Moreover, although no respondents reported that they were homeless, some key informants recognized an inextricable link between the COVID 19 pandemic and a surge in migrant unemployment, which has contributed to migrant homelessness, and stymied migrant remittances to relatives in Venezuela.

A few stakeholders also expressed the view that worsening conditions have pushed some migrants into vagrancy and street dwelling.

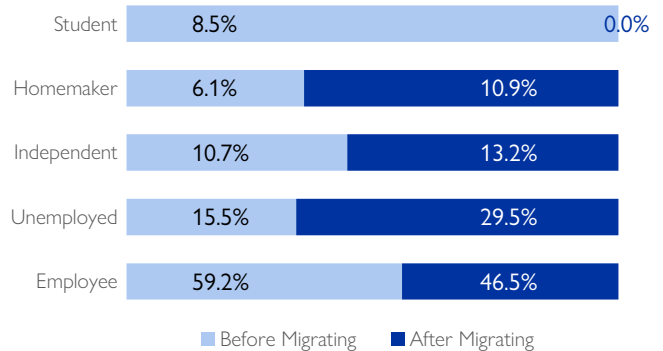
6. WORK STATUS

Improved economic opportunity is regarded as one of the key drivers of migration.

During the post-migration period, however, there was a rise in unemployment amongst the interviewees, which was less dramatic than the 2020 DTM findings of a 26 per cent increase in unemployment after migration. A modest decrease in employment was also observed, as illustrated in Graph 17.

In addition, all students discontinued their educational pursuits, after their migration, and 40 per cent of them were absorbed into the labour market as employees, while a little over one third were recorded as unemployed.

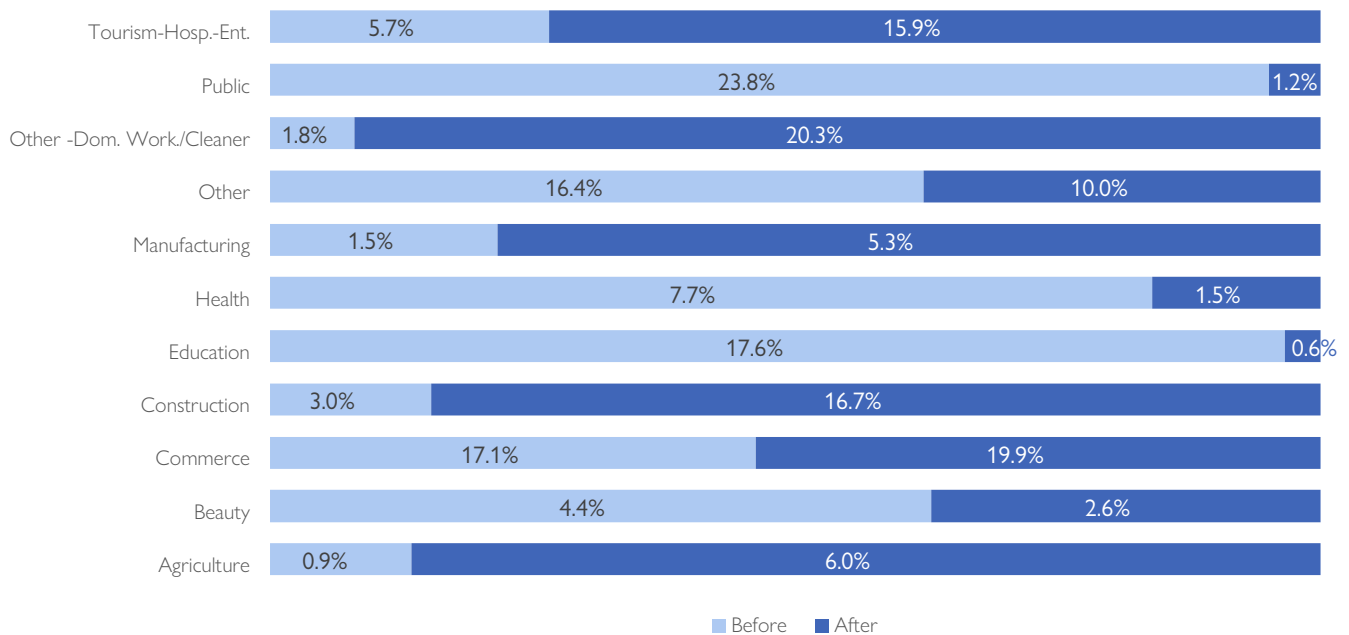
GRAPH 17
Work Status by Migration



An analysis of the pre- and post-migration work sectors also showed respondents' shift into domestic work and the construction sector. Accordingly, after their migration, about 20 per cent of the respondents were employed in domestic work/cleaning and 17 per cent were in the construction sector (Graph 18).

Interestingly, compared to DTM 2020, the interviewees working in the construction sector, subsequent to their movement, fell by 7 percentage points but individuals working in the domestic/cleaning areas rose by 11 percentage points.

GRAPH 18
Work Sector



The data also showed that 53 per cent of the currently employed interviewees worked in the informal sector, which was an increase of 7 percentage points from the 2020 DTM.

Furthermore, approximately 96 per cent of the persons working in the informal sector, and 69 per cent of the persons working in the formal sector had not signed a contract and/or had no proof of payment for their services.

Similarly, an assessment of salaries, rated either hourly or monthly, indicated that 27 per cent of the respondents working in the formal sector and 37 per cent of the respondents working in the informal sector were underpaid, as they reportedly received less than Trinidad and Tobago's minimum wages.

These findings signified a decrease from the DTM 2020 data, which found that 36 per cent of the persons working in the formal sector and 54 per cent of the persons working in the informal sector were underpaid.

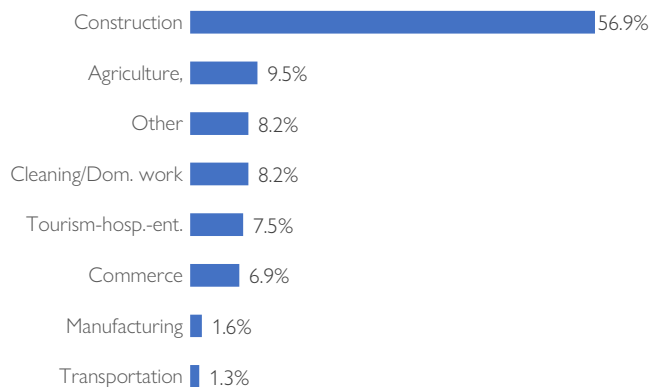
7. PROTECTION

Protection is a core aspect of the DTM, which focuses on the major vulnerabilities encountered by migrant populations.

Accordingly, it was determined that 21 per cent of the respondents were aware of someone in their migrant community who worked and received less than the agreed payment, and 35 per cent were aware of persons who received no payment. Additionally, approximately 57 per cent of the persons who received no payment were reportedly employed in the construction sector, as shown in Graph 19.

GRAPH 19

Unpaid Work



Further to this, approximately 8 per cent of the persons interviewed were aware of someone in their migrant community who was forced to perform work, or other activities, against their will. These cases were concentrated in the construction sector, the tourism-hospitality-entertainment sector and sex work, respectively.

In addition, one third of the respondents had witnessed physical violence and 13 per cent had witnessed sexual violence, during their time in Trinidad and Tobago.

Respondents also noted that in situations of violence against females whom they knew, the police and a medical clinic were the primary and secondary options for seeking assistance. However, 13 per cent of the respondents did not know where to seek assistance, as highlighted in Graph 20. This was a reduction of 15 percentage points from the DTM 2020 figure.

GRAPH 20

Top Three Assistance to Female Victims of Violence



Apart from this, some stakeholders in the baseline interviews referred to domestic violence against women and xenophobia as key challenges faced by migrants.

Notwithstanding this, the survey data informed that 51 per cent of the respondents experienced discrimination that was primarily related to their nationality, and this was 8 percentage points lower than the 2020 DTM data.

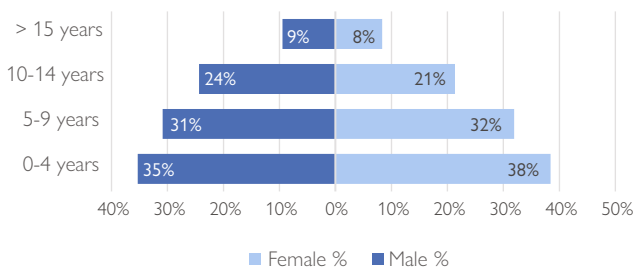
8. CHILDREN

The specific situation of children was analyzed in DTM 2021, and it was noted that there were 2,089 children, under the age of 18 years, who lived with 70 per cent of the interviewees.

Additionally, an age and sex disaggregation of the children living with the respondents showed that there were marginally more males than females. The 0-4 category had the largest number of children, followed by the 5-9 age group. Graph 21 refers.

GRAPH 21

Children by Age and Sex



Regarding the possession of birth certificates, 18 per cent of the respondents were aware of circumstances in which children were born in Trinidad and Tobago, to Venezuelan migrants, and they did not have birth certificates. Furthermore, fees/costs and lack of documentation were the major reasons for this situation. Other possible explanations proffered by a few interviewees included 'did not approach the authorities' and 'lack of information on the process.'

Additionally, a key stakeholder, during the baseline interview, reported that migrants might be hesitant to register their newborns because of the perception, amongst some nationals, that migrants are spreading Covid-19.

Added to this, the data showed that 43 per cent of the children living with the respondents did not have access to education in Trinidad and Tobago, which was a reduction of 16 percentage points from DTM 2020.

The main identified reasons for this inaccessibility were 'lack of access/lack of information regarding access', 'lack of documentation', and 'fees', respectively. There were also four cases where 'disability' was indicated as the reason for no access to education and two cases in which 'working' was identified as the reason.

Moreover, respondents reported a few instances of children involved in work that jeopardizes their health, primarily in the construction sector, along with a small number of child detention cases.

Yet, it must be stated that there is neither a policy on nor provisions for the detention of children by the authorities in Trinidad and Tobago. Nevertheless, there may be extenuating conditions whereby the court may place children under the custody of a specific authority.

Within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent national border closure from 23rd March 2020 to 16th July 2021, however, all irregular entrants were placed within quarantine stations, according to the prevailing health protocols.

In addition, the reported situations of separated and unaccompanied children were negligible, which concurred with information from the baseline interviews.

The data further informed that 8 per cent of the respondents had heard of physical violence against children, within their migrant community, and 6 per cent had heard of cases of sexual violence against children, within their migrant community.

Additionally, 22 per cent of the interviewees who resided with children reported strong changes in the child/children's mood since

their departure from Venezuela, with detachment from family and friends being the most cited reason for the change. This figure was 17 percentage points lower than the DTM 2020 figure.

9. HEALTH

This section explored respondents' health access and issues. It was therefore observed that about 19 per cent of the interviewees had no current need for health care services, which was comparable to the DTM 2020.

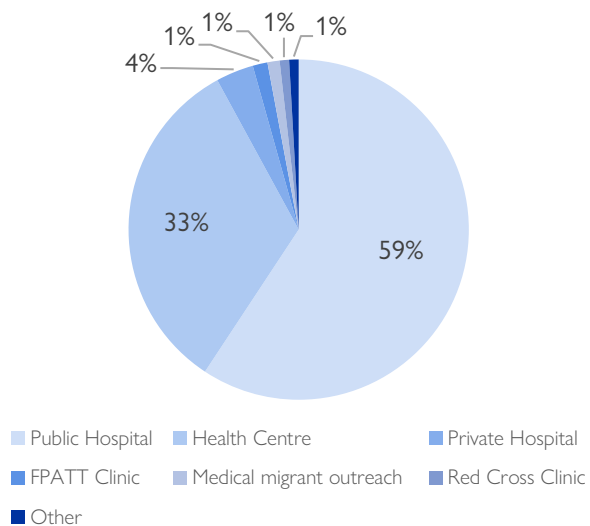
Furthermore, 24 per cent of the interviewees asserted that they had no access to health services when they needed them, and this represented an increase of 4 percentage points from DTM 2020.

Of the persons who had access to health services, 59 per cent reported that the public hospital was their primary option, followed by the health centre, as shown in Graph 22.

These findings were generally aligned with the DTM 2020 data, however, the number of respondents accessing the public hospital decreased by 12 percentage points, with an evident 13 percentage points rise in interviewees who accessed the health centre.

GRAPH 22

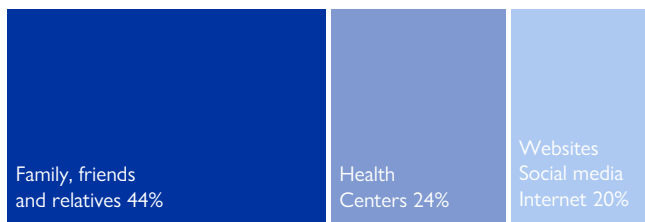
Health Service Options



It was further noted that, 44 per cent of the interviewees received information about health services from their relatives and friends, which was a moderate increase from the 2020 figures. Interestingly, the third most popular option in DTM 2020, 'did not know where to obtain information' was replaced by 'websites, social media/internet' in the 2021 findings (Graph 23).

GRAPH 23

Top Three Sources of Information on Health Services



Additionally, 89 per cent of the respondents did not access reproductive and sexual health services and this was 5 percentage points higher than DTM 2020. Yet, persons who did obtain these services listed contraceptives (inclusive of condoms), treatment, and education and counselling as the top three services accessed, respectively.

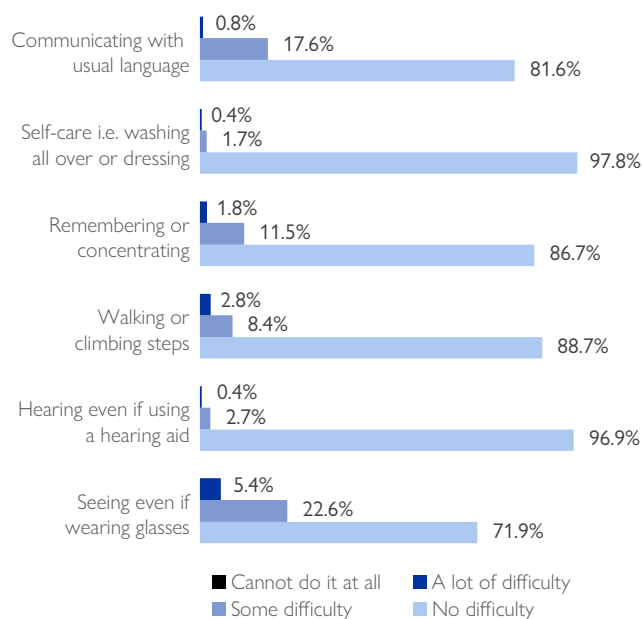
Further to this, 46 per cent of the pregnant mothers did not access prenatal services, which was an increase of 21 percentage points from the DTM 2020 figures.

Also, 73 per cent of the interviewees advised that they did not suffer from any chronic medical conditions, whilst about 17 per cent acknowledged having chronic conditions such as: diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and respiratory diseases.

In addition, DTM 2021 probed the issue of disability³, and it was determined that that the majority of respondents did not encounter any difficulties engaging in key activities. Notwithstanding this, a few interviewees reported some challenges in the following main areas: seeing even if wearing glasses; communicating with usual language; remembering or concentrating, and walking or climbing stairs (Graph 24 refers).

GRAPH 24

Disability



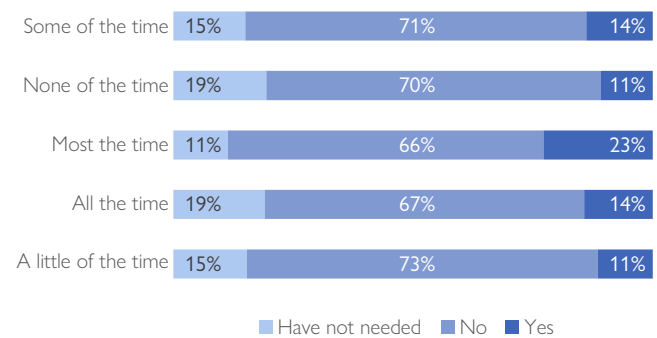
³ Disability questions were consistent with the Washington Group Questions.

The survey also sought to ascertain the respondents' emotional well-being and 13 per cent of them had been upset 'some of the time' during the two weeks prior to the interview, whilst 9 per cent were upset either 'most of the time' or 'all of the time'.

More pointedly, 66 per cent of the persons who felt upset most of the time and 67 per cent of those of who felt upset all the time did not access counselling or psychosocial support in Trinidad and Tobago, as depicted in Graph 25.

GRAPH 25

Emotional Support



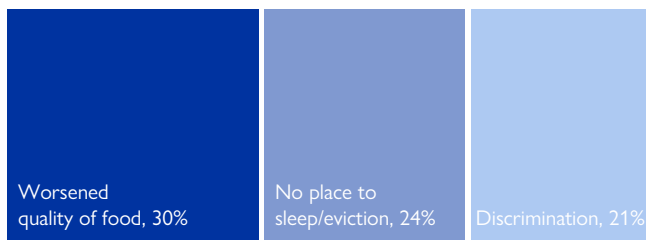
This finding supports the views of key informants who emphasized heightened mental health challenges among the Venezuelan migrant population, with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

10. IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on migrants have been manifold. Thus, close to two-thirds of the interviewed persons experienced difficulties since the start of the pandemic. The most pressing issue, within this population, was the worsened quality of food, which confronted 30 per cent of the respondents. Not having a place to sleep/risk of eviction and discrimination were the second and third most cited concerns, respectively, as shown in Graph 26. This data was consistent with DTM 2020 findings.

GRAPH 26

Top Three COVID-related Difficulties



These challenges were also reflected in the baseline interviews with food demands, unemployment, and the inability to pay rent being particularly pronounced.

Moreover, 66 per cent of the unemployed respondents reportedly lost their jobs in Trinidad and Tobago due to the pandemic.

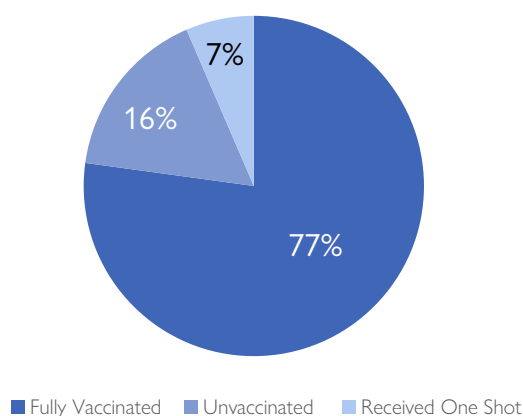
Nevertheless, it was noted that 57 per cent of the respondents received support during the COVID-19 pandemic, with in-kind assistance being the most widely accessed type. In addition, 58 per cent of this support was provided by religious organizations and 23 per cent by international organizations.

Also, 86 per cent of the interviewees indicated that they had access to essential hygiene and disinfection supplies, inclusive of masks and sanitizers.

Further to this, 77 per cent of the respondents were reportedly fully vaccinated, whilst 16 per cent were unvaccinated (Graph 27).

GRAPH 27

Vaccination Status



11. NEEDS

An examination of the respondents' needs highlighted food as the main need both within the first and second level priorities. In addition, medical care, under the first level priority, was identified as a secondary need, and education and training, and income generation were both tertiary needs (Graph 28).

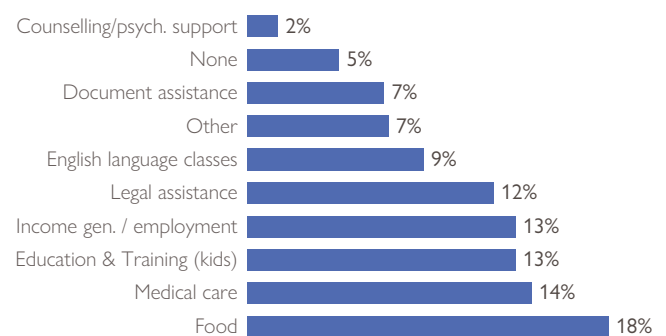
These findings differed from the DTM 2020 figures, which recognized income generation as the top need and did not include education and training as major needs. Interestingly, in 2021, a significant segment of respondents within the second and third priority listings selected 'none' in response to the question on needs.

These findings contrasted with the baseline interviews, which stressed that shelter was the most urgent need, closely followed by food and employment, respectively.

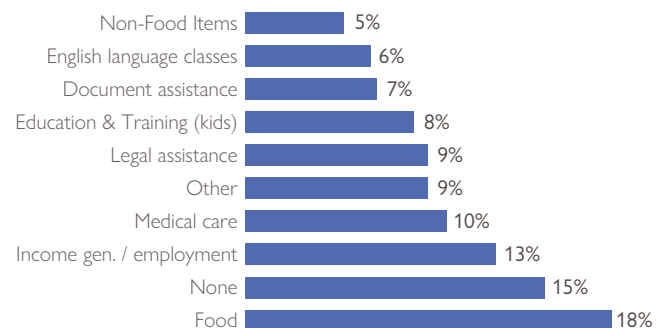
GRAPH 28

Prioritized Migrant Needs

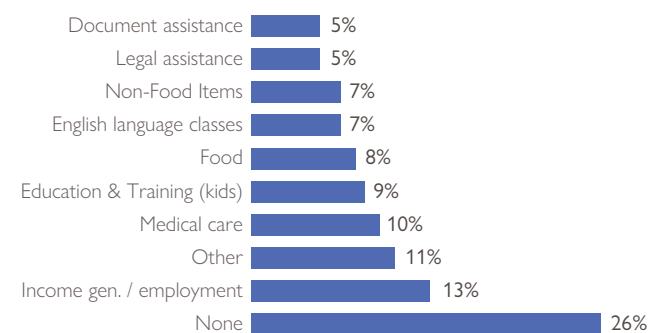
First Priority



Second Priority



Third priority



Correspondingly, a closer review of the interviewees' food circumstances revealed that 46 per cent of them 'skipped meals or ate less than usual' or 'went one whole day without eating' during the past seven days before the interview.

12. SUMMARY

The DTM 2021 unearthed striking pandemic-induced challenges for the respondents, with food, medical care, employment, and shelter being essential needs.

Moreover, health and safety measures to preserve life and livelihoods, in the wake of Covid-19, have unintentionally decelerated economic activities and diminished employment opportunities for migrants and citizens alike.

The baseline interviews also recognized the emergence of new issues such as vagrancy and street dwelling amongst the migrants.

Hence, these circumstances may have impacted the 'pull' factor to the island and contributed to a remarkable reduction in the respondents who entered Trinidad and Tobago between 2020 and 2021.

It is also noteworthy to mention that although there were registration and re-registration exercises, compared to the 2020 DTM, there was an increase in interviewees without regular migration status, coupled with a slight rise in persons employed in the informal sector.

Further to this, the reported mismatch between the educational qualifications of the respondents and their post-migration employment activities should be probed to support productive utilization of migrant skills and expertise.

In addition, employer underpayment persisted, though lower than 2020 figures, along with a few undertones of abuse against migrants, which could be symptomatic of human trafficking.

Thus, sustained monitoring of and interventions in work sectors, by the relevant authorities, to protect the rights and safety of migrant workers, regardless of their migrant status, should be promoted.

Furthermore, a conspicuously low uptake of sexual and reproductive health care amongst most respondents could produce long-lasting ramifications for both the migrant and host communities.

Also, reduced use of prenatal services by pregnant women could adversely affect maternal and neonatal health.

Additionally, information dissemination efforts should include names of communities and cities in Trinidad and Tobago, as some respondents were unaware of the areas within which they reside.

Apart from this, a significant share of interviewees felt discriminated against because of their nationality, although there was a small decrease in these claims between the 2020 and 2021 DTM figures.

On the other hand, some positive developments were noted, such as a high Covid-19 vaccination rate amongst the respondents, interviewees' expanded awareness of health services and protection-related options and improved educational access for migrant children.

Therefore, given the dynamism of migration and the gamut and volatility of the forces that shape it, regular assessments of evolving contexts are imperative to guide new and existing policies and programmes, and to facilitate impactful responses to the needs of vulnerable persons.

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Temple Court 2, 50-62 Abercromby Street

Ministry of National Security, Port of Spain,

Trinidad and Tobago

Tel: +868 627 69 69

Fax: +868 625 50 09

E-mail: jali@iom.int

Website: www.iom.int/countries/trinidad-and-tobago

DTM



dtmvzresponse@iom.int