

## HIGHLIGHTS

### FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY

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



**5,136** PEOPLE DEPARTING FROM PANAMA  
6% increase in the flow in comparison to March 2022 (**4,837** people)

### FLOW MONITORING SURVEY

Source: IOM, 2022



**51%** OF THE FLOW IS COMPOSED OF MEN BETWEEN 26 AND 35 YEARS OF AGE,  
WITH AN AVERAGE AGE OF **32 YEARS**



### HIGHLIGHTED NATIONALITIES

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (58%), Cuba (8%), Haiti (8%) and Colombia (4%)



**78%** OF PEOPLE REPORTED COMMUNICATING IN **SPANISH**

Of the **11%** of people who reported being originally from an African country (Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria): **33%** communicate in **English**, **33%** in **Portuguese** and **22%** in **French**.



**83%** OF PEOPLE HAVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS THEIR FINAL DESTINATION



**85%** OF  
PEOPLE MIGRATED  
ACCOMPANIED

**76%**  
men

**24%**  
women

**< 1%** elderly people  
(+60 years)

**15%** minors  
(17 years  
or younger)

**5%** decrease in the flow of minors  
compared to previous month (**20%**  
in March 2022)

# METHODOLOGY

The Flow Monitoring component of the DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix)<sup>1</sup> tool consists of a registry of migrants and the application of surveys directed at representatives of travel groups, facilitating 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 of Los Planes, in Gualaca, through the National Migration Service (SNM). The instrument used for the flow monitoring surveys is in Spanish, English, Haitian Creole, French and Portuguese in order to increase 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 the people who make up the travel group of the people surveyed. For the definition of monitoring sites (Map 1), the baseline for the evaluation 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<sup>2</sup> and field work.

For the study, records of irregular departures from Panama between April 1 and April 30, 2022, were obtained, corresponding to 5,136 irregular departures to Costa Rica. In parallel, a stratified random sampling by monitoring points was carried out during April. A total of 133 surveys were conducted with migrants, 54 per cent (72) were valid surveys and 46 per cent 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 people interviewed to the rest of the people 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 133 surveys carried out, 61 responses were obtained in which informed consent was not accepted; therefore, when weighting 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](http://www.dtm.iom.int/about).
2. Retrieved from: [www.dtm.iom.int/reports/costa-rica-linea-base-para-la-evaluaci%C3%B3n-de-flujos-migratorios-y-presencia-de-migrantes-1](http://www.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 for the Binational Controlled Flow Operation, which sought an orderly and safe migration of migrants moving through the Americas.<sup>3</sup>



From August 2021 to March 2022, the Government of Panama reports the entry into Panama of 102,122 migrants: Haiti (56%), Cuba (11%), Brazil (7%), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (6%), Chile (6%) among other countries in South America, Africa and Asia (13%).



In Costa Rica, during 2022, a steady increase in the number of migrants of this migration flow has been identified (as of April 2022 it has increased by 30% compared to December 2021, when the monitoring of flows in Costa Rica began). According to data from the General Directorate of Migration and Aliens (DGME), during May 2021 and February 2022, 5,426 rejections<sup>5</sup> were reported in Paso Canoas.

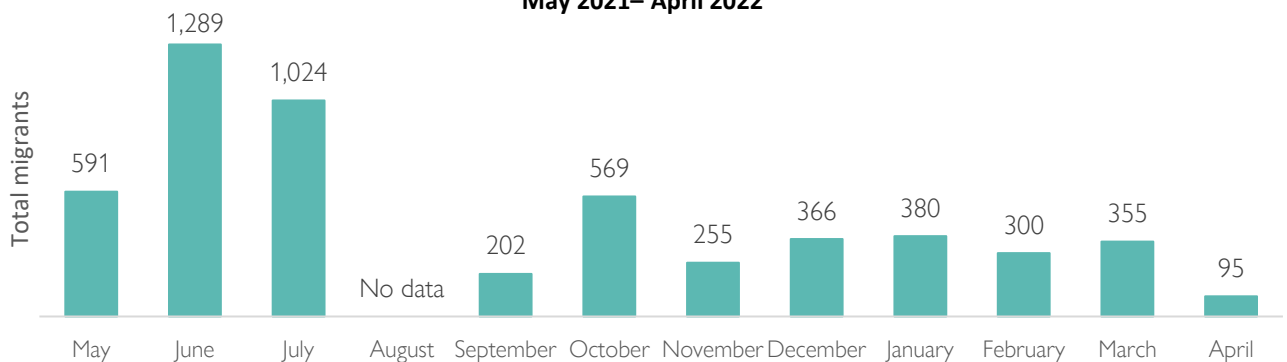


Due to the behavior of the flow, the Paso Canoas monitoring point has been deactivated in Costa Rica (migrants immediately enter hotels in the area and leave to Ciudad Neily or Río Claro by taxi) and Uvita (migrants have chosen not to get off the buses at this terminal, so it is not possible to survey them).



In Costa Rica, many vulnerabilities are perceived: pregnant women, children under five years of age, emotional exhaustion caused by stress, anguish and frustration. In addition, the main needs detected are associated with access to food, shelter, medical assistance and safety during their migration journey.

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



Source: DGME Costa Rica, 2022

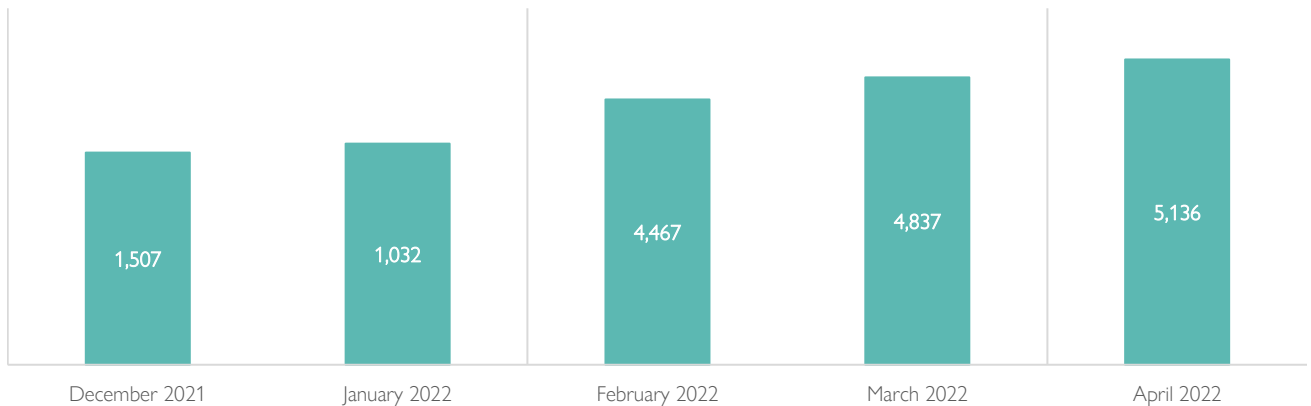
3. People in mobility through the Americas is understood as the migration flow of people who migrate from Panama to Costa Rica, through Central America and North America, and is mainly composed of nationals from Haiti, Cuba, as well as other countries in South America, Africa and Asia.
4. Information on the DTM: Flow Monitoring in Darien, is available at: [seencuentradisponibleenwww.panama.iom.int/es/dtm-monitoreo-de-flujos-migratorios-en-panama](http://seencuentradisponibleenwww.panama.iom.int/es/dtm-monitoreo-de-flujos-migratorios-en-panama)
5. Section 64 of the General Migration and Aliens Law establishes that rejection is the action by which the migration authority denies the foreigner entry to the country, ordering their 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 migration control or entering through a place not authorized for such purpose.

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

According to the registry of voluntary departures of migrants from the MRS of Los Planes, in Gualaca, Panama, between April 1 and April 30, 2022, 5,136 migrant departures were registered, equivalent to an average of 156 departures per day. This figure represents an increase of six percent compared to the 4,837 people who left the MRS in March 2022 (Figure 2).

Between December 2021 and April 2022 there was an increase in migration flows; in December 2021 there was an average of 115 daily departures from the MRS of Los Planes, in January 2022 this figure increased to 120 people, 160 in February 2022, 156 in March and 171 in April 2022.

**Figure 2. Registered departures of migrants in the MRS of Los Planes, Chiriquí, by range of dates, December 2021- April 2022**



Source: Government of Panama, 2022



Migrants in mobility situation through the Americas in the MRS of Los Planes, Gualaca, Chiriquí, Panama. © IOM 2022

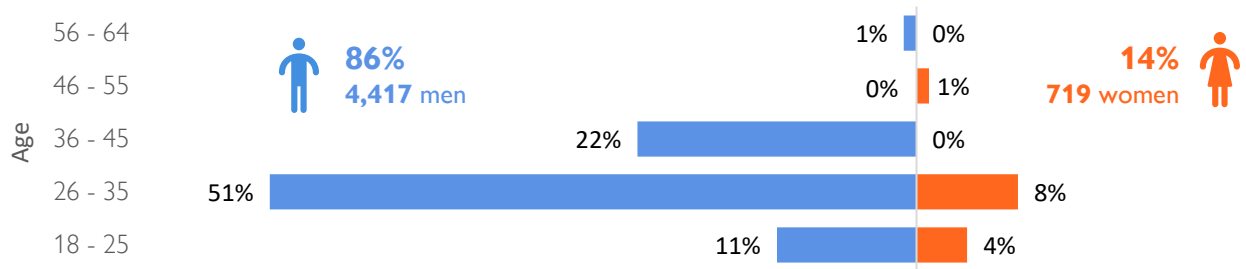
# FLOW MONITORING SURVEY

## SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS


### A) Gender and age

Between April 1st and April 30th, 2022, an estimated of 5,136 migrants in mobility situation through the Americas irregularly entered Costa Rica. Most of the migration flow is composed of men (86% men and 14% women). The average age is 32 years, with most people (82%) between 26 and 45 years of age (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Percentage of people in mobility situation through the Americas by age and gender**



### B) Country of nationality

  
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela **2,979** people

  
Cuba **411** people

  
Haiti **411** people

  
Colombia **205** people

  
Other **1,130** people

**Other countries:**  
Angola, Ecuador, Ghana, Peru, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Guinea, India, Nigeria, Dominican Republic.

There is an increase in the flow of Venezuelan nationals and a decrease in the flow of people from Haiti and Cuba. Between December 2021 and April 2022, a 71 per cent increase of the population originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was identified. In the same period, a decrease of 59 percent of the population originating from Cuba and 36 percent of the population originating from Haiti was identified.

### C) Educational level

It is identified that 50 percent of Venezuelan nationals have completed university education and 43 percent have indicated high school as the highest level of education completed. Regarding the population of Cuban origin, 50 percent indicated having completed university studies and 50 percent indicated secondary education as the highest level of education completed. For the Haitian population, 17 percent reported having completed university studies and 50 percent reported secondary education as the highest level of education completed.

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

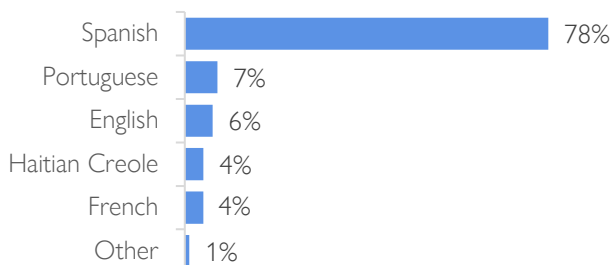


## D) Language

The main language in which migrants normally communicate is Spanish (78%); however, other languages are identified in smaller proportions: Portuguese, English, Haitian Creole and French (Figure 5). Between December 2021 and April 2022, there has been a decrease in the number of people who normally communicate in Haitian Creole; in December 2021, 13 per cent of the population reported communicating in Haitian Creole, compared to 4 per cent in April 2022.

The population that normally communicates in Portuguese is composed of 40 per cent people from Haiti, 40 per cent from Angola, and 20 per cent from the Republic of Congo. The population that normally communicates in English is made up of 50 per cent of people from Ghana, 25 per cent from Cameroon, and 25 per cent from India. Finally, 100 per cent of the population who report communicating in Haitian Creole are from Haiti.

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



Fifty per cent of Haitian nationals normally communicate in Haitian Creole, followed by Portuguese (33%) and English (17%).

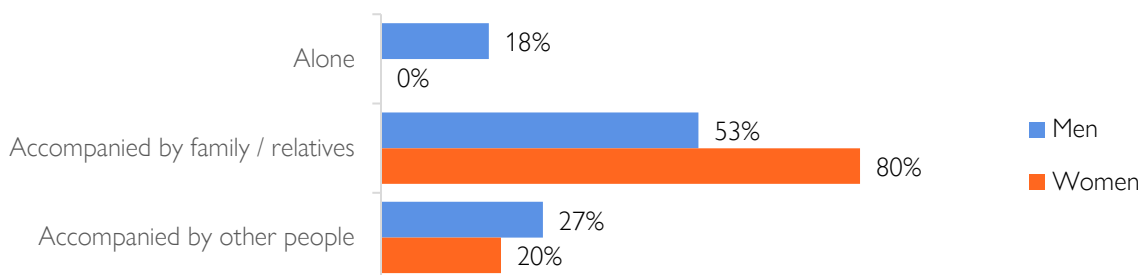
## MIGRATION SITUATION

## E) Accompaniment during the journey

The survey collected information on the groups with whom people travel, that is, the people who accompany the surveyed migrant during his or her migration journey. A total of 417 people were counted, of which 76 per cent are men and 24 per cent are women. It is estimated that 15 per cent of the groups of accompanying persons are under 18 years of age and less than one per cent are elderly people.

Fifteen per cent of people migrated alone, the percentage of people traveling alone is higher among men: 18 per cent compared to 0 per cent of women (Figure 6). Of the 85 per cent of people who reported traveling in groups, 67 per cent were accompanied by their family and/or relatives, with an average of 7 people per travel group. There is a variation in the number of people who traveled unaccompanied; in December 2021, 17 per cent of people traveled alone, in January and February 2022 this percentage dropped to 9 per cent, and in March 2022 this percentage rose to 10 per cent.

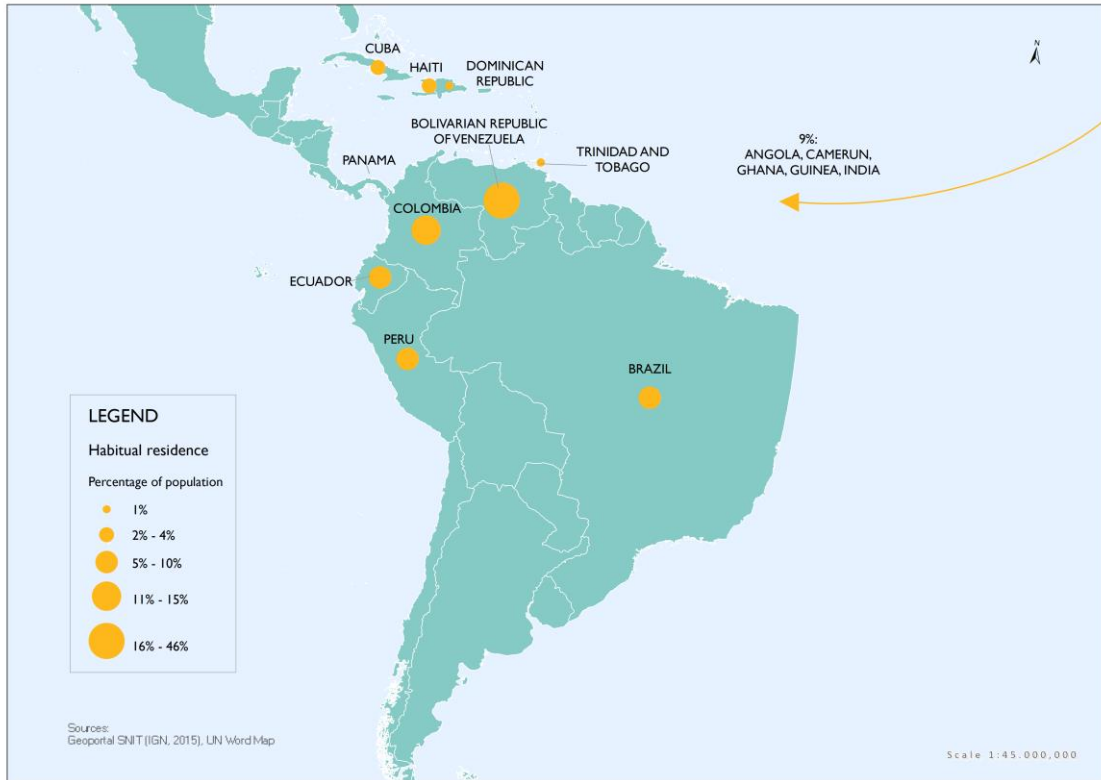
**Figure 6. Percentage of travel accompaniment of people in mobility situations through the Americas, by gender**



## MIGRATION ROUTE

The main countries of habitual residence of migrants surveyed (countries where people lived for one year or more before starting their trip) are the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (44%), Colombia (11%), Brazil (8%), Ecuador (8%), Peru (7%) and 22% among 10 other countries (Map 2).

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



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Of the 50 percent of persons originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 76 percent lived in their country of origin before starting their migration journey (26% indicated residing in Maracaibo, 19% in Caracas), 12 per cent in Colombia (5% indicated residing in Medellin, 5% in Cali), 7 per cent in Peru (5% indicated residing in Lima), 5 per cent in Ecuador, among others.



Of the eight per cent of migrants from Cuba, 50 per cent indicated residing in their country of origin before starting their migration journey (17% indicated residing in Havana, 17% in Las Tunas and 17% in Oriente), 17 per cent in Ecuador, 17 per cent in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and 17 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago.



Of the eight per cent of migrants from Haiti, 50 per cent indicated Brazil as their country of usual residence (33% Santa Catarina, 17% Sao Paulo), only 33 per cent indicated residing in Haiti before starting their journey (17% in Los Cayos and 17% in Port-au-Prince) and 17 per cent in Chile.



Of the four per cent of migrants from Colombia, 100 percent indicated Colombia as their country of usual residence (67% indicated residing in Medellin and 33% in Bogota).

## G) Main migration routes

Map 3 shows the main migration routes identified by the migrant population moving between South American countries and to Central America.<sup>7</sup> One identified route begins in Brazil and Bolivia, continuing to Peru (mainly Lima), and then moving on to Quito in Ecuador. From this point, the route forks into two routes, one to Medellín and the other to Necoclí in Colombia. There is also a route from Venezuela to Colombia, mainly to Medellín. From this point there is a flow that indicates going directly to David, Panama, and two others that travel to Necoclí or Darién, Panama, and from here, the routes are distributed among various transit cities reported in Panama.

There is also a route from Venezuela to Colombia, mainly to Medellín. From this point there is a flow that indicates going directly to David, Panama, and two others that travel to Necoclí or Darién, Panama, and from here, 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



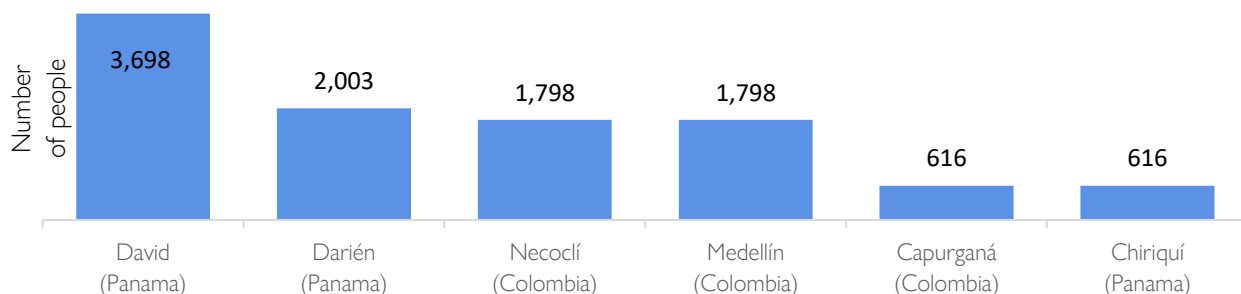
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The main countries and cities of transit reported by migrants during their journey are also identified. Approximately 5 per cent are aware of having passed through the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, 7 per cent of having transited through various cities in Brazil, 16 per cent in Peru, 20 per cent in Ecuador, 84 per cent in Colombia, mainly through Medellín (35%) and Necoclí (35%). Likewise, 99 percent of the flow indicated having passed through Panama, mainly through David (74%), Darien (40%), among others (Chiriqui, Panama City) (see Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Main cities reported as transit sites on the migration route**

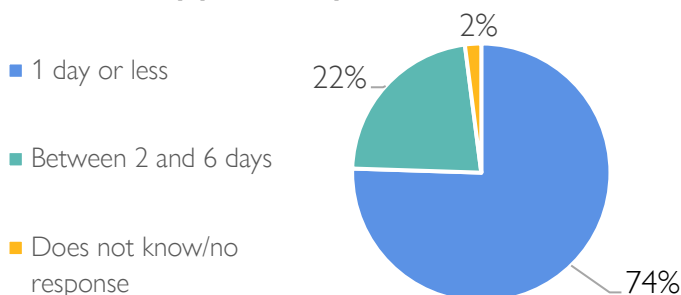
People had the possibility of choosing more than one option



## F) Stay in Costa Rica

**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 surveyed indicated having no plans to stay in Costa Rica: 74 per cent indicated that they want to stay one day or less in Costa Rica, 22 per cent between 2 and 6 days, and 4 per cent indicated not knowing or did not respond (Figure 8).



### NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY MIGRANT POPULATION

Fifty-four per cent of the population indicated having some information needs during their stay in Costa Rica, related to access to basic resources, documentation, and economic resources, among others; while the remaining 46 per cent indicated having no needs.

An increase in needs related to medical assistance and safety is identified, compared to the previous month; 6 per cent of the flow in February 2022 and 13 per cent in March 2022 indicated a need for medical assistance. Regarding safety-related needs, 5 percent of the population surveyed in February 2022 and 8 per cent in March 2022 indicated having a need.



No need

46%



Medical Assistance

19%



Access to food

11%



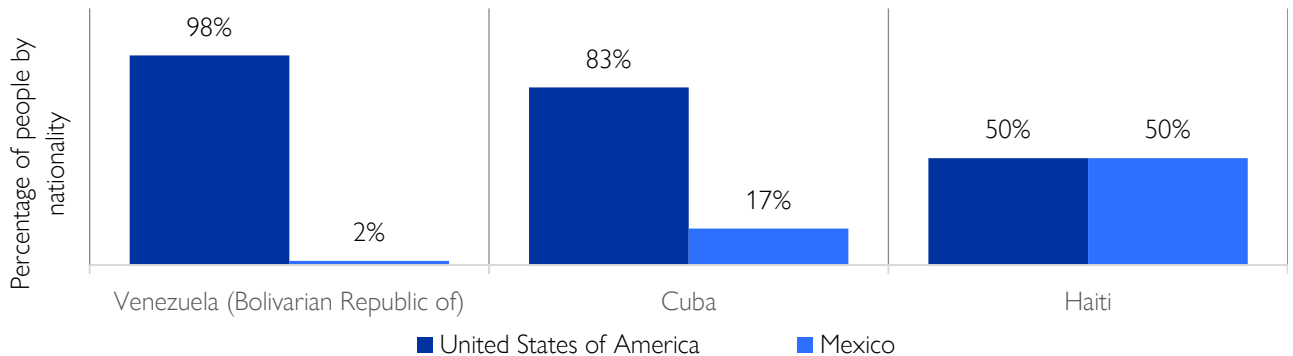
Safety

14%

## G) Destiny of the migration route

Regarding the countries of destination of the population, the United States of America was the main destination country (83%), followed by Mexico (17%) (Map 4). However, there is a percentage variation in the destination country according to the nationalities of the individuals: of those who indicated coming from Haiti, 50 per cent indicated Mexico as their final destination country, followed by the United States of America (50%). On the other hand, 83 per cent of persons originating from Cuba indicated the United States of America and 17 per cent Mexico, and 98 per cent of persons originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela indicated the United States of America and 2 per cent Mexico.

**Figure 9. Country of final destination by main nationalities identified**



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



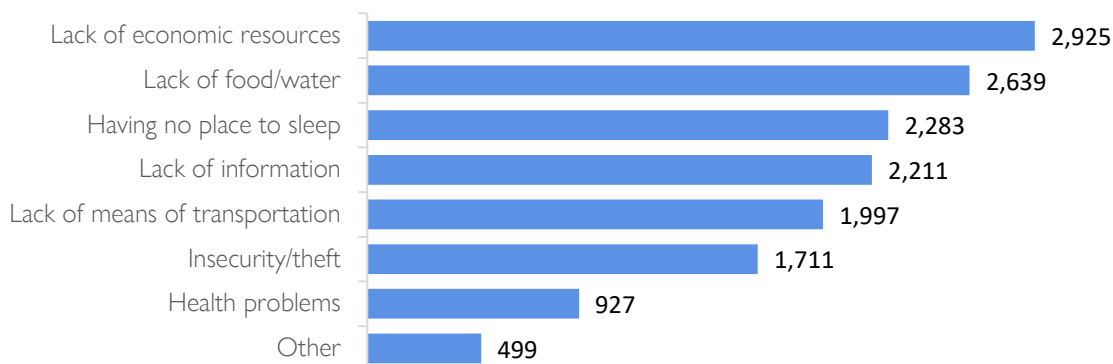
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## H) Difficulties during the journey

Regarding difficulties during the trip, 57 per cent of the population pointed out lack of economic resources, followed by lack of food or water (51%), not having a place to sleep (44%), lack of information (43%), among others (Figure 10).

**Figure 10. Number of people who experienced difficulties during the journey, according to the type of difficulty**

People had the possibility of choosing more than one option.

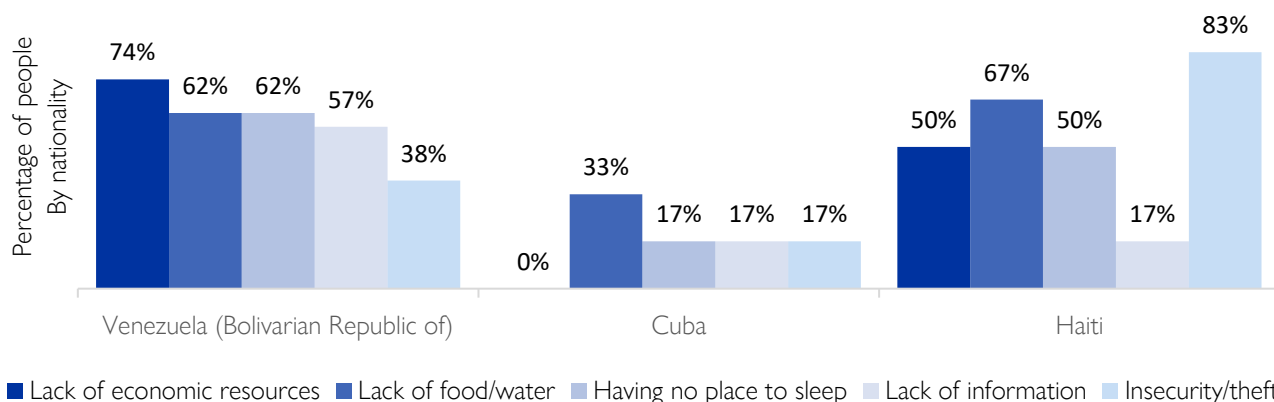


Regarding difficulties during the trip, a difference was noted according to the main nationalities highlighted (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cuba and Haiti). In this regard, the main difficulty identified by the population from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is the lack of economic resources (74% of the Venezuelan population expressed this difficulty), followed by lack of food/water (62%), having no place to sleep (62%), and lack of information (50%).

For the Cuban population, the main difficulty expressed was lack of information (33% of the Cuban population expressed this difficulty), followed by lack of information (17%) and having no place to sleep (17%). For the population of Haitian origin, the main difficulty expressed was insecurity/theft (67% of the Haitian population expressed this difficulty), followed by lack of food/water (67%), having no place to sleep (50%) and lack of economic resources (50%) (see Figure 11).

**Figure 11. Number of people who experienced difficulties during the journey, according to the type of difficulty and nationality**

People had the possibility of choosing more than one option.



# CONCLUSIONS



The flow of migrant population moving through the Americas continues to be high compared to previous years and, between January and April 2022 there was an increase in the migration flow: in January 2022, 3,724 people registered their departure from the MRS of Los Planes and their subsequent entry into Costa Rica, while in April 2022 the figure reached 5,136 people.



Between December 2021 and April 2022, an increase of 71 percent of the population originating from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is identified. On the other hand, there is a route from Venezuela to Colombia, mainly to Medellin, and from there, directly to Panama.



By April 2022, no population intending to remain in Costa Rica has been identified. The United States of America continues to be the main destination of the flow of migrants; however, it was identified that, for the population originating from Haiti, Mexico is another destination.



Lack of economic resources and lack of food/water were the main difficulties identified in the migration process of the migrant population in mobility situation through the Americas, while during their stay in Costa Rica, access to food, access to health and safety acquired relevance.



Migrants moving through the Americas in the MRS of Los Planes, Gualaca, Chiriquí, Panama. © IOM 2021

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