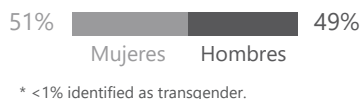


Protection and Security Risks for People on the Move

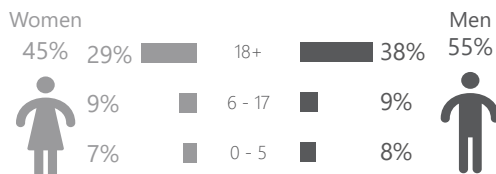
This infographic presents the most relevant data on protection and security risks from the cross-border needs assessment carried out as part of the "Borders on the Move" project. The assessment was conducted through semi-structured surveys with migrants and refugees at transit points and temporary reception spaces at the Chile-Peru, Colombia-Panama, Brazil-Venezuela borders from 1 to 19 August 2023.

Participant demographics:

Total respondents: 909
76% travelled in a group
24% travelled alone



Gender and age distribution of those travelling in groups:

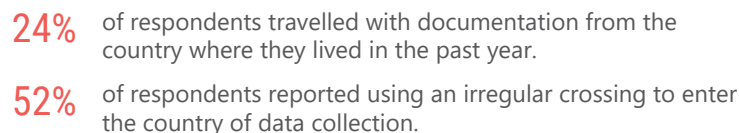


Motivations for initiating journey*:



* Respondents could select multiple options, so the results add up to more than 100%.

Documentation carried and type of entry:



Types of dangers reported by respondents during their journey in the country of data collection*:

Migrants and refugees in Latin America face significant personal insecurity dangers including robbery, extortion, and physical violence. Beyond the dangers reported by those travelling in Panamá, which will be analysed separately below, respondents pointed to growing insecurity on the Chile-Peru border, where organised crime, weak state presence¹ and increasingly harsh laws which increase the power of authorities to detain and expel migrants, pose significant risks².

	Chile	Peru	Colombia	Panama	Brasil	Venezuela
Traffic accident	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	11%
Detention	9%	23%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Extortion/bribery	20%	20%	6%	11%	1%	0%
Health risks	5%	0%	0%	37%	4%	0%
Risk of death	3%	1%	1%	83%	0%	1%
Robbery	40%	52%	26%	42%	2%	4%
Physical violence	17%	35%	12%	12%	0%	1%

* Respondents could select multiple options, so the results add up to more than 100%.



Map: Data collection locations

Difficulties experienced during transit:

Most respondents reported a lack of basic needs including food, money for daily costs, and a lack of access to water, exacerbating health issues among the migrant population, raising new difficulties and dangers. In particular, in Chile (37%), Venezuela (14%) and Brazil (12%) migrants and refugees highlighted a lack of access to bathrooms and hygiene. Migrants and refugees in Chile reported the greatest incidence of difficulties (following Panamá which is analysed separately below), ranging from insecurity in transit on routes (49%) to dangerous crossings (47%), extreme temperatures (45%), sleeping outdoors (38%), and health issues (29%); other difficulties including discrimination (20%) and a lack of knowledge about migration regularisation processes (28%) place migrants and refugees in Chile in danger of violence and exploitation.

Primary locations where respondents considered these dangerous situations to occur:

Respondents confronted the most risk on roadways, at border points, and in public spaces. Insecurity in these locations can be attributed to weak state control, limited resources, and the infiltration of foreign criminal organizations¹. Notably, in Chile and Peru, 51% and 61% of respondents identified these dangers at border points, where crime rates significantly exceed the national average. In Brazil (65%), Colombia (34%) and Venezuela (51%), the risks were encountered on roadways, as well as in public spaces in Colombia (26%) and Venezuela (41%).

Panama

From natural hazards to organised crime, respondents in Panama experienced double the frequency of dangers and difficulties than in any other country.

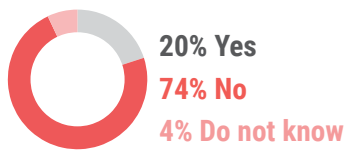
Migrants and refugees in Panama experience more dangers, across more situations, with a greater range of needs, all at a frequency higher than any other country assessed in this study. The elevated insecurity is primarily linked to the journeys across the Darien Gap, which by land and boat both require walking great distances on foot³. All respondents (99.5%) reported experiencing difficulties in the jungle, from insecurity on routes (33%) and at crossings (55%) where people have drowned attempting to cross rivers³, extreme temperatures (52%), encounters with wild animals (35%), limited access to hygiene facilities (31%) and various mental and physical health problems (16%), all exacerbated by the need to sleep outside reported by 57%.

Significant safety concerns at data collection points*:

	Chile	Peru	Colombia	Panama
Robbery	87%	80%	79%	81%
Physical violence	74%	15%	33%	29%
Intimidation by authorities	46%	30%	12%	37%

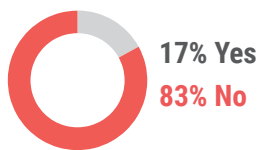
*% of those who reported feeling unsafe or not safe at all (n: Chile 35; Peru 20; Colombia 85; Panama 124.)

% of respondents who knew which authority or institution can help in a situation of insecurity:



In Colombia, Panama and Peru, only a fraction of migrants knew which authority or institution could help them facing such insecurity (7%, 12%, and 14% respectively). In Brazil (34%), Chile (48%), and Venezuela (43%), a higher percentage of migrants knew where to seek assistance in the face of insecurity.

% of respondents who reported receiving assistance in the 30 days prior to data collection.



Needs reported by respondents at the time of data collection*:

	Chile	Peru	Colombia	Panama	Brasil	Venezuela
Food	83%	95%	82%	68%	54%	45%
Clean water	43%	59%	46%	54%	25%	45%
Financial support	33%	52%	22%	36%	N/D**	6%
Accommodation	38%	78%	43%	21%	43%	16%
Information	28%	16%	34%	26%	47%	40%
Health services	26%	22%	21%	25%	36%	53%

* Respondents could select multiple options, so the results add up to more than 100%.
** No data

The dangers faced by migrants in Panama are closely linked to armed groups in the Darien jungle, exposing them to risks of exploitation, robbery, violence, and human trafficking³. Migrants and refugees, compelled to pay an average of USD 320 to cross the Darien, are forced to work on the streets or beaches to raise funds and face financial exploitation⁴. Respondents reported suffering robberies (42%), physical violence (12%), extortion/bribery (11%), kidnapping (8%), and sexual violence (7%).

As well as reporting encountering these dangers in border zones (22%), temporary accommodation (14%) and on roadways (10%), 7% of respondents reported experiencing these dangers in locations where they sought humanitarian aid. More than 330,000 people have crossed the Darien Gap this year, and one in five was a child⁵. Almost all respondents in Panama considered girls (98%) and boys (96%) most at risk of the dangers posed by conditions in Panama**.

Demographics considered most exposed to danger:

Minors face the greatest security risks in the region, including commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking⁴ and separation from their families³. Across all countries, boys and girls were considered most exposed to danger, followed by adolescents and then adults**. Women, in general, were seen as more vulnerable than men within each age group. Key outliers include adolescent men in Brazil (46%), considered almost twice at risk as adult women (24%), and in Chile and Venezuela where people of diverse gender (26% and 25% respectively) and sexual orientation (31% and 30% respectively) were considered considerably more at risk than in other surveyed areas: Brazil 9%, 13%; Colombia: 1%, 10%; Peru: 2%, 7%, respectively.

**Age ranges were not provided when this question was asked.

13% of respondents reported noticing unaccompanied girls, boys, and adolescents during their journey. The country with the highest percentage of groups reporting having encountered children during their journey was Chile (26%).

3% of respondents answered that they had received an offer of employment or study which they suspected might be linked to illegal activity. This could be due to a lack of information about working conditions or the place of work.

Borders on the Move is a joint project by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IMPACT Initiatives, Cáritas Brasileira, Cáritas Chile, Pastoral Social Cáritas Colombiana, Pastoral Social Cáritas Panamá, Cáritas del Perú and Cáritas Venezuela that seeks to contribute to the understanding of the humanitarian situation of people on the move in the region, and evaluate the opportunities and challenges related to cross-border collaboration among government, humanitarian and civil society actors who respond to the needs of people on the move.

Find the clean data, analysis, and dashboards from the needs assessment in the IMPACT-REACH [Resource Centre](#).

Footnotes

- 1 Athena Lab (2023). [Actualización geopolítica de la Zona Norte de Chile](#); InSight Crime (2023). [3 Reasons Why Security Has Deteriorated in Northern Chile](#).
- 2 Swissinfo.ch (2023). [Chile extiende la prisión preventiva para migrantes detenidos sin documentos](#); Infobae (2023). [Perú Libre propone la 'expulsión exprés' de extranjeros detenidos mientras cometían un delito](#); Diario Constitucional.cl (2023). [Gobierno peruano aprueba decretos que permitirán la expulsión de migrantes que cometan delitos](#).
- 3 ACAPS (2023). [Increase in migrant traffic through the Darien Gap](#).
- 4 ACAPS (2023). [Increase in refugee and migrant numbers in Necdol](#).
- 5 UN(2023). [Record numbers risking lives to cross dangerous Darien Gap](#).

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embajada de Suiza en Venezuela