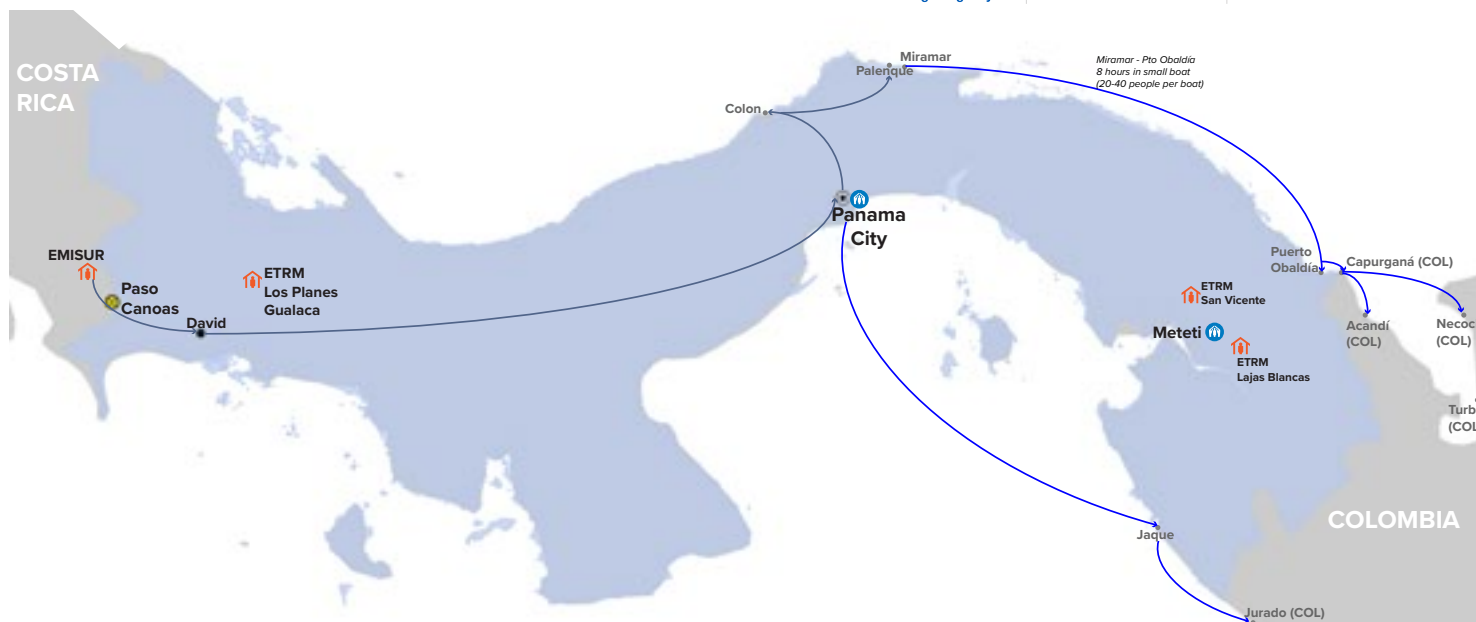


Reverse Flow Monitoring

Panama | July - September 2025



Since mid-January 2025, regional policy changes have led to more people making 'reverse flows' from Mexico and the United States toward Central and South America. By September, the Government of Panama had recorded over 18,000 individuals transiting through Panama en route to Colombia.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, collects monthly data on the characteristics, vulnerabilities and protection needs of refugees and migrants engaged in these return movements. The data is compiled through individual interviews conducted in Panama's Colon, Chiriqui, and Panama provinces. Results are indicative and should not be interpreted as representative of the total population.

Official statistics

 **18,038**
Total entries in
2025

 **5,244**
Total entries in
Q3 2025

 **65%** Male
 **35%** Female

 **80%** Adults
 **20%** Children

Source: Panama National Migration Service

Respondent profile

 **840**
people were interviewed
1,651
family members assessed

 **62%** Male
 **38%** Female

 **30 years**
Average age

 **73%** Adults
 **27%** Children

 **95%** of respondents were Venezuelan

 **40%**
Left their country of
origin/residence between
one and five years ago.

 **58%**
Arrived in Panama during
the last week.

 **11%**
Applied for asylum in
another country, prior to
their arrival to Panama.

 **4%**
Were travelling with
pregnant women.

 **4%**
Were travelling with
lactating women.

 **9%**
Were travelling with
children or adolescents,
and did not have support
from another caregiver.

Documents carried by respondents

 89% National ID	2% Expired passport	0% Others
5% Valid passport	1% Birth certificate	8% None

 **3%**
Were travelling with
someone with a physical
or mental disability.

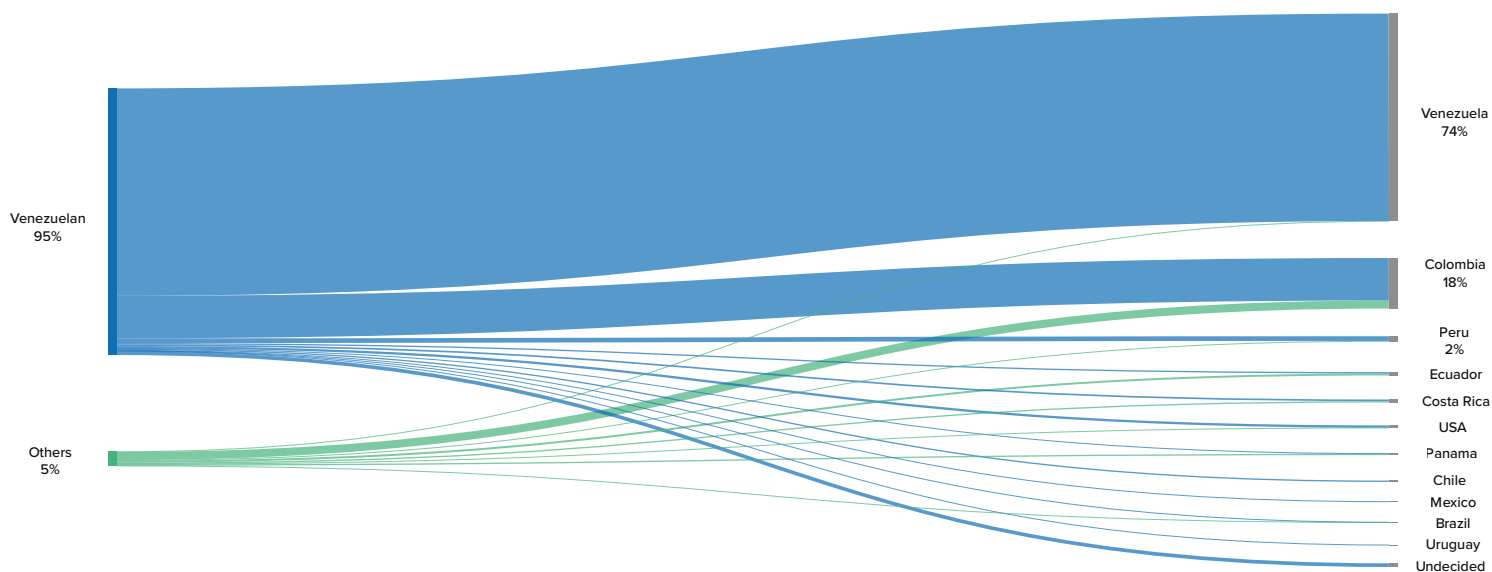
 **7%**
Were travelling with
someone with a critical
or chronic medical
condition.

 **9%**
Were travelling with a
person over the age of 60.

Interviewed individuals by country of origin and intended country of destination

Nationality

Intended country of destination



Other nationalities include Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. Labels are not included for values under 2%.

Push and pull factors



9 in 10

Left their country of origin because of general insecurity and/or direct threats or attacks.



12%

Had legal status in a previous country of residence.



1 in 10

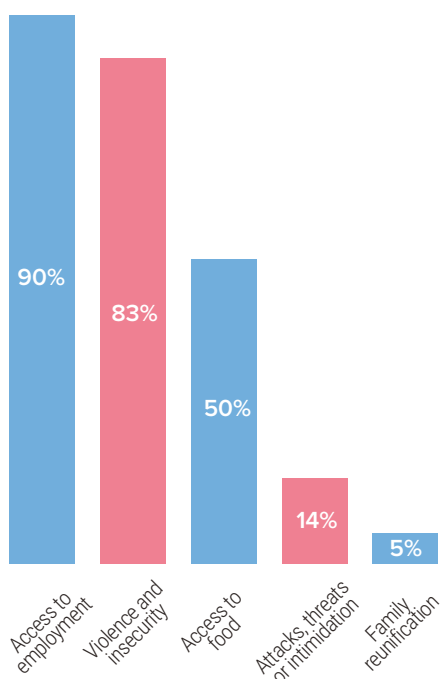
Previously applied for asylum, eight of them in Panama,



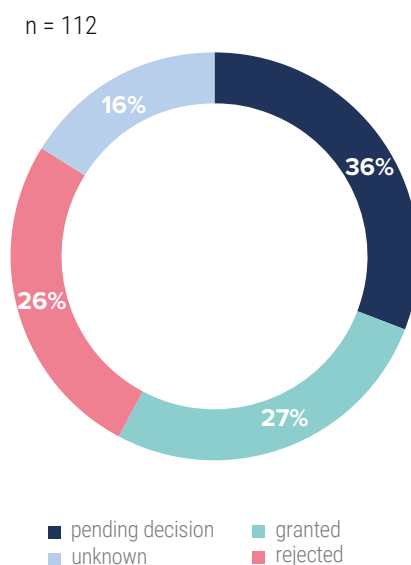
23%

Considered they would face risks returning to their country of origin.

Main reasons for leaving country of origin



Last known status of asylum applications

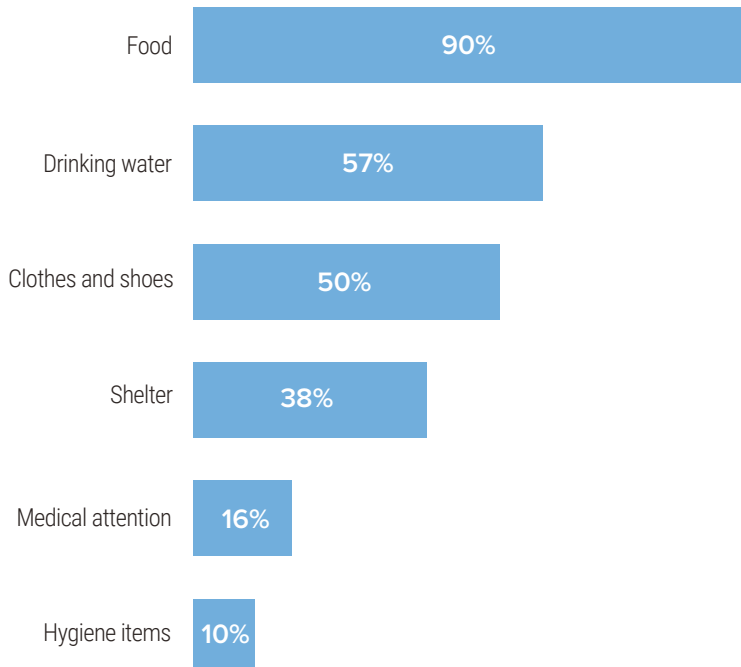


Risks upon return



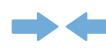
Primary needs and challenges during the journey

Main needs now



 **3 in 5**

Experienced mistreatment or abuse during their journey.

 **32%**

Were victims of extortion during their journey.

Additionally, 48% were victims of threats, attacks or kidnapping.

 **5%**

Reported they or a family member were deported during the previous year.

 **1 in 2**

Required legal assistance during their journey, **and 90% of them could not access it.**

Miramar and Palenque, two key departure points on the Caribbean route, are small communities with fewer than 500 residents each. Access to basic services is limited.

People arriving without the means to pay for the boat journey have very few income-generating opportunities, with some staying stranded for over three weeks.



In collaboration with:

HIAS

Access all our protection monitoring publications

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Feedback: panpaim@unhcr.org

Note: The World Food Programme (WFP) does not have field operations in Panama. All data and information collected in this country is managed by the WFP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Panama City, and are part of the regional initiative for Mixed Movements Monitoring in the Americas.